

Spring Issue

May, 2020



SACHEM'S HEAD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

It has become a bit of a cliché, but these are some unprecedented times to say the least. The past couple of months of having to endure unexpected lifestyle changes due to the global pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges for society as a whole. Yet, I have been awed by the will and ingenuity that humankind has demonstrated in response. Finding new ways to work, shop, and socialize with each other is more important now than ever before. Within our community, I have witnessed neighborly acts of kindness and support in a time when distancing from one another is recommended. The past months have been tough for everyone in one way or another. While we may still have a few more weeks or months of this crisis to endure, this will one day end. And when it does, life will return, not to normal, but to a “new normal” that continues to be defined.

Our community is not immune to having to react and adjust to the “new normal”. One such adjustment is to the Annual Homeowners Meeting that occurs each June. In response to the Governor’s orders to avoid social gathering, the HOA has made the decision to postpone the Annual Meeting until August. It is hoped the social distancing orders will be removed by then and a meeting venue will be available. In the event the social distancing orders are not lifted in time for the meeting, the HOA will host the meeting virtually. Mark your calendars for **August 10th** so you can attend our meeting. As we approach the date, watch for a letter in your mailbox with more information regarding time and venue.

Changes are evident throughout Sachem’s Head, beginning with the entrance to our community. Not all change is bad, but not all change is good either. The construction at the entrance is not good in the sense of safety and appearance. The condition of Lake Evergreen is not good in the sense of the amount of debris and settlement that has entered the water. The parking and driver behavior on our neighborhood streets are not the best. The HOA is working to resolve these and other issues that detract from the beauty and peacefulness of living here in our community.

A recent change for the HOA is the retirement of Carol Horner from the HOA Board of Directors. We are grateful and appreciative of the many years that Carol has served our community and for all the good she has brought to our neighborhood. She worked tirelessly to beautify our streets and common areas. Serving on the HOA board is a thankless and challenging volunteer engagement. Yet, throughout her tenure, Carol demonstrated a great amount of passion and an equal amount of compassion. It is never too late to thank someone who has given so much of their time to serve others. If you happen to see Carol, please thank her for her service.

To fill the void, Kevin Penrose has volunteered to join the Board of Directors and will serve as Vice President until voting occurs at the Annual Meeting. The HOA board is always seeking volunteers to serve the community. If you are interested in serving on the board, or participating on a committee, please contact a member of the board (SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com .)

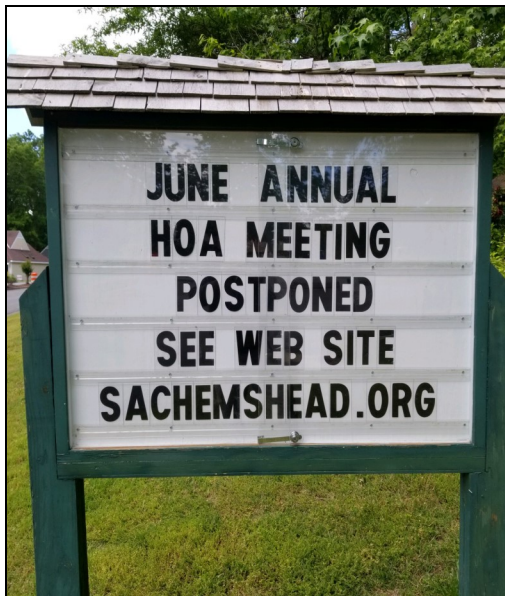
I am looking forward to seeing each of you at our Annual Meeting. Until then, be safe, practice social distancing, and look for new ways to get out and enjoy the good weather.

Projects Completed to Date

- New signage along pathway
- Removed dead trees and trimmed back limbs
- Cleaned up common area between Spring Cress and Needle Rush
- Replaced solar lighting on street corners
- Contracted for snow removal as needed
- Worked with lawyer to align practices with bylaws, policies, etc.
- Pursued collection of delinquent HOA fees
- Updated New Buyers' packets



Annual Meeting Postponed



Due to current social gathering restrictions, the Annual Meeting of Homeowners is postponed for June and rescheduled for **Monday, August 10, 2020**. The meeting time and venue are yet to be determined. Sachem's Head is comprised of **105** single family homes. It is necessary to have **at least 53 voting members, in attendance and through proxy, for there to be a quorum**. Only homeowners are allowed to vote (one per household). Those who are renting homes in Sachem's Head are encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting as we value your input, but are not allowed to vote. **It cannot be stressed enough that to conduct business at the meeting, we need a quorum.**

If you would like to suggest topics to the agenda, please send email to SachemsheadHOA@gmail.com with your name, address, and topic description. The deadline for submitting topics is **June 30, 2020**.

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: Alex Nelson, P.O. Box 5628 Midlothian, VA 23112-5628
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Lucks Lane Update from Brent Epps



Our contractor has focused recent activities east of Gladstone Glen and on construction of the retaining wall between Falling Creek and Gladstone Glen. The contractor is currently finishing storm drainage between East Evergreen and the four-way stop intersection. Once the storm drain work is complete, the contractor will be removing existing pavement and constructing the new pavement, curb and gutter, sidewalk and slopes opposite of Reed Grass Lane. The work will likely progress from west to east and include work at the intersection. Once this work is substantially complete, traffic will be shifted to allow activation of the traffic signal to full color mode. We

anticipate the signal being activated to full color mode on or before August 15th.

Work at the entrance will be completed to intermediate course asphalt on or before August 15th. The final surface course and final markings likely will not be placed until late 2020.

Construction activities will include similar activities to date including excavation, storm drainage, asphalt, concrete curb and sidewalk construction and seeding and stabilization. Expect the entrance to remain in its current configuration until August 15th when the signal is activated to full color mode.



Residential Design Standards

Residents desiring to modify their home or property should first review Article V, Section 1 of the Sachem's Head Homeowner's Association Declaration Covenants (available on the community website.) Exterior modifications must be in harmony with the neighborhood and conform to the Residential Design Standards. Modifications require pre-approval by the Sachem's Head Architectural Review Board (ARB) before work may begun.

The Board recognizes that the Residential Design Standards do not take into consideration newer building materials, such as trex decking, design trends and paint colors. To address this situation, the Board is forming a committee whose purpose is to present to the Board proposed changes to the existing standards. The Board will consider the committee recommendations and will publish a revised Residential Design Standards in the near future. If interested in serving on this committee, or if you have ideas for the committee to consider, please contact Kevin Penrose (ph. 301-1354 or email kevinpenrose@yahoo.com .)

**EMAIL
ADDRESSES
NEEDED**

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.

IF it is necessary to have the Annual meeting online, email addresses will be needed for sending out the invitation and link.

Fine Schedule for Property Owner Regulations

The Sachem's Head Homeowners' Association Board of Directors has approved a new Procedure and Fine Schedule for handling violations of the Sachem's Head Property Owner Regulations. The Regulations were put into place to ensure, enhance, and maintain the value of the community and thus, the value of your property. Much of your property's value comes from the homes in our community, which is why keeping all homes in Sachem's Head up to the same standards can help preserve your home's value over time. To ensure residents and tenants are adhering to the Regulations, the Board has voted into place new procedures and fines that are effective **June 1, 2020**. A copy of the Enforcement Procedures and Fine Schedule is enclosed with this newsletter. Please visit the community web site (sachemshead.org) to review the Regulations. If you find that you are in violation of one (or more) of the regulations, please correct it before the fines go into effect on June 1st.

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 are 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.
- **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.
- **Geese and ducks** — PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE do **NOT** feed the geese and ducks.
- **Lake perimeter fencing** — We are asking everyone to please **NOT** bend, mutilate, remove, tromp on, cut, ruin, etc. the fencing along the lake's perimeter. It is expensive and time-consuming to repair **AND**, when bent or cut, provides the geese and ducks access to properties.
- **Speed limit** — The HOA made a request for Chesterfield County to install a speed limit sign near the entrance to our community, but the request was denied. According to the County, if there is no sign in an area, the presumed **speed limit is 25 MPH**. This applies in residential areas where there could be children and families out in the streets. The County also recommended that drivers exercise sound judgement when road hazards are present, such as during times of bad weather or construction, and to reduce driving speeds accordingly. The speed limit within Sachem's Head is designated 25 mph.
- **Street parking** — The US Postal Service has asked that vehicles avoid parking in front of mailboxes as it hinders the mail trucks from delivery.





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