

Sweetgrass Newsletter

Who's Who



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President's Report

Well, if there is one thing the last few months has taught us, it's that we have a great neighborhood for walks and bike rides.

Like many of you, I have been working from home for the last several weeks. And to break up some of the at-home monotony, I have taken quite a few walks. I've gotten to chat with plenty of neighbors I don't normally see, and have met plenty of folks I may not have under normal circumstances. So that's positive in all of this, yes?

With spring being in full swing, I hope everyone is getting time to get out and work in their yards. I love to see the beautiful jobs that folks do with their yards every spring, and I know many of us love a hard working day in the sunshine on a weekend. And if you have questions about what you should put in your yard, ask a neighbor or on our neighborhood Facebook page. We have some very knowledgeable green thumbs in these parts, and I know I've leaned on neighbors for advice and counsel on planting selections.

The HOA Board is still active, and had our first virtual meeting in April. Most likely, our next one will be virtual as well.

Business as usual, except where it's unusual!

Stay safe, neighbors, and hope to see you on my next walk!

Happy neighboring!

~Mike Gibbons



ARB Report

The start of 2019 has been a tad slower than last year "request wise" but I want to thank those of you who have sent them in! New windows are going in, dead trees have been removed, and we even had a fellow neighbor put up a wood duck nesting box! I personally think the duck nesting box is really neat and great for the neighborhood! The board and I are here to help so please feel free to reach out anytime if you have any questions or concerns. Please also make sure you're fully completing the ARB applications and it's always better to include as many details as possible. Hope everyone has a wonderful Spring and I'll leave you with a few bullet points as always.

Boat Yard Report



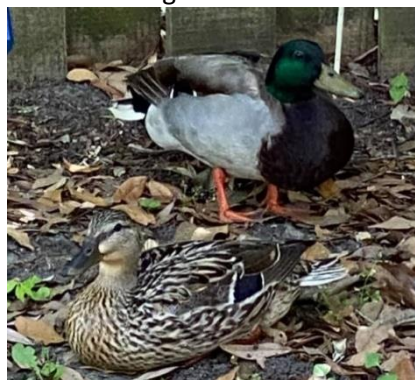
The boat yard currently has 10 homeowners on the waiting list for spaces. If you have a space and a key and no longer need the space, you are encouraged to surrender your key so that your space can be filled. If you do not return your key at the next renewal, you will be charged for the key and lock replacement (I think the price is around \$250.00).

Boating season is here and we'll be using our boats more often. To help others remove and put their boats back into their space, please back your boat as far as possible into your space. No one wants to damage their vehicles because they hit a trailer extending too far toward the driving lane.

The boatyard continues soliciting bids for the much anticipated expansion to add more space and boat parking spaces for the Sweetgrass homeowners. We believe we are getting close, or at least in the ball park of our Board recommended budget. We are looking

*Our neighborhood is governed by Covenants and Restrictions and everyone should have received a copy at closing. If not, they are available on our neighborhood's website should you have any questions.

*All ARB submittals are to be completed online. This is located on our neighborhood's website under the homeowners tab. Click on the ARB request button and everything required to be filled out is right there. Feel free to include more information than required and pictures and drawings are always helpful for a faster response.



*Just as the applications are now paperless, so are the approvals. If you have any questions or concerns about any work, feel free to contact me directly or A-Plus as we have records of all approved work. Any potential violations can also be reported to either of us and they will be handled in the appropriate manner according to our bi-laws and C&R's.

*Emergency repairs do not require ARB approval, but we do ask that you let us know so we can keep a record of this work should any questions arise.

Thanks,

Thomas Webster
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864-542-6047

Ponds Report

Top 5 Pond Questions!

Hi neighbors! If you're new to the neighborhood, first of all, welcome! The awesome ponds in this neighborhood, their appearance, and protection from flooding was an influencing factor in the purchase of our house in Sweetgrass, and maybe it was for you too. If you weren't around at the annual meeting, I'd like to share that all of our new aerators (bubblers) have been installed each and every pond. This will cut down on algae and help delay costly dredging. With that bit of news out of the way, I bring you the top 5 pond questions I receive from Sweetgrass residents, new and old.

Top 5 Pond Questions:

1) Are there fish in the ponds? Yes, tons! We have grass carp which help cut down on excessive plant growth by eating aquatic weeds, blue tilapia who feast on algae and keep the water clear, largemouth bass, bream including bluegill and others, mosquito fish, American eels, and maybe more! You may also appreciate the fowl including wood ducks, mallards, cormorants, and geese. Turtles abound as well, and there have even been otters spotted in past years. Keep an eye out and tell me what else you see.

1st Quarter

to add around 10 spaces and (hopefully) widen the yard to make parking easier while maintaining a reasonable tree buffer to dampen noise from the car wash on Hungryneck Blvd.

If/when expansion is approved, look for updates on the Sweetgrass Facebook page about moving your boat out of the yard so that it will not hinder construction crews.

- Stan

May 26, 2020



2) Can I fish in the ponds? Yes! But, you must obtain permission from the property owner if you intend to fish from the bank. There are no HOA-owned or "common" areas from which to access ponds. My best suggestion is to get permission to access the water from a neighbor, and use a paddleboard, kayak, canoe, inner tube, or other vessel to fish all of the water. Once you are in the water, you may navigate any water you can float in. We do encourage catch and release, because of chemicals, which may be present in the water due to natural runoff, residential pesticide use, etc.

3) I live on a pond. Can I build a dock? Yes! As seen in the GIS map above, property lines extend into the ponds to allow for small docks, sea walls, etc. to be built. As a reminder, all such construction requires ARB approval, which has been given to many of our neighbors in the past to build beautiful, functional docks for fishing, boating, or just enjoying the view and dipping your toes.

4.) I don't live on a pond. Why should I care about them? Good question. During periods of excessive rain brought on by hurricanes or other weather events, the ponds are essentially giant vessels for collecting all that rainwater. If we filled them all in and installed soccer fields instead, we'd all be knee deep in our homes every time it rained. So the next time your house doesn't flood, thank a pond.

5.) My pond bank is eroding; what can I do? You have a couple options. You may wish to install a wooden seawall to strongly hold back the earth of your yard from spilling into the water. These are attractive and last a long time. Another route is to purchase and plant certain vegetation at or near the waterline whose root systems will lock the soil in place. Search google for "shorescaping freshwater shorelines" for DIY plantings, or search for "wetland carpet" for a pre-made option that comes in large rolls and plants like grass sod.

If you have any questions or concerns about the ponds, please do not hesitate to call me. Thanks for being neighborly.

Thanks! Jason Dammer



Landscaping Report



Our summer flowers are on the way! You should be seeing the installment of Lavender, Violet, and Bright Pink Pentas, Blue My Mind Evolvulus, as well as some Shell Gingers. As always, if you ever have any specific flower requests for our front entrance, please feel free to email them for future consideration.

With hurricane season around the corner, now is a perfect time to do some preventative yard maintenance. Some things to consider: inspecting trees and shrubs for any dead or damaged branches, check storm drainage areas from time to time to ensure they are clear, check your roof as well as gutters and down spouts, also consider some spring cleaning of any old or unneeded yard decor. Although these are just a few suggestions, we hope they give you some ideas of ways to get a head start on hurricane preparedness.

-Kevin Johnson
kj4616@gmail.com

Social Report

Hey all you cool cats and kittens!
I hope everyone is staying safe and sane out there!
Please mark your calendars and enjoy the following food trucks:

Food Truck Calendar!	
Food Truck	Save this Date
My Big Fat Greek Trailer	Monday, May 18 th
Lolas Lumpia Food Truck	Tuesday, May 27 th
The Misfit Chef	Friday, June 5 th
A Lotta Ciabatta	Friday, June 19 th

*More details to come
*This is not HOA sponsored

More details regarding the food trucks will be released on Facebook as they become available. Remember, this is not an HOA sponsored program. The HOA is organizing a food drive to help our neighbors in need! All donations will be dropped off at East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO). Kindly drop off all donations at 1934 Oak Tree Lane between Sunday, 5/31 and Sunday, 6/7. All donations will be dropped off at ECCO on 6/8. Please see the items requested by ECCO in the flyer below.

When everything normalizes, go take a breath and a stretch across the street at Yoga Daily! They have offered Sweetgrass Neighbors a complimentary yoga class; just show them this pass:

Communications



Hello Neighbors! If you have sent a Facebook request; look in the FB Messenger App for a message from me. I ask for some validation that you do live in our neighborhood to protect our page from spammers.

If you have not joined our FB page yet please do! It's an incredibly helpful communication method for our neighborhood. Recently we have seen more negativity on the page than normal; we're all going stir crazy so let's try to keep a positive atmosphere where folks feel safe. I never mute opinions, but would ask that you remember that we are all going through this together.

Search "Sweetgrass Neighbors" on Facebook to find us!

~Virginia Allen

With everyone spending more time than usual on their homes/yards, the social committee would love to recognize this hard work! We are looking for someone to head 'yard of the month'! If you're interested in spearheading this role, please email sweetgsocial@gmail.com.



Please also email me your name, physical address and email address for our Sweetgrass email list! In a time of pandemics, let's go digital!

I applaud our neighbors for getting crafty and encouraging the 'hood to participate in things like the stuffed animal and Easter egg window hunt! So cute! I am grateful to have such awesome neighbors in a time like this!

Cheers,
Tessa

Neighborhood Reminders:

- Waste: Put waste out the night before pick up: Tuesdays for Trash/Yard Waste, Alternating Tuesdays for Recycling. REMINDER: Trash/Recycle bins need to be stored out of sight from the street!
- Please clean up after your pups; we have pet waste bins all over the neighborhood for convenience
- DON'T IGNORE STOP SIGNS OR SPEED LIMIT!! Speed Limit is 25mph, let's slow down everyone!
- It's a great time for Pressure Washing!!
- Keep checking our Facebook and Marquee for other news and Neighborhood events!!
- Stay safe, remember your mask when in public and social distancing

