



The Lakes Communicator

March 2023 Edition

President's Message – Charlene Carson

Board and Committee Workshop Update

The February Board meeting – a workshop session for the Board and committee members – was filled with information and discussion on several areas of importance to the community.

An overview of the Lakes current insurance coverage was presented by our insurance agent, who offered suggestions/recommendations for the Board to consider to further indemnify our Association. As the community continues to grow, we need to stay watchful for changing or additional areas of financial exposure.

Having an awareness of the service contracts that are in place is also key to doing effective planning and budgeting for the community. A schedule of services, with their respective renewal dates, has been developed and documented. Knowing this information will enable the Board to be better prepared, and as needed, request proposals for services (RFP's) coming up for renewal.

To have consistency and continuity in an organization, it's important to know and understand the mission, roles and responsibilities of the committees that support it. Volunteer run organizations, like the Lakes Property Owners Association, are subject to frequent turnover in both their operating and support structure. The development of written charters for committees is key to recruiting new volunteers and setting expectations. During the recent workshop, many of the charters for the committees were reviewed and refined. This process will continue until all charters have been prepared, reviewed, and formally accepted by the Board. Once that process is completed, all charters will be available for viewing by all property owners on the LITUS website.

We continue to be plagued by large trucks damaging some of our intersections and islands when the drivers "get lost" on our streets when trying to make deliveries. To minimize these occurrences, several things have been done. New warning signs have been placed in some of the more vulnerable areas and we are trying to leverage technology by posting warnings in the commonly used online navigational aids. There's more on this in later articles - so keep reading!

Table of Contents

President's Message	Pg. 1
Treasurer's Report	Pg. 2
Community News	Pg. 3
Committee Updates	Pg. 3
Project Updates	Pg. 4
Safety Corner	Pg. 5
Funny side of the Lake	Pg. 6
Events Calendar	Pg. 7
Contacts	Pg. 8

New Houses on Meadowoods Drive

There have been several inquiries about the homes built just beyond the point where the Lakes (Waccamaw River Road) joins the Meadowoods community (Meadows of St. Patrick). These lots were sold and developed independent of any connection to the Lakes community and our property owner's association bylaws, covenants and rules and regulations. **They are not a part of the Lakes POA.** Activities on those properties are governed by the various agencies of Horry County.

In Closing

The Board and its committees continue to work on creating a solid, forwarding thinking business model for the Lakes community. I'll keep you informed of our progress through future issues of the Lakes Communicator and through special bulletins as needed.

Thanks to all the Board and committee members for their time and talents as we move forward.

See you next month!

Charlene

Treasurer's Report for March 2023, By Debbie Wolcott

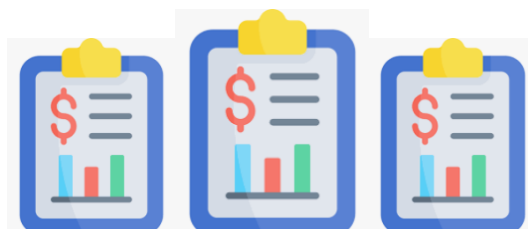
To date, our financial analysis has gone well. It has produced a great deal of insight into where our money has gone over the past two years, and where we need to make changes.

The formal audit of our financial records from 2019-2022 has been completed by the auditor. A team will meet to review and sign off upon receipt of the completed documents. All recommendations and/or suggestions will be taken into serious consideration, although we believe we are already in the process of making the necessary changes.

As a result of these efforts, our utility bills (Water & Electric) are still under review for consolidation by their respective companies. In addition, a refund of \$8,458.05 was recovered for overpayment of property taxes on three of our common areas.

As stated previously, a dormant Wells Fargo account (labeled Reserves) that incurs regular service charges, will be closed ASAP. The amount is under \$5,000 and will be moved into the Road Reserve Account.

On April 17th, at our Quarterly Membership Meeting, we will be ready to present updated information on our financial status. In the meantime, the Monthly Balance Sheet & Income/Expense statements are posted on Lakes Website (Frontsteps) <https://thelakes.us/> for your review.



Community News & Updates



EASTER EGG HUNT

When: April 1, 2023

Time: 1pm

Where: The Lakes at the Park

Bring the children for an Easter egg hunt at the park. Eggs will be hidden on the park grounds for the children to find. There will also be goody bags for them!

Parking will be available in the office space adjacent to the park. Please remember to bring a chair if you would like and a basket for the children to collect the eggs.

This will be a rain or shine event. Please RSVP by March 27th. We need time to have enough eggs for all the children. If you would like to help, please contact Michele at lakesparkevents@gmail.com.

~~~~~

## Welcome Night Update

This years first Lakes Property Owners Welcome Night was a wonderful night! The weather was unusually warm and we had a great turnout from new neighbors, and Committee and Board Members available for questions/information. Our neighbors were provided with handouts about the Lakes and the surrounding community resources while they enjoyed some snacks/sweet treats. This was a great informal opportunity to meet with new residents and longer time residents. We look forward to the opportunity to host another Welcome Night later this year!

Thank you to everyone who participated!

~~~~~

Committee Updates

Beautification Committee – In order to keep our community looking beautiful, we kindly request that if you see rubbish or garbage, please stop, and pick it up. It takes all of us to keep our neighborhood looking wonderful.

The Beautification Committee is looking for Volunteers in the following areas: *Dog waste stations, Trash or Storm Debris Pickup*, as needed and/or after a weather event. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, please send an email to lakesbeautification@gmail.com .

We are very excited for our upcoming plant or donate your own flower event! Let's have lots of flowers and plants for all to enjoy! The event will be held April 10th from 10am-12pm.

The Committee is looking forward to several events next year including planting flowers by The Lakes signs in April, a "Plant or Donate Your Own Flower" Event in May, the formation of a Storm Debris Team and Trash

Removal Team. If you are interested in being added to the list of Community Members who would be willing to be contacted to help during a cleanup event, please send an email to lakesbeautification@gmail.com .

~~~~~

**Communication Committee** – The Communication Committee continues to review options for a general communications survey. We have tested several options, including using current functionality on the Lakes Website but the option presented its own challenges with accessing and returning the survey. The Committee continues to explore other options, but has been challenged with several obstacles including cost, delivery methods and ways to return the survey if not submitted electronically.

Please remember you can always submit ideas for review by the Communication Committee by sending a to Karen @ [ktucker@litustolet.com](mailto:ktucker@litustolet.com) .

Co-Chairs: Barbara Cardinal and Jeri Mathur

~~~~~

Pond Committee – By Debbie Wolcott, Pond Committee/ Facilitator Chairman

There is little to report at this time in regard to the ponds as I have just returned from my trips. There have been a few contacts during my absence, and I should have spoken with those folks by the time you read this.

My personal gratitude to all of you that are helping to keep our ponds in pristine conditions.

Please keep your correspondences coming through Karen Tucker at LITUS.

~~~~~

**Social Committee** – The Social Committee is excited to share the tentative dates for The Lakes Community Event schedule for 2023.

- Easter Egg Hunt- April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1pm at The Lakes Park
- Community Barbeque – June 10<sup>th</sup>
- Halloween & Chili Cookoff – October 29<sup>th</sup>
- Lakes Holiday Event & Tree Lighting - December 9<sup>th</sup>

~~~~~



Project Updates

- Five New “Not A Turn Around For Large Trucks” signs have been installed in some of the most common trouble spots in the Community. The Board will continue to review the need for additional signs in other locations.
- There is a new effort under way to test some functionality in Google Maps to label/adjust the labeling of some roads to help ensure users of Google understand where the construction areas are located and where we have limited road access, specifically a no large truck turn around. Special Thank you to Board Member Carla Wessells for working with Google on the updates and the Chair of the Maintenance Committee - Ken Ferrante - for installing the new signs!



Safety Corner – Did You Know?

According to the 2020 SC Department of Public Safety Report the following events occurred...

- There was a traffic collision every 4.3 Minutes,
- Every 16 minutes there was a collision with an injury.
- Once every 9.1 hours there was a fatality
- A pedestrian death occurred every 2 days.
- #1 reason for property damage, #1 reason for injuries and the #2 reason for fatal accidents is driving **too fast**.
- 1 in every 22 SC Residents was involved in a traffic accident.
- The highest number of collisions occurred in October.

Call to Action:

Drivers... **Please slow down**, obey traffic signs (like stop signs) and remain vigilant for pedestrians.

Pedestrians... **Please wear bright or reflective clothing** when walking and be mindful of traffic.

Neighborly Reminders

- Please remember that the 10' pond easement is NOT a public fishing pathway. Going through and stopping to fish on a homeowner's yard is trespassing. The Board has NOT provided "special permission" to anyone to be walking through homeowners' yards for fishing. Fishing for ALL RESIDENTS is only permitted in two common areas – Lake Murray (along Waccamaw River [coming in from Swan Lake] near the power lines) and Lake Okatee (located on the right side of Waccamaw River Road coming in from the Meadowood Community). Additionally, homeowners with lake property, can fish on their own property with their guests. Fishing on lake properties, other than these two common areas, without permission of the homeowner, is TRESPASSING.
- Unfortunately, we need to communicate some recent issues with dog owners not picking up after their dogs. PLEASE be respectful and pick up your dog waste. Note, there are several cameras that have captured vehicles and people who are not picking up after their dogs. Per The Lakes Covenants, pets should be on a leash or carried by the owner when not on the owner's lot. Per Horry County Ordinance: "No person harboring, owning, keeping in possession or having custody or control of any animal shall permit such animal to create a public nuisance. Public nuisance shall include but not be limited to the following: creating excessive noise; molesting people; chasing vehicles; depositing excretory matter on property other than that of the owner. (Ord. No. 69- 07, 5-15-07)



How to share a question or concern with The Lakes Board

Have you ever wondered about how to send a question, concern, feedback, or comment to the Lakes Board? There are several ways to communicate with the Board.

- Homeowners can send requests to Karen at LITUS via email at ktucker@litustolet.com.
- Homeowners can also attend the POA Quarterly Homeowner Meeting.
- Homeowners can request to present a topic to the Board at Public Board Meetings. Please send a request to Karen at least one week prior to the Board Meeting.

On the Funny Side of the Lake

Question: What do Sea Monsters Eat?

Answer: Fish and Ships



MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01 Lakes Office Hours 12pm - 3pm	02 Lakes Office Hours 9am - 12pm	03 Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm	04
05	06 Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm	07	08 Lakes Office Hours 12pm - 3pm	09 Lakes Office Hours 9am - 12pm	10 Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm	11
12 Daylight Savings	13 Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm The Lakes Board Meeting 7pm	14	15 Lakes Office Hours 12pm - 3pm	16 Lakes Office Hours 9am - 12pm	17 St. Patrick's Day Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm	18
19	20 Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm	21	22 Lakes Office Hours 12pm - 3pm	23 Lakes Office Hours 9am - 12pm	24	25
26	27	28	29 Lakes Office Hours 12pm - 3pm	30 Lakes Office Hours 9am - 12pm	31 Lakes Office Hours 12pm – 3pm	

Next Board of Directors Meeting: Monday, April 10th , 6pm at the Lakes Office

Next Quarterly POA Meeting: Monday, April 17th, 6pm -7:45pm at Inlet Square Mall

Horry County Community Information

LOCAL HOSPITALS

Tidelands Waccamaw	4070 US 17 Bypass Murrells Inlet	(843) 652-1000
Conway Medical Ctr	Singleton Ridge Rd Conway	(843) 347-7111
South Strand Med Ctr	5050 US 17 Bypass Myrtle Beach	(843) 839-1000
Grand Strand Med Ctr	809 82nd Pkwy Myrtle Beach	(843) 692-1000

MB VA Outpatient Clinic	1800 Airport Dr	(843) 477-0177
MB VA Outpatient & Primary Care	1101 Johnson Ave Myrtle Beach	(843) 577-5011
Market Commons VA Clinic	1101 Johnson Ave Suite R2A	(843) 477-0177

POLICE AND FIRE

Horry County Police Non-emergency	(843) 915-5350
Horry County Fire & Rescue	(843) 915-5190

REC CENTERS

Horry County Parks & Rec	2830 Oak St Conway	(843) 915-5330
Pepper Geddings Rec Ctr	3205 N Oak St Myrtle Beach	(843) 918-2280
Claire Chapin Epps Family YMCA	5000 Claire Chapin EPPS Dr Myrtle Beach	(843) 449-9622
South Strand Rec Ctr	9650 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach	(843) 915-5333
Burgess Community Ctr	10299 SC 707 Myrtle Beach	(843) 650-2796

COUNTY OFFICES

Horry County Treasurer	9630 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach	(843) 915-5470
Horry County Auditor	9630 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach	(843) 915-5052
Horry County Clerk of Court	9630 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach	(843) 915-5080
Horry County Probate Court	1301 2nd Ave Conway	(843) 915-5370
Myrtle Beach DMV	1330 Howard Pkwy Myrtle Beach	(843) 839-8003
SC DMV	1200 21st Ave N Myrtle Beach	(843) 448-9957

RECYCLE CENTERS

	9610 Scipio Ln Myrtle Beach (closed Thurs)	(843) 347-1651
	McDowell Shortcut (closed Tues)	(843) 347-1651
	4670 Jones Rd	(843) 347-1651