

Chickahominy Oaks Neighborhood News – August 2006



Visit our Association Website – see what's there of interest to you !

The Deer Valley at Chickahominy Oaks Web site (<http://dvhoa.home.comcast.net>) is a relatively new resource for the residents of our community. Our web site is administered by one of our residents free of charge. We don't collect information for commercial or marketing purposes, nor will you experience any increases in unsolicited email (spam) by participating on your community web site.

In addition to our documents, local resources, and community directory, we've added some exciting features to our website that we'd like to tell you about.

Events Calendar: One of the left hand main menu buttons is labeled "Events." Clicking this button leads to a six month calendar with color coded dates representing any significant events in our community such as Board of Director meetings or community events. Holding your mouse cursor over a color coded date produces a text box with details regarding that event. In addition, pavilion reservations are displayed on this calendar. This permits residents to immediately see what dates are available for pavilion reservations as well as an email link and phone number to Alyson Stone who can place reservations for you on any available date.

Community Forum: We have just rolled out a community forum called "Chickahominy Oaks Whispers." When you click the "Community Forum" button on the left hand main menu, you'll enter our newly established forum. This is a locally-run application operated entirely from one of our resident's servers. All community members may register and post to our community web site. Residents can post questions, conduct polls and utilize many built in features offered with this blog application. We currently have four forums; a "General Forum" where residents can post writings and observations of a general nature, a "Stuff/Service for Sale/Hire Forum" where residents can post personal items for sale or advertise services such as babysitting, pet sitting or lawn mowing; "Ask the Board of Directors Forum" where residents can post questions and get answers from our current sitting Board of Directors; and "House/Lawn Tips Forum" where residents can collaborate and share tips on common maintenance and repairs issues with properties located with our community. You have to register, but that's only to protect your posts from alterations by anyone but you. Again, we don't collect this information for marketing purposes and this application is run on locally installed hardware by one of our

residents for the benefit of all our residents. We hope that you'll find this full featured forum helpful and interesting.

Annual Homeowners' Association Member Picnic

The picnic that was originally planned for August has been postponed until cooler weather. The suggestion has been made to have a neighborhood event at the pavilion on Saturday or Sunday, October 21st or 22nd from perhaps 3pm to 7pm. We are in need of a few more volunteers to help with planning & execution. This can be a "spooktacular" family event. Let Dan Horvath (730-1953 or e-mail danojh@att.net) know what you think of the idea and let him know if you are interested in helping.

Speed Limit Reminder

Please remember and remind all members of your family and visitors that the speed limit within our subdivision is 25 MPH max. There are many children in our neighborhood and we wish to keep everyone safe !

Changes to the January 2006 Directory

9374 Summer Oak Drive – Joey, Wendy, Ashley (age 6), Garrett (age 3) Bond, Phone 730-4685

9418 Hope Glen Court – Scott, Pam, Conner (9), Karsyn (6), Cooper (2), Phone 569-1952

9490 Deer Stream Drive – Jeff and Stephanie Anderson

10036 Doe Run Place – Tim, Erin, and Duffy (age 1) Gill, Phone 427-5199

Please welcome them to the neighborhood !

Who are your current Board of Directors?

President: Harold Blumenfeld

Vice President: Bill Fulton

Secretary: Bonnie O'Keeffe

Treasurer: Linda Grady

Board Member/Chair of Architectural Committee: Ben Jacobs

The phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses are located in your Neighborhood Directory as well as on the above mentioned website.

Repair/Replacement of Mailboxes/Posts

If you have the need for repair or replacement of mailboxes/posts, contact Harold Blumenfeld at 730-8703. The former contact we had is no longer in that business at this time.

A Conversation From Your Association President:

“I would like my remarks to come across as conversation !

Bobbie and I moved here in June 2001. It’s hard to believe it has now been over 5 years.

Around October or November of 2002, interest began for us, and all homeowners to go ahead and take over controls of the association so we could improve, and get things that needed attention underway. We all know that it is a Virginia state law and requirement, passed by the state legislature, that we must have a responsible neighborhood association.

We took over this responsibility on February 20, 2003. It’s now right at 3-1/2 years. This too is hard to believe. It was decided then that we would self manage the association. Why did we do that? Well, for No. 1, it would surely save a lot of money for us all. Outside management would start at \$25,000 to \$35,000 a year. Other supplemental charges would be added to that. We would all have to pay for this ! No. 2, we, the property owners, would collectively have our own interests at heart, and not need to rely on outsiders or strangers to come here, only from time to time. After all, we are the ones who live here, not them.

Our special interest would hopefully keep our neighborhood looking new and beautiful at all times. That is our continuous goal. Most of all, the intention is to keep the neighborhood safe for all of us and especially for the children.

It is important for all to realize that each board of directors since 2003 is/was a trusted volunteer group doing two important responsibilities that the membership elected it to do. Number 1 is to handle the business affairs required by the association and the state of Virginia. Number 2 is to perform the oversight of management responsibilities that require compliance with all the state laws and regulations that come under these state laws.

I have asked that a short summary of some important writings from our packet materials and state laws accompany this newsletter. It seems that from time to time some homeowners have misplaced, lost or just misunderstood some of these requirements. After 3-1/2 years of this self management, we need to refresh everybody about these laws. There are indeed some issues that have been either set aside or overlooked to date because of more pressing priorities. But now may be the time to regroup and employ some of these regulations put aside until now. Although few in number, anyone who realizes they have a non-compliant situation is urged to please abide by the rules and bring about compliance without having to be approached. However, if asked,

cooperation should be in order once informed. This prevents unpleasant exchanges that can occur for the neighbors you and all have elected and asked to undertake these responsibilities.

This is a good time to thank the greater percentage of all 133 family neighbors who have, in fact, remained in compliance with what is required of us all.

In addition, a special thanks goes out to all prior board of directors who have given of their precious time to undertake this volunteer work for the benefit of all the families here in Chickahominy Oaks.

Thanks also goes out to the many volunteers who have helped along the way. If you have or know any neighbors who have given up their free and previous time to help the foregoing efforts, tell them thanks the next time you see them.”

THANK YOU AND HAVE A GREAT AND SAFE SUMMER !

Harold Blumenfeld