

Ashborough Happenings

June 2009

Dear Ashborough Homeowner

A letter from the ACA President

Ed Coggins

As everyone hopefully knows, there has been a surge in criminal activities in the last few weeks. A lot of cars that have been left unlocked have become targets for perpetrators while some locked vehicles have had windows broken and items taken from the vehicle. The Dorchester County Sheriff's department has increased patrols throughout the neighborhood and has been successful in apprehending several individuals who have committed these criminal activities. Teddy Stalb has been working closely with the Sheriff's department and providing updates to the neighborhood via the ACN. If you are a victim of a crime, let Teddy know and keep your vehicles locked to reduce the chances of becoming a crime victim.

If you are not signed up for the ACN, please consider joining the ACN so that important information to all residents can be disseminated quickly. Right now, approximately 25% of Ashborough residents are signed up for the ACN.

There is an alligator that has taken up residence in Ashborough Lake. This particular alligator is between 6 and 8 feet long and does not exhibit fear of humans. SC DNR has provided the approval to have the alligator removed and a trapper is currently working to catch it. Once the alligator removal is complete, a communication will be sent out. Meanwhile, keep an eye out when you are close to the lake and give the alligator a wide berth.

As reported last month, there are some properties that need some yard maintenance. Article IX, Section 3, paragraph n of our Covenants and Restrictions require us to keep our property in good order and repair including lawn maintenance along with tree and shrub pruning. Take some time and perform the maintenance that your property needs. That maintenance will improve the appearance of your property and that of your neighbors as well. Remember to get ARB approval for exterior changes to your home. If you live along Dorchester Road, take a look at your fence and perform maintenance that is needed. There are some boards missing or just needing to be reattached. The Board is not asking anyone to make a large investment in their fence but merely to keep the fence in good repair. The appearance from Dorchester Road is very important to Ashborough and key to helping maintain our property values.

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ARB and Property Maintenance Philosophy

A message from the ARB Chair – Rick Krouse

Sorry for any inconvenience but the neighborhood will soon be experiencing an increase in notifications to correct covenant violations. These will be for not only the typical problems: boats, cars in the street overnight, garbage cans improperly stored, lawns not mowed, but will also include ARB items such as garage doors not finished to match the house, improper sheds, tree removal without permits, etc. This article is to let you know and give you a chance to 'get ahead of the curve'.

Why? As our neighborhood grows older it has been going through slow natural changes. In many respects it's becoming more desirable – grand trees, mature plantings-like a fine wine. But the aging is bringing new issues. Some residents, old and new alike, have expressed concern that the board should be more proactive in protecting our property values and the aesthetics that make us Ashborough.

Guidelines- With respect to these concerns we will be using the following guidelines to help make judgments concerning property changes and maintenance. Basically, the guideline is the golden rule: **Do unto your neighbors as you would have them do to you.**

1. If the requested change to an owner's property were to be instituted throughout the subdivision- would the property values of Ashborough likely go up or down. If the answer is down, then the request would be denied. We don't feel we have the right to grant changes for individual homeowners where the proposed change would have a negative effect on Ashborough if everyone were allowed to do the same things. That would be favoritism.

Example 1: A homeowner wants to cover his front yard with gravel to cut down on yard care. If all Ashborough residents were to gravel their yards, property values would suffer. We would deny permission.

Example 2: A homeowner wants to remove a tree from their yard and even has Dorchester County approval.

An important part of the value of Ashborough is the large lots with mature trees. If one person can remove important trees then all could. We would strive to compromise - if none could be reached we would have to deny permission.

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As reported previously, there are a few properties that still have not paid their assessments so the Board has begun the process of filing liens on those properties.

The Facilities Maintenance team and lots of neighborhood volunteers have been hard at work taking care of much need maintenance needs and really making a big difference in the appearance of Ashborough. With summer being here, people going on vacation, and the temperature being hot, the next Neighborhood Work Day will be held this fall. The Facilities Maintenance Team will be posting a list of maintenance items on the Ashborough website for those hearty neighbors who are tolerant of the summertime heat here in the Lowcountry. If there is a task on the list that gets taken care of, please let Steve Jolly know so the website can be updated accordingly.

As always, the Board welcomes your suggestions and input to make our neighborhood a great place to live. Thank you for your time! Ed

Pool and Civic Building Updates

Tonya Mantooth

What a great start to summer break. The pool opens and we can dip our toes for refresher to cool off from the heat. With use of the pool for the summer comes a few reminders from the pool committee. Please be respectful of your volunteers and dispose of your waste properly. The community does not have a cleaning crew following behind us to make certain we stay neat and tidy. It is through volunteer efforts that the trash is removed and the pool stays clean. Please do your part. The trash bins at the civic building remain there for use by the pool and civic building. If you have extra trash, boxes or broken chairs, it needs to be taken to the Dorchester County Dump. Each household should have received a permit for use of the waste facility.

Everyone needs to review the pool rules sent to each home. Only people eighteen or older may use swim at your own risk. Recently, there have been several incidents where children were swimming without an attendant. Pool disciplinary actions will be taken with those who continue to violate this rule. Remember, if you are eighteen and over and using the pool after hours lockup when you leave. This deters vandalism and keeps youngsters out of the pool without supervision. The pool is closed daily from 11:00pm to 5:00am

2. If the requested change would negatively affect the property values or ‘livability’ of an immediate neighbor, then the request would be denied. Long ago we had a policy of asking a resident whether they objected to their neighbor making specific modifications. Residents have told us they have been uncomfortable in speaking out against proposed changes - attempting to be a “good neighbor”. Recent boards have been making these decisions without pitting neighbor against neighbor.

Example: a request is made for a storage shed that, by itself, does not reduce the property values of the neighborhood. However, if the requested location of the shed is out of the normal line of sight of the owner (they don’t want to have to look at it) but it is an eyesore to the next door neighbor, the site location would not be approved.

3. If property is in such need of maintenance that adjacent property values are being affected then corrective action needs to be taken. If the condition of your neighbor’s property makes it more difficult for you to sell your house- you’ve got a problem. This is especially important during the current economic downturn with many foreclosures in progress. The board needs to take an active role in bringing property maintenance up to standard.

Example: shingles sliding off the roof, dangling shutters, broken yard ornaments, yard care significantly below the neighborhood average, etc.

Covenants and Restrictions Letters sent Year-to-Date

Trash cans/Debris in view	13
Yard/Lawn Maintenance Required	8
Improper Boat/Trailer Parking	8
Parking on grass	3
Unauthorized Greenhouse	1
Company Sign in Yard	1
Wood pile in view	1
Animals	1
Excessive time for POD on property	1
Plastic play structure	1

Yard of the Month

**Mike & Lori Pangburn
406 Mayfield St.**

**Congratulations and Thanks so much
for all of the hard work.**

Crime Watch Update

By **Teddie Stalb**

June 12, 2009. 7:26 PM. In the midst of typing this article, I received a call from Lt. Finney of the Dorchester County Sheriff's Department (DCSD). This afternoon, arrests were made of two juvenile and two adults in conjunction with the auto break-ins in Ashborough and surrounding neighborhoods. More arrests are pending as the result of persistent, good police work.

Since Easter, there have been twelve reported auto break-ins, mostly in Section six, far side of the lake, and on Lakeview Drive. Several autos were entered through smashed windows, but most were unlocked. Larger valuable items were left in favor of cell phones, satellite radios, iPods, etc. and materials that could be used for identity theft.

At the June 9, 2009, Board of Directors meeting, Detectives Cheek and Morrelli, of the (DCSD), updated residents on the considerable progress made toward the apprehension of suspects who have worked the Dorchester Road corridor. DCSD now has detectives on night duty and increased patrols using marked and unmarked cars.

The detectives made the following suggestions. LOCK your car doors, do not leave valuables in sight or better yet, remove them from the car, install motion sensor lights and set the switch in your car that allows the longest possible time that the interior lights will remain on after the doors have been opened. Unmarked cars do not have spotlights. Patrolling officers look for cars with lit interior lights. Do not try to apprehend suspects, call 911 if incident is in progress, or if after the fact, 873-5111.

There are steps that you can take to help in recovery or tracking of stolen satellite radios. Make a note of your radio ID number, which can be found in your online account, or on channel 01. Notify the satellite radio company. If the "new owner" tries to reactivate that radio, Sirius will give an investigative lead to police.

Thanks to the Ashborough Community Network,(ACN), we were quickly able to let residents know that a representative of DCSD planned to attend the board meeting. Please help us to quickly send out Ashborough news by adding your name to the ACN at Brent.Stewart@citadel.edu.

Following a criminal incident and after you have called DCSD, Ashborough Crime Watch coordinator, Teddie Stalb, can be reached between 9AM and 9PM at 843-873-6043 or by Email, tanddstalb@yahoo.com. Also notify the Ashborough HELP line 875-5841 and the ACN at Brent.Stewart@citadel.edu.

Residents are enjoying the new trail area, but already the hard work of volunteers has been damaged by vandalism. The walking paths are a wonderful recreational amenity that needs to be used with care and respect by residents of all ages. Please discuss this situation with your family.

The driver of a metallic "mocha brown" pickup was observed speeding down Lakeview Dr. Several teens were riding in the back, one on the bumper. Have you seen this vehicle being driven in a like manner? Try to get the license number and call 911. We have gone through the death of one teen after she fell from the bed of a moving truck and a fatal accident following swim practice when an air borne car struck a pine tree, again on Lakeview Dr.



Don't forget our 4th of July Bash. Check out www.ashborough.org for all the details. It should be great time for all ages.

**Did you know that we have a
Neighborhood blog?**

www.ashborough.org

Check it out! It's a great place to post your items for sale, advertise for your business etc.. If you would like an ad placed on the website contact Angela at webmaster@ashborough.org for consideration.

A BOY AND HIS MOWER

Hi I am Kyle Ball, I'm 15 years old and I've been cutting lawns in Ashborough since I was 12. I've cut over 49 lawns in the Ashborough neighborhood. Yearlong mowing, weeding, trimming, aerating, small tree removal. No jobs to small.

Hourly rate for jobs using non gas tools but for the most part I charge a set price between \$20 to \$60.

Give me a call at 609-7492 or 821-7771

I live in Ashborough

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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