

Spring Issue

April, 2017



SACHEM'S HEAD NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Where Do My HOA Fees Go?

Every three months the Homeowners Association fees of \$54.00 are paid by those owning homes in Sachem's Head. Have you ever wondered what happens to the money/fees collected? This newsletter will provide some insight into how those fees are currently being allocated, while additional projects and information will be shared and discussed at the Annual HOA Meeting in June.

The Board of Directors has met several times, with the beautification and renovation of Sachem's Head common grounds as major topics. Input from residents and homeowners is always appreciated. Improvements to Sachem's Head increase property values and make living here more enjoyable for all. The Board of Directors' names and phone numbers are listed below and also on the website at sachemshead.org. We represent you, whether renter or homeowner, and would like to hear from you.

Annual Meeting in June

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.

The Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 13, 2017** in the meeting room at the **Midlothian Library**. The meeting will begin at **6:30 p.m.** Mr. Brent Epps from the Virginia Department of Transportation will update residents on the continued widening of Lucks Lane and its impact of our subdivision, traffic, etc. Other topics to review and discuss will be Spring clean-up, residential committee, lake shoreline erosion, and street-lights.

If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact Carol Horner with your name, address, and topic to be addressed by May 31st.

Sachem's Head Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

- President: Carol Horner, 12500 Wood Sage East ph. 379-2687
- Vice-President: Karl Grimsley, 12412 Reed Grass Lane ph. 516-7583
kgrimsley3342@gmail.com
- Secretary: Barbara Havens, 12602 Wood Sage West ph. 387-2451
sachemsheadHOA@gmail.com
- Bookkeeper: Alex Thomas, P.O. Box 5628 Midlothian, VA 23112-5628 ph. 794-4554

Projects Completed

- **Signs stating “Private Property: Boating and Fishing for Residents Only” have been erected around the Sachem’s Head property.** There has been some vandalism involving the fencing beside the lake. The fencing is there to keep the geese and ducks off of the path and out of yards around the lake. It is **not** to be cut or bent to better facilitate fishing as that reduces its effectiveness in wildlife management. Repairing the fencing costs money from Homeowners’ fees. **Please fish from the docks and use the gates provided for boating access to the lake.**
- **Three pet waste stations with disposal bags have been placed around the property.** If you are walking your pet, PLEASE pick up after them and dispose of the waste in the waste stations provided. Cliff Long’s men who do our common areas maintenance will empty the stations on a weekly basis. Please let someone on the Board of Directors know if this does not occur in a timely manner.
- **The “sinkhole,”** for lack of a better name, at the corner of Water Willow and Wood Sage West has been reported to the Virginia Department of Transportation for further work. In the meantime the hole itself has been filled with dirt. Please know that this is only a temporary fix until VDOT comes up with a better solution to fix the problem.
- **A.F. Thomas and Associates has been hired as our bookkeeping firm.**
- **Algae treatment for lake** (Please see suggestions on page three to prevent algae growth in lake.)



Projects in the Works

- **The re-paving of the lake path is underway.** Two areas of the path have been chosen by the Board of Directors as being priorities for the re-paving project. The first is behind the cul-de-sac at the end of Water Willow. The second is from the end of the Spring Cress cul-de-sac to the dock. Tree roots and moisture have caused the paving in both of these areas to buckle and become major safety hazards. Various options for repairing the path were considered and it was decided that removing and repaving these areas was the best and most cost-effective option.
- **Lessening erosion** around the lake through the planting of a riparian barrier.
- **Lighting** throughout the subdivision has been a concern of residents. The possibility of streetlights on Water Willow is being investigated with the Department of Transportation and Chesterfield County.
- If there is enough interest among residents, the HOA is considering renting a construction dumpster for residents’ use for **yard cleanup** debris (tree branches, grass, leaves, etc).
- **The acquiring of 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.**

Concerns

- **Bending / cutting fence along the lake** — As mentioned, the fence has been bent or cut several times over the last three years, resulting in a cumulative cost of **over \$3000.00** to make the necessary repairs. There are docks from which to fish and, if you are still wanting to fish at another spot, the fence is low enough that you can do so without bending or cutting it.
- **Cutting vegetation along the lake** — The vegetation along the lake acts as a natural barrier for wild-life and erosion. If you live along the lake and are concerned about growing vegetation (trees, plants, “weeds,” etc.), please notify the Homeowners Association and we will work with you to remedy the problem. PLEASE do **NOT** take it upon yourself to cut down or pull out plants. These areas are part of the common grounds of the subdivision and are maintained by the HOA.
- **“Vehicles” on the lake path** — The path along the lake is there for all residents to enjoy. Pets are allowed on the path as long as they are on a leash. Motorized vehicles of any kind and bicycles are prohibited on the path. This is for the safety of all.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 sachemsheadHOA@gmail.com:
 - * Architectural Review Board
 - * Grounds Committee
 - * Street Representative (needed for Reed Grass, Spring Cress and Wood Sage East)



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