

The Spring Lakes Gazette

October 2003

Issue 3

www.slhoa.org



Upcoming Events:

Please come to the Community Board Meeting 10/16/03 at 7 pm at the Sycamore Hill Community Center- 402 Ginkgo Terrace NE Leesburg, VA 20176

From Spring Lakes; turn right; go down to Sycamore Street; turn left on Sycamore Hill; go down to Ginkgo Terrace and turn right into the parking lot. The Community Center is in front of the pool.

Be sure to set aside 11/20/03 for our Annual Membership Meeting at 8:00pm at the Rust Library.

Classifieds:

Mary Kay: Make the women in your life feel special by treating them to Mary Kay this holiday season. Great stocking stuffers and gift sets. Contact Stephanie at 703-443-6754.

Need Temporary Housing?

Looking for interns, weekly commuters or someone who needs short-term housing. Furnished, large rec room for rent in 3-level townhouse. Full bath and fireplace, plus shared kitchen, laundry room and garage. No pets or smokers, preferably female. \$650/month or \$25/day, includes utilities and cable. Contact Stephanie at 703-443-6754.

Looking For Women Who Want To Walk For a Cure.

I'd like to form a team of Spring Lakes women willing to train for a 60 mile walk on August 13-15 to raise money for the Breast Cancer Foundation. If you're interested, contact Risa at 703-737-3322. To learn more about the event visit: www.the3day.org.

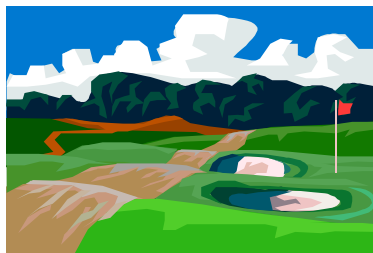
Spring Lakes Homeowners,

On the front that most people are concerned with, the pool is coming closer to fruition, although challenges remain. We have secured an agreement with the County regarding their usage of the pool when it is open: in exchange for their transfer of the pool to the community for just \$1, they will have access to the pool and one tennis court during the week from 7 am to 11 am for county-wide lessons, in which our children will have preference. Additionally, Spring Lakes will offer a limited number of memberships for any Loudoun County resident, with all proceeds going to the HOA. This agreement will run for three years and will be reassessed at that point.

As far as the modifications Spring Lakes is seeking to make to the pool, we will likely add a 20' x 30' "zero depth entrance" to the side of the existing 45' x 82' pool that will allow for young children to enjoy the facility. Additionally, we will add a large kiddie pool for toddlers. The final piece of our modifications is the removal of a number of excess parking spaces and the insertion of a multi-purpose court. The plans have been sketched up and are being priced. Our next steps are to finalize our agreement with the developer and to secure a site plan revision with Loudoun County that they have pledged to expedite.

It is still the Rec Committee's goal to have a pool open by Memorial Day 2004, but it will certainly be a challenge. Another major step for the community is a final vote on the pool and the cost implications to our dues. The Board, with input from the Rec Committee, will provide exact costs to the community once they are determined. Currently, all indications are that any additional costs in our HOA dues will be much less than any temporary pool membership that many of our families have been scrambling to secure in our pool's absence, and predominantly going towards the yearly maintenance and insurance that is required. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at recreation-committee@slhoa.org.

Community Recreation



On the fun side, the first Spring Lakes Golf Tournament was held on August 29th at Maryland National. It is the Committee's hope to provide more opportunities for Spring Lakes to gather together and play, whether for golf, touch football, or other family activities. Stay posted for more events in the Gazette and online at www.slhoa.org.

A Special Thanks...

The Recreation Committee would like to thank all of the people at the County who helped work with us on our community pool. We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Candy DeButts for her ongoing support during this process.

The Board, on behalf of the entire Community, would like to take this opportunity to thank Sally Kurtz and her office for being so helpful in interceding with the officials at Loudoun County and assisting us with issues relating to the proposed pool, issues dealing with the management of our common areas, and other issues related to the transition process from developer control to homeowner control of our Association.

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Editor: Risa Nicholas
Phone: 703-737-3322
E-mail: newsletter@slhoa.org

Finance Committee Update

1. The HOA of Spring Lakes has engaged the firm of Goldklang, Cavanaugh & Associates to assist us in gaining information about our financial position. They will be focused on all transactions (incurred and not incurred) from the inception of our HOA through the transition date from ADC Builders to the homeowners on June 9, 2003. The audit is scheduled to start in early October.
2. The finance committee is working on the development of a budget for 2004. Once we receive the results of the transition audit, incorporate existing and pending contracts, and review the additional expenditures proposed by the SLHOA committees, a proposed budget will be prepared and submitted for approval.
3. Lew Smith, SLHOA Treasurer, has been contacting homeowners appearing on the delinquent assessment report to resolve any outstanding issues.

Automatic Withdrawals For HOA Dues

Automatic Bank Debit for recurring SLHOA Fees!!!

Oops, did you forget to send in your monthly fees? Are you tired of writing monthly checks to SLHOA?

Do you wish you could simplify the whole process?

We now have an automated solution in place - ACH (Automated Clearing House) which debits your account directly for your monthly HOA fees.

Zalco will process the ACH file on the 5th of the month, and your SLHOA monthly fees will be paid.

Why should you do this? This service helps you get your monthly fees to us in a timely manner, and it should reduce the outstanding HOA dues in our community.

Your bank charges a one-time initial \$10.00 set-up charge. If at some point you change banks, there are no additional fees, but you will have to complete a new form.

No need to write a check every month, no coupons, no postage, no hassle.

For additional information or to sign-up for this convenient new service, contact Lew Smith at board@slhoa.org.



Community Events

Join us for the 2nd Annual Spooky Spring Lakes Halloween Kids Parade on Saturday, October 25 at 12:45 pm.

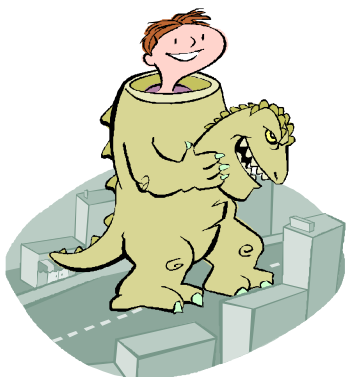
We will gather at the Tot Lot on Cattail Spring Drive at 12:30 pm where we will start the parade. The parade will finish in the cul-de-sac of Viola Court.

We are asking that participants provide juice or snacks for the children for after the parade. If your last name begins with the letters A-M, please provide juice boxes, and last names beginning with N-Z, please bring a snack. Bring your juice boxes or snacks to the Viola Court cul-de-sac prior to the parade. Tables and coolers will be ready for snacks and drinks at 10:30 am.

We will have a Leesburg Motorcycle Police Officer and the Leesburg Volunteer Fire Department. They plan to stay a while after the parade to meet and greet the community.

If you have any questions about the event, please feel free to contact Julie Johnson at (703) 771-0007 or Ellie Miklich at (703) 777-6297.

We look forward to another great event!



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Website Progress

The Spring Lakes Community Website has been undergoing some recent changes. We now have a basic format that we are beginning to slowly add content to. We are also working on a logo for Spring at www.slhoa.org. We should have our new look by the end of October.

Our committee is small, so it will take some time to get all of the website content researched, written, and loaded to the site.

If you'd like to get involved with the Communications Committee, we have plenty of projects and could use some new members. Please send an e-mail to communication-committee@slhoa.org.

Community Referrals:

*Looking for a handyman for that odd job around your new home? **Jim McAuliffe** is reliable, affordable, and conscientious. "We've been very happy with his work."*
Kirk Nicholas
Jim can be reached at: 703-838-0472 or by e-mail at mcauliffe_jl@att.net.

Board Update

The Board is sad to announce the resignation of Tim Ortwein from his position as Vice President. Tim and his wife have moved from the community to their new home in West Virginia. All of us thank him for his efforts, and wish his family the very best.

On the other hand, we would like to welcome Mark Smith to the Board who is replacing Tim as Vice President. Mark will work directly with the Safety committee and the Open Spaces Committee as the Board Representative. Mark is currently an Account Manager for Cable & Wireless. He leads and structures deals for high speed internet connectivity for large businesses. Previously, he was the Director of Sales for UUNET Technologies. Mark holds a B.S. degree from Shepherd College. He and his wife, Marsha Smith, are expecting their first child in October.

To contact the board, e-mail board@slhoa.org.

Open Space Committee Update

The Open Spaces Committee has organized a community walk-thru to document outstanding issues within the neighborhood. This list will be combined with homeowner documented issues received as a response to the last newsletter. All homeowners are encouraged to document issues dealing with general maintenance of the community and send it to the Open Spaces Committee. Linda Kibblewhite, the Chairman of the committee, will collect and consolidate these issues to be forwarded to our consulting engineer. These issues will be designated for correction before the HOA becomes totally responsible for the costs to maintain the community.

We need your help and feedback by no later than October 16.

Please send details to Openspace-committee@slhoa.org. or via mail to Linda Kibblewhite at 42823 Delphinium Circle.

Our new landscaping crew, Abernethy and Spencer, have already made a noticeable difference in the community. Focus has been on tidying up and landscaping around the two Fort Evans Road entrances. Work has been done around one of the storm water reserves. Several large trees were removed following the Isabel storm. We have asked them to prioritize the clean-up around the Sierra Springs playground. We should start seeing some significant improvements in the near future in this area.

Apart from the documentation of open issues as stated above, our HOA management group, Zalco, is the main contact for day-to-day issues within the neighborhood. Contact Zalco Spring Lakes Manager: Michael Constant at 301-495-4158 or at mconstant@zalco.com for day-to-day issues.