



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

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS JANUARY 2021

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday season. Let me bring you up to date on some things happening in our community and neighboring cities.

From Possibilities to Reality

Although the final numbers are not in yet, it appears that many Staghorn homeowners waited until December to pay their dues. What that means is that with some additional donations, we may have enough money to do some things. We might be able to offer members an **Easter Egg Hunt**. It looks like we may even have a resident willing to offer **Exercise Classes** at the recreation center for a small fee. If you have any activities or events you would like, give me a shout at craig.gieler@gmail.com and let me know your thoughts.

Slowing Speeders on Waterworks Road

Vicki Long sent a letter to State Representative Tommy Benton requesting his guidance in assisting us in getting the speed limit on Waterworks Road from Hwy 335 to Courtland Road changed from 55 mph to 45 mph. This is a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, densely populated, stretch of road. Staghorn residents along Waterworks have complained about drivers speeding through their neighborhood on their way to East Jackson Schools. Now the density issue is compounded by construction of over forty

new homes located off of Courtland Road near Cabin Creek Road. Tommy has responded to our request and suggests we work with the county to get this resolved.

Impact of COV-19 on Our Community

Jamie Scott Lewis, a local businessmen and Staghorn resident, died of COVID-19 at Piedmont Athens Regional Center on December 27, 2021. He leaves a wonderful wife, Christy Keasler Lewis and three children, Ansleigh, Casey and Brycen. You may recall that Jamie operated Diversified Lifts and Hydraulics located in Nicholson near the city offices. It is a real tragedy to lose such a fine neighborhood friend. Over 240 Jackson Co. residents have died of COVID-19.

It is hard to know what to think about Covid especially with the **surge in Omicron** version of the virus. I am currently recovering from Omicron and I was vaccinated three times. Based upon what I have read, I think it is fair to say that Omicron is still severe enough that it can lead to debilitating illness and death for some unvaccinated people.

Omicron is milder than earlier versions of the virus. It attacks your nose and throat. Delta attacks your lungs. Most Americans face little personal risk from Omicron once vaccinated. So, my suggestion which you

may agree or disagree with is get vaccinated even if you still might get the virus.

Even if the impact of Omicron is similar to the flu or a cold, the Staghorn HOA decided that it was wise to move the Homeowner's meeting to **February 10, 2022**. Covid Omicron may have peaked by then as it has in South Africa and England. Who knows? We may have to schedule a Zoom meeting.

New Services in Commerce

As reported in the December Newsletter, we are looking for ways to help new homeowners unfamiliar with our area. Two new service businesses had expressed a possible interest in visiting with our community. That's not possible because of Covid. So, my thought was it only makes sense to present them to you through our newsletter.

Sassafras Salon & Co. 2 is owned by Whitney Sharpton and is located at 1668 South Broad Street in Commerce. Whitney is a highly successful entrepreneur and in August opened her second beauty salon with her original business located in Jefferson. Her four stylists are inflation fighters offering such things as men's haircuts for \$15. They are Melonie Johnson, Ansleigh Hughes, Spencer Newman and Kylie Nunn. Call 706-335-9010 for an appointment or visit [Facebook.com/Sassafrassalonandco](https://www.facebook.com/Sassafrassalonandco).

U&M Family Eye Care Commerce led by Dr. Umar Ishaque, a highly trained specialist in eye disease, moved his extensive practice in mid-November 2021 from the Walmart Shopping Center to 1871 N Elm Street in

Commerce. His staff of four well qualified optometrists offer routine eye exams, comprehensive medical exams, and low vision evaluations. Dr. Ishaque provides help to stop the progression of myopia, also known as nearsightedness, before it leads to retinal diseases and even blindness. He also can provide visual assistance to patients with severe macular degeneration with a biopics telescope that fits on a person's glasses. Call 706-981-1122 or visit umeyecare.com.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Many years ago, when I was new to Staghorn, I hired two Hispanics to help me solve an erosion problem on my property. Digging a deep hole was hard work and we needed an extra shovel. I happened to see my next-door neighbor outside and asked if I could borrow a shovel. She agreed and got it. Unfortunately, it broke. When the project was done, I brought her a brand-new shovel and brought it to her.

When she opened the door, she had a shocked look on her face. She didn't want the new shovel. She wanted the old broken one. You see she was still grieving the loss of her husband. That old shovel was more valuable than I could ever have imagined.

I may have learned an important lesson. Don't just assume you know your neighbors. Sit down across the table from them and understand their needs. We'd like Staghorn to be one great caring community. I hope you share that vision.

Craig Gieler VP