



BURNING ISSUES

www.burnthickorylakes.com

www.allinonemgmt.com/communities.html

April 2014

Hurricanes are a 'Coming!

It is with a certain amount of pride that we are pleased to announce that the Burnt Hickory Lakes Swim Team – the Hurricanes, will be supported this year.

When you look back at the history of this team, they have enhanced the reputation of BHL and brought folks together in support of the team and neighborhood. Many of you forged friendships with your neighbors because of your child's involvement with the team.

The Swim Team volunteer base is one of our strongest neighborhood assets. Volunteers are what make this neighborhood work.

Currently, we are tackling the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance issues and believe we have a solution. This is very complicated with folks having as many opinions as there are people to express them. Your board has accepted personal responsibility to work through these issues to find success.

There have been a couple of other changes to the team's program. One of the conditions we gave to them was that any damage caused to any homeowner by people parking on their property will be the responsibility of the Swim Team to correct. They agreed and are posting a performance bond to cover this potential. If any of you suffer damage from someone parking on your property, let us know, and we will correct it. Make sure you document it.

Second, we obtained a separate competitive team insurance policy because the BHL normal liability policy did not

cover these teams. The cost will be jointly shared by the swim and tennis programs on a pro-rated basis. All teams will be treated equally, and fairly, and will be responsible for assuming all additive costs to the neighborhood from their programs.

Swim Team Sign Ups

Sign-ups for the Hurricanes will be on **Friday, April 11th** from **5 to 7 pm** at the Clubhouse. Priority will always go to BHL residents and their children.



Swim team begins **Monday, May 12th** after school. Summer schedule begins **Friday, May 23rd!**

First swim meet is **Tuesday, May 27th** because of Memorial Day. The other four meets are Monday evenings! Season will be done by the end of June.

More info at registration! Because of our successful season, the team is back in the Gold division! Our team won the Silver division last summer! If you are age 5-18 and are a beginner (must swim a lap) to an advanced swimmer then BHL Hurricanes has a spot for you!

There is also a spot for adults who would like to volunteer their time as summer swim team coordinator/board members! Looking forward to a fun, fast swimming summer!:) Go Hurricanes!

Any questions: bhlhurricanesst@gmail.com or Mary Kalafut 770-428-8073

President's Corner

As our neighborhood ages, it gets younger too. When you look at the folks who have moved in during this past year, they all have younger children.

As some of us grow older, our houses – with 3-4 bedrooms and multiple bathrooms, appeal to these families. And, we are very fortunate to have excellent school system serving us.

We don't have to be the biggest to be the best, but let me encourage you to do your best to maintain you property. I have a firm belief that with clearly communicated standards, and given understanding, people will do the right thing.

At the upcoming Town Hall, we will discuss these expectations of each homeowner – based on the covenants and design standards. I would encourage you to attend. Since we don't have an Architectural Control Committee, the board has taken on these responsibilities. I understand in the past that this has caused conflict in the neighborhood. We will try to be as fair and consistent as we can, but we will govern according to the rules. This includes ourselves. It takes a minimum of three of us to make a decision.

One of the first changes you will see in the violation letters is that we will specifically cite the paragraph that you are in violation of. Then, you will be held accountable for fixing it. When each of us purchased our homes, we agreed in writing to live by the ACC covenants.

At the end of April, we will be doing an assessment of each yard here. We will be looking for fresh pine straw or chips, mailbox condition, lawn condition, and paint. If you are doing a good job, we will tell you so.

Some repairs can be expensive – e.g., a sunken driveway, sinkhole or painting your house. OK, got it, but if that's the case, what is your plan to fix the issue.

We will explain the process how you can reclama your violation letter if you choose to. If not, the expectation is that you will fix the issue.

I was very encouraged by the burst of activity following the first weekend of good weather a few weeks ago. People here really want to do the right thing. I've seen more pine straw spread in the last couple of weeks that I've ever seen before. Trees are being removed and driveways are being repaired.

Keep up the good work. We all benefit together!

Terry Spoon, President

Curb Appeal!

Curb Appeal is so important to a buyer and for property values. It is the first impression a seller gets, whether it is good or bad. So, as a seller, grab those buyers from the moment they drive up! As a homeowner, enjoy your curb appeal!

But what is curb appeal? Is it the house or the landscaping? Actually it is both of them.

So, lets start with the landscaping and this applies to both the front yard and back yard. Manicured lawns, trees limbed up and bushes cut to the proper height and width are essential. Any dead plants or trees should be removed. Anything that is overgrown detracts from the look of the home. Placement of trees, shrubs and plants are also essential.

Planting should be done so that the house can be seen. That is very important for curb appeal. For example, no trees should be planted in front of the entry way. I learned that the hard way by removing trees I actually planted by the front door. But once moved to a different location, it was well worth it!

Now, what about the house? Painting your home not only gives great curb appeal, but it also protects your home from the outside elements. Projects such as a new entry door, siding and window replacements can recoup homeowners more than 78 percent of costs upon resale. Replacing your front door with a steel entry will cost \$1,100 on average, but you'll get nearly 97% of what you spent back in your pocket. So curb appeal, is an investment as well.

Rule of thumb, as you drive through neighborhoods, even BHL, what houses grab your attention? More than likely the ones who have great landscaping and the ones that have been painted and had exterior upgrades done. If you drive through subdivisions that have higher price points than BHL, you will see that they all have one thing in common - great curb appeal.

Curb appeal is excellent way to keep property values up and when you are in a position to sell, that curb appeal will prove very beneficial. Remember though, as a homeowner, you get to enjoy the curb appeal as well and that is just as important!

If you have questions you would like me to address, just let me know!

Nancy Muhlbauer
RE/MAX Unlimited



BHL Tool Time – How I learned to love Poa Annua (not)

(A wiser neighbor than me said one day, “Well, you know the houses in our neighborhood are high-maintenance homes.”)

When I moved into BHL a little over 10 years ago, the house had been in foreclosure for over a year. I may not be the greatest person at keeping my house up in condition, but I like a good clean, weed-free lawn. Ten years later, I am still working on it.

My grass is Bermuda, and although it is a good tough grass, when it goes dormant, you can really see how effective your maintenance program is. The only green things are the weeds.

When I drive through the neighborhood, I can see how the rest of you are doing, and it gives me comfort to know that I am not alone. I have worked at this for 10 years – pulling, spot treating, area spraying, etc.

My personal favorite weed is Poa Annua or Annual Bluegrass. I can live with the occasional Dandelion, Dollar weed, and Onion Grass; but Poa Annua, no. It is my calling in life, my mission – to eradicate this weed. It ranks up there with fire ants.

Pre-emergent is applied early in the year at multiple times - spot-treatment follows. I scalp my lawn with three successively lower cuts in March, and aerate in April. Fertilizer begins as soon as one-half of the grass greens usually in April. Serious cutting begins in May. Still, I labor. HELP!

ZEON ZOYSIA. Another thing I've noticed on my drives through the neighborhood is that you can't grow Bermuda grass in the shade. Bermuda needs 6-8 hours of sun a day. If your lawn faces south, this should not be an issue, but with the numerous trees here, very few of us get the required amount of sun.

A neighbor of mine made the decision to take this problem on and after removing some pine trees, planted the Zoysia. Success! His lawn is a statement to man over nature. It is beautiful, weed-free, and has been that way for a couple of years.

Although this shade-tolerant grass can cost about 20% more than Bermuda, it is well worth the cost. If you are looking at your lawn and wondering what to do next – plant Zeon Zoysia. I know of another neighbor who planted it, and again, success!

Terry

Spruce Up Your Mailbox

For homeowners wanting to spruce up their mailboxes, a can of black Rustoleum goes a long way towards making the metal look new (don't forget to cover post and flag before you spray).

Wood filler, to seal cracks and prevent rot, along with BHL “Mailbox green” paint are available at Porter Paints. Go in with your neighbors on a quart can! Here is the mix, HAT TIP to Bob Muhlbauer:

Ppg Porter Paints VoC
PP649 Acri-shld SG Ext
ID: Burnt Hickory Lakes
Name: mailbox green

B 5Y32.000/48
C 1Y40.000/48
D 3Y24.000/48
W 4Y 0.000/48
Ultra deep base

Easter Egg Hunt

Spring has sprung and it is time for the Easter Bunny to pay a visit to BHL!

We are planning an Easter egg hunt on **Sat., April 19 at 2pm.**

By **April 18** please drop off one dozen plastic eggs per child filled with a treat or toy and put a sheet along with the eggs with the following information: name of child, age of child, address, phone.

Please drop eggs at the front door of 1343 Daphne Lane. Thanks!

Patricia Payton

BHL Community-Wide Town Hall

We will conduct a BHL community Town Hall for two hours on **Monday, April 21st at 7:00 pm** in the Clubhouse. The agenda will include: your Board, the Swim Team reinstatement decision, Architectural Control and standards revision, and an open discussion.

Light refreshments will be served. Come and voice your opinion, we want to hear from you.

BHL Annual Garage Sale

This year's garage sale will be on **Saturday, April 26th** starting at 8 am until 2 pm. (rain or shine) As always, signs will be placed at both entrances and local newspapers will be notified. Place balloons on your mailbox to indicate your sale, as well as directional signs leading to your location.

You have the option of donating leftover items to the **American Kidney Services**, and they will start to come



by after 2:00 pm to pick up donations. They will accept small household items, toys, books, stuffed animals and clothing. They will NOT pick up appliances or furniture.

Place the items on the curb by the mailbox with a sign saying "**AKS**" and they will leave a tax receipt in your mailbox.

****PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE LARGE ITEMS!!****

AKS would like to know ahead of time who plans on leaving items so they can look for your house. Please email Nancy O'Reilly your address, so she can forward it to them by **April 18**. Her email is nnancynemo@aol.com

Pool Opening

The BHL Pool will open on **Saturday, May 10th**.

Wristbands will be issued on **Saturday, May 3rd** between 10-12, and **Friday, May 9th** between 5-7 pm. They will also be issued opening day. Other than that, they will be issued by arrangement only. Contact any board member to coordinate this.

ALL RESIDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR WRISTBANDS TO GAIN ADMITTANCE TO THE POOL AREA.

BHL families are limited to **4** guests per household (unaccompanied BHL minors are allowed **2** guests). If you have a special circumstance, please contact a Board member to gain approval first. There will be a replacement charge for lost wristbands.

We will ask every homeowner to sign a Pool Rules Agreement document prior to issuing the wristbands. If you would like to review them in advance, they are listed on the BHL website:

www.burnthickorylakes.com/pool.html

If you are not current on your semi-annual assessment, we will not issue your wristbands until your account is cleared up. For anyone that is renting here, please get with your landlord and see who is responsible for paying the assessments and make sure they are current.

Burnt Hickory Lakes Swim Team practices and meets will have priority for use of the pool. Pool and Lifeguard hours are still being finalized, but will be posted under the Pool Calendar on www.burnthickorylakes.com. Look for it by May.

Last Day of School Party

Kick off a great and fast summer with our annual Last Day of School party on **Wednesday, May 21!** The fun starts at 4:00 and winds down around 6:30 pm. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Adult Pool Party

Mark **Sat., June 7th** on your calendar for an Adult Social at the BHL Pool.

Food, drinks, and entertainment will be provided. Wear your swim suit and bring a towel.

Gates open at 6:00 with food served from 6:30 to 8:30. This will be an RSVP event with a nominal up charge to cover additional costs.



Flyers with more information will be distributed for you to respond.

The BHL Book Club

BHL Book Club meets every third Thursday of the month, 7pm at the Clubhouse. We are a very informal group, and would like anyone interested to come join us.

Everyone is welcome to bring their favorite book selections! Please email Debbie Ebers at ebersd@bellsouth.net for any other questions or info.

Men's Poker Night

Men's Poker Night every first Thursday of the month at Clubhouse. Come at **7 pm** for drinks, setup, and conversation and the game begins at **8**.

Football on the big screen! Bring some food and drink to share and meet your neighbors!

Men of Mars Hill

Fellowship – Bible Study – Community Outreach

Please come and check out the Men of Mars Hill that meets every Saturday morning at the Clubhouse at 7:30 am for prayer, Bible study and fellowship. We wrap up by 9 am. All men are welcome.

John Zupancic --- johnzupancic.atl@gmail.com – Phone 678-333-4086

Chris Elmore ----celmore@mdaturbines.com - Phone 678-290-5005



Congratulations Seniors 2014!

Graduating Seniors

Do you have a Graduating Senior (high school or college) that you wish to have recognized on our Neighborhood Banners?

If so, please complete the attached form and return along with payment, cash or check, payable to **BHL HOA**. Please give to Suzanne Haynie at 1363 Peppergrass Trail no later than **Sunday, May 4th**. The cost is \$12 per family.

The banners will be placed at both entrances of the neighborhood around the middle of May.

Senior's Name:

(As it should appear on the Banner)

Senior's School:

Contact and Phone:
