



# The Voice of StillWaters



# 2020

## A Message from the General Manager - Kevin Eason

Happy Holidays! I hope everyone is safe and well during the holiday season. This will be a very different holiday season for all but we still must remember the reason for the season.

A great holiday activity that maintains social distancing, keeps everyone in a safe environment, and gets you out of the house is riding around StillWaters looking at the holiday lights. The SWRA Christmas committee worked hard this year decorating the common areas and added several new holiday decorations. Also, several property owners have decorated their homes with holiday decorations. Take your time and drive around the community.

The SWRA office is still practicing social distancing and obeying the Alabama Governor's mask order. Only one person at a time will be allowed into the office and everyone must wear a mask. Please do not be offended if you are not allowed to enter the SWRA office without a mask. These restrictions are to help protect everyone from the spread of COVID 19. The SWRA office is still offering notary, copying, and fax services to property owners during the COVID 19 restrictions.

Recently there have been several social media posts concerning someone knocking on doors or ringing doorbells and running away in a few areas of StillWaters. As of the printing of this newsletter only one owner has reported this activity to SWRA and the Sherriff's office. If this should happen to you, please contact the Tallapoosa County Sherriff's Department. The Sherriff's Department cannot investigate this type of activity if it is not reported to them. SWRA appreciates the reporting of these types of incidents to the SWRA office; however, SWRA does not have a security force nor any authority to investigate these types of complaints. SWRA will work with the Sherriff's Department to try and resolve any reported incidents.

The 2021 SWRA annual fee invoices will be mailed the last week in December. The 2021 SWRA annual fee is due on January 1, 2021 and considered past due on January 30, 2021. The annual invoice will also include the fee for any gate opening devices and any other services you may use from SWRA. Please review your invoice carefully and contact the SWRA office if you have any questions.

There has been a significant increase in covenant violations this year. This increase is attributed to the increased number of people now living in StillWaters. Please read and abide by the covenants that govern your property. If you are not sure which set of covenants govern your property, please call the SWRA office. A copy of a covenants can be found at [www.stillwatersra.com](http://www.stillwatersra.com). Starting immediately, SWRA plans to start a more aggressive approach to enforcing the covenants. The enforcement of the covenants helps protect property values and maintain the beauty of our community.

### SWRA Business Hours

Monday 9 to 4 pm  
Tuesday 9 to 4 pm  
Wednesday 9 to 12 pm  
Thursday 9 to 4 pm  
Friday 9 to 5 pm

FAX: 256-825-2991  
Phone: 256-825-2990

Email:  
[info@stillwatersra.com](mailto:info@stillwatersra.com)

Website:  
[www.stillwatersra.com](http://www.stillwatersra.com)

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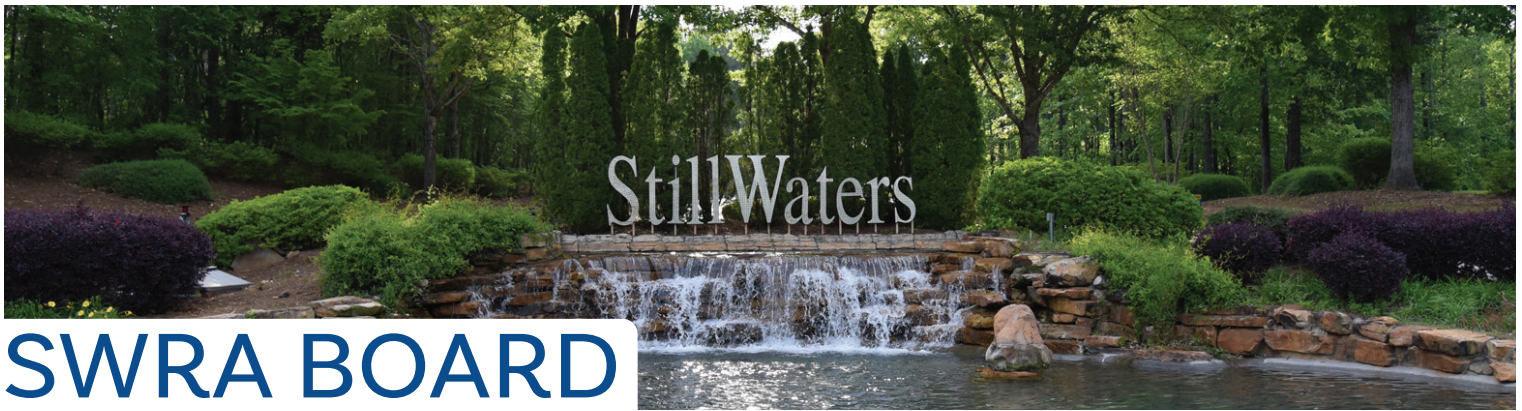
**Kevin Eason**  
*General Manager*



# GENERAL MANAGER MESSAGE CONTINUED

In the November General Managers letter, I informed owners that SWRA was in the process of compiling names, address, and phone number of owners who would like to be included in the annual directory. We inadvertently left the directory information form out of the newsletter. The form is in this newsletter. Please complete the form and return it to the SWRA office if you would like to be included in the annual directory. If you were in the directory last year and your information has not change, then there is no need to send in another information form.

The SWRA office receives several inquiries a week concerning the activity at the Welcome Centre building. SWRA signed an agreement with the new tenant of the building not to announce the name of their company until they are ready to open. The new tenant will make an announcement soon. We are very pleased this new company will be adjacent to the StillWaters entrance and will be convenient for everyone in StillWaters.



## SWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION PROCESS

The October and November newsletters each contained an article explaining how to and who could run for a seat on the SWRA Board of Directors in 2021. The election for the board is conducted with mail in ballots and the new board members are announced at the 2021 annual meeting in March.

The February newsletter will include a bio of all candidates running for the SWRA Board. Election ballots will be mailed to all eligible property owners by February 12, 2021. Please contact the SWRA office if you have any questions concerning the board election process or would like to obtain a petition form.

The Nominating Committee has completed vetting of potential board candidates. The committee is working on finalizing its recommendation for three candidates to fill the two board seats that are up for election for 2021 and to fill the one year remaining on the term of the board seat vacated by Mike Dollar.


Although the Nominating Committee has concluded its search, members of the association who own property governed by the '87 covenants and who are in good staning with SWRA still have the option to run for election to the board by petition.

Candidates that would like to run by petition must obtain the petition form from the SWRA office and collect signatures of twenty separate property owners in order to be placed on the election ballot. The completed petition form must be returned to the SWRA Board Secretary at the SWRA office by January 20, 2021.

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# CHOOSING THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT

If you like to give gifts during the holidays but are never sure what to give, here are a few questions you can ask yourself that can help make the perfect gift giving decision.

- 1. WHAT DOES THE PERSON DO PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY?**
- 2. WHAT DOES THE PERSON TALK ABOUT?**
- 3. WHAT DOES THE PERSON ENJOY OR LOVE?**
- 4. WHAT DOES THEIR DAY-TO-DAY LOOK LIKE?**
- 5. WHAT HAVE I ENJOYED RECENTLY THAT THEY WOULD ENJOY AS WELL?**



# RESIDENTIAL WASTE DISPOSAL UPDATE

By now residents in StillWaters that previously used Advanced Disposal for garbage pick-up should have received notice from GFL Environmental concerning the buyout of Advanced Disposal. GFL representatives have also been in contact with SWRA concerning the services they will continue to provide to StillWaters residents.

GFL will continue to service StillWaters every Wednesday. Should a holiday fall on Wednesday or if a holiday falls on the day before, then StillWaters will be serviced on Thursday-this will be a rare occurrence.

All trash must be inside the trash container. GFL will only empty the trash container and will not pick up loose trash that is not inside the container or that falls out when the container is emptied. A couple of weeks ago GFL did remove trash that was not inside the container but only because they were unable to service StillWaters for a couple of weeks which caused additional trash to accumulate.

GFL has purchased new equipment for the StillWaters route. This new equipment will help them reduce the amount of time they spend servicing StillWaters.

This also means residents may not have time to wait until they “see” the trash truck in the area before moving trash containers to the roadside.

The Wednesday collection start time will now start promptly at 7am to allow GFL to complete the StillWaters route by noon. GFL is requesting all customers have their trash containers set out the night before. StillWaters only allows trash containers to be placed on the roadside within 24 hours of service time. This means trash containers can be placed on the roadsides anytime after 7am on the Tuesday before the scheduled pick-up. StillWaters requires trash containers to be removed within 24 hours of being emptied. This means with an earlier start time; trash containers must be removed from the roadsides by noon on Thursday.

Owners who place trash containers on the roadside before 7am on a Tuesday or leave their trash container on the roadside after 12pm on Thursday may receive a fine. SWRA offers a trash container roll out and roll back service for a small cost of \$125 per year. Please contact the SWRA office if you would like to sign up for this convenient service.



# HOLIDAY SCAM ALERT



During the holidays there are always criminals trying to convince innocent people to fall for a SCAM that usually ends up depriving them of their money. This year there have been several phone and email SCAMs reported to the SWRA office.

One very convincing email scam appears to be sent by Amazon informing the recipient that their recent order has been delayed, canceled, delivered to the wrong address, etc... and that you need to click on the link provided. You are then re-directed to a very authentic looking site that resembles Amazon where you are asked to enter your personal information and usually the credit card number of the card used to purchase the item. According to Amazon, they will never ask you to enter a credit card number to retrieve information concerning the shipping of an order. There have also been reports of a similar phone scam where the caller claims to be an Amazon representative and needs your information because of an issue with your most recent order.

Please be careful of these and other holiday time SCAMs. Never provide your personal information, bank account, or credit card information to anyone that sends you an email or phone call. Report all possible SCAMs to the local Sheriff's office and [www.FTC.gov/complaint](http://www.FTC.gov/complaint).

# HOLIDAY STRESS CAN CAUSE OVEREATING

We tend to overeat and feel burnout during the holiday season. One reason we overindulge this time of year is stress. The holidays can send stress levels skyrocketing. Stress in itself can lead to other unhealthy eating patterns, further impacting the holiday season weight gain which most of us try to work off in January but never seem to get back to that pre-holiday weight. Here are five easy tips to help reduce the chance of overeating due to increased stress.

- 1. SET ASIDE SOME QUIET DOWN TIME FOR JUST YOU, NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES, NO NOISE, ABOUT 15 MINUTES OF QUIET MEDITATION A DAY WILL DO WONDERS FOR REMOVING STRESS.**
- 2. WE SEE MORE FAMILY AND FRIENDS DURING THE HOLIDAYS, DO NOT ENGAGE IN CONVERSATIONS THAT CAN BRING UP UNHAPPY PAST ISSUES; LET THE PAST BE THE PAST-FOCUS ON THE FUTURE AND HAPPY MEMORIES.**
- 3. EAT AS HEALTHY AS POSSIBLE AND DON'T EAT TO PLEASE OTHERS. ONLY ONE SERVING OF YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S PIE IS ENOUGH.**
- 4. DON'T WORRY ABOUT MONEY (PROBABLY THE HARDEST TO DO) A HANDWRITTEN LETTER, A PICTURE OF YOURSELF, OR A PHONE CALL TO SOMEONE YOU HAVE NOT SEEN ALL YEAR IS BETTER THAN BUYING THEM A \$100 SWEATER THEY MIGHT NOT LIKE. THE GIFT OF YOURSELF IS ALWAYS THE BEST GIFT OF ALL.**
- 5. REMEMBER THERE IS JUST ONE OF YOU, DON'T RUN AROUND TRYING TO VISIT EVERYONE JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN AND REMEMBER THE HOLIDAY SEASON WILL BE OVER IN A FEW WEEKS.**

## ADVERTISEMENT

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# ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE



The custom of erecting a Christmas tree can be historically traced to 15th century Livonia (present-day Estonia and Latvia) and 16th century Northern Germany. According to the first documented uses of a Christmas tree in Estonia, in 1441, 1442, and 1514 the Brotherhood of Blackheads erected a tree for the holidays in their brotherhood house in Reval (now Tallinn). At the last night of the celebrations leading up to the holidays, the tree was taken to the Town Hall Square where the members of the brotherhood danced around it. In 1584, the pastor and chronicler Balthasar Russow wrote of an established tradition of setting up a decorated spruce at the market square where the young men “went with a flock of maidens and women, first sang and danced there and then set the tree aflame”. The Christmas tree became widely adopted by the Estonians themselves only in the 19th century.

In the German Middle Ages, mystery plays at Christmas time within churches often featured an evergreen "Paradise tree" from which an apple was plucked. The first evidence of Christmas trees outside of a church is of the 16th century, with trees in guild halls decorated with sweets to be enjoyed by the apprentices and children. (A Bremen guild chronicle of 1570 reports that a small tree decorated with "apples, nuts, dates, pretzels and paper flowers" was erected in the guild-house for the benefit of the guild members' children, who collected the dainties on Christmas Day.) Soon after, they are seen in the houses of upper-class Protestant families as a counterpart to the Catholic Christmas cribs. In the 18th century they begin to be adorned with candles, which were expensive items. Only in the 19th century did they come into use more widely, often in schools and inns before they appeared in homes. A decisive factor in winning general popularity was the German army's decision to place Christmas trees in its barracks and military hospitals during the 1870-1871 war. Only at the turn of the century did Christmas trees again appear inside churches, this time in a new brightly lit form.

While some take it that the Christmas tree is a Christianization of a pre-Christian winter rite, others see its origin in the "tree of Paradise" used as a prop in the medieval mystery plays that were given on 24 December, which as well as being Christmas Eve is in some countries the day of the liturgical commemoration and name day of Adam and Eve. To suggest the Garden of Eden, a tree decorated with apples (to represent the forbidden fruit) and wafers (to represent the Eucharist and redemption) was used as a setting for the play. Like the Christmas crib, the Paradise tree was later placed in homes. The apples were replaced by round objects such as shiny red balls.

The modern Christmas tree originated in western Germany. The main prop of a popular medieval play about Adam and Eve was a fir tree hung with apples (paradise tree) representing the Garden of Eden. The Germans set up a paradise tree in their homes on December 24, the religious feast day of Adam and Eve. They hung wafers on it (symbolizing the host, the Christian sign of redemption); in a later tradition, the wafers were replaced by cookies of various shapes. Candles, too, were often added as the symbol of Christ. In the same room, during the Christmas season, was the Christmas pyramid, a triangular construction of wood, with shelves to hold Christmas figurines, decorated with evergreens, candles, and a star. By the 16th century, the Christmas pyramid and paradise tree had merged, becoming the Christmas tree.

The tradition still persists that Christmas trees should not be decorated until Christmas Eve. Legends attribute the invention of the Christmas tree instead to Saint Boniface (c. 680 - 755), the Apostle of the Germans, and to Martin Luther. However the Christmas Tree came to be, it is usually the focal point of modern day Christmas decorating.



Harbor Pointe Marina would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>. Our New Year's closure will be Thursday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>. **We will also be closed for training from January 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>.**



**Thank you for another great year and we look forward to seeing you next year!!!!**

**\*\*Winter hours start January 1, 2021. We will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm and closed Saturday and Sunday. March 1, 2021, we will start back to our normal business hours 7 days a week.\*\***

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# DECEMBER

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 SWRA Board Meeting 9:00 AM	9 ARC Meeting 4:00 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 SWRA Office CLOSED	22 SWRA Office CLOSED	23 SWRA Office CLOSED	24 Christmas Eve SWRA Office CLOSED	25 Christmas SWRA Office CLOSED	26	27
28 2021 Annual SWRA Invoices Mailed	29	30	31			

Please contact the SWRA office concerning use of the Community Room during COVID-19 Restrictions

“THE SWRA OFFICE IS STILL PRACTICING COVID 19 GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FACE MASK REQUIREMENTS.”





# StillWaters Residential Directory

If you would like your name, your Stillwaters address, and telephone numbers(up to two) in the directory please complete the following:

PLEASE PRINT

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

StillWaters Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers \_\_\_\_\_

Property owners are not automatically listed in the StillWaters directory; you must complete the directory information form and return it to the SWRA office to have your name included in the directory. Property owners that were in the 2020 directory do not need to complete an information form unless their information has changed.

# ADVERTISEMENT SECTION

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Safety Protocol ~ Due to the advanced ages and vulnerability of most of our resident's, we currently recommend either porch visits, to include all persons wear masks & maintain six foot distancing, or that resident's be picked up and taken off site for family visits. Resident's who drive can come and go as needed, but safety guidelines are recommended. Until a vaccine is available, we must limit in house visits to resident's and medical professionals only.

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# knect FITNESS

# is now OPEN!

Lake Martin's first gym opened its doors on December 1st, welcoming many from the community who had been patiently waiting for opening day! Located next to Jim's Pharmacy on HWY 49, just past the Stillwater's main entrance, Knect Fitness offers 24 hour access, Life Fitness equipment, and group classes coming soon! Opening a gym has been a lifelong dream of mine. With 25 years of group fitness experience, I saw the need at Lake Martin for a gym and hit the ground running with plans. After 2 years of planning and building, seeing our first members walk through the door on opening day was surreal.

In addition to the typical offerings of a gym, Knect will hold monthly socials for its members. Our mission here is to create community through active lifestyles + fellowship, "knecting" people through socials and workouts.

Stop in for a tour and let us help you give the gift of fitness + fellowship for Christmas!

Bless another,

*Holly Keel*

CONTACT US! [INFO@KNECTFITNESS.COM](mailto:INFO@KNECTFITNESS.COM)