

The Village at  
Hilton, South  
Carolina

# The Village Voice

Volume 1, Issue 9

March 2009

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

Would you like to get to know your neighbors better? Help make things happen in your Village? Help organize a block party? Be the eyes and ears for a neighborhood watch? We would like to give you the opportunity to do any of those things or all of those things! The Village at Hilton Homeowners Association is looking for volunteers.

Many of our current volunteers have been giving of their time and talents since the summer of 2007, and our village has been very fortunate to benefit from their dedication and valuable service. In the last month, we have received resignations from Bob Smith as chair of the Pool Committee, and from Mike Smith, past chair of the Covenants & Bylaws Committee. So that we can continue with our committees' important contributions to our Homeowner Association, we would like to recruit some new volunteers with fresh perspectives and an interest in serving their community.

**New residents** – this is the ideal opportunity for you to get involved in your neighborhood and become acquainted! Your neighbors in The Village are a very creative, enthusiastic, and resourceful mix of people from all over the country.

**Old residents** – well, those who have been here a while – now is the time to come to the aid of your neighbors with your viewpoint based on your knowledge and experience. We have many opportunities to get involved; if you don't see what you would like, let's hear what you have in mind!

**These are areas where you are needed** and some of the responsibilities of each group:

#### Block Captain for your street

*Block captains distribute welcome packets to new residents who move onto their street, disseminate information to residents,*

*and serve as a contact for residents who have questions or issues concerning Village at Hilton. They meet when needed with other block captains, and in the past they have participated in organizing events such as street parties, Halloween festival, community yard sales, and association meetings. Areas open: Village Church Drive; help with Hilton Glen Court; 200s of Lake Hilton Drive; and help with Hilton Village Drive.*

#### Pool Committee

*In conjunction with Green Earth Development and the pool maintenance contractor, the committee's mission is to manage the operation and maintenance of The Village at Hilton pool complex to provide safe, clean and pleasant use by the residents of The Village and their guests. Duties include developing rules for the pool complex, making pool keys available to new residents, coordinating reservations for group use of the cabana, and communicating problems and maintenance issues to Green Earth Development. Bob Smith has resigned as committee chair, thus the committee needs a new chair in addition to a couple of new committee members. Green Earth is making long-due modifications to the gates along with other repairs. This is an opportune time for new leadership and "new blood" on this important committee. If you're interested in joining the Pool Committee, contact Sandra Deen 932-2177 or Jeremy Cannon 345-8055.*

#### Covenants & Bylaws Committee

*A new chairman is needed for this committee in addition to more committee members. The Covenants and Bylaws Committee is established to promote voluntary compliance with Village at Hilton covenants, conditions, and restrictions and to make recommendations to the Association Board of Directors on matters pertaining to neighborhood covenants and bylaws, including amendments. The Committee acts as a liaison between the Board of Directors*

*and unit owners on matters pertaining to covenants and bylaws.*

#### Common Areas Committee

*In conjunction with Green Earth Development and the contracted landscapers, the mission of this committee chaired by Paul Evans is to monitor and manage the operation and maintenance of The Village at Hilton common areas and pond so as to enhance the overall neighborhood environment for all residents and visitors.*

#### Architectural Review Committee

*This committee, chaired by Loren Hyman, works with Green Earth Development and The Village at Hilton Architectural Review architect, George McConnell, Jr., to ensure that all homeowners are in compliance with architectural standards and requirements as outlined in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions for The Village at Hilton.*

#### Homeowners Advisory Committee

*The Advisory Committee consists of a representative from each of the association committees as well as other residents who desire to be of service coordinating efforts of homeowners, committees, and Green Earth Development to make The Village at Hilton a safe and desirable community in which to live. This committee may designate one of its members to act as principle liaison with Green Earth Development.*

You may also be interested in helping with single projects, such as the Halloween Festival, a community yard sale, or a fundraiser for more pool chairs... Please consider participating in your community and help manage a project, serve on a committee, or provide some needed expertise.

For more information or to volunteer, email [thiebens@bellsouth.net](mailto:thiebens@bellsouth.net), 932-4029, or your block captain. Volunteers will also be able to sign up at the annual meeting to be held in May.

# Neighborhood Watch Considered

The Village at Hilton experienced four car break-ins in late January, and these were followed a few days later by thefts from cars at the nearby Forty Love Point development. The Block Captain Committee is soliciting input from residents on whether they are interested in forming a Neighborhood Watch program.

One model for a neighborhood watch program would involve residents developing a system for observing their immediate neighborhood for unusual or suspicious activity. This may include:

- Knowing the names of neighbors on either side of you, across the street, and behind you.
- Knowing who works during the day or night, who is typically at home during the day, names of children in the neighborhood, etc.

- Being observant of what is usual and unusual or suspicious activity.
- Making a phone call to the Sheriff's Department to report suspicious activity.
- Designating a "safe house" for neighborhood children to run to in the event of an emergency.
- Posting Neighborhood Watch signs on streets, placing stickers in windows.

Neighborhood watch **does not** mean:

- The necessity of frequent meetings.
- Making daily "patrols" of streets, being vigilantes, or assuming the role of the police.
- Asking anyone to take personal risks to prevent crime.

These things could be done on either a formal or informal basis. Residents can be alert, observant, and caring, without being "nosy" or "meddlesome," helping our Village to be a safe and pleasant place to live. The Richland County Sheriff's Department Community Action Team representative, Corporal Amanda Lee Jordan, would be happy to meet with us to explore ideas and methods for implementing a neighborhood watch program if there is sufficient interest. Please contact your block captain or Susan Thieben (thiebens@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in a Neighborhood Watch program in the Village at Hilton.

## Common Areas Committee: New Residents in Pond

Many of you have noticed the weeds in the pond and have asked if there is anything that can be done. The Common Areas Committee has looked into it. We took samples of two weed types to be identified by a DNR biologist. The floating type weed that you can currently see around the edge is named Pithophora. We have another type of weed called Chara which gets more prevalent as the summer goes on. After

discussions with DNR and other experts, we are putting two types of fish in the pond which should help with this problem. On March 20, we put 66 carp into the pond. The carp prefer to eat the Chara. Since we do not anticipate that the carp will be a good solution for the floating weeds, we are also planning on putting some Tilapia in the pond in a couple of weeks. These fish prefer the floating type weed. The tilapia will die

off in the fall as the water temperature cools. We anticipate that the weeds will get significantly worse as the summer progresses with improvement near the end of the summer as the Tilapia multiply.

**If you happen to catch any of these fish, please release them back into the pond.**

- Paul Evans, Chairman

"You must be the  
change you wish to  
see in the world."  
- Mohandas Ghandi

## THANK YOUs..

**Mike Smith**, past chairman of the Covenants and Bylaws Committee, has accepted a position as dean at Georgia Southern University and will be moving away from Village at Hilton this summer. We wish to thank Mike for his commitment to the Village and his excellent work in organizing and chairing the Covenants & Bylaws Committee. We wish him the best in his new adventure!

We also wish to extend our thanks to **Bob Smith**, who has resigned as chairman of the Pool Committee. His dedicated efforts to work with Green Earth, residents, and Lanier Pools to keep our pool and cabana safe and in working order for the enjoyment of the

residents have been indispensable.

Many thanks to both of these outstanding citizens for their dedication, which has been to the benefit of all of us!

We have also received with much regret the resignation of **Beth Bode** who has served as block captain for Village Church Drive and Court. Beth remains very involved in VAH activities, however, and continues to offer important ideas and enthusiasm to our association.

We have many other volunteers who remain in service to our community

and who continue to devote valuable time and energy to making VAH a great place to live. They also deserve recognition and our gratitude for their commitment to our Village over the past two years: **Paul Evans**, chair of Common Areas, **Loren Hyman**, chair of Architectural Review, and Block Captains **Betty Marr**, **Kim Smoak**, and **Sue Whitlock**. We have recently added some new volunteers to our Block Captain Committee: **Gloria Smith**, **Louise Johns**, and **Joanne Schrank**. Thanks to all of these fantastic volunteers!!

- Susan Thieben, Block Captain Committee Chair

## Some Covenant Reminders

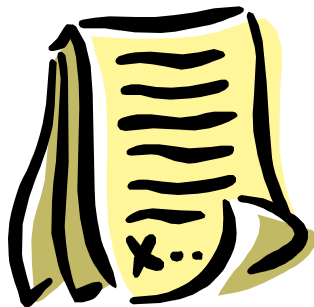
Please keep in mind the following covenant restrictions by which Village at Hilton residents have agreed to abide:

**Section 3.25** Trash or garbage must be kept in sanitary containers that, except during pick-up times, must be kept inside the residential unit (house or garage) or behind a fenced area and out of sight of anyone standing on the street.

**Section 3.14** All parking shall be within areas specifically designed for parking. No overnight parking is permitted on any street in the neighborhood.

**Section 2.1.16** Swing sets and outdoor play structures must be made of wood and should be lo-

cated in the middle third of the rear of a lot where they will have a minimum impact and be screened from public view.



Green Earth Development has issued a statement regarding the steps that will be taken in order to encourage compliance with the Covenants and Bylaws of Village at

Hilton. They state in their letter to residents of February 4, 2008:

*"The Homeowner's Association will begin levying fines against residents who fail to comply with the covenants after notice has been given. Following written notice and after expiration of a seven-day period, a resident who fails or refuses to remedy a violation will incur a ten dollar (\$10.00) fine per day until the violation is cured. The unit owner will be responsible for paying these fines and any attorney's fees associated with recovering the sums due."*

Please abide by our covenants in order to maintain the appearance and attractiveness of the neighborhood and protect property values.



### Plant a Row for the Hungry

Harvest Hope and SC Master Gardeners invite South Carolina gardeners to join in their "Plant a Row for the Hungry"

Campaign by asking gardeners to plant extra vegetables and donate the harvest to local agencies' drop-off sites where the homegrown produce can be shared with those in need. SC Master Gardeners are bringing this program to South Carolina for the first time this year.

Harvest Hope's mission is to feed the growing number of hungry citizens in

our community, and with your help they can add fresh local produce to the canned goods collected in their food drives. Program details and drop-off locations can be found on the web at [www.harvesthope.org](http://www.harvesthope.org)

If gardening is not your thing, Harvest Hope delivers ten pounds of food to the hungry for every dollar donated, and until the end of April has a matching grant from the Feinstein Foundation to match every dollar pledged.

### Pool Opening Date Set for May 16th, 2009

Watch your inbox for further details!

### Community Yard Sale Tentative Date, May 23

If you would like to participate in a community yard sale, please email [swhitlock2@sc.rr.com](mailto:swhitlock2@sc.rr.com) or [thiebens@bellsouth.net](mailto:thiebens@bellsouth.net).

## The Village Voice Classifieds



### CHILD CARE

Experienced, CPR certified adult seeking to watch elementary age children on weekdays. Preferably located in the Hilton /White Rock area. References provided. Can start June 8th, 2009.

Kim Smoak 803-608-1449

### Help Wanted

Story writer for  
The Village Voice



Newsletter for The Village at Hilton needs stories which offer information or items of interest to Village residents. (Strictly a volunteer position!)

Contact Susan Thieben, 803-932-4029

### CHILD CARE



Stay-at-home grandmother interested in providing part-time childcare days, evenings, or nights in our home on Village Church Drive.

Please contact Sherry Murphy at 843-252-3658 (cell), 803-932-7932 (home), or email [smurphy55@aol.com](mailto:smurphy55@aol.com)



## The Village Voice

Welcomes New Residents!

Andy & Debbie Rennhack 9 Hilton Glen Court  
Michael & Bobbie Padjen 278 Hilton Village Dr.  
Mickie Smith & Brooke Russell 581 Village Church  
Eric & Donna Patten 539 Village Church

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/chapin/](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/chapin/)

### ATTENTION—PLEASE WATCH YOUR SPEED!

There have been complaints from resident about speeders on Village Church Drive and Hilton Village Drive. Please remember there are children playing and walking to and from school buses and the pool during the day. The Sheriff's department has informed Village block captains that they are continuing to monitor traffic speed in our development.

#### Village at Block Captains

Hilton Glen Court:

Sue Whitlock	23 Hilton Glen	234-2285
--------------	----------------	----------

Lake Hilton Drive:

100s Gloria Smith	116 Lake Hilton Drive	945-4885
-------------------	-----------------------	----------

Louise Johns	121 Lake Hilton Drive	345-6449
--------------	-----------------------	----------

200s Kim Smoak	218 Lake Hilton	932-7138
----------------	-----------------	----------

Hilton Commons Court:

Betty Marr	14 Hilton Commons	345-5906
------------	-------------------	----------

Hilton Village Drive:

Joanne Schrank	229 Hilton Village Drive	932-0777
----------------	--------------------------	----------

Village Church Drive:

Position vacant	Village Church Drive	
-----------------	----------------------	--

Hiller Road:

Dani Waller	406 Hiller Road	732-0949
-------------	-----------------	----------

## VAH Survey of Homeowners

- ☐ I have an idea for an activity in Village at Hilton.
- ☐ I would like to help plan an event.
- ☐ I would like to write a story for "The Village Voice."
- ☐ I would like to update and coordinate The Village at Hilton website.
- ☐ I would like to receive the crime watch update from Richland County Sheriff Dept.
- ☐ I would like to hear about upcoming events by email: (address)\_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I have the following concern: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Email\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_

(Please complete the above and give to your block captain or deliver to 222 Lake Hilton Drive)