

Spring Issue

April, 2021



SACHEM'S HEAD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Message from the President

Dear Neighbor,

The weather has finally made the turn towards Spring and longer, warmer days mean more opportunities to be outdoors. What better time is there for taking care of clean-up chores accumulated over the winter months? It's always encouraging to see homeowners working outside to improve their homes and landscaping. Collectively, we benefit when the homes and yards in our community are kept in good condition. Removing weeds and debris and replacing rotten boards can go a long way to "making a good impression" and helping property values too. To that end, residents are reminded that exterior changes to their house, as well as additions and changes to landscaping such as sheds and fences, must be pre-approved by the Architectural Review Committee. Instructions for obtaining pre-approval for exterior projects are located on the HOA website (sachemshead.org). Please contact a member of the committee with questions regarding the pre-approval process **before** you begin for your project.

If you've been to the lake recently you've seen the work that is going on to clean up the lake and surrounding HOA property. One of the biggest, and well overdue, clean-up activities is the lake itself. It has taken several years and many meetings with Chesterfield County officials to get this project completed. Through the combined efforts of the communities surrounding the lake, this project was approved. AND, if not for the individual efforts of residents, most notably that of Tim Dunbar, the project may still be in the planning phases...thank you, Tim! Residents are encouraged to read the Lake Evergreen articles that are posted on the HOA website.

Another noticeable change around the lake is the trimming of the trees and bushes that blocked the view of the lake itself. In order to continually maintain these areas, the HOA has removed the fence that was added many years ago. The fence was originally erected as a measure for keeping the Canadian Geese from coming onto the walking trail. However, this deterrent had lost its effectiveness over the years and the condition of the fence itself became an eyesore and a collection area for leaves and trash. Many thanks to our landscaper, Cliff Long, and his hard-working team who removed the fence. Cliff's team will continue to maintain the areas along the lake during the coming months.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to define the new normal. The 2020 Annual Homeowners meeting was postponed and later cancelled for lack of a meeting venue and social distancing requirements. Anticipating similar issues this year, the HOA is considering the common area at the east end of Lake Evergreen (past the Reed Grass gazebo) to host the meeting. This would be a homeowner-only, "white-tent" event with seating properly spaced for maintaining social distancing. The HOA governing documents require a quorum (53 homeowners) at the annual meeting for conducting any business and for electing the Board of Directors. Hopefully moving the venue outdoors and keeping it close to home will improve attendance. **Please mark your calendar to attend the annual meeting on June 16th, weather permitting!**

As president of the HOA, I am fortunate to work with a Board of Directors, committee members, and homeowners that share my desire to improve our community. Please consider volunteering your time and skills to benefit our community as a whole. **If you have a desire to serve on the Board of Directors, submit your letter of interest by June 1st to kgrimsley3342@gmail.com** If your schedule doesn't have room for a Board or committee position, simply picking up trash goes a long way to improving our neighborhood.

Again, Spring is finally in the air! Please get outside and take care of those clean-up chores and see what's happening with the lake. If you see me passing by during my daily walk, introduce yourself. In the meantime, please stay healthy.

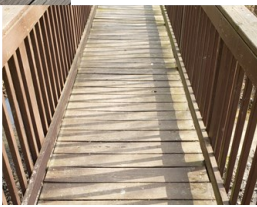
Karl Grimsley

Projects Completed to Date

- Removed fallen trees and debris after snow and ice storms
- Cleared lake vegetation and trimmed back brush and shrubs along lake to enhance lake view
- Cleaned up common areas
- Contracted for snow removal as needed
- Dealt with residents' complaints and property violations by sending letters and working with homeowners to rectify the problems
- Actively pursuing collection of delinquent HOA fees
- Updated New Buyers' packets
- Implemented new Architectural Review process as posted on website



Projects in the Works



- Repairing and painting the gazebo, decks and bridges that are part of the walking path
- Installing riprap in eroding areas of the lake shoreline
- Planting new trees and bushes to replace those that were removed as part of the Lucks Lane Widening project
- Installing a new neighborhood sign near the front entrance

Residents that are willing to volunteer with these efforts are encouraged to contact the HOA Board of Directors.

Sachem's Head HOA Board of Directors

President: Karl Grimsley, 12412 Reed Grass Lane
ph. 516-7583, kgrimsley3342@gmail.com

Vice-President: Kevin Penrose, 12501 Spring Cress Ct
ph. 301-1354, KevinPenrose@yahoo.com

Secretary: Barbara Havens, 12602 Wood Sage West
ph. 387-2451, sachemsheadHOA@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Troy Ross, P.O. Box 5628 Midlothian, VA 23112-5628
ph. 794-4554, Troy@afthomascpa.com

Lucks Lane Update from Brent Epps

The contractor is working to complete the remaining curb and gutter, medians, and ADA ramps over the next week or so (April 8 - 20.) Once that is complete, final surface asphalt will begin going down, followed by the permanent striping. **Weather permitting**, we anticipate all four lanes to be open in late April or early May.

Lake Evergreen Dredging Operation 2021

Chesterfield County recently awarded a contract to Sediment Removal Services, Inc., to dredge Lake Evergreen. Dredging is the removal of sediments and debris from the bottom of the lake. Dredging is important to reducing the exposure of fish, wildlife, and people to contaminants and to prevent the spread of contaminants to the James River and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The dredging work has started and is a water-side operation, meaning a large backhoe is placed atop a barge and the barge is floated to various areas of the lake. The backhoe is removing sediment from the lake bottom and transporting it to the Sachem's Head Homeowners Association common property located off Reed Grass Lane. Once the sediment has properly drained, it is being trucked off to a disposal. The dredging operation is costing the County \$323,651, will require several weeks to complete, and is expected to remove 6620 cubic yards of sediment, which equates to roughly 450 dump truck loads of muck! At the conclusion of the operation, the aforementioned common area will be properly restored.



Dredging is very important in maintaining the overall health of Lake Evergreen. As the lake becomes more shallow due to sediments from stormwater runoff, shore erosion, and the introduction of yard debris and trash, algae and watercress growth accelerates. Dredging removes this sediment and thus improves the overall health and aesthetics of the lake. Chesterfield County is required to dredge the lake once every fifteen (15) years. Residents are reminded to **not** discard leaves, yard debris, trash, and recyclables into the lake or its tributaries and to use the pet waste disposal stations. Only through our efforts will the lake remain healthy between dredging operations.

Neighbor Spotlight



The Sachem's Head HOA is introducing this new feature to recognize members of our community who are helping to make a difference. For this inaugural article, the HOA is spotlighting **Timothy Dunbar**. Tim moved into his home located at 12501 Needle Rush Way in December of 2002. When asked why he likes making Sachem's Head his home, Tim said, " I know the lake is a big attraction, at least it is for me. I think the other is the style of the homes; It reminds me of beach homes. I think another attraction is the people who live here. I know more people in this community than any other I've ever lived in..." Tim has volunteered his time to the

community over the past 18 years, working on numerous repairs to the bridges and decks, and helping to maintain the landscaping. Perhaps his greatest contribution to the community thus far has been his partnership with the HOA's of communities that surround the lake. His persistence with contacting Chesterfield County over the years was one of the driving factors of why the lake is finally being dredged. Thank you !

Some Additional Information...

- **Schedule of HOA assessments dates:** January 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and October 1st. The HOA assessment may be paid quarterly on the above dates or in one yearly payment.
- It is each homeowner's (and renter's) responsibility to know the HOA Bylaws, Declaration Covenants, and Property Owner Regulations. All of these documents may be found on the subdivision's website: www.sachemshead.org
- Also on the sachemshead.org website is the **Chesterfield County's Code Compliance brochure** which highlights some of the important zoning ordinances and codes for residential property owners including animals, unlicensed vehicles, sheds, grass/weeds, and small temporary signs.
- **Fine Schedule** - Residents are reminded of the fine schedule attached to property violations; the fine schedule and property regulations are found on the HOA website
- **Cover and Stow Trash and Recycle Bins** - Trash and recycle containers must be properly stowed and covered to prevent unwanted items from entering the lake. Bins may be placed at the curb the night before pick-up and must be promptly stored out of view on non-pick-up days
- **Noise level** — With warmer weather approaching, please be considerate of your neighbors. Please keep noise / music levels down outside, especially in the evenings and early mornings. Noise Level - Section 14-27 of the Code of the County of Chesterfield, 1997, prohibits loud noise between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m, and fines for those who violate the ordinance range from \$100 to \$500. In addition, the HOA governing documents restrict loud noise that is a nuisance to others.
- **Fire Pit Safety** - Residents are reminded to use common sense and to follow Chesterfield County Code regarding fire pits which mandates using only clean wood (sticks and/or firewood), limiting the size of the fire to 3 feet by 2 feet, attending the fire at all times and being available to extinguish it, and keeping the fire at least 25 feet from anything combustible
- **Geese and ducks** — PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do NOT feed the geese and ducks.
- **Don't Feed the Lake** - Residents are asked to **not** to introduce chemicals into Lake Evergreen. When washing your vehicle, be sure to rinse the soap suds into the grass areas to avoid washing phosphates into the lake. If fertilizing your lawn, be sure to sweep up the granules from hard surfaces and please pick up after your pets. Nitrates and phosphates are the leading causes for algae growth in the lake.
- **Speed Limit** - Residents are reminded that the speed limit within Sachem's Head is **25 MPH**.



**EMAIL
ADDRESSES**

The HOA is asking for residents' email addresses for use in emailing newsletters, emergency alerts, and other notifications. This would be more cost-effective than sending newsletters and notifications through the US Mail. To be added to the distribution list, please send your name, street address, and email address to SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com. Put "email address" in subject line.

HOME SERVICES

If you have used a specific company or handyman for services such as home repairs, siding, roofing, heating/AC, electric, painting, etc. and were pleased with the end result, please email their name, contact information and services to SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com so that we can share on our website and in the newsletter

If you own a business and would like to place an ad in the newsletter (\$10), please send an email to SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com.



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