



The Voice of StillWaters

A LETTER FROM YOUR SWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUG/SEPT 2023

August is “Back to School” month for many students and school buses will be picking up and dropping off children in StillWaters. Please be mindful when driving and remember that it is illegal to pass a school bus that has stopped to pick up or unload children! Thank you!

The 3rd Annual StillWaters Golf Cart Parade was held Monday, July 3rd starting at 10:30 a.m. at the SWRA Centre. David Reaves helped to organize this again and we all appreciate his volunteering to do so. The Parade proceeded throughout the StillWaters Community for approximately 30 minutes. There were 40-45 carts loaded with families and several people standing along the route to cheer them on. It was a lot of fun and enjoyed by many. Deep thanks to all our landscape and maintenance crew who cleaned up after this event.

The infrastructure work continues in the **Eagle Ridge Subdivision**. Once this is completed, the developer will submit plans to the SWRA ARC for houses to start building. No house plans have been submitted as of yet. Southern Coastal Homes have been working with a Landscape Architect and submitted proposed plans to replant in the buffer area along Moonbrook Drive. There have been discussions back and forth with their Project Manager and Realtor and the SWRA staff and Board. The SWRA Landscape Committee has studied the proposal, researched, met, and submitted a report with suggestions and comments to the SWRA ARC who will review and approve a plan. SWRA has requested a plan to scale and a 3D rendering of the site. There will be a mixture of trees and shrubs native to Alabama and similar to others in the StillWaters Community.

Construction of new homes continues in the **River Birch Subdivision** just off Palmer Drive in the area formerly known as “Cabins on the Green”. Matt McIntyre is developing the area at a steady pace with lovely homes.

Our THANKS to the **SWRA Landscape and Maintenance staff** members for all the extra work in the last several weeks in cleaning up after the many storms we have had. Great job! There have been tremendous amounts of water falling quickly and many limbs and trees down throughout our community. The safety of residents is a major concern and they have worked nights and weekends as needed. The rains have made it difficult to keep up with our grass-cutting schedule, so we ask for patience as we catch up. And this group continues to work on a list of special projects/routing trimming/weed eating/spraying and other tasks from the Landscape Committee.

(continued on page 2)

SWRA Business Hours

Monday 8 to 5 pm
Tuesday 8 to 5 pm
Wednesday 8 to 5 pm
Thursday 8 to 5 pm
Friday 8 to 5 pm

FAX: 256-825-2991
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Mike Dean
*Associate Community
Association Manager*



A LETTER FROM YOUR SWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(continued from page 1)

The SWRA Board continues to be in awe of our **tremendous SWRA Staff**, they are a marvelous team and contribute so very much to improve our daily lives. CAM Griff (Mike Griffin) and ACAM Mike Dean have hit the ground running as they learn all about our community, research projects, visit with property owners, contractors, realtors, and visitors, handle a variety of issues and the list goes on. The Office/Administrative staff manage a multitude of items, some routine and some extreme/unusual in a professional and friendly manner. Our Gate Team is dependable, welcoming, and a valuable asset to StillWaters. And as stated above, we have a crackerjack team of Maintenance and Landscape staff. They all work extremely hard for SWRA. So the next time you see them, please share your gratitude for all that they do!

Labor Day Weekend signals the seasonal slowdown of visitors to our community as people move into the fall back-to-school mode with football and other activities. The SWRA Board and Staff have had a very busy summer. We certainly wish everyone a safe, fun, and enjoyable holiday weekend. We are all blessed to be a part of this lovely neighborhood with so many wonderful people!

Respectfully,
Penny Alexander, Secretary

THANK YOU, SWRA ARC.

The SWRA Architectural Review Committee is made up of five volunteer members appointed by the SWRA Board. Lee Eastman is currently serving as Chairman with members Liz Bradford, Drew Heederik, Mike Knight, and Perry Shy with ACAM Mike Dean serving

as the SWRA Staff Liaison. They meet twice a month and check their list of projects on an ongoing basis.

At their last meeting, they reviewed and approved 21 permits in addition to reporting on all their ongoing projects. There are several types of Permits: Emergency, No Cost, Small Repair, Small Project, Medium Project, and Building. Some are zero-cost permits. The important thing to remember is that if you are making any changes to the exterior of your home/landscape or property or an addition, you must have a permit approved by the ARC prior to starting per our Covenants.

Over the last year, the ARC and the Board have spent a great deal of time and effort in researching and updating our documents. The Infrastructure Guidelines, the Compliance Agreement, Fee Schedules and policies as well as Exhibit B of the 1987 Covenants. This has been a collaborative effort and will benefit our community for the years ahead.

Keep an eye out for future publications of these documents as they are finalized and publicized. We appreciate the ARC members and others who have put their time and talents to use on these major projects for the betterment of SWRA.





BEAT THE HEAT

STAYING SAFE IN THE SUMMERTIME

After a long winter cooped up, the arrival of sunny days can make you eager to be outside. Getting outdoors can be good for you in many ways. It provides opportunities for exercise. It can also boost your mental health.

But as the heat rises, some health risks also increase. Intense heat can put strain on both your body and brain. Too much heat can cause a heat-related illness called hyperthermia. Mild hyperthermia can cause discomfort, like muscle cramps or swelling in the ankles and feet.

Heat exhaustion is more serious. It occurs when your body can no longer keep itself cool. You may start to feel dizzy or nauseated. Other symptoms include feeling thirsty, weak, or uncoordinated.

The most extreme form of hyperthermia is heat stroke. Heat stroke is life-threatening, so seek medical help right away. Symptoms include fainting or having trouble walking. You may start feeling confused or agitated. You can also feel very hot but not sweat or have dry, flushed skin.

Some people are more at risk for heat-related illness than others. That includes infants and young children, and those with certain health conditions, such as heart, lung, or kidney disease. Older adults are the most heat sensitive. That's because the body's ability to cool itself changes as we get older.

There are two main ways your body regulates its temperature, explains Dr. Craig Crandall, who studies heat effects on the body at UT Southwestern Medical Center. "One is increasing how much blood flows to the skin. The other is how much we sweat."

Neither of these works as well in older adults, Crandall says. That makes it more difficult for them to cool off. His research has shown that sitting in front of a fan increased older adults' body temperature in extreme heat. That's because they weren't sufficiently sweating when the hot air was blowing over their skin. This suggests that older adults may need to use other ways to keep cool, such as going to an air-conditioned place.

Too much heat is not safe for anyone. If you're outside in the heat, drink lots of water. Don't try to exercise or do a lot of activities outdoors when it's hot.

If you start to feel sick in the heat, rest in a cool place and drink plenty of fluids. If you think someone has heat stroke, get them to a cool place and call 911.

"Shade is your friend," Crandall says. "If you're going out to exercise or mow the lawn, take breaks in the shade."

If possible, go into an air-conditioned room for a while. "That time you're inside, your core temperature is going to be cooled," Crandall explains. "If you stay outside, it may just go up and up and up."

If you want to exercise outside in the summer, start slow. "It takes about 10 days to two weeks to get acclimated to hotter temperatures," Crandall says.

Heat isn't the only hazard during the summer. It's also important to protect your skin and your eyes from the sun. For tips to keep safe in the heat, please see the box "Wise Choices" online at <https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2021/06/beat-heat.com>.

(Article and photo courtesy of News in Health)





GOLF CART AND LOW-SPEED VEHICLES ON STILLWATERS' ROADS

The StillWaters Residential Association (SWRA) Board of Directors recognizes the value and pleasure of utility vehicles in the StillWaters Community. The SWRA Board further recognizes the need for responsible use of such vehicles. The SWRA Board is especially concerned for the safety and well-being of all StillWaters residents and visitors.

Golf carts and other motorized vehicles can be quite dangerous, especially when used on roads. The SWRA Board recognizes the inherent hazards of motorized vehicle use in StillWaters and desires to head off accidents with the promotion of common-sense operation and public awareness.

SWRA is comprised of ALL the property owners within Stillwaters. SWRA is NOT owned by the Board of Directors or Community Association Manager. Any actions taken against SWRA affects everyone, not just the Board. As such, any liability because of damages or injuries on SWRA property affects every owner indirectly.

Over the past several years, lawsuits initiated by property owners against SWRA or initiated by SWRA against property owners for covenant violations have resulted in a dramatic increase in the cost of insurance that protects SWRA's assets against claims. The Board has worked diligently to identify proactive measures to reduce future claims that could result in having to be self-insured or ultimately filing bankruptcy resulting from a litigated damages claim.

SWRA maintains approximately 23 miles of private roadways within the gates. The proliferation of golf carts and ATVs on SWRA roadways is more noticeable every day. With the increase in traffic, there are more incidents of irresponsible behavior on the part of the owners. The new Community Services Patrol is working hard to identify and remedy some of those incidents when observed, but they cannot be everywhere and see everything. While the Board cannot dictate behavior, it can try to mitigate its damages from bad behavior by the few. The Board has worked in conjunction with law enforcement and legal counsel to establish a viable policy that may significantly reduce future liability to SWRA and its property owners.

Effective January 1, 2024, SWRA will implement a new Golf Cart/ATV Policy that will require all such vehicles to be registered, at no cost, with SWRA each year. The owner will be required to sign a Waiver of Liability for that vehicle before a special decal will be issued and registered with SWRA. The new policy and waiver will be sent out each year with the SWRA annual fee invoice. Vehicles operating on SWRA roadways without a valid decal will be considered trespassing.

The Board would like for you to know as a property owner, this new policy and procedures are meant to protect you and the future viability of SWRA as a homeowner's association. If you value SWRA and the benefits it offers to its owners; the Board hopes that each owner recognizes its benefit to the whole SWRA community.

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TRASH CAN MANAGEMENT

Greetings, homeowners!

In this edition of our newsletter, we are excited to share a fantastic solution for maintaining a clean and organized yard by keeping unsightly trash cans out of sight. We understand that trash cans can be an eyesore and take away from the overall curb appeal of your home. So, why not explore a simple yet effective way to hide them from view?

Introducing the Four-Foot Screening Fence: A Stylish Solution

One of the most effective ways to conceal trash cans besides in your garage is by installing a four-foot screening fence. This solution not only serves as a practical method for hiding those pesky trash bins but also adds a touch of style to your outdoor space. The screening fence can be made from wood or natural plants, allowing you to choose one that complements the existing aesthetics of your home.



Benefits of Hiding Trash Cans with a Screening Fence

1. **Enhanced Aesthetics:** A well-designed screening fence helps to beautify your home and boosts your home's overall curb appeal. By neatly tucking away trash cans, your property instantly appears more organized and visually pleasing.
2. **Odor Control:** Keeping trash cans inside a screened-off area helps in better odor control. The fence acts as a barrier, preventing unpleasant smells from wafting into your living spaces.
3. **Protection from Wildlife:** Depending on your location, wildlife might be attracted to the smell of trash. A screening fence acts as a deterrent, reducing the chances of unwanted visitors rummaging through your garbage.

Considerations for Installation

Before installing a screening fence, there are a few key points to keep in mind:

1. **Covenants:** Check with your StillWaters homeowner's association ARC to ensure that you comply with any guidelines or regulations regarding fencing in your area.
2. **Building Permit:** Apply online for a permit at www.stillwatersra.com
3. **Accessibility:** While you want to hide the trash cans, ensure that the screening fence doesn't obstruct convenient access to the bins for waste disposal and collection.
4. **Maintenance:** Choose materials that require minimal upkeep and can withstand the elements over time.
5. **Positioning:** Strategically place the screening fence to ensure it blends harmoniously with your garage and outdoor space.

Conclusion

Investing in a four-foot screening fence to hide trash cans in your garage area is a small but impactful improvement that can significantly enhance the overall appearance of your home. With the added benefits of privacy, odor control, and wildlife deterrence, this simple solution is well worth considering.



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ALL SERVICES: SUNDAY 9:00-10:00 AM
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Aug 06 Rev. Pat Bethea - Auburn

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Aug 27 Rev Kevin Flannagan - Auburn

Sep 03 Dr. Tim Thompson - Jackson's Gap

Labor Day Closing

***** Communion served on July 16th and September 3rd *****

Please join us! Dress is casual. Actual address is 782 Lakeview Ridge across from the Golf Colony Villas - a short distance from the Harbor Pointe Marina in StillWaters. You can come by car, bike, golf cart, or boat - GPS Coordinates N 32° 44.554' W 085° 48.867'. You are cordially invited to examine our website at www.colw-sw.com



August

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 SWRA Board Meeting 9 AM	2 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM ARC Meeting 4 PM	3	4 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	5
6	7 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	8	9 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	10	11 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	12
13	14 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	15 SWRA Board Meeting 9 AM	16 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM ARC Meeting 4 PM	17	18 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	19
20	21 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	22	23 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	24	25 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	26
27	28 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	29	30 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	31		

September

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	2
3	4 LABOR DAY SWRA OFFICE CLOSED	5 SWRA Board Meeting 9 AM	6 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM ARC Meeting 4 PM	7	8 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	9
10	11 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	12	13 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	14	15 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	16
17	18 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	19 SWRA Board Meeting 9 AM	20 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM ARC Meeting 4 PM	21	22 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	23
24	25 Lake Martin Creativity Group 1 PM - 4 PM	26	27 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	28	29 Bridge 9 AM - 1 PM	30

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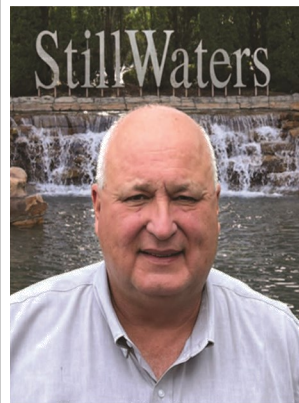
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