

Fleetwood Focus

SUMMER 2011

Homeowners' Board of Directors

Vickilynne Westcott: *President*Nancy Haag: *Vice President*Judie Cottrell: *Secretary*Deborah Stroud: *Treasurer*Tim Weeks: *Member*



Management Company

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NOTES & THOUGHTS...

- Last year, everyone in the community had a copy of our Covenants & By Laws delivered to them in a folder which we asked be kept with house in the event of sale. Please let us know if you cannot find your copy. It is really helpful to new homeowners to have these at their disposal when they move to Fleetwood.
- After the storms we had this past spring and early summer, many residents found they had downed tree limbs and other yard debris to dispose of. Please note...the open area at the end of Parkwood Court, along Greenwood Drive at Fleet Drive, and the pond areas are all open, common ground. Please...do not use them as a dumping ground. They are open spaces in our neighborhood that the community pays to maintain, but that maintenance does not include picking up residents' yard litter. Such debris removal is the responsibility of each homeowner.



- Brush and leaf pick-up by Metro is scheduled for our area on the following dates: Sept. 27th, and January 23rd & May 16th, 2012. All leaves and grass clippings must be placed in biodegradable paper bags for collection. Leaves or grass clippings placed in plastic bags will not be picked up. Biodegradable paper lawn & leaf bags can be purchased at your grocery or hardware store. For more information, go to: www.nashville.gov/recycle/brush.asp
- Please note that we are also individually responsible for our mailbox upkeep. If your post is broken or seriously listing make arrangements to get it fixed. At a certain point, the Post Office can simply refuse to deliver your mail if the box or post is broken. And be sure you do not put any kind of advertisements or flyers on the mailboxes, either around Fleetwood or anywhere else for that matter. The Post Office takes a *very* dim view of that, and you could be fined for doing so!



- * War does not determine who is right -- only who is left.
- * We never really grow up; we only learn how to act in public.
- * How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

WHY WE ALL PAY ASSOCIATION DUES

With the economy as tight as it is (and has been), there are times when everyone wonders why we have HOA dues....just *what* do they pay for, anyhow?? Outside of the obvious - landscaping/mowing of common areas, pond maintenance, front lighting, electrical bills, etc. - there are some things happening right now that you may not be aware of.

- The brick wall that borders along Dodson Chapel has gotten rather ragged looking recently, mostly due to moss/mold build-up. We have contracted to have all this brick work pressure washed. Besides improving the appearance, washing will also help keep the brick from being eroded by mold growth. Part of the work has already been completed; the rest should follow shortly.
- Within the next year or so, it will again be time to re-surface our tennis court. This costs several thousand dollars which we need to have in our reserve fund to pay when the work is done.
- The front pond has some erosion issues on the far side by the wood fence. The Board is looking into just what will need to be done to keep that particular area of erosion from spreading.
- At the July Board, we decided it was time to invest some serious time, money, and effort on our somewhat bedraggled rear pond. The plan is to remove several of the trees back there and clear out a lot of the bushes surrounding the water. We are also looking into the possibility of filling in a small part of the pond in the far rear corner which stays shallow, and occasionally completely dries up. In time, we would ideally like this pond to become as attractive and inviting as the front one. Overall, the plan is ambitious and will probably have to be done in phases, spread out over a couple of years. Quotes and input are being solicited from several sources so we can plan accordingly, and to be sure what we want to do is feasible and within our financial means. Once we have a working plan in place, we will keep the neighborhood updated in future newsletters.

Now you have an idea of just where and how your dues are being spent, and why it is SO critical that you take paying these dues seriously. Some 85% of our residents do pay on time - and it is sincerely appreciated. If, on the other hand, you are in arrears, please contact the management company and make arrangements to get current.

Ultimately, our Homeowners' Association can only keep Fleetwood as attractive and welcoming as we, the homeowners, permit. No, not everyone uses the tennis court; not everyone notices the rear pond; not everyone pays attention to, or is even aware of, all the little things done around our development to make it look so nice. But Fleetwood is a package deal - ponds, tennis court, green spaces, and all. It's probably why most of us moved here to begin with. So please keep that in mind when writing your check for the HOA dues - we are all in this together!



YARD OF THE MONTH

As promised, our Yard of the Month awards began in April. Congratulations to the following winners for May, June, and July, and be sure to check the Fleetwood website to see pictures (FleetwoodHOA.com):

May: Dejyitnu Gabru at 3009 Lake Drive June: Deborah Harris at 209 Woodlawn Court July: Pamela Lee at 3500 Greenwood Drive

Congratulations to our 2011 winners thus far. We still have August, September, and October to award. So if you're hoping to be one of our very special residents to have the Yard of the Month sign in your yard, there's still three more chances this year! And remember, whether or not your home is picked, everyone in Fleetwood benefits from the beauty of well-kept yards!



OUTDOOR RENOVATIONS NEED AN ARCHICTURAL CHANGE REQUEST

Please remember, as you make exterior changes to your property you need to complete and obtain approval through *an architectural change form* for such changes, including nonconforming home renovations and roof colors and styles, extensive landscaping projects, and the addition of fences, pools, gazebos, and storage sheds. This form needs to be submitted to the Board for approval *before* work can begin. The Board endeavors to review all such requests in a timely manner so as not to delay your project. Architectural change forms can be obtained either in your house folder or on the internet at our website www.FleetwoodHOA.com

We would also ask property owners who make such changes to simply talk to your surrounding neighbors about what you're planning to do, especially if it might be disruptive to your nearby neighbors (e.g., noise during construction, construction vehicles or materials that may flow beyond your yard, or if you need access through a neighbor's yard to complete your pet project). Also, please be aware that you and/or your contractor could be liable for damage done to other properties. All our homes are very close to one another, and it's just common courtesy to keep your neighbors on the loop of your latest project.



EMAIL ADDRESSES FOR BOARD MEMBERS

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Should you decide to email a Board member, please be sure to put "FLEETWOOD" in the subject line so even if we do not recognize the sender, we will know that the email isn't spam and just delete it. And unless the email is of a personal nature, it's also a good idea to copy at least one other Board member and/or the management company, just in case your main email gets lost in cyberspace.

SUMMER PET CARE

Summer is here and people aren't the only ones to feel the effects of our very high temperatures. The following information from the ASPCA is offered to all our pet owners as a reminder to take extra care of their furry companions.

We all know dogs feel the heat—just take one look at your pooch's tongue hanging down to the ground, and you know he needs water, stat. But did you know that cats are prone to overheating and dehydration, too?

Those cats most at risk for dehydration are the ones who suffer from illnesses such as kidney disorders, cancer, or hyperthyroidism. Elderly and nursing cats are also prone to drops in fluid levels, as well as diabetic cats whose condition is not regularly monitored. Many cats may

not drink fluids until they've lost as much as 8% of their body's water stores. That's why it's very important to give your cat access to fresh water at all times to maintain proper hydration.

Here are some additional tips to keep kitty hydrated this summer:

- Change your cat's water bowl frequently to ensure freshness.
- Place multiple bowls of water around the house for easy access.
- Determine your cat's preference. Does he like tap or bottled water? Some cats prefer certain bowls or water fountains.
- On the road? Your cat should still have regular access to water, especially after flying.
- Monitor your cat's water intake. If you notice he is drinking more or less than usual, please see your veterinarian.

Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful to not over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot. Know the warning signs of overheating or heat stroke. Symptoms of overheating in pets include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. They can also include seizures, bloody diarrhea and vomit along with an elevated body temperature of over 104 degrees." Animals with flat faces, like Pugs and Persian cats, are more susceptible to heat stroke since they cannot pant as effectively. These pets, along with those that are elderly, overweight, or have heart or lung diseases, should be kept cool in air-conditioned rooms as much as possible.



<u>Never</u> leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. On a hot day, a parked car can become a furnace in no time, even with the windows open, which could lead to fatal heat stroke.

Commonly used flea and tick products, rodenticides (mouse and rat baits), and lawn and garden insecticides can be harmful to cats and dogs if ingested, so keep them out of reach. A good number to have on hand for poison emergencies is the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435.

Remember, with just a little extra care and common sense, our pets can all enjoy the summer months as much as we do!

One final thought...please be sure your pet has a collar with current I.D. tags. Even pets that are not "outside" pets have a way of escaping at times. A current ID tag will facilitate getting your buddy safely home. And if you haven't already done so, considering having your pet micro-chipped. This could save their life if they should wander far and get picked up by Animal Control.