

#### YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS March 2024

### Volunteer for Staghorn Work Day

You can make a difference in this community by just giving up one morning to assist in keeping our community beautiful. Join us on either **March 23, 2024** or as a backup April 13, 2024 from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM to beautify our Staghorn community



*Please bring tools like electric trimmers, chain saws, rakes, rags, buckets and gloves.* 

We plan on doing such things as trimming shrubbery around the recreation center, entrance and lake, opening the bath house, cleaning signs, and repairing or replacing the fences at our parking areas. We even plan on washing down your mail boxes if we have enough volunteers.

## **Protecting Your Property Helps Us All**

As you know there was recently a tragic loss of life of a UGA student in Athens. Crime is here to stay. Nicholson, Georgia is 13.1 miles from the center of Athens, Georgia. The crime rate in Athens is high at 48.72 per 1,000 residents in a year.

**Could you be the victim of crime?** By protecting your home and personal property you are helping all of us from becoming the victims of crime. 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.

Please follow the above recommended safety steps to protect us all.

# Eyes on Staghorn Safety Program

At Staghorn it takes residents who care that make us more than just a place to live. These are people that are actively working on your behalf behind the scenes to make our neighborhood a better place to live. One way to care for each other is through the **EYES ON STAGHORN** program.



Mark Harrell SPEHOA Security Chairperson

I'd like to introduce you to **Mark Harrell**, one of our Staghorn Community Leaders. For the past year, Mark has led an organization of volunteers that provide an addition layer of protection in our community.

What is Eyes on Staghorn? Eyes on Staghorn is a Neighborhood Watch program that focuses on providing a way for community residents to be vigilant by reporting things they believe need to be addressed on their street.

Who is Involved in the Program? There is a resident on your street that keeps a watch out for you and reports things to Mark Harrell, SPEHOA Security Chair.

What Do They Report? Eyes on Staghorn volunteers recognize potential problems that might make you vulnerable to crime or property damage.

Volunteers can report garage doors being left open on a regular basis which is a security hazard. They may notice no lights on in your home. They will not go onto your property, just observe things from the street.

They also observe things happening around you like street lights that are out, strange cars parked near your property or branches leaning toward your driveway or street.

What Else Does Eyes on Staghorn Do? Mark has an active video camera surveillance program that protects the Staghorn Recreation Area. Violators are reported to the Jackson County Police Department and will be prosecuted.

How Do I Volunteer to Serve as Part of Eyes on Staghorn? You can join the Eyes on Staghorn Safety Program by contacting Mark by calling 404-444-5438 or emailing <u>mch2881@gmail.com</u>.

#### Homer Bryson Joins SPEHOA as VP

I am pleased to report that Homer Bryson volunteered to be Vice President of the SPEHOA and was unanimously accepted by the HOA Board of Directors.

Homer served as the Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources from January 1983 until his retirement. Homer was well respected by those in the community and government for his ability to work well with others and his willingness to lead by example.

Craig Gieler – Secretary SPEHOA