



WEDGEFIELD PLANTATION ASSOCIATION

XXII ISSUE 4, 2008

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who voted for me in the last election. I will do my best to live up to the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

The last year has been most difficult here in Wedgefield. Angry words have been spoken, feelings hurt and reputations tarnished. It is time to move beyond the issues of the past and work together for a better future. There is nothing good that can be accomplished for the community by continuing to dwell on the past. We need to make an effort to let it go and work for the betterment of Wedgefield.

We have many action items facing our community this coming year:

- We have 3 openings on the board, due to additional resignations. This is your opportunity to have a say in what happens in Wedgefield. Resumes must be submitted to the office by January 9. Get involved!
- Our new office building is nearing completion. We continue to monitor all activity/costs.
- As you may have read or heard, the golf course is in foreclosure. We will keep you informed, as we know the facts.
- We currently agreed to have McIntyre, Zeigler & Hodgers handle our accounting needs for the next 6 months. After our contract elapses, we will use a bidding process to award an annual contract to the best bidder.
- Roads, drainage and the marina landing will be addressed as we move into the New Year.

We continue to have complaints of underage children driving golf carts on the plantation. This often happens at night and sometimes with no lights. If this continues, the board will have no choice but to make tougher rules. It's a safety issue for all who live here.

Speed in the plantation continues to be a problem. We have many children, pets, golfers and pedestrians that rely on your safe driving. I am asking all to observe our posted speeds and stop signs. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN!**

One of our objectives as a board is to keep the membership informed. The web site (Wedgefield-plantation.com) is one means of communication. We also will continue with The Wragg and of course, all are welcome at the board meetings, held every third Tuesday of each month.

Our December board meeting had an exceptional turnout. We ask all residents to stay involved. This is **YOUR COMMUNITY!** Together we can make Wedgefield the best place to live in Georgetown County.

Thank You,
Karl Gettmann
Board President

THREE BOARD VACANCIES

ARE YOU INTERESTED
IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

Who can apply? Residents who are in good standing. (Assessments, etc. up to date.)

How can I apply? Please submit your resume or qualifications outline by mailing it to the office or putting it in the drop box near the gatehouse by January 9, 2009.

What is the process? All of the individuals who apply will be invited to an interview. After the interview process is completed, the board will select three new board members. Everyone will be notified promptly whether they have been selected or not.

Are there any special needs at this time? Our primary concern is to identify three individuals who will commit to serving where needed on the board until November 2009 when the next election is held. All appointed board members might elect to run if they chose to, then.

The board member who has served as our treasurer has retired. We hope that at least one or two of our candidates has a strong financial or accounting background. If you have this experience, please consider applying. You won't have to perform the accounting duties for the association but we need your expertise.

REMEMBER THE DEADLINE IS JANUARY 9TH !

Architectural Review

Jude Davis

Currently, I am acting as chair of the ARC (Architectural Review Committee) with the assistance of Carolyn McBride and Al DeMarchi. It has come to the attention of the ARC, that some of our resident lot files are incomplete. We are making every effort to resolve this matter quickly. It is important for all residents of the Wedgefield Plantation Property Owners Association to remember that our by-laws state that the ARC must approve ALL exterior changes. Once an application is received, and approval is granted, you should receive a confirmation letter from the ARC that serves as your Wedgefield building permit.



If you have made changes to the exterior of your home without completing an ARC application and/or you did not receive a written confirmation of approval, please contact Carol Rogers at the office. We will make every effort to complete your lot file with minimum inconvenience to you.

The ARC's goal is to work with the homeowner to insure renovations will be aesthetically pleasing to both the homeowner and to the Wedgefield community. Keeping our community beautiful is an ongoing process. This is a team effort! The ARC thanks you for doing your part.

Directory Updates

Several updates and/or corrections need to be added to your Wedgefield Plantation Directory.



ADD:

✍ Denise Dillon 36 John Green La.
520-4895
✍ Jerry & Dolores Maher 249 King George Rd.
527-5014
✍ Alan & Jill DeMarchi 1170 Francis Parker Rd.
545-8896

CORRECTIONS:

✍ Marge Wells (new phone number)
833-2002
✍ George Van Osterom 59 King George Rd.
527-6545
✍ Robert M. Siyufy (individual listing)
✍ Walter & Doris Johnson, III 102 Pine Grove La.
527-7660



Is the glass half empty or half full? is a common expression, used rhetorically to indicate that a particular situation could be a cause for optimism (half full) or pessimism (half empty).

Lets work together to make Wedgefield Plantation a "half full" community filled with optimism and teamwork!

Communications

Madeline Claveloux

In this fourth and final issue of the Wragg in 2008 we want to acknowledge some of our community's volunteers.

In July I resigned as editor and Joy Birnbaum agreed to serve. She didn't miss a beat in getting our fall issue out in top form. Few people realize that beyond the creative and edit work the editor works with the Board through a draft process, delivers the newsletter to the printer and then – THE DREADED TASK – of labeling and preparing it for bulk mailing. Thanks to Joy for all that she does!

Calvin Foxwell will be missed as the Board's Communication Liaison. Over the years he graciously worked and encouraged new Wragg editors, developed the logo that includes our front entrance and just all around made it an appealing publication.

No one can begin to imagine the hours he spent "Keeping Wedgefield Beautiful". Calvin was often seen decorating the front entrance and circle as the holidays came, sponsoring clean-up Wedgefield days, creating and displaying signs to keep us safe, etc. If you talk to Calvin you can't help but notice his dedication to our Wedgefield community. Thank you Calvin!

As we greet 2009 we have been given a tremendous gift. WOW (Women of Wedgefield) has announced that they are making "contributing to the events and activities of Wedgefield a priority". They are ready and willing to work with us in providing volunteer support to our activities.

On December 6th WOW members and their husbands lead by Yvette Wijthoff, WOW Leadership Co-Chair, secured trailers to transport decorations, set up food and drink, and assisted Board and community members in decorating the front entrance. Over 30 volunteers participated. What a great effort!

The December 7th Tree Lighting and Golf Cart Parade brought cheers from all who attended. Once again, Board and community members were supported by WOW and their troops. They organized the parade, helped dear ole Santa (John Walton) bring good cheer and were delighted to provide unwrapped toys to Captains Susan and Joe May of the Salvation Army, for needy children.

We'll have more details of all our holiday events in the first 2009 Wragg issue.

Happy Holidays!

We are off to a great New Year!

R. U. New to Wedgefield?



...and you have not been formally welcomed, and you would like to be? Please contact Carol Rogers at 546-2718. The Welcome Committee will be calling you soon!

WPA Action Summary November 2008

November 2008 was an active month for the WPA and the Board. Key action items were:

- ✓ Conducted our annual meeting and elected three new members.
- ✓ Received resignations from three incumbent Board members.
- ✓ Solicited Board applications to replace the three members who resigned. Received seven applications to fill the three slots. Interviewed all candidates and appointed three new members whose terms will expire in November 2009.
- ✓ We now have the nine member Board required by our by-laws.
- ✓ Approved an amendment to our by-laws that limited the term of appointed members to the remainder of the year in which they were appointed. They can run for a three-year term at the next annual meeting.
- ✓ The new Board conducted two executive session meetings. The first to elect executive officers and reorganize committee chairs. The second to reorganize committee chairpersons to include the three new appointed members.
- ✓ The office litigation was settled in favor of the Board. Construction was immediately resumed with a projected completion date of mid January 2009. Parking, drainage and landscaping continue to be negotiated with Georgetown County.
- ✓ Carol Zieske has tendered her resignation to coincide with the closure of the 2008 financial records. We are currently pursuing outside accounting that will increase the WPA expenses several thousand dollars.
- ✓ We received notice that the WPA has been issued a canal-dredging permit.

Community



Madeline Claveloux

I am pleased to have been assigned reviewing and answering member complaints, concerns, and comments. Please contact us by putting them in writing and depositing your note in the drop box by the gate, mailing or emailing them to the office. We will respond as quickly as possible.

Three communications, which included 10 homeowners, were given to me to address. The individuals expressed genuine concerns for the safety and beauty of Wedgefield Plantation and our residents. They would like the following brought to your attention:

***MOWING:** Some homeowners or their landscapers are mowing without a bag attachment and shooting lawn debris into the streets and impacting drainage when it rains. Please bag it or mow in a direction that will send clippings into your yard rather than the street.

***PARKING:** There were two parking issues. First, some individuals are using vacant lots to park their cars. Please remember our vacant lots are not to be used for parking of boats, trailers, or cars.

The second is that homeowners (not visitors) are regularly parking on the street. Our streets are wide enough to travel both ways but it does create a safety hazard to our walkers, bikers, and other drivers to have to swerve around your parked vehicle. Please park in your driveway.

***DEBRIS THROWN FROM CARS:** Cigarettes thrown from cars by residents and workman were noted. We don't want an accidental fire and we want to keep Wedgefield beautiful. If you notice your workmen doing it, please tell them "not here".

***GOLF CARTS:** The concern was the number of underage children operating golf carts on our roads and their safety. Many people at various times have brought this up. On a recent drive to the landing, I brought our car to a complete stop because 4 youth in a golf cart had stopped in the middle of Wedgefield Rd. and were running around and climbing in and out of the cart. They appeared to be totally unaware that we were there. On our way back they came darting out, having driven up a drainage embankment from the golf course right in front of our car. I can only imagine what would have happened if we hadn't been watching for them. Please see pages 26 and 27 of the membership manual. "The owner/operator shall further agree that all drivers of motorized golf carts must be sixteen (16) years of age or older and in possession of a valid driver's license."

Let's all do our best to keep Wedgefield safe and beautiful!

Drainage



Larry McMillin

Hello, everyone here at Wedgefield. For all who supported me in the recent election, I offer my sincere thanks. I ask that those that did not, please give me a chance to earn your trust, by doing the best job I can for our community. The promises I made while campaigning for the board are at the center of my efforts. I will not rush into any vote before the board without thorough investigation and I welcome constructive suggestions. There is a sincere feeling of openness and cooperation with this new board. Improving communication with the membership is vital to our success.

As your new drainage chairperson, I am taking my new obligations seriously. I urge you to get involved, offer to serve on a committee, and become a part of the new direction all of us seek as representatives of our great community.

A lot has been happening already.

*First of all, county officials have tentatively ruled the water retention drainage system at the office site unnecessary. This came about by moving the parking area to the rear of the building, resulting in different guidelines.

*Secondly, I have completed three site inspections, two of which were delaying the return of ARC deposits on new homes.

*Lastly, I have begun researching the drainage issues on Francis Parker Extension, and will keep everyone informed as a solution is found.

Please contact me at 527-4029 if you are experiencing drainage problems, and I will promptly reply.

Sandie and I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and look forward to next year with new enthusiasm about Wedgefield Plantation.



Wedgefield Golf Cart Parade

Women of Wedgefield

WOW

Madeline Clavaloux

As the final days of 2008 approach, we'd like to thank our organization's dedicated officers: Johanna Garrison – President, Inge Ebert – Vice President, Joy Birnbaum – Co-Secretary, Marge Wells – Co-Secretary, Jude Davis – Treasurer, and Barb Nichols – Sunshine Club. Under their direction our membership enjoyed great programs and they provided us an opportunity to change our structure and develop a leadership team model.

2009 is a pivotal year for the Women of Wedgefield. Our leadership team is co-chaired by Yvette Wijthoff and Madeline Claveloux with support from Jude Davis, Joy Birnbaum, Laura Vaughan, and Barb Nichols. We have refocused our efforts to make our Wedgefield community our number one interest while continuing to advocate for charitable endeavors, and increase member interaction with social opportunities.

Member participation is key as we enhance our communication channels, invite and encourage members to serve as speakers (or introduce speakers) about subjects that they are passionate about; and support activities of Wedgefield Plantation. A flexible meeting schedule will be designed to include women who work, golf, etc. to expand our membership.

Annual dues will be collected in January. The fee is \$20.00. Please contact Madeline (546-2355), Yvette (546-9610) for more information.



John Walton as Santa at the Holiday Tree Lighting

YES. THERE ARE ALLIGATORS ON THE GOLF COURSE!

In South Carolina, adult alligators can become quite large at about 13 feet long. If you see an alligator just keep your distance and enjoy the sight of these reptiles that are closely related to prehistoric dinosaurs.



For Your Safety.....

1. Don't approach alligators. Keep a safe distance.
2. Do not feed an alligator. Providing food for these wild animals not only makes them bolder but encourages them to seek out people, which alters their natural diet in an unhealthy way.
3. Keep your pets and children away from alligators. Gators don't distinguish between domestic pets and natural food sources. With its natural instincts, an alligator could try and feed on a pet if given the chance.
4. Do not swim in areas known to be inhabited by alligators. Splashing can attract them making them think there is an injured prey.
5. Never approach a baby alligator. They may seem cute, but its mother may be close by and her instinct is to protect her young.

Again...enjoy the experience of seeing these fascinating creatures as part of the natural beauty of the South Carolina area. But always stay a safe distance away. DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILDREN OR PETS NEAR ANY FRESHWATER POND, LAGOON OR LAKE. It is also important to know that feeding alligators is against the law in the State of SC and is punishable by fines up to \$500.00.

WPA WEBSITE

Have you checked out the Wedgefield Plantation Association's website? The web address is:

WWW.WEDGEFIELD-PLANTATION.COM

Want to check the by-laws or covenants of the Association? Do you need to know who the board officers and committees are? 'Want to know when and where the monthly meetings are held? You can find all this information AND MORE on the website.

There are also copies of the committee and board reports including budget reports from the meetings. There is a Community Services area, link to the Golf Course and Manor House with menus and other community links. Past issues of the Wragg are also available and newest is a link to WOW,

This website is for you. We have space and can add other items of interest to members of the community. Please contact me at davidah@msn.com.

Canal Committee Update

December 2008

Mike Davis

The Canal Committee's mission as chartered by WPA is to find a way to restore Wedgefield's canal system to navigable depths as soon as possible, at minimum cost, and in a way that most of the Plantation residents, both on and off-canal, can live with. Our hope is to do this without further costly and time-wasting litigation.

Since the last *Wragg* update, a number of important developments have occurred. To recap briefly, in July of 2007, DHEC published a *Notice of Intent* to issue permits for canal dredging to WPA. That decision was contested by the SC Environmental Law Project (ELP), but at a Final Review Meeting later that year DHEC upheld its decision to issue permits. ELP then filed a *Contested Case* suit in the SC Administrative Law Court. The hearing was held in August 2008 and went very well for WPA. ELP's case was weak and their own witnesses contradicted themselves on the stand. We demonstrated among other things that we have a previously permitted and still usable contained spoils disposal site on WPA property, the same one that was used for the last maintenance dredging here in 1986. On November 20th, the ALC Judge ruled in favor of WPA and has ordered DHEC to issue the relevant permits. DHEC will now forward them to the Corps of Engineers, who will issue the actual permits to Wedgefield. This will most likely occur in early 2009, after a public notice phase.

This important milestone has come at an extremely high cost in time, in money, and unfortunately, in community spirit. While we expected to do battle with environmental activists along the way, we were deeply saddened to be assailed from within our own HOA. Several WPA Board decisions cost us many months additional delay in the permitting process, and thousands of dollars in added legal fees. In addition, those who seek to undermine our many years of hard work, which has needlessly polarized the residents of Wedgefield, have circulated "disinformation."

We are working to dispel the disinformation through better distribution of all the information available about this process. We will of course continue to post updates here in the *Wragg*, but expect to add a Canal Committee sub page to the WPA website for quicker dissemination of more detailed information for those who want to read it firsthand. We are also planning an open informational meeting for all interested Wedgefield residents sometime in December or early January, and hope you will attend to help our committee map out the next steps, now that we have permission to dredge.

No WPA money has been spent in getting permits to dredge. Our efforts are funded entirely through voluntary donations from homeowners. We gratefully thank those who have repeatedly contributed, but are in need of additional donations as we still have unpaid bills. Going forward, we will need everyone's support as we explore various funding options including unilateral voluntary contributions and grants from Federal and State agencies to fund the actual dredging.

The WPA Canal Committee recognizes that maintaining the canals is one of the most complex, difficult, potentially divisive, yet most important issues WPA will have to resolve over the next several years. We want to have it dealt with in a fair and objective way, whatever the outcome may be, without pitting neighbor against neighbor, and without going to court again.

As always, if you have any questions, or want to assist in any way, please contact the Canal Committee Chair and WPA liaison, Jude Davis, for more information

STREETLIGHTS

If you notice any streetlight that is not functioning, please note the number on the pole and the location of the pole. Call the office at 546-2718 and report the problem. We will contact Santee Electric who will have the light repaired.

SALE OF PROPERTY

If you buy or sell any Wedgefield property, please let the office know that a transfer has occurred. This helps keep our records up to date.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Communications Liaison is seeking 6-8 individuals who are interested in serving on the Communications Committee.

If you are willing to meet once a month to discuss and develop ideas that will enhance communication in the community, work on special events, and make recommendations to the board about new projects, this is for you.

Please contact Madeline Claveloux at 546-2355

WEDGEFIELD PLANTATION ASSOCIATION

Office Phone... 843 546 2718

Fax.....843 546 4027

E-mail.....Wedgeassoc.com@verizon.net

Web Site..... www.Wedgefield-plantation.com

Wragg.....Wedgefieldwragg@gmail.com

WRAGG CONTACT INFO:

Anyone wishing to share family news
(births, weddings, graduations, promotions,
helpful community info, etc.) may email
his/her news to: wedgefieldwragg@gmail.com