



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

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

September 2022

There are lots of good things to report this month.

Eyes on Staghorn Program

The safety and security of our neighborhood remains a top priority at Staghorn. We are looking for volunteers to join the “**Eyes on Staghorn**” program. Mobility is an important component of the program. If you have a golf cart or just love to walk your dog, you are an ideal candidate for the program.



We just want you to stay on the street but be aware of things happening around you and report anything unusual to the Staghorn Security Committee. There will be more details on this program next month. Email me at craig.gieler@gmail.com if you can help.

Tips on Keeping Safe

There are some things that you can do to protect your individual safety.

- Leave a light turned on using a timer at night to ward off intruders;
- Set up a routine to make sure all doors and windows are locked at night;
- Let your neighbors know when you expect to be out of town;
- Ask neighbors to pick up unexpected deliveries when you are on vacation;
- Keep your garage door closed when it is not in use;
- Hang curtains or install blinds to block the view into your home;
- Report strange vehicles parked near your home;
- Make sure your kids don't overshare your plans on social media.

New Recreational Facility Rules

A committee of Staghorn residents have worked over the past two months to develop comprehensive Recreation Facility rules. Members are **Jenn Webb, Mark Harrell, Pam McGee and Tina Strobel**. The purpose of these new guidelines is to ensure your safety while using our facilities and to avoid unnecessary problems and misunderstandings.

I have included their document for your review. We'll vote on it later in our next mailing to you.

Restocking Staghorn Lake

At the September 8, 2022 Staghorn Plantation Estates HOA Board Meeting, **Carla Fowler** reported that the funds needed for completing the repair of Staghorn dam spillway were lower than anticipated. We didn't need to put more rocks at the base of the creek side of the dam. So, there was \$19,971.74 of our original \$181,868.44 that could be applied to restocking the lake with fish. Fish restocking costs are estimated at \$14,000.

As reported in last month's issue, Carla Fowler is working with lake specialists from UGA and **Greg Pittman** of the Jackson County Extension Services. Picking the right supplier of fish is such a concern that UGA College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences has a very small list of highly recommended vendors throughout Georgia. Locally two qualified to be on the list. Carla got quotes from both and selected **Garrett Pond Resources**. When she checked with others locally who have supplied fish in the past, they also gave Garrett very high marks.

What are the Next Steps?

Carla received approval from the SPEHOA to move forward with restocking the lake as early as October 2022.

In the next 60 days 35,000 1–2-inch **Brim**, mostly Bluegills will be added to the lake. You may recall that Bluegill were the largest portion of our fish population before the lake was lowered.

Bluegills will grow to about 10 inches or less and are considered the top choice among the sunfish family for cooking and taste quality. *See the picture.*



In May 2023, 1,500 1-2 inch **Large-Mouth Bass** will be added to the lake. They are a fun sport fish and are a predator of the Bluegills. Large-Mouth Bass easily adapt to lakes and ponds and tolerate both hot and cold-water temperatures.

To aid in the growth of the bass population about 8,000 **Threadfin Shad** will also be added in May 2023. In the Fall of 2023, 1,000 **Crappie** will be added. They are very popular with recreational fisherman.

Management of Restock Program

The SPEHOA approved a one-year agreement, to pay **Garrett Pond Resources** \$1,750 plus supplies to be our lake manager. They will come and treat the swim areas for weeds and also feed the fish as needed.

This was a “no brainer” since all of our sources said that the first year is a delicate time for the survival and growth of fish. Funds will come from the money left over from the Staghorn Dam spillway repair shortfall.

So, the good news is we can now focus on using your annual dues payments for much needed community improvements. Please email me those improvements on the top of your list at craig.gieler@gmail.com.

Craig Gieler VP