

SLHOA Board Update

By Lew Smith (Secretary/Treasurer)

Jim Herbert, our board president has decided to retire and relocate to Winchester, VA. He submitted his resignation to the board, which the board promptly rejected. I wish we could hold Jim against his will, but the restraint marks on his body would hold us liable for a future lawsuit.

During his tenure, Jim has championed many of our projects. Our community owes Jim a big thanks for all his hard work for our community. We wish Jim and Judy well in their new lifestyle!

Even though Jim is leaving, many of our major efforts are still in negotiation. Mark Smith (VP), and I (not the Smith Brothers) hereafter referred to as "we," will pick up these responsibilities since "we" have the "history" of all this stuff. Legal documents of Spring Lakes, "remaining Board members" which also includes the two seats still controlled by Cohen the developer, provide the board members with the authority to appoint Jim's successor. Article 5, Section 10 of the Articles of Incorporation states that the board has the authority to appoint someone to a vacated seat to fill the remainder of the term.

But, rather than an immediate direct board appointment to Jim's position, we are asking for candidates that desire appointment to the board to come prepared to voice their position at the next HOA meeting on May 4 at the Rust Library at 7 pm. From our candidate pool, we hope to assign a new board member, and also draw assistance with present activities to get us through to the fall HOA meeting where we will have an official election.

We strongly feel there are still so many things to accomplish to make this a great community. Overall, the number of volunteers for every one of our committees has dwindled. Immediately, we need an abundance of help with the transition committee (members and chair) and the finance committee (members and chair).

If you have at least an hour a week that you can give back to our community, please e-mail communication-committee@slhoa.org with your contact information, availability, and the committee you would like to serve on. They will forward your information to the appropriate committee chair (see our community website—<http://www.slhoa.org> for a list of our different committees).

Pool Update by David D'Onofrio

There is good news and bad regarding the Spring Lakes Pool situation. The bad news is that we are not going to have a pool for this summer, but the very good news is that construction should commence this summer for an easy Summer 2005 delivery.

We have been slowed by a number of factors, ranging from a busy building schedule for our developer, to getting the communities many pressing matters arranged properly before proceeding. As projected costs appear in line with what we have been saying for the pool, it will soon have a very positive impact upon the community.

As disappointing as it is for our families to have to once more have to make arrangements this summer, we are making steady progress. The Recreation Committee will be having a late April meeting with the developer to continue to work out details, and we will keep you informed.

The Spring Lakes Gazette

Editor: Risa Nicholas

E-mail: newsletter@slhoa.org

Community Reminders

- Fire rings are not appropriate in any of our tree save areas. It is not safe, nor an appropriate use of common property. Please dismantle and cease the use of fire rings immediately.
- Please do not use common and tree save areas for storage of household articles, lawn furniture, or playground equipment.
- Please make sure your kids are respectful of your neighbors' property. We have many kids running through people's yards and plant beds, without being aware of that they are destroying property.
- We have had a number of very windy days, and still have problems with trash blowing throughout the community. At the request of your neighbors, we are asking again for you to make sure your trash is well secured, double-bagged (if loose), and placed in garbage cans with tight fitting lids.
- In addition, you may only place your cans out on trash day, and they are required, to be out of sight on non trash days.
- "This is a friendly reminder to please pick up after your dogs. Over the last few weeks, we have had to clean up multiple times after other people's pets. We do not have any pets of our own, but we do have little children who run around our front lawns and now we have to worry that they may step in it. Also, we recently had our driveway sealed and during the drying process, while we were successful in keeping our cars off of the driveway, we found paw prints tracking across the middle of the driveway. We love dogs and love seeing our neighbors walking them, so we ask for a little more effort in cleaning up after them."

Spring Lake Resident

Open Spaces Committee Update

By Linda Kibblewhite

The Open Spaces Committee is looking for additional support. The existing committee has dwindled, and more volunteers are required to help with the activities and focus of the group. If interested, please drop an e-mail to openspace-committee@slhoa.org.

Our landscaping crew worked hard through the cold winter cutting and stacking downed wood. The ground needs to be rid of excess moisture before the machinery was brought in and the stacks were removed. The ground needed to be firm enough to support the equipment, and not leave ruts and damage the grounds. Dumpsters were used to cart the logs and brush away.

Street sweeping should be addressed in April.

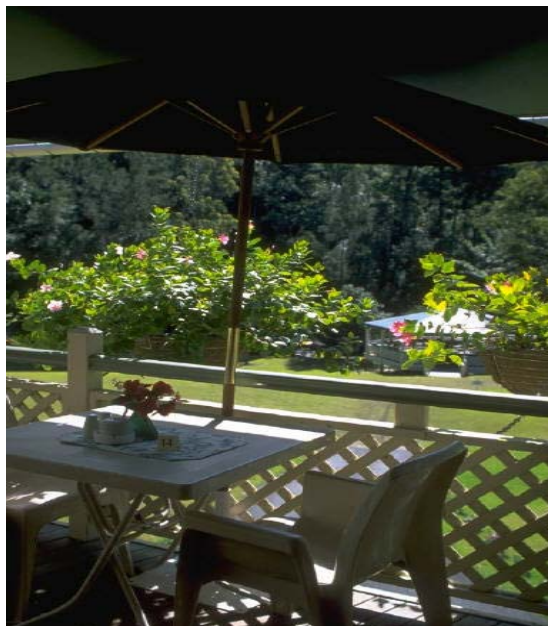
The two front entrances gardens have been replanted due to deer munching. Playground areas have been re-mulched.

We have identified several areas within the community for cleanup.

- 1) Along Fort Evan's Rd, townhome section—Rock removal, ground leveling, topsoil and reseeding.
- 2) Sierra Spring Playground—Approximately 40 Ft from curb inwards, remove rocks, level, add topsoil and reseed.
- 3) Orchid Dr near JR Festival Lakes—Remove undergrowth and try to seed. Reseed grassy areas along the curb from Single Family entrance to future pool area.
- 4) Corner at start of Coralbells—Remove tree stump, re-grade and reseed cul-de-sac at end of the street. General cleanup.
- 5) Grassy area in front of the Cattail Springs playground will be reseeded.

The Storm Water ponds have been re-graded by the developer; we have asked that they clean up the entire corner from Orchid and Cattails to complete the task.

The arborists are still working on their report for: 1) the hazardous trees 2) the plan for the Virginia Pine areas and 3) tree save reserve analysis. Competitive bids have been received for a portion of the hazardous tree removal. Since several of the clean-up areas that are listed above are in the vicinity of identified hazardous trees, timing of clean-up will vary.



Have an ad or announcement? Send it to newsletter@slhoa.org. All content must be received by no later than July 15 to be included in the next edition of The Gazette.

Look for our next edition of The Gazette at the end of July.

The Spring Lakes Gazette

Editor: Risa Nicholas

E-mail: newsletter@slhoa.org

Safety Committee Update

By Chrissy Dale

Garage Sale:

Garage/Yard Sale in MAY. If you are interested in participating please contact Sunita at (703) 395-1633. Fees for the ad will be divided equally among all homes that participate.

Classifieds:

AVON CALLING! If you are interested in selling or buying AVON, call Sunita at (703) 395-1633 for a free brochure and/or to learn more about joining the AVON family. *10% OFF total order or FREE GIFT on first order for new customers.

Mary Kay: Make the women in your life feel special by treating them to Mary Kay. Contact Stephanie at: 703-443-6754.

For Sale:

Couch and loveseat in great condition, two sofa chairs with slipcovers, one sofa with slip cover, and deck furniture. Credit card processing machine and printer in good condition. **Please call: 571-212-2041 to see any of the items. Best offers accepted.**

HOA Fees Direct

Payment

Due to the transition to a new management company, all homeowners who have previously set up direct payment will be required to submit a new form to Stephens & Company to continue using the direct payment method. The new form can be downloaded from our community website at www.slhoa.org.

May will be the last month for any direct payments with Zalco, and if you wish to continue this method of payment, you must submit the new form by May 15.

If you would like to start a direct payment plan for your monthly HOA fees, the form must be received by Stephens & Company the 15th of the month prior to the month due.

Virginia Dominion Power came out in February to check all exposed wires, and made sure that they were capped and securely fastened.

We have an upcoming safety event. We will be coordinating a BIKE SAFETY day this spring in which a local Police Officer will conduct an hour long bike safety class for children under 16 years of age. We will update the website with further details as they become available.

We want to remind our Spring Lakes Community to please report any and all suspicious activity in our neighborhood to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department. Together we can make our community safer.

Pending Issues before the Safety Committee:

- Missing street lamps
- Speed bumps
- Speed limit signs
- Children at play signs
- Additional lighting in the townhome community

Please send any comments, suggestions, or to volunteer for the committee, to safety-committee@slhoa.org.

Spring Lakes Gets A New Management Company

After bid solicitation and the review of several bids, the Board of Directors contracted with Stephens & Company, Inc. to replace Zalco Realty as our community management company. Effective immediately, Stephens & Company will provide **all** financial and management services for our community. Their proposed and demonstrated commitment to providing us the best possible service, and the fact that they have a local presence right within our Spring Lakes community, weighed strongly in the final decision.

Zalco Realty has already mailed HOA dues notices for the month of May, and all May payments should be remitted to Zalco. Stephens & Company will be mailing labels and dues notices for June through December in mid-May. Those June and future dues should be mailed directly to Stephens & Company, Inc.. Information and forms for automatic payment (direct debit), as well as details of the management company proposal and agreement are now available on our community website— <http://www.slhoa.org>.

Your contact information for Stephens & Company:

Nancy Stephens Carter
Stephens & Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1177
Leesburg, VA 20177

ManagerSLHOA@aol.com
703.771.1670 (phone)
703.771.7620 (fax)
703.727.8807 (cell)

Please remember, any community issue, question, or concern should be directed to our new management company.