

## Chickahominy Oaks Neighborhood News – January 2007

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CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER ? Let's see what has been going on in our neighborhood !

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

Have you visited the Deer Valley at Chickahominy Oaks Web site (<http://dvhoa.home.comcast.net>) ? You will see upcoming events, meetings planned, news about our neighborhood and surrounding community. You can even post articles of interest to our association members. If you have not already done so, take the time to see what's there.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

The creation of a Neighborhood Watch is still proceeding forward. We began discussions of this over a year ago and it is slowly becoming a reality. With vandalism that continues in our neighborhood, this is a good means to help protect our investments – those of the association as well as your personal investments. An “engraver” is currently available through Harold Blumenfeld or Bill Fulton. This enables you to identify certain personal items so that in the event of theft, the police will know who to contact for the return of those items.

Several “block captains” have been identified to lead the individual neighborhood watch teams. If you are interested in becoming a captain, please contact Bill Fulton. At the February 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting from approximately 7:30 to 9:00 PM, the Hanover County Sheriff's Office will provide an informational presentation on the neighborhood watch program. Those persons who have signed up to be captains are urged to please attend this meeting. However, all homeowners are encouraged to attend to find out more about the neighborhood watch. As spring approaches, your neighborhood watch will be more valuable to help deter vandalism and theft. Become a willing participant in protecting our neighborhood!

### **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 ! As spring approaches, these children will be out and about more frequently.

### **January 2007 Neighborhood Directory**

With this newsletter, you will find your January 2007 Neighborhood Directory. Please take the time to welcome our newest neighbors if you have not already done so:

9410 Hope Glen Court – Mark Humphreys

10100 Stags Leap Drive – Charlie and Jo Anna Forest

If you have corrections or additions to the directory (i.e. phone numbers), please contact Bill Fulton at 559-5140.

### **Yard of the Month**

Starting this spring, we will have a committee that will select a **YARD OF THE MONTH** from our neighborhood. A tasteful Yard of the Month sign (24" X 18") will be placed in the yard of the winner. So bring out that "green thumb" and support this fun activity. Who knows – you may discover you have a talent you didn't even know you had !

### **Architectural Review Committee –**

Remember that certain improvements to your property must be first approved by the Architectural Review Committee. Benjamin Jacobs is chairman of that committee. Documentation which you should already have in your possession explains those guidelines and requirements. This is just a reminder.

### **A Message From Your Board of Directors**

Attached to this newsletter is a message from your Board of Directors. Please take a few moments to read.

# Deer Valley Homeowners' Association (DVHOA)

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9531 Fawn Park Lane  
Mechanicsville, VA 23116

January 2007

Subject: Common areas maintenance/values.

It has been the intention and responsibility of each Board (Board of Directors-BOD) member since 2003 (when homeowners took over), comprised of homeowner volunteers, to oversee the above subject areas in order to keep our neighborhood ATTRACTIVE and RESPONSIVE to neighborhood needs, while keeping costs of maintenance reasonable. One of the most important goals included has been to keep our dues structure as nominal and reasonable as possible, without added assessments or increased costs. (As an aside note, it has been observed that Madison Springs - next door has already issued a request to it's members a sizeable assessment. Since our takeover, we have not taken such a step, and we have been in total operation since 1998-incorporation date).

We feel it necessary to make you aware there have been some instances of cooperation breakdown, particularly at our pavilion, playground, and ball field area. We attempt here to outline a few of these concerns:

## **PAVILION:**

- a. *Purpose!* The main investment purpose of the pavilion is to provide this community with a protected area with pic-nic tables for family enjoyment- under shelter. It is to be used by family members and their guests on a reservation basis primarily-and otherwise, while respecting the assets owned and invested in by all our association members. It is generally intended to be available during daylight hours - closed to use upon darkness hours. This rule is out of respect and consideration for the adjacent and nearby neighbors. It is preferred and expected that the tables be left in the general orderly and aligned fashion, beneath the shelter
- b. After use, the area should be policed and left in a clean and orderly fashion for the next neighbors use.
- c. Trash and debris should be placed in trash containers.

- d. In the event trash bags are filled, they should be removed and replaced. There is usually a supply in the small drawer mounted on one of the support posts.

## **DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED**

- a. Tables have been moved about (even put out in the ball field – exposed to wet weather), which is not acceptable. After violating this courtesy rule, those users responsible have failed to replace them to the orderly fashion that should prevail.
- b. Skate boarding equipment has been brought to the area by youngsters without prior permission to do so, and on occasion, just left down there. We have attempted to be lenient with some skate boarding, but don't always get the needed (or promised) cooperation from these youngsters. Skateboarding is NOT really a designed purpose for our pavilion. While trying to be lenient with these kids, some neighbors have been bothered by boisterous actions, rudeness, and even profanity from some of these youngsters. Some of the kids do cooperate, but unfortunately this does not always prevail.
- c. On occasion, some have driven cars onto the ball field, and even under the shelter, committing property damage. This property belongs to all of us!
- d. Paint ball guns, and other play weapons have been used in a destructive manner in this area. Overhead lights have been purposely broken, and some identifying signs have been destroyed, broken, and even stolen. Some of the playground equipment has been purposely abused.

We are at a point now where it is difficult to come up with some reasonable methods to properly control and maintain this really nice recreation area for our homeowners.

**WE CANNOT AFFORD FULLTIME NEIGHBORHOOD PATROLS TO OVERSEE THESE FLAGRANT ACTIONS BY SOME OF OUR OWN.**

There are times when we are not sure that the youngsters doing these flagrant acts even live here. Some have said they have been invited here by resident members. It would be a good thing in a way if they are outsiders, and we would hope that parents here would not be allowing their kids to be destructive of association property. Visiting friends should also be prevented from such acts.

We are on the doorstep of activating our “Neighborhood Watch Program”, but that is primarily designed to protect us from outside sources.

Our concerns are: What are some solutions to these issues? We are asking for your help, input, and cooperation! We ask that all parents/homeowners be aware of where your children are in this community, and what activity in the common area they are participating in. See that your children and their friends act and react with courtesy when asked to cooperate, and give their home identity when asked, if it becomes necessary. None of us has a desire to call for outside assistance when parental resolution could be of help.

Going beyond parental control, we have discussed:

- a. Anchoring (bolting) the tables at the pavilion to the concrete.
- b. Putting in warning lights, surveillance cameras, and warning signals.
- c. Putting up chains and/or fencing, so areas can be closed off.

These kinds of steps do seem costly and unnecessary in a small nice neighborhood such as ours when parental efforts could more than likely be the solution. This information is being shared in order to bring to your attention what our limited resources are facing. We are asking for and welcome your input and cooperation. We don't want any steps we need to take to come as an unwelcome surprise to you should we feel it necessary to implement any.

The BOD members will always be faced with challenges, and need cooperation for all the responsibilities that fall upon them to represent our interests. This particular community is required by Virginia law to have a BOD whether it chooses to hire an expensive outside management firm or not, to conduct the administrative duties required. Please feel free to communicate with any and/or all of your BOD members. We also would like to encourage all members to attend our monthly meetings held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. You may also communicate via our website at: <http://dvhoa.home.comcast.net>. Click on and register on the "Forum". There are a number of things you might find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

Harold Blumenfeld – 730-8703  
Bill Fulton – 559-5140  
Bonnie O'Keeffe-730-5656  
Linda Grady-789-0657  
Ben Jacobs-569-6380