

Southern Oaks Newsletter

March

2015

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

Ted Carlson

Advisor to the Board

Andrew Haskins

2015 Board Meetings

April 14

May 12

June 9

July 14

August 11

September 8

October Annual Mtg-

TBD

November 10

December 8

Unless noted otherwise, monthly meetings are held at South County Middle School at 7pm.

Safety & Security

Winter nights are long and cold and during these extended periods of darkness when we cannot as clearly see the surfaces of the streets, driveways and sidewalks the danger of slipping on accumulated snow and ice can be an everyday risk with very unpleasant consequences. Our streetlights cannot always show us where the slipping and falling hazards are; "black ice" is nearly invisible even in daylight. We can all reduce those risks of slipping and falling in those dark hours by remembering to turn on our porch and/or exterior garage lights to give us that much more light to avoid those spots. Turning on those lights will add but pennies to your electric bill but avoiding a fall is priceless. An added benefit of the additional lighting will be to discourage unwanted activity. Since we installed the streetlights in the parking circle the incidents of car break-ins and the amount of litter left behind have declined to near zero; let's extend that additional safety and security to our neighborhood.

Call Miss Utility Before You Dig

The streetlights in Southern Oaks are not part of the lighting contract that the State of Virginia has with Dominion Power. These streetlights are owned and operated by Southern Oaks HOA. The power lines for the streetlights run across our front lawns and some side yards from the power box behind the mailbox cluster, and are not buried very deep. Most of the lines are only 3 or 4 inches below the sod. Before any excavation is done, be sure to call Miss Utility at 811 so the power lines near your home can be marked. The power 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 lights are powered by household voltage, 120 volts AC, and a shock from a severed line could be fatal. Virginia State law requires that utilities must be marked before any digging is done. This protects the utility companies, workers and their machinery, and homeowners from hazardous voltage, flammable gas and sewer and water lines. Please call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig!

Garbage Collection

We are in the middle of our windy season where everything not secured in place is likely to be found almost anywhere! This is particularly noticeable on garbage and recyclable pick up days and is made worse when garbage is left on the curb in plastic or paper bags, exposed to the vagaries of the wind (not to mention curious birds, always on the lookout for free food!). Please place your garbage and recyclables in approved containers no sooner than the evening before scheduled collection and promptly return them to their respective storage places as soon as practicable.