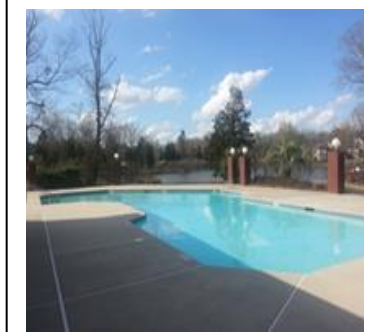


The Village Voice

Neighborhood HOA Update – September 1, 2016

Wait! Summer's not over yet!

Lower temperatures and reduced humidity make September a great month to enjoy the pool! Based on your feedback last year, the Village pool will be open until Sunday, September 25th. Keep on coming and enjoying it while the good weather remains! We hope the addition of WiFi, new side tables, the communications board, lighter gate, and other improvements have been appreciated this summer.



Beavers

If one talks with “Lake Murray people”, almost all will talk about the increasing problem with beavers in and around the lake. To address the worsening problem within our neighborhood, the HOA Board has dismissed the previous trapper service and contracted with Palmetto Wildlife Extractors to step up efforts to trap and remove the beavers. This service is much more expensive than the previous service, but based on references and results elsewhere, we expect a far more effective control effort. We will never get rid of the beavers and no one should expect that. All we can do is control them as effectively as possible.

See <http://palmettowildlifeextractors.com/> for more information.

Also, to help control them, we need to have the ability to collect and interpret information about beaver sightings and damage reports that we can pass on to the wildlife service so they can work in the right areas with the right tools. Chris Bull, who lives on the Hilton Village Drive (282) side of the lake, has volunteered to be that point person. If you have sightings or other information to report that would be helpful in placing traps, please call Chris at 803-546-4645 or Chris@WrapaBull.com.

Entrance Improvements

One of the Board's first 5 priorities was improving the appearance of the front entrance. Landscaping has been replaced and cut back, sprinklers repaired, lighting replaced, entrance sign installed, and sign posts will be painted shortly. As we all see, there's lots of construction activity up front currently, including installation of some pipeline work at our neighborhood entrance. So far, efforts to have the pipeline installed across from our entrance instead of through it have been successful. Keep your fingers crossed! After the dust clears, the Board will re-examine efforts to address having the County resurface our entrance, as well as Indian Fork Road.

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Traffic Concerns

As we all know, school is back in session. With buses traveling through the neighborhood and kids congregating at bus stops, it is even more important to follow the posted speed limit. While almost all residents drive reasonably, Richland County Sheriff's deputies will be monitoring speeds effective immediately and continuing as required to ensure that ALL drivers comply with neighborhood speed limits.

Also, 85% of VAH residents go around the entrance circle and enter Hilton Village Drive to get to their homes. Complaints have been increasingly reported to our Management Company and Board regarding drivers taking the "S" turn too quickly and not staying in their lanes as they go from the circle down the hill toward the Lake Hilton intersection. This is a high traffic area, and the turn is tight. We all need to be more careful and courteous as we enter Hilton Village Drive. As they used to always say on Hill Street Blues (for those of you who remember), "Let's be careful out there."



Maintenance and Improvements

The dock decking and railings that were replaced in May are sufficiently seasoned to allow staining, which will be completed in September.

Several sections of our common area have not had working sprinkler systems for several years, including the circle at the end of Lake Hilton drive, beside the pool, and along Hilton Village Drive. These were addressed in August and included locating and replacing all power packs and numerous sprinkler heads and valves.

Benches are being delivered this week and will be placed around the lake as soon as possible.

Painting of sign posts was deferred during the summer when it was simply too hot to paint properly.

As a reminder, the landscaper follows a set schedule for the common area grass cutting. Most areas are cut on a weekly basis and some areas on a biweekly or even monthly basis. Natural areas such as drainage easements are considered natural areas and require no maintenance in order to leave them in their natural state.

Last but not least!

The HOA has several committees whose members volunteer and perform lots of work around the neighborhood such as replacing the dock decking and railings, fixing things, trimming trees, straightening sign posts, repairing vandalism, etc. Too many to list here, but the efforts of these volunteers save the HOA and, in turn, each neighbor a bunch of money – well over \$4,000 this year. Thank you, ALL!

As summer ends, it is particularly important that we thank the Pool Committee, headed by Christa Wilks and consisting of Buddy Dodson, Tucker and Amber Player, and Amy Splittgerber. They watch over the pool daily, and have done a ton of work this summer taking care of the pool for us. Again, thank you, ALL!