

Vineyard Oak HOA Community Newsletter-SPRING 2017

Greetings everyone! Included in this issue are some seasonal reminders, and some concerns brought to the board by members of the community. This is a rather lengthy newsletter but we want to better communicate current topics and bring everyone up to speed on what we have been working on.

SPRING YARD SALE & DUMPSTER DAY: We will combine with VON and hold the yard sale on April 29th from 7-12. Following the sale the dumpster will be available May 6th from 8-12. The dumpster will be located in the cul de sac at the bottom of Eagle Ridge, directly across from 1439 Eagle Ridge Run. Keep in mind no paint cans, chemicals, yard waste, and be mindful of the contents limit.

ANNUAL POWERWASH DEAL: Contact Laura Cushman at Dwylaura@yahoo.com to be added to the list of homes to be power washed by Maryland ProWash. Many have already signed up! Deadline is April 14th. An email will be sent to those who signed up on what day the service will occur. You do not have to be home on day of service. **In your email please list:** Name, address, email address, phone. It is easier to cut and paste into the spreadsheet for the contractor this way.

MAKING CHANGES TO EXISTING PROPERTY: We are all excited when people in the community are able to improve their properties through upgrades, renovations, and modifications. These upgrades really only increase all of our property values while keeping our homes up to date. However, we need to remind everyone that when you do something, you need to fill out the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) paperwork that can be found on the website.

(<http://www.martinoblum.com/voha/voarchreqapp.pdf>)

Often it is just to make sure that your plans are in keeping with the general style of the neighborhood or to clarify property lines, etc. We have many neighbors who have made modifications to their homes without filling out the paperwork. When you go to sell your property, a resale document is needed that covers the property as you bought it. Failing to have paperwork on file detailing your plans from modifications(hardscapes, patios, retention walls, ponds, decks, awnings, stone patio fire pits, sheds, fences, just to name a few.) can hold up your home's sale because we then have to back track and have

other papers filled out.

With that in mind, and knowing we have several homes who may need to update their records with their modifications, we would like anyone who has done a project to get their paperwork in order just so they are current on what they have done to existing property. And again we want to emphasize here that nobody is trying to prevent anyone from making their home better! But rather make sure that all papers are in order when someone wants to sell their home and generally keeping our neighborhood consistently appealing.

A NOTE ABOUT TREES: You are not supposed to remove trees from your yard unless they pose a threat to a home or are dead. Please contact the board should you wish to discuss tree removal or want a tree on your property assessed for removal. You do not need permission to plant any new trees!

GENERAL CLEANING UP: If you have used temporary lighting for something, please check that you have removed all extension cords and wires from the exterior of your home, as well as your roof. You have neighbors all around you and they may have a constant view of something you have forgotten about. Please check for excess electrical wiring on sides of your home. In addition, please check your roof for any forgotten items that have become stuck up there (children's toys, clothing, holiday decorations, etc.) and please remove these items. While these things may not be so noticeable to us as homeowners, it may not be great for our neighbors to look at every day.

Many do not want to address the things that are bothering them with the neighbor who has forgotten something because they are friends- so they call the HOA. However, we encourage neighbors to address any possible issue with each other before coming to the board.

Please as you clean up this Spring, take a good look at your property and remove anything that may have become a forgotten part of your landscape! Everyone wants our community to continue to look great!

DUES: Please continue to send your quarterly dues in a timely fashion. They pay for many services and keeps our neighborhood up to date. Coming in April is a repair and restoration to our entryway monuments!

TRASH: We continue to be contacted about folks leaving their trash cans out on their driveways. We pay for trash collection twice a week- please put cans **INSIDE** your garage, not on driveway or side of your home. This is a very common complaint from many residents about their neighbors, please check to see if you may be inadvertently leaving yours out. In addition, after trash has been collected, please return cans to the garage. Do not leave them in the street until the next trash day. **RECYCLING:** Please be diligent about securing your recycling. If it is windy, a lid is a must.

NEWSPAPERS: Please pick up your papers from the sidewalk the day delivered. Many end up in the storm drains if left to blow and they all go to the retention pond, which we do clean out ourselves!(If you need any lacrosse/tennis balls- come see us!) We have many homes about to be for sale. If you see the blue bagged community paper heading for a storm drain, please stop and pick it up! If you live next to a home where there is no occupant, please help us by picking up accumulating community papers!

PARKING: Please be considerate of your neighbors. Please inform visitors and remind family members that they should not block any mailbox and please park **WITH the flow** of traffic.

PETS: We continue to get complaints about pet owners not cleaning up after pets. Please keep dogs **off** of your neighbor's **front yards, landscaped flowerbeds** and **islands**, and **mailboxes**. Please pick up after your dog and remind children of their responsibility if they are walking the family pet.

CIGARETTE BUTTS: Please discard these in your own trash can instead of throwing on ground. They blow into your neighbor's yards and many have small children and should not have to pick them up. Please be considerate of others.

IMPROVING DATA: We are making digital improvements to website & communication. We hope you like the new look of our dues statements, and a new website is coming soon. Stay tuned!

Have an item you would like to see in the seasonal newsletter?

Email it to the HOA @

vineyardoakhoa@gmail.com