

The Heron

January 19, 2015

Newberry County on Lake Greenwood



Cheaper Gas

HURRAY!! Gas prices at the pump have dropped and you have more money in your pocket. But there are those in government who think you don't deserve this "windfall". This is a newly found bucket of money that government covets as their own and you can keep just what the politicians will allow.

This last issue of The Heron raised the specter of a state fuel tax increase when the legislature came back in session. They are now in session. Stalking horses for the state legislature have been pressing hard for business and transportation advocates to make the argument that South Carolina needs more money for roads and bridges. They assert that poor roads cause drivers to pay \$1,150 a year for car maintenance, fuel consumption and fatal crashes. This seems to be an indictment of how DOT is currently maintaining roads. What assurance is there that DOT will do better with more money?

The additional argument is that the South Carolina Gas Tax hasn't been raised in thirty years. Where does it say taxes should be raised just because they have not been raised over a given period of time?

Poor roads are a problem and do add to the cost of driving. The question is whether more money is the solution. Are you confident that the current fuel tax revenue is being spent wisely?

And now the federal government is also trying to grab some of your new found "wealth". For once this is a bipartisan effort. In addition to the Democrats, "big government" Republicans have joined the chorus to raise the federal fuel tax. These include Bob Corker, James Inhofe, Orrin Hatch, and John Thune. These Senators have been identified by cable news networks as being in support of increasing the gas tax.

Again, the question remains whether you believe your tax dollars are being spent wisely. The CBO reports that up to thirty percent of fuel tax revenue goes to other than roads and bridges. For example, last year, Five Billion Dollars was spent on mass transportation, Eight Hundred Million was spent on walkways and bike trails, and Sixteen Million was spent on transportation museums. These may be worthy projects or just typical pork barrel corruption. In either case when the driving public is asked to pay taxes for roads and bridges, the revenue should go to roads and bridges.

Basic economics tells us that prices are low because the global market is flooded with oil. It also tells us that oil companies will react by reducing supply until prices rebound. Do you believe that state and federal increases in the gas tax will then be rescinded?

By the way, the Obama Administration had a lot of trouble finding "shovel ready" road projects and so redistributed "Stimulus" money to favored campaign supporters.

Newberry County Library System

By T. Sam Ziady, Director

As a member of the Jasmine Digital Consortium, the Newberry County Library System is pleased to offer our patrons eBooks. Enjoy titles on your computer, tablet or any smart device. It is easy to browse, checkout and download using your Newberry County Library card. To try this free service, go to the Newberry County Library homepage (youseemore.com/newberry), and click on the eBook icon. Access is 24/7. Get started today!

Are you interested in learning a new language? The Newberry County Library System, partnering with the South Carolina State Library, is proud to provide Mango. Mango Languages is an online language learning system that teaches actual conversation skills for over sixty languages. You can record your speech and compare it directly to audio from a native speaker to hear exactly how to tune in your accent. To try out Mango go to the Newberry County Library homepage. You can also use your smart phone for easy "QR code" home page access.



Waters Edge Homeowners Association

News from Waters Edge *By Howard Thomes*

Hopefully, all of you have had a Merry Christmas and are now well into your New Years with vim, vigor and hope for better tidings.

Much has occurred in 2015, a summary is; Construction, approval and recording of much needed by-laws, and architectural guidelines. Both of these documents provide a guide for successive Boards of Directors to follow, giving us consistency in oversight.

We have retained the services of a professional Property Management firm. Their introduction is as follows;

“We are looking forward to serving you as your property manager. Our company has been in business for more than 50 years developing, building and managing various types of real estate. As part of our property management operation we manage a number of property owner associations that range in size from as few as 10 units to over 500 in South Carolina and North Carolina. These properties consist of high rise condominiums to residential subdivisions that have features such as private road, tennis courts, lakes, security gates, clubhouses, pools and much more which gives us a broad range of experience.”

Town & Country
132 W. Cambridge St.
Greenwood, SC 29646
C/o Mr. Wilson Bruce

Town & Country currently manage several local developments such as;

- ◆ Harborside Subdivision HOA, Inc. – Lake Greenwood
- ◆ Grand Harbor Property Owners Association – Lake Greenwood
- ◆ Terrapin Pointe Subdivision POA, Inc. – Hodges, SC

- ◆ Old Mill Townhomes Homeowners Association – Greenwood

Ted Scott has all but completed his home in Waters Edge, a nice addition to the community—welcome Ted

Tim & Joni Kirk have purchased a home in Waters Edge, and have moved in—welcome Tim & Joni

The signage which was vandalized last fall has all been replaced and looks good, thanks to all who assisted in this project.

Thank you to the person(s) who annually decorate our entrance stonework with beautiful Christmas decorations.

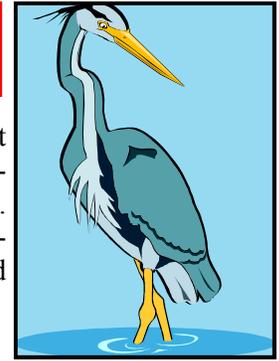
Welcome to new readers *By the editor*

The Heron is pleased to welcome new readers in the Waters Edge Community. There are four contiguous developments in our part of Newberry County on Lake Greenwood. Three of them, Summerset Bay, Summerset Point, and Windmill Landing, are represented by the Summerset/Windmill POA. Waters Edge is represented by a separate HOA. The two associations may have different by-laws and procedures but the property owners in both organizations share many common interests.

The Heron attempts to provide a perspective on both government and community matters that may affect you as individual members of this community. Over the last fifteen years this publication has reflected concerns on public safety, e.g. fire and rescue capabilities, road maintenance, county tax matters, and other issues of local and state activities that could have influence on this area or may just be of special interest to our readers.

The Heron also welcomes articles from members of the community for inclusion in our quarterly publication. However, the decision to include articles and the right to edit them is reserved to the editor.

Summerset/Windmill POA



POA Board News

The Summerset/Windmill POA is peculiar among similar organizations in that membership is voluntary. Surprisingly over the years the association has managed to maintain an average 70% membership. Many of the non-members are lot owners who may be holding their property as an investment or have no immediate plans to build. There are a few others who for their own reasons chose not to participate. The relatively high participation rate suggests that the POA must be doing something right.

If you have not already renewed your membership in the POA, now is the time to do it. At this point in time about fifty percent of property owners have renewed for 2015. Past history tells us that it is not unusual for a relatively large number of members to wait until after the holidays to send in their dues. Membership renewal is just \$100 and most would agree it is a very reasonable regime fee. If you were not a member last year and you wish to join, there is a membership form on the last page of this newsletter.

For your membership you get a community where landscaping and mowing improve the appearance of the neighborhood. You also get to have chance to join with others in voicing concerns with local government.

At the general meeting in April, membership will have a chance to vote for two board members. The membership elects the board members and the board then appoints the officers. Everyone is encouraged to submit names, including your own, for nomination to the board. Last year we lost board director Cort Nagle. He will be hard to replace since the board had appointed him President. Nomination forms will be sent in the March issue of The Heron.

- ◆ The Summerset/Windmill residents owe a debt of gratitude to Roy Mendelsohn and his band of volunteers who for many years now have seen to the tailored look of our roadsides. Roy himself mows and organizes the schedule of mowing. He and his team maintain the equipment and have now serviced it for the winter. Roy reports that the mower is five years old and has 500 miles of operation. It may be time for

a new mower. Roy will collect comparative information on mowers and report back to the board. The board voted to delay any decision until the March Board Meeting.

- ◆ Jim Smith leads a team that works on enhancing the landscape in the neighborhood. One big problem they have been working on is control of erosion in several areas. With a consult from Clemson Extension, they have experimented with several varieties of grasses. In some places they used rip-rap. An important part of this effort is to make it safer and easier to mow. You have probably noted another team project, dressing up entrance areas with crape-myrtles.
- ◆ Lou Rosenthal of the Architectural Committee noted a number of new homes either recently built or under construction. The most recent start was site preparation on Lot 4 of Summerset Bay.

Men's Breakfast

Every third Thursday, men from the neighborhood gather for breakfast at the Mennonite "Country Bakery and Café" on Route 39 at 8:00 AM.

All the men in the neighborhood including Summerset Bay, Waters Edge, and other surrounding communities are welcome to join us.

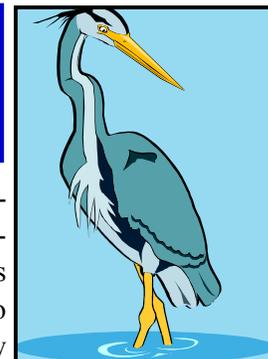
We indulge in a good breakfast, congenial conversation and tall stories.

Be on the Alert

Watch for vandals in the area.

ATV riders have been cruising the neighborhood knocking down traffic signs and ripping through private property.

The Heron
PO Box 6025 Chappells, SC 29037



Fire, Rescue and Medical Emergency Services Chappells residents have a continuing concern about Emergency Medical Response. We've been told that Newberry County Emergency Management has entered into an agreement with Laurens County for mutual aid to cover when a timely response to Chappells medical emergencies is otherwise not possible. Also, The Heron is informed that a new EMT candidate, Larry Watson, will take the examination this month. These are incremental improvements. Are they sufficient to make you feel your emergency needs will be met?

Years have passed since the Chappells Fire and Rescue began work on a fireboat. One of the impediments has been the failure of Newberry County to fund a pump. At this point Tommy Long, Newberry County Emergency Management, reports that he and the Chappells fire officials are looking to use the boat for rescue operations only. They assert that current levels of manpower would limit the ability to operate the boat as a water supply. However, they still don't have funding to even make it a rescue boat.

Mike Engemann reports that the fire department will have a fundraiser, fish fry, this March or April.

Summerset/Windmill POA

Treasurer's Report *by Ed LaRoche*

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Balance as of August 29, 2014 | \$16,760.42 |
| Deposits | |
| 2015 dues | \$100.00 |
| Total | \$100.00 |
| Disbursements- | |
| Mower Fuel | \$113.09 |
| Mower Service | \$ 38.87 |
| Auto-owners insurance | \$901.00 |
| Weed Control Chemical | \$ 42.39 |
| Mowing SSB Rd. 8/18,28+9/18 | \$660.00 |
| Mowing SSB Rd. 10/9,30 | \$330.00 |
| Dues Campaign (postage etc.) | <u>\$ 71.98</u> |
| Total | \$2,157.33 |
| Balance as of November 28, 2014 | \$14,703.09 |
| Pending Deposits | |
| Dues 2015 | \$3,350.00 |
| Pending Disbursements | |
| Fire Ant Control | \$ 221.00 |
| Mower Replacement Contingency | \$6,000.00 |
| Remaining 2014 Estimated Contingency | \$1,597.54 |
| Current Pending and Contingency | \$10,726.54 |

Board Meetings: 2015
Chappells Fire House

March 12 -7:00 P.M.
 June 18 -7:00 P.M.

NEW MEMBER FORM

If you are not now a member and would like to join your neighbors in making Summerset/Windmill a great community please fill out this form and send with a check for \$100 to the return address above.

NAME:

DEVELOPMENT:

Lot # or local address:

Mailing Address if different:

Telephone No.

Check Enclosed