

What's Flowing in the Creek

Volume 1, Issue 6

3/15/2008



Welcome to the Spring edition of *What's Flowing in the Creek*, Steele Creek's community newsletter published quarterly:

Fall - September
Winter - December
Spring - March
Summer - June

Inside this issue:

Board Members	1
Concerns	1
Reminders	1
Spring Lawn Care	2
Did You Know	2

CONTACTS

Board of Directors
board@steelecreekhoa.org

Newsletter/Website
webmaster@steelecreekhoa.org

Property Manager
Kelly Parker/Hawthorne Mgmt.
704-377-0114 ext. 132

Architectural Review
arc@steelecreekhoa.org

Community Watch
watch@steelecreekhoa.org

Social Committee
events@steelecreekhoa.org

Board Members Appointed

Recent correspondence from Hawthorne Management notified homeowners that Keystone Builders would release full control over the HOA to the Steele Creek Board of Directors in February 2008. As a result, the Steele Creek Board of Directors appointed and welcomed 3 additional Board members this week as follows:

John Hopkins

John Holder

Derek Johnson

The Board of Directors will be meeting soon to discuss planning for 2008 and to continue working on issues such as streetlight and speed hump installation. If there are questions, please contact the Board by emailing:

board@steelecreekhoa.org

Community Concerns



The Board of Directors would like to reiterate the following:

Pet Owners: Bring a poop scoop or plastic bag to clean up after pets when walking them. Remember, Charlotte leash law requires dogs be on a leash or contained in a fence.

Trespassing: Parents, don't allow your children to ride bikes or walk through other's yards. Children should avoid walking between houses as a short cut. It's disrespectful.

Litter: is still a major problem. Parents, PLEASE talk to your children about litter. Let's also set good examples by not littering.

Garbage Cans: On the day of collection, promptly return garbage cans to the rear of the home or out of sight from the street after pickup. (See covenants for more details including fines for violation.) Covenants are available on our website.

For Sale Signs: The current Declaration of Covenants and city ordinance require that signs advertising your home for sale or garage sales must be placed **ONLY in your yard (not at street corners or the entrance)**. The only exception is temporary signs on weekends for yard sales and open houses. Please remove these signs promptly after your event to avoid fines.

Important Reminders



The Board of Directors reminds everyone to please send in your payments for the streetlight installation. It has been stated multiple times by our local Law Enforcement Officers that streetlight installation will

significantly deter crime in our subdivision. The lights will also increase our property values. Until installation, the Community Watch Committee reminds us all to turn on outside lights at night for our safety and protection.

Did You Know?

Water Restrictions

that began last fall are still in effect. No car washing, lawn watering, swimming pool refilling, or fountains operation. Fines begin at \$100 and up for repeat offenders. For full details, visit: www.charmeck.org

Search 'water restriction'.

911...

Is not only for emergencies. You can also report speeders, suspicious activities and noises, disturbance of peace, loud parties, etc.

311...

Can be called for garbage can repair or replacement, bulky furniture or appliance disposal, parking on lawns, etc. Visit www.charmeck.org for full details. Search '311'.

Past Issues of the newsletter and much more are available on our HOA website. Visit:

SteeleCreekhoa.org

Note: www is not required.

SPRING LAWN CARE

It is nice to see some trees starting to bloom in our neighborhood, and even though we have had some cold snaps recently, the increase in sunny, warm days should have us all eagerly anticipating the rebirth and miracle of Spring!

If you decided to plant seed this spring or fall, or if you are in need of some moisture to soak in some fertilizer, pre-emergent, or post-emergent weed killer, we all should remember that we are still under serious drought conditions, even though we have had rain recently - so **NO WATERING OF LAWNS ALLOWED!**

So what does this mean for your lawn, and what can you do? For now we will have to hope for more rain and be smart about giving our lawns (those with fescue) the best chance of survival if the drought continues.

Here are some tips to use through May:

- **Mow** at least once a week, before the grass gets longer than 5 inches. Set your mower height to 3 inches (3.5 inches in June). Leave the clippings on the lawn to add some nitrogen back to your soil. Cutting your grass frequently and to the correct height is one of the most important things you can do. Cutting grass too short when it gets too long stresses the plant, and it expends its precious energy trying to re-grow the blade, instead of strengthening its root system which is vital to survival.

- If you have not already done so, apply a light application of **fertilizer** before the end of March to green up your existing lawn. Fertilizer encourages growth. Too much with too little water can also stress the plant and make it unhealthy and weak.

Combine this with cutting too short, and wave goodbye to your lawn and all of your hard work when summer rolls around...

- If you have an issue with **weeds**, and you did not recently seed, apply post-emergent "selective" weed killer dependent on the type of weeds you have. Be sure to read the label carefully and follow the directions. If you have a severe infestation consider bagging your clippings for a while so as to not spread the weed seeds around your yard.

- Apply a good dose of **pre-emergent herbicide** to prevent the crabgrass seeds that were deposited last summer from germinating. Another lighter dose should be applied in a few months.

- Be on the lookout for white **grubs** in April and May, and treat as necessary.

- Consider some landscaping that will offer some shade to existing lawn areas, or that will replace areas that are trouble spots for continued fescue growth.

So in summary, mow high and frequently, go easy on the fertilizer, get rid of the weeds, prevent new ones from popping up, and most importantly... keep your fingers crossed for rain to end this drought!

Until June...

PJ Fronczkiewicz