

Spring Issue

May, 2018



# SACHEM'S HEAD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

## From Karl Grimsley, HOA President

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Dear Neighbors,

You need not look very far to see that big changes are taking place around our neighborhood! The Lucks Lane Widening Project is in full swing. Large swaths of land, once serving as natural buffer areas, are now clear of trees. The mature oaks, cedar, and pines have been reduced to piles of mulch with muddy waters running down streets and drains, and into our beloved lake. Earth movers, other machines and safety cones litter the area and remind us that there are more changes to come.

It is difficult to imagine, but this combined Chesterfield County / VDOT road project will one day conclude. When it does end, our Home Owners Association (HOA) will begin the process of restoring the natural buffer areas and the front entrance to our community. The HOA negotiated a settlement with Chesterfield County that is being held in reserve for the restoration. A mix of fast- and slow- growing indigenous trees will be planted on HOA property that runs parallel to Lucks Lane. Ornamental grasses and bushes, and a refreshed subdivision sign will dress up the entrance.

Yes, changes are taking place all around us. However, the more exciting changes are yet to come! Until then, please exercise caution when entering and exiting our neighborhood, and when traveling on Lucks Lane.

## Annual Meeting in June

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The Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 13, 2018** in the large meeting room at the **Midlothian Library (Coalfield Road.)** The meeting will begin at **6:30 p.m.** 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 a vote (one per household). Those who are renting homes in Sachem's Head are also encouraged to attend the Annual Meeting as we value your input as well.

Officer Rodgers from the Chesterfield County Community Services Office will give an informative presentation about the Neighborhood Watch Program. Mr. Brent Epps from the Virginia Department of Transportation will be on hand to update residents on the widening of Lucks Lane. Other agenda items are Spring clean-up, lake shoreline erosion control, and an overview of the 2018 HOA budget.

*If you would like to suggest a discussion point for the agenda, please send email to [SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com](mailto:SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com) with your name, address, discussion point, and a brief description. The deadline for submissions is **May 31st**.*

### **Sachem's Head Homeowners' Association Board of Directors**

- President: Karl Grimsley, 12412 Reed Grass Lane ph. 516-7583  
[kgrimsley3342@gmail.com](mailto:kgrimsley3342@gmail.com)
- Vice-President: Carol Horner, 12500 Wood Sage East ph. 379-2687
- Secretary: Barbara Havens, 12602 Wood Sage West ph. 387-2451  
[sachemsheadHOA@gmail.com](mailto:sachemsheadHOA@gmail.com)
- Bookkeeper: Alex Thomas, P.O. Box 5628 Midlothian, VA 23112

# Projects Completed since April 2017

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- **Additional pet waste station installed on Water Willow Drive** — Residents expressed concern that the only pet waste stations were along the lake path. Those residents living near the entrance often walk their pets along Water Willow Drive so another pet waste station was needed. Residents are asked to clean up after their pets and utilize the waste stations (waste bags are provided.)
- **Fallen tree removed from between Wood Sage East and Spring Cress** — With time, trees will begin to cause more problems due to age/dying or storms. The Homeowners Association is responsible for those trees on common property only and not on residents' properties.
- **"East Shore" clean up** — Prior to the commencement of the Lucks Lane Road project, clean up work was completed at the east end of the lake including removal of trash and poison ivy, trimming bushes and trees, and repairs to the fencing.
- **Entrance signs removed and stored until Lucks Lane Widening Project is complete** — The HOA was required to remove all trees and bushes from the front entrance area as well as the Sachem's Head sign. The sign will be "spruced up" and restored to the front entrance once the road project is completed. Many of the trees and bushes were relocated throughout the subdivision.
- **HOA message sign installed near entrance** — The message board provides important information for residents to know, in addition to the address for our website ([www.sachemshead.org](http://www.sachemshead.org)) where residents can find the HOA meeting minutes and HOA regulations. Thank you to HOA President, Karl Grimsley, who built and installed our message board.
- **Plantings / mulching for erosion control** — Through the diligence of Carol Horner, HOA Vice President, a grant from the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program was secured (See below) to enable the HOA to install mulch beds and plantings along the lake to aid with erosion control.



## Virginia Conservation Assistance Grant

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In March 2017 Carol Horner applied for a grant from Virginia Conservation Assistance Program to minimize pollution and erosion of Lake Evergreen. The Sachem's Head Homeowners Association was awarded a 10-year grant for \$35000 in June of 2017. Each year our HOA will receive a grant of \$3500 to prevent erosion and improve the buffer area of Lake Evergreen, with the requirement of the HOA providing a matching amount of \$3500 for plantings and landscape services.

If you walk on the path you will see some new plants beside the lake. We hope the new plants will improve the water quality of the lake, prevent erosion, beautify the subdivision, and the increase house values.

You may be wondering why Virginia's waters need improving? Non-point source pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems. Rainfall or snowmelt from suburban lawns, golf courses, and paved surfaces picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters.

# Additional Items

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- 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](http://www.sachemshead.org)
- Also on the [sachemshead.org](http://www.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.
- **Suggestions to reduce the growth of lake algae -**
  - \* Fertilize your yard in the fall rather than the spring. This reduces the amount of chemicals / fertilizer run-off ending up in the lake (due to "spring showers")
  - \* Allow grass clippings to be mulched back onto your grass ("mulch mowing") rather than removing and disposing of the clippings.
  - \* Clean up after pets and dispose of pet waste properly. This is especially true around the lake. We now have pet waste stations strategically placed beside the lake path for your convenience.
- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** — It is easy to criticize from the sidelines how the subdivision is being managed and maintained. Your HOA cannot run on the efforts of three people alone. More help is needed! Please step up and volunteer for any of the following positions by emailing [SchemsHeadHOA@gmail.com](mailto:SchemsHeadHOA@gmail.com):
  - \* Architectural Review Board
  - \* Street Representative (needed for Reed Grass and Wood Sage East)

**The HOA is acquiring 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](mailto:SachemsHeadHOA@gmail.com). Put "email address" in subject line.**



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