

Southern Oaks Newsletter

December 2014

www.sohoa.org

2014-2015 Board Members

President

Erin Hayes

Vice President

Jason Hamilton

Treasurer

Jon Taylor

Grounds Keeper

Jeff Sinclair

ARB Liaison

Jim Gonyea

Secretary

Kate Zimmer

Member at Large

Mark Lev

Webmaster (Volunteer)

Ted Carlson

Call Before You Dig

The streetlights in Southern Oaks are the responsibility of our community and not separately maintained by the State of Virginia. The power lines for the streetlights run through our own lawns to the power box near the mailboxes. These power lines are buried only three to four inches in the sod. Before you do any digging in your lawn please call Miss Utility at 811 so the power lines (and other utility lines) can be marked. Power lines and utility lines can be damaged by simply digging a hole to plant a tree, putting up a For Sale sign or installing a garden border. The streetlights are powered by 120 volts, the same as household voltage, and a shock could be fatal.

Virginia State Law requires that utility lines be marked before any digging is done. Marking protects you, your contractors and the utility companies. Remember to call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig.

Change in Monthly Meetings

The Board of Directors has changed the meeting date from the third Thursday to the third Tuesday. The place and time have not changed — still 7-9pm at South County Middle School.

The new dates are:

January 20

February 17

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

August 18

September 15

October— Annual meeting

November 17

December 15

Changes to the schedule are posted on the calendar at www.sohoa.org. Please join us at the monthly meeting.

Quarterly Assessments

As we move into 2015, we remind you of the importance of your quarterly assessments. All assessments are paid by all 59 homeowners. These assessments are used to provide services for all homeowners — trash and recycling services, common greens maintenance, snow plowing and sanding, sidewalk repair, and street paving to name a few.

Currently the annual amount is \$800 or quarterly payments of \$200. Payments are due on January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1. Payments are considered late if not received by January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31. Keeping your assessment current allows you to vote at the Annual Meeting.

Your invoice is generally mailed two weeks before the due date and includes the payment coupon and a return envelope. Payments should be mailed to the Association address at 8328 Linden Oaks Court or dropped in the payment box at 8300 Linden Oaks Court.

Statement reminders are mailed at the end of the month. Late payments may be assessed a \$25 late fee and charged interest at the rate of 12% per year. You may appeal the late fee by contacting the Board of Directors at info@sohoa.org. Seriously delinquent assessments may be referred for collection.

Please pay your assessments in a timely manner.

Trash and Recycling

Trash removal occurs on both Tuesday and Friday and recyclables are collected on Tuesdays. Please place your trash can and/or recycle bin on the curb on Tuesday and Friday mornings and remember to recover your empty cans/bins as soon as practicable after they have been emptied. Please help our garbage collectors by using your garbage can, vice plastic bags, even for only small amounts of garbage. Plastic bags attract birds who tear open the bags, scattering the contents as they search for food. Help keep our neighborhood clean and safe.

⇒ ***Planning for 2015***— The Board of Directors will meet in January to discuss plans for 2015. If you have suggestions, please join us at the January meeting.

⇒ ***Snow and Ice***— Just a reminder that Southern Oaks is a private community and we are responsible for snow plowing as the need arises. Our current contract has plowing when there is 2-3 inches of snow on the ground. The plow will come through, followed by a sand/salt mix. You are responsible for shoveling your driveway. We ask that you remember your

neighbors and shovel the sidewalks. Some of our neighbors use ice melt products. One recently brought to our attention is from Natural Lawn's Natural Alternative ® Ice Melt. If you are interested in learning more about this product or purchasing some, contact Natural Lawn at 301-253-0716 or email them at lawncare@naturalawn.com. You may also find this and other similar products at garden centers in the area.

⇒ ***Pet waste***. We have had numerous complaints about dog waste not being picked

up as dogs are walked in the common areas. It is your responsibility to pick up after your pet. For your convenience, there is a pet waste station located on Southern Oaks Place, fully stocked with waste bags and with a receptacle in which to put used bags. Fairfax County has a law, 26-04-41.1: Animals causing unsanitary conditions, which states that "[t]he owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public places.

- PLEASE remember to pick up after your dog during your walk.