



**Staghorn Plantation Estates
Homeowners Association**
P.O. Box 267
Nicholson, GA 30565

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS DECEMBER 2021

I'm pleased again to have the opportunity to update you on things going on in our community. I hope my thoughts are helpful to you. So here is your December Newsletter.

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

How did Christmas become such a busy time? I find myself rushing just to keep up with all of life's activities. Whether you are single, parents or grandparents you know how important those relationships with friends and family are to your life. And we have to be so careful about what we say to keep those relations strong.

Sitting around the Thanksgiving table after dinner with just the three of us, my son began a conversation that upset my daughter. He started a political discussion telling me about how terrible some of thing's AOC had done. My daughter, who is completely apolitical, was partially listening and got upset and totally confused. She knew "Athens **Orthopedic Clinic**" had helped so many people including her mother. It is so easy to be misunderstood.

In a community like ours it is not difficult for things to be confusing. Especially when we may remember things said in the past that have no relevance today. As an Association, we have no great ambitions to develop a large surplus of funds. It is a different world now and our goal is simply to live within our means and pay our bills. That's just the way it is.

It will soon be Christmas. When it gets a little closer to Christmas, Susan and I will drive through our neighborhood looking at all the great Christmas decorations. Even our wonderful woods can't hide the bright lights at Christmas. Our Christmas Tree of Lights will be visible again to those driving along Hwy 335.

I read that the Staghorn **Polar Express** ride for children in PJs will take place on December 19, 2021 at 5:00. Contact Cindy Lacey for the details at 850-723-9223.

BRINGING VALUE TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

At our Association Board of Directors meeting yesterday evening, we had a good talk about the Associations financial situation. Things have gone from extremely bleak to almost manageable. What that means is we can barely keep our street lights on, maintain the monuments and mow the lawn. We would like to do so much more than this.

Wouldn't it be fun to celebrate the completion of the Staghorn Lake dam spillway repair? We thought maybe we could have an **All-Night Pig Roast** and follow that with a daylong fishing competition along with kayak races. You all deserve a huge party!

What if we did things like sponsor a **Community Garage Sale** at all our homes. The Associate could promote it in local papers and maybe put signs in merchant windows. What

about having an **Easter Egg Hunt** in April? It would be so much fun to see the kids of all ages enjoying this event. We have talked about a **Veterans Day** event. Cheryl Martin has accumulated lots of flags to place at our monuments and we'd love to have a party for those who have served our nation. How about starting an **Exercise Class** with a qualified instructor in the Recreation Center? Dues paying residents would pay a small monthly fee for joining and participating.

The possibilities are endless as long as we can pay our bills. That's where you come in. We need your support. **If you haven't paid your \$300 dues or use fee, after January 10, 2022 your Access Card to the Recreation Center will be deactivated** and that would be a bad thing. Please don't let that happen.

NEW NEIGHBORS

I continue to correspond with some of our new neighbors. We seem to have gone through a lot of property ownership changes since COVID-19 changed our lives. One of our new neighbors asked me in an email, where she could find Staghorn Lake. That's not as strange as you might think. I volunteered to pick her up and take her to the Recreation Center for a tour. I haven't heard back from her yet.

Anyway, the Association needs to do a better job of meeting the needs of new neighbors. We talked about having a **Meet and Greet Time** for new neighbors to come to the Recreation Center and perhaps meet local landscapers, painters, and maybe even doctors and dentists. I need some feedback on all this at craig.gieler@gmail.com.

LIFE IS SHORT – LIVE IT TO ITS FULLEST

We lost a great man this past week, Kansas Senator, Robert Dole. He was a man who lived his life to the fullest even after experiencing life changing injuries during World War II. He was respected by all those who knew him as a man with a strong belief in God and the belief that we all should be treated with respect. At his recent funeral the following poem by Linda Ellis was read. He loved to quote it during his life. It is "The Dash" poem.

"I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend. He referred to the dates on the tombstone from the beginning... to the end. He noted that first came the date of birth and spoke of the following date with tears, but he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time they spent alive on earth and now only those who loved them know what that little line is worth. For it matters not, how much we own, the cars... the house... the cash. What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.

So, think about this long and hard; are there things you'd like to change? For you never know how much time is left that still can be rearranged. To be less quick to anger and show appreciation more and love the people in our lives like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile... remembering that this special dash might only last a little while. So, when your eulogy is being read, with your life's actions to rehash, would you be proud of the things they say about how you lived your dash?"

Craig Gieler VP