



The Charleston Villager

Check out our website at <http://www.charlestonvillage.org>

From the Board of Directors

Greetings from the Board of Directors! We are so thrilled to have our newsletter up and running again. BIG thanks to MaryAnn Gunshefski for her willingness to take up this task for the neighborhood.

There have been some recent changes to the Board of Directors. Donna Mullis, who served as President of the Charleston Village Board of Directors, unfortunately is moving away from the neighborhood and resigned from the Board effective Feb. 1. Thank you Donna for your service to our community! On Feb. 1, Michael Kennedy filled the vacancy on the Board and serves as Vice-President, while Jennifer Dexter serves as President.

With the change of seasons comes the need for some "Spring Cleaning". Spring time is the perfect time to take care of a few areas around our homes that need some upkeep. Mailboxes and their posts should be painted to remove mold and dirt. If the posts are cracked or the mailboxes

are rusted or broken, replacing them would be the best option. Spring is also the perfect time for power-washing our homes and clearing out any flower beds that have overgrowth, dead leaves, or plants that have died during the winter months. As you are spending more and more time outside enjoying the warm weather, many of us like to listen to music while we work or play. Let's remember to be sensitive to our neighbors and try to keep the noise level down as much as possible.

Thank you for keeping Charleston Village beautiful!

The Charleston Village Board of Directors



HOA Board:

President: Jennifer Dexter
Vice President: Michael Kennedy
Treasurer: Connie Friedline
Secretary: Michele Medlin
Member at Large: Tim Ruff

Committee Chairpersons:

Architectural: Margo Bills
Clubhouse: VACANT
Communications:
 Newsletter: MaryAnn Gunshefski
 Webmaster: David Randle
Grounds: Michael Kennedy
Nominating: Jennifer Dexter
Pool: VACANT
Social: VACANT

Management Company:

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Social Committee Update

I just wanted to say THANK YOU to those that helped make the Social Committee events for 2005 successful! The turnout for all of our events (The Easter Egg Hunt, The Fall Festival, and the Halloween Parade) was huge. Your generosity for the Toy and Food drives is appreciated! Thank



you for taking the time to participate. It's great to be in a neighborhood that has planned activities/events for everyone!

If you've enjoyed attending the various events hosted by the Social Committee, please consider joining! We need volunteers to help organize events for the neighborhood. If you're willing to give a little of your time for this committee, please contact Liz DiBari at 303-3111 or Jeannie Hellmann at 367-9186.

Pool Committee Update

What do these people have in common??

Wanda Hanley, Michele Medlin, Laurie Stella, Carolyn Cuany, Jana Linscott, C.K Su, Michele Pierzga, Beth Wilson, Jeff Peterson, and Andy Gospodarek

They made up the pool committee!

A special **thank you** goes out to the above people. Wanda Hanley chaired 2003-2004 season and Carolyn Cuany chaired 2004-2005. All of these neighbors have served on the committee for the last two years. BUT, some are stepping down and we need new neighbors to take their place. We NEED a committee chair or co-chair. We NEED 8-9 committee members representing different streets!

Does our community still want **Swim Lessons**? Laps? Attendants? Pool Parties? Ralph's Italian Ice Cream? Soda Machine? This committee discusses what

our pool should look like and sound like this summer. Guest policy, party policy, and procedures need to be discussed and polished out. With that said:

- ⇒ This year we have the same Pool Company called R&P Pool Management.
- ⇒ Same as last year, all children not fully potty trained must wear a plastic swim diaper over their regular swim diaper. No Exceptions! We are looking forward to a poop free pool season.
- ⇒ As always, no glass, no Pyrex, or any breakables including nail polish containers to baby food jars allowed inside the pool area.



- ⇒ Pool closes weekly Wednesday nights at 7 pm and opens Thursday 12 noon for super chlorinating
- ⇒ Once again, this year our attendants will ask questions as you sign-in to insure a safe and enjoyable pool season.
- ⇒ For up to date pool openings and closings call the **Pool Hotline at 367-8262**
- ⇒ All residents must be up to date on their Homeowner Dues to be allowed in the pool area. Please call Fincher at 362-1460 if you have any questions on your account before the season starts.

Our pool opening is subject to Wake County's Inspection schedule and our pool passing the inspection criteria. We anticipate an early to mid-May opening.

Will we celebrate the opening with an evening gathering at the pool? Look for a flyer in your mailbox with details if we have neighbors who

volunteer to be on the committee?!?! Our next meeting is **Wednesday April 12th at 7:30pm in the club house.** The committee will discuss our guest policy, party policy, vendors, and all pool policies and procedures. The committee needs to mail out rules/procedures and have residents sign that they will abide by them.

Please call **Wanda Hanley (303-5863)** if you have any questions about this committee or if you would like to represent your street.

Thank you to everyone who will step up and serve on the committee!

Charleston Village Online

CharlestonVillage.org has a new, password-protected, bulletin board for residents to post items that may be of interest to other residents. There are several forums for discussion, and more can be added. Once



you register as a user, the Moderator will attempt to confirm that you are a resident and set permissions for you to post and read topics. Any resident can add a topic, add a comment, vote on an issue, etc.

Here are a few of the topics in the current forums:

- ⇒ Have residents been alienated?
- ⇒ Drainage issues in CV. What to do about them...
- ⇒ Speed Bumps?
- ⇒ Measure your grass height?
- ⇒ Saving at the Gas Pump
- ⇒ Cut your home energy costs
- ⇒ Refinance Your Home
- ⇒ What is the best way to increase property value?
- ⇒ Small town charm?

Visit <http://www.CharlestonVillage.org/forum/> to see other topics that are currently available.

CharlestonVillage.org E-mail Accounts: Would you like a CharlestonVillage.org e-mail account? You can check mail on the Web or download messages to your favorite e-mail client like Outlook or Thunderbird. Simply mail webmaster@CharlestonVillage.org to request an account. The account will be protected by a password that you assign.

Yard and Garden from the ARB

Spring is here, the flowers are blooming and Oh, No..... the grass and weeds are growing again! Keeping Charleston Village looking nice is the responsibility of all homeowners. Your home is your biggest investment and the resale value of it is affected by the way our entire neighborhood looks. If we all work together to keep our home, lawns and yards looking nice, then Charleston Village as a whole will look nice and be a neighborhood in which we can all be proud.

What can you do?

- ⇒ Keep your yard mowed, edged, weeded and green.
- ⇒ Keep your planting areas edged and weeded.
- ⇒ Remove dead branches and bushes from your yard.
- ⇒ Repaint your mailbox and post to cover the rust.
- ⇒ Remove trash from your yards and in front of your house.

Please refer to the Architectural Standards update which was recently mailed to all homeowners and is posted on our website.

Need some help? It does not take a professional to keep your yard looking good. There is a lot of information available to help you. All it takes is a little weed killer, fertilizer and some time! Check with a local garden center, Ace Hardware, or the neighbor who has the lawn you want on what you should do and when. Also check out these web sites I have found helpful: www.truffiles.ncsu.edu , www.scotts.com , www.ncagr.com and www.bayeradvanced.com . They all have some excellent advice!



Pet Corner



This is a reminder to all pet owners. The Town of Apex ordinance Chapter 4 Section 4-1 states that you must have a "suitable bag or other container that closes, which is suitable for removing feces deposited by the dog". This must be done on "public property, public park property, public right of way or any private property immediately". The same

ordinance also requires any animals to be under "restraint" at all times.

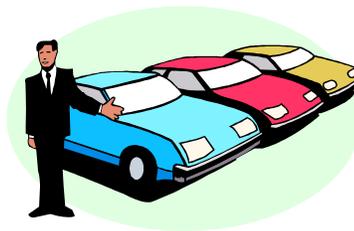
With the warm weather approaching, more of us will be out with our furry friends. It is important to remember to put them on their leash in addition to bringing those bags to gather up their "deposits" around the neighborhood. Everyone enjoys taking a pleasant walk through our neighborhood, and everyone needs to pitch in to keep it looking its best— remember this includes common areas in addition to your neighbors' lawns. Let's work together to keep our neighborhood beautiful!

Parking Reminders

The Apex town ordinance (Article VIII, Sec 20-150) requirement states that no vehicle may be parked within 15ft of any private driveway. This rule serves many purposes:

- Ensures homeowners have unobstructed access to & from their private drives
- ⇒ Reduces obstacles to traffic
- ⇒ Reduces the risks of accidents
- ⇒ Ensures mail delivery, as the US Postal Service will not deliver mail if your mailbox is obstructed by a parked car.
- ⇒ Keeps Charleston Village looking nice!

Street parking should be exceedingly rare, as **Article VIII, Section 3** of our protective covenants, which bind all homeowners, require that all vehicles be parked in the driveway at all times. (Also see page 8 of our Architectural Standards book)



Clubhouse Committee Update

The clubhouse has been doing great!! There have been more and more rentals each year, so it appears that the homeowners are really enjoying its use. We even have homeowners who rent it again and again. You would be surprised to know some people have lived here for years and just now stepping in it for the first time. They are presently surprised. The carpets have been cleaned and are looking great. If you have not been in our clubhouse, you should take a look. There are also photos of it on the Charleston Village website for your viewing pleasure.

We are sorry to hear that the committee chair is stepping down and we are therefore in need of a new chairperson and committee members for our

beautiful clubhouse. We want to thank Penny Fields, the clubhouse chairperson for several years now, for all her hard work and dedication. Please someone step up and help our clubhouse!! The committee takes care of the clubhouse rentals - including doing a pre and post walk-through with the renters. This is to assure that our clubhouse is left clean and in good condition for the next renters (and so they can get their deposit back). This is also a great way to meet some of your neighbors!! If you are interested please contact the Charleston Village board at board@charlestonvillage.com.



Wake County Public School System and GROWTH

As many of you are aware, our public system facing many challenges concerning growth. This school system grows by 7,000 students a year! With this growth, new schools must be built and students must be moved around in order to fill these new schools.

Over the past two months, Charleston Village has been involved with the latest school reassignment proposal. Fortunately, as of this writing, Charleston Village still has excellent school choices.

This fall all Wake County voters will have the opportunity to voice an opinion regarding school system growth and how our elected officials spend our money to accommodate this growth. Currently, our 9 school board members have devised five different growth management scenarios. All of the options cost several billion dollars and vary somewhat in how students will be reassigned.

Even if you do not have children in the Wake County Public School System, it is IMPERATIVE that you educate yourself on these issues. The first reason is that your tax dollars are being spent. Secondly,

Charleston Village seems to constantly be in the "line of fire" when reassignment plans are proposed. As a homeowner who may potentially sell, you must be prepared for buyers who are shopping based on school assignment.

Please visit the Wake County Public School website at www.wcpss.net. You will find pertinent information regarding this fall's Bond Referendum as we continue to get closer to election time. WRAL's website also does an excellent job relaying education issues.

For any questions or comments regarding school system growth issues, feel free to contact Laura Linton at 303-9003 or dlinton@nc.rr.com. We are currently in the process of forming a Charleston Village Growth Committee to be the

voice of our neighborhood as Apex and the school system continue to expand.

It is extremely important that as a community of homeowners, voters, and parents, we stay informed and be prepared to make decisions regarding the future of our community.



Greenway Care

It's great to have a neighborhood that has a greenway and creek running through it. It allows us to have enjoyable walks with our families and pets. One thing we must remember is that we need to help take care of it to keep it looking great. Throwing logs and other yard debris near the creek may seem harmless, but it can cause problems when the rain floods the creek and carries the yard debris down the creek. This causes blockages in the creek's flow, and eventually causes flooding onto the greenway and into yards. This



includes moving large stones into the creek. Some neighbors have installed French drains to help with the drainage problems near the creek, and have protected them under large stones. Please make sure they are left there! In addition, leaving garbage and dog poop along the greenway takes away from the beauty of the greenway. **If we all do our part we can keep this greenway beautiful!**

The board has finally been able to get the Town of Apex to take responsibility for the greenway, so you should see town workers back there as well. This does not mean that we should be less conscience—but just means that we finally have help!

Nominating Committee Update

The Nominating Committee has completed, and the Board of Directors has unanimously approved, the guidelines for how to handle a mid-term vacancy within the Board of Directors and, if necessary, a Special Election. Thank you to Tim Ruff who worked hard for

two years to lay the foundation for these guidelines, as well as all those who served, or currently serve, on the Nominating Committee. These guidelines can be read on the Charleston Village website.

Looking for a Girls Nite Out? Think BUNCO!

Combine dice, food, drink and great conversation — that's what Bunko night is all about!

The neighborhood bunko group meets at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the clubhouse. Although we have 12 'permanent' members, we are always looking for more women to sub for those who

can't make it. It's a great way to meet new people, without the monthly commitment. If you are interested, or have questions, contact Margo Bills at mbills@nc.rr.com or 303-8338.



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Crops at my home the 2nd Friday of every month from 6-11pm. Call for details. National Scrapbooking Day at Charleston Village Clubhouse on April 22nd from 9:30am-5:00pm.