

SWEETGRASS

NEWSLETTER

Who's Who?

President: Michael Hunter
843-200-3263

VP & Ponds: JR Nelson
843-330-3457

Treasurer & Landscaping:
John Glaser
239-249-9212

Architecture Review Board
(ARB): Judy Sherman
803-308-3143

Boatyard: Paul Szejka
757-646-5260

Social: Alice Williams
843-388-1390

Communications:
Diana Dupuis
843-810-6603

A+ Property Management:
Robert & Debbie Rogers
843-856-6556

Websites

www.SweetgrassHOA.org

On [Facebook](#):

Sweetgrass Neighbors or
Sweetgrass (Neighborhood) Parents

We Survived!

President's Report

Is summer over already? It has been a busy last few months in Sweetgrass. You may have seen some heavy equipment rolling through last month. We did some much needed dredging in our oldest and furthest downstream ponds on the Oak Tree Lane side of the neighborhood. I want to send a special THANK YOU to those that had to deal with this project. I know not everyone was happy during the process, but hopefully the end result will be beneficial to the whole of the neighborhood. The project is not quite done; we are waiting on water levels to drop to wrap things up. If you live on a pond, it is your responsibility to cut and remove any debris from your property that may be in the ponds.

As far as the storm goes, as I am writing this, the neighborhood still is full of debris. I know that this is a special circumstance, but for the other 50 weeks of the year, please try to put your trash and debris out the night before pick up is scheduled. Also, please make sure that when you put your debris out, you put it on YOUR property. We have a home on Horseshoe Bend that seems to attract the neighbors' trash. Please put it in front of your house. The town will come and get it!



Please be on the lookout for the kids at Halloween. I have never seen this many young people in Sweetgrass, and Halloween should be awesome this year. If you are handing out candy, please make sure the light is on. If a house is dark and unlit, please do not ring the doorbells!



Helping Hands

Sweetgrass will be collecting canned goods for ECCO on November 18 at 9am. Please place your donation bag by your mailbox for pickup. Thanks for your help!

Welcome, Neighbor!

Falling Creek Circle

Matthew and Sara Boose
Gregory and Kristin Howe
Mark and Mary Elizabeth Pierce

Horseshoe Bend

Susan Doyle
Gary and Marcia Dickman
Ryan J. Kurtanich
Lloyd and Cheri Champ
John R. Vaskis

Special Thanks to Christopher Lacey and Justin Cline for keeping everyone informed during Hurricane Matthew via our Facebook Page



We also had our first, what I hope to be annual, or maybe even semi-annual, block party. Again, a very big THANK YOU to the people in the Horseshoe Bend cul-de-sac for being the most gracious of hosts. If you did not come out, you missed out. It is not every day that you get to eat gourmet hotdogs and Mac and Cheese! We had a huge turnout. People of all ages attended, and it was great getting to see so many new faces. We definitely want to do more of these kind of events. If you are interested in helping out, please let Alice or myself know.



Speaking of good times, what can be more fun than evacuating your home for a hurricane? If you are a member of the SWEETGRASS NEIGHBORS page on FACEBOOK, you would have been able to keep up with things from afar. With play by play analysis posted by a few neighbors that stayed at home and a posted storm LIVE FEED tour of the neighborhood, a lot of my fears were put to ease before I returned home. If you are not already a member, sign up! It is easy to do!

This is the last newsletter note that you will see from me as your president. You will get one more for the annual meeting. We have a couple of spots vacating at the end of the year. If you have any interest in getting involved with the HOA board, please let me know. I would love to chat with you. We have a few projects that will be coming up this year, and I am sure that we could use your talents and time to continue to make Sweetgrass a great place to live!

See you around the neighborhood!!

Michael Hunter

Social Committee

The Sweetgrass “MacDaddy” Food Truck Meet and Greet on September 18th was a big success with lots of residents attending and socializing with their neighbors. Thanks to all those who helped make this possible. Folks have given very positive feedback and we hope to do something like this again.

It’s that time of year again!

At the end of October, gift cards will be awarded for best outdoor decorations for Ghost and Goblins (Halloween) and Fall Harvest (Thanksgiving). Traditional Christmas or Winter Holiday themes will be awarded in December.

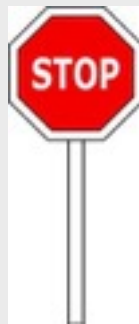
Ponds Committee

Keeping our storm water ponds functional and healthy over the past year has become a very labor intensive and time consuming chore for our HOA. This year we’ve had to deal with an abundance of rain and abnormal algae and vegetation growth caused by the higher temperatures. More rain also means more erosion issues as well as more mosquitoes. The recent hurricane has also created more issues. It seems we are constantly battling Mother Nature; however, I feel that we have made dramatic strides in addressing many of these issues as well as some future issues that could impact our neighborhood.

Working with The Greenery Pond management, we made a strong effort to keep ahead of unwanted algae and vegetation growth by stocking fish that eat the unwanted vegetation and by applying a dark pigment to the water that reduces the sunlight needed for the vegetation to grow.

We have also tried to keep homeowners aware of the things that they can do to reduce the phosphates that get into our ponds through the quarterly newsletters.

Please, do not attempt to repair or build a bulkhead without first contacting the ARB chairperson of our HOA. This work effort needs to be first approved and reviewed by the Ponds chairperson in conjunction with the Town of Mount Pleasant storm water management team. This affects the safety of our neighborhood.



Homeowners have contacted us regarding issues with yard erosion. We have worked hand-in-hand with each of them to identify effective and affordable methods to help control their problem(s). Each yard is a different shape and size, which reduces the number of available options to fix the issues but we are determined to find solutions for everyone.

Regarding yards with bulkheads:

New state standards have made it more difficult to get bulkheads repaired to meet these standards at an affordable price. We have talked with many contractors and most of them presented plans that were costly. A few have made some affordable suggestions that we may be able to work with. They are revising their plans and will present them to us within the next few weeks. We hope that this will help the homeowners who need to repair existing bulkheads and those that are in dire need of a brand new bulkhead.

Carefully applying lawn fertilizer and controlling animal wastes also helps keep our ponds healthier.



Erosion can also be controlled by aquatic plants. There was an article in the Post and Courier, on October 2nd Sunday's edition, discussing Shorescaping which was very enlightening. It talks about using plants around the shoreline to not only help eliminate erosion, but also keep bacteria out of the ponds as well. If you would like a copy of this article, just contact the Ponds Chairperson, JR Nelson, at 843-330-3457. Our HOA also has a contact available to help in installing a coconut tube that already has these plants imbedded in it for easier growth. This, too, will require an ARB approval before installing.

Another problem that the HOA had been trying to address for many years was the removal of pond



debris specifically in the drainage areas located just off Oak Tree Lane. The area had 27 years of debris buildup. We feared that this would eventually cause problems for storm water runoff and could possibly contribute to flooding conditions in the future.

The HOA worked for many months to find a contractor that was affordable and reliable to do dredging and we were fortunate enough find one. He recently completed the work just before Hurricane Matthew hit. I have no doubt that we would have had flooding issues in these locations had we not done this work, especially since

our water levels were so high to begin with before the storm hit.

I also want to elaborate that property owners bordering the pond need to keep tree limbs about 4 feet above the water line and remove any trees or vegetation laying in the water. There also should be a 15' right-of-way clearing around each pond to allow for pond maintenance and inspection. This is for everyone's safety.

I wish to thank the property owners that I have worked with on these various issues and appreciate their cooperation in helping bring them to a successful conclusion.

JR Nelson Ponds Chairperson, *photo of FCC pond by Mary Bokeno-Brown

Boatyard:

The boatyard itself sustained no damage from Hurricane Matthew. There were a lot of leaves to clean up, but we came out unscathed. No one has reported any damage to their boats. We are currently full, but you are always welcome to join the waiting list. Please contact me via email if you're interested: Paul Szejc paulszejc@gmail.com.



Reminder

A note from your ARB:

If your house looks green,
please power wash it clean



ARB Committee:

I know we all have a lot of clean up going on due to Hurricane Matthew. Several trees were damaged in the neighborhood. Remember to submit a change request form before the work is done. You must have permission from the Town to remove numerous trees. If you have any questions about a particular tree, please contact me, Judy Sherman, at 803-308-3143 or js Sherman@yahoo.com.

The form can be found at the Sweetgrass website, www.sweetgrasshoa.org. There is also a link to the Town of Mount Pleasant Removal guide on the website.

Landscaping Committee:

We were lucky to dodge a bullet with the hurricane and hope everyone fared well. We are working on a few clean up projects that should be completed very shortly. If you see something that still needs attention please notify us through Facebook and tag me, John Glaser, in your post.

Treasurer's Report:

JR Nelson, the Ponds Chair, did a good job getting two of our ponds dredged and cleaned out just before Hurricane Matthew. It was money well spent and we were able to complete that project with money in our savings account rather than having to assess our homeowners. The project was a great lesson in proper budget planning and we aim to do the same while planning next year's budget.

Communications Report:

Many of us weathered the storm elsewhere and our minds were put at ease thanks to all of you brave souls who stayed and posted pictures and videos on the community Facebook page. Thank you to absolutely **everyone** who did so. If you are not a Facebook member, take a peek at the pics on the next page.

Didn't know we had a Facebook page? We do! In fact, we have two Facebook closed groups for the community. Please ask to join and reply to my message request with "Matthew, who?"

Facebook Neighbors
Facebook (Neighborhood) Parents

We have come to the end of Yard of the Month Awards for the year. Congratulations to all of the winners. Everyone did a wonderful job!



Community Food Truck gathering in September:



Hurricane Matthew hits Sweetgrass:

