

Royal Pines Times

Apr. - May 2016

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SPEED

 **KILLS!** 

**SPEED LIMIT ON STREETS IN
ROYAL PINES IS 30 MILES PER
HOUR!**

A major concern expressed at the Annual Meeting is the speed of traffic in Royal Pines. Of major concern are the streets of James Byrnes, Thomas Sumter and Royal Pines Blvd.

The posted speed limit for these streets is 30 MPH. Only Middle Road and Sams Point Road have higher speed limits.

Residents are concerned about children, pets and themselves. As we have no sidewalks walkers must use the shoulders or the pavement.

Some of the speeders are commercial vehicles and school buses. You can help by taking the names and vehicle numbers and calling the offices of these speeders to complain.

As most of the streets in Royal Pines are state roads speed bumps cannot be installed. Also, it is important to remember that RPHOA does not have police powers. Call the Sherriff's Department to complain and request enforcement. If the Sherriff receives enough complaints perhaps they will take action.

(Additional information - page 5)

RPHOA BOARD MEETINGS
THURSDAY, MAY 5 @ 5:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, JUNE 2 @ 5:30 P.M.

ANNUAL MEETING REVIEW

Michael John, President Royal Pines HOA

The Royal Pines Homeowners Annual Meeting was held on March 8, 2016, 6:00pm, at the LICC Tavern. A good turnout was on hand to hear a review of 2015, plans for 2016, and have the opportunity to air concerns and express opinions. At that time we had 95 paid-up members with a number joining that evening. Paid-up membership was a requirement for attending. (As of this writing the membership number is 117 and climbing.)

REVIEW OF THE YEAR'S WORK

Welcome Wagon—This has been largely successful at greeting new owners, providing information, and answering questions. Approximately 50% of those visited have joined the HOA. If you are a new homeowner and have not received a welcome from the HOA, rest assured that this is not by design. While we try to meet everyone, we may have missed someone because of incomplete information. Email royalpineshomeowners@yahoo.com—we wish to welcome you to the community.

Landscaping - a) The Royal Pines Boulevard entrance is currently dormant and does not look the way any of us would like. The HOA is working to correct this situation by adding additional, year-round plants.

b) Split-rail fencing has been installed to curtail traffic driving across the RP Boulevard median.

c) Mowing - There are nine miles of roads in RP. The HOA contracts mowing from ditch to street. This does not include Sam's Point Road and Middle Road because of safety reasons. The county, with bigger equipment, mows all the roads in RP. RP Boulevard receives extra mowings.

Royal Pines Times Newsletter – There were five issues in 2015. The newsletter pays for itself and keeps the community informed. Thanks to Karen Hardy and Bill Farrar for their work.

Royal Pines Boulevard Clean Up – During spring 2015 there was a successful clean up of the boulevard. Another is planned for April 9, 2016.

Covenant Enforcement – A number of homes were contacted. Early in the year the HOA was told by many new residents that they had not been informed of the covenants, either by their realtors or at closing. Letters were sent to realtors, closing attorneys, fencing, and tree companies letting them know that the covenants were being enforced. This has had a positive effect as a much higher percentage of new residents acknowledge that they are aware of the covenants. The purpose of covenant enforcement is to help protect our home values.

Bob Kiessling, ARB Representative, commented that one of his roles is to help residents understand the covenants, as well as state and county requirements concerning home improvements.

Community Events – during 2015 the RPHOA sponsored

“Armed Forces Recognition Day,” and “Meet Santa.” A greater number of events are planned for 2016: “AARP Safe Driving Course,” “Meet the Easter Bunny” (Sadly, rained out.), “Kentucky Derby Day,” a May community yard sale on the boulevard, “Trunk or Treat” Halloween event, “Home Safety for Seniors”, a repeat of “Armed Forces Recognition Day” and “Meet Santa.” We are trying to reach all ages with a wide range of events. Melissa Klingenberg, incoming vice-president, is handling event planning. She reminded the audience that all events are open to all residents of Royal Pines, whether or not they are members of the association. Volunteers are needed to help make these events successful. Please get involved. It is fun and helps your community.

2015 Budget: A copy of the budget was on the sign-in table. We are in solid financial shape and ran a slight surplus for 2015. The more members that join, we get the more events we can offer.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Two long-serving members of the board were recognized: Vola Whitcomb has served in various capacities since 1998 and Tom Mobley has also served for many years. We thank them for their commitment to the association.

The Vice-President position was filled in January when the board, using the power stated in the By-Laws, elected Melissa Klingenberg. She begins a full two-year term as of this meeting. Two At-large Directors Positions needed to be filled: Karen Hardy and “Z” Prather have both volunteered to fill these positions. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion to accept Karen and “Z” was made, seconded and passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

The meeting was opened to questions or concerns, which included the following:

1. High Speeds on Thomas Sumter and James F. Byrnes: This is becoming a big problem, especially with delivery trucks and school buses. The school bus company had been contacted. Some suggestions: The Sheriff's Department could help with more patrols during the day. The HOA could purchase a radar gun which would be used to support the sheriff's department efforts. More “Children: Go Slow”-type signs could be erected. Employing a mobile speed sign (in use on RP Boulevard during late March). Greater public awareness: calling the DOT, calling the delivery companies, and raising the speeding problem in the newsletter.

2. Covenant Questions: The multiple trailers, boats and campers parked in yards was discussed. Concerns were raised that one person may be asked to move their trailer but another may not. If the board does not receive a complaint they will not necessarily know that there is a problem. Some are grandfathered in (*Cont'd on Page 7*)

Getting Healthy When You Are Hypertensive

By Amber Reynolds

Hypertension, abnormally high blood pressure, affects more than 76 million adults in the United States. Even though some people may be genetically ore predisposed to getting high blood pressure, it is ultimately the environmental influences that cause hypertension to develop.

If you know you are currently hypertensive, your doctor may have prescribed a type of medication to help keep your blood pressure under control. It is important that you understand the way in which your medication works, especially if you are going to be working out. One of the most common medications prescribed is a diuretic. If you are on a diuretic, you have to pay extra attention to make sure you are staying hydrated, as it can be quite easy to become dehydrated. If you're unsure, check with your doctor.

The wonderful thing about hypertension is that there are several things you can do to get it within a healthy range. First, take a look at your eating habits. Your sodium intake should be between 1,500mg – 2,300mg. If you're currently higher than that, try to cut back on prepackaged foods, which typically have a very high amount of sodium. Also, check out the

DASH (Dietary Approach to Stop Hypertension) eating plan would be a great step. DASH focuses on fresh fruits and vegetables, low-fat dairy products, whole grains, poultry, fish and nuts, while allowing only a small amount of red meat, sweets and sugar containing beverages.

Adding in exercise can be a significant, positive impact on blood pressure. 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise weekly reduces blood pressure. When doing higher intensity exercises, it can induce a significant drop in blood pressure. It is important to be careful getting up from a laying down or a seated position, as it can cause orthostatic hypotension (think getting dizzy from standing too fast). As always though, check with your doctor before starting a new workout regimen.

Eating healthy and consistent exercise can be a huge help in getting your blood pressure under control. Talk to your doctor about your options and then head into Celadon Club to see how we can help. Please e-mail me at Amber@CeladonClub.com should you have any questions.



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WHY SPEED IS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IN ROYAL PINES

GETTING HIT BY A CAR is the 3rd leading cause of death for kids 5- to 9-years-old, and kids up to age 15 make up a disproportionate number of pedestrian casualties worldwide. It's not hard to think of reasons for this scary statistic: Children are easily distracted and don't always pay attention, and they are also smaller, so they're more likely to sustain fatal injuries when they are hit. But there may be another, even more basic, reason for this childhood peril: Kids simply don't see the cars coming.

The ability to see and avoid looming objects is a fundamental skill, crucial to survival not only for humans but for most animals. We take it for granted because we do it automatically, but it's actually a complex skill, requiring a rapid calculation of size and distance and velocity. Add to this the fact that we pedestrians are also in motion, and must figure in our own walking speed, and it's no surprise that even adults get clipped sometimes. New evidence is now showing that kids' perceptual abilities are slow to develop, making them less adept at this crucial calculation.

Psychological scientist John Wann and his colleagues at the University of London ran a laboratory simulation of regular street crossing in order to compare the perceptual skills of adults with those of children of various ages. In this realistic simulation, a car approached on a roadway, sometimes varying in size and speed; sometimes the subjects saw the car directly in front of them, and other times off to the side a bit, and they reported whether the image of the car expanded or stayed the same. The scientists also calculated the subjects' walking speed, and factored their movement into a calculation of their perception of the approaching car's looming threat.

They found a clear developmental pattern in perception of the looming vehicles. As reported on-line in the journal *Psychological Science*, the kids showed clear improvement in their acuity with age, but even the older children did not match the adults in their ability to detect an automobile's approach, suggesting that the neural mechanisms for this skill remain undevel-

oped. Paradoxically, faster moving cars appear to loom less than slow moving cars, creating a dangerous illusion that speedy cars are not approaching. Indeed, the scientists determined that children could not reliably detect a car approaching at speeds higher than 20 miles per hour. What's more, the kids' perception of a car's approach was worse if the car was even slightly off to the side—a realistic condition for typical road crossing—or if they themselves were in motion, as they likely would be.

Driving 20 miles per hour is really slow. Try it sometime. But it's typically the speed we're supposed to drive in school zones, and there are many other locations—residential areas, for example—where kids are also vulnerable. These new findings fit with evidence that kids are three times as likely to get hit by a car when traffic speed exceeds 25 miles an hour, and now we know why. Not only do speedy drivers need more reaction time, now it appears that young pedestrians simply can't see the cars coming in the first place. It can be a deadly combination.

We all know that **SPEED KILLS**, but we **CAN** control that. Each and every one of us can **SLOW IT DOWN**. Arriving one or two minutes late **WILL NOT MAKE** a big difference in your life. However, hurting or killing a child or adult **WILL** have an impact on your life for the rest of your life. Please **SLOW DOWN!**

If you see a speeding car in Royal Pines, take a picture of it or the license plate if you can. Call the local sheriff's department and turn them in. If they start getting enough calls, perhaps they will patrol the area. For other important numbers look below:

Waste Management 843-987-4643

Beaufort County School District -843-322-2326 this is the Superintendent's Office, start at the top to get their attention Also contact the school that the bus is assigned to. Again take a picture if you have time.

Other noted speeders: Federal Express, UPS, Construction Companies, etc. Call their companies and protest. A silent complaint never changes the world.

Mother Nature, Again!

Because of the tremendous amount of rain that occurred on Easter Sunday, the decision was made to cancel the Easter Bunny event. The planners felt miserable about making this decision but knew that the safety of the children and parents were paramount to anything else.

But come on, Mother Nature take it someplace else next time we plan something. Enough is Enough.

SAFETY CONCERNS IN ROYAL PINES

MEETING WITH BEAUFORT COUNTY SHERIFF REPRESENTATIVE

No matter where you live or the size of your community there is always going to be some type of crime. It is an unfortunate fact of life and one that we should educate ourselves on. The HOA is very concerned about our residents and want to take steps to help you gather information that might be helpful to you in this matter. Trisha Vanderspeigel, on behalf of the HOA, has arranged a presentation by our local police officials. It will be held at the **Monday, May2 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Tavern and we thank them for allowing us to use their space for this meeting.

We are trying to set up a time, but as you can image, the individuals tasked with holding public safety talks within our community are extremely busy. As of this time we are trying to hold a meeting either the last Monday of April or on a Mondays in May. We are waiting for a response to the dates that we have proposed. Once we know the exact date and time we will post it on the HOA website as well as on The Ladies of Royal Pines Facebook page.

The first meeting will be on Senior Safety, but should

really apply to all and runs for about an hour, including time for questions. Topics covered will included:

Personal Safety at Home

Personal Safety While You Are Out

Scams and Fraud.

In addition, the presenter will also discuss how to put your home on Extra Patrol, while you are away. Extra patrol only runs in 2 week increments, and is usually used for owners on vacations. With the amount of part-time residents we have in Beaufort County, it would be very difficult to offer this service to them, but they do try to accommodate as best as possible.

Lately, we have had numerous conversations taking place, not only in our community but around Beaufort in general. Knowledge is key to being prepared in order to protect ourselves and those we love. It is the desire of the HOA that this and future meetings will help answer your questions as well as help you decide the steps you are comfortable in taking in protecting your loved ones and property.

GARAGE SALE

FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF ROYAL PINES
SPONSORED BY THE ROYAL PINES HOA

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE FOR THE ROYAL PINES HOMEOWNERS SPONSORED BY THE HOA

Is to be held on May 21, 2016. If Mother Nature decides to rain on that day a rain date of June 4, 2016 is scheduled. Set up is from 8-9a.m. with the sale being held from 9-12. This Community Garage Sale is going to be set up on the median located on Royal Pines Blvd. We want to encourage all residents of Royal Pines to participate. Especially, those that live along or off of Middle Road. We ask that you let Melissa Klingenberg know as soon as possible if you will be requiring space. We want to make sure that we accommodate all that want to participate in this community event. You can reach Melissa at 843-

You are responsible for bringing your own tables or set-up stations. We also suggest that you bring water, snacks, and if you feel you need it, bug spray. It might also be helpful to you if you had some change available to help make sales easier.

Melissa has arranged to have a Salvation Army truck be at the median at 12 to pick up any items you do not want to take back home. You must wait with your goods in order to get your tax credit receipt from the truck driver.

It is our intent to publicize this event at least 2x in the Island News. In addition, we will be placing Yard Sale signs posted along Sams Point Road and at the Royal Pines Blvd. entrance.

UPDATE ON GREENHEATH PUD

On March 7th, 2016 there was a meeting held at the Tavern concerning the proposed development of the Greenheath PUD facing Fiddler Driver right off of Middle Road. This development is designed to build 313 units. The development will be constructed next to Coosa Elementary. In addition to the homes being constructed, they also have plans to build several "commercial use" as well as "community commercial" buildings.

Our District 2 County Council member, D. Paul Somerville provided an overview of the history of the Greenheath PUD and the current effort by the developer to make changes to the approved development plan that would adversely impact the residents along Fiddler lane, in particular, and the residents of Royal Pines and Lady's Island in general.

Attendees at this meeting expressed multiply concerns regarding this development. These concerns included, but were not limited, to:

- Closeness of the development to the school
- Increase traffic flow on Middle Road that would be a tremendous burden to residents that live

on or near Middle Road.

Impact on the infrastructure of Lady's Island, i.e., taxes, traffic, ecological effects, and overall changing what we love best about Lady's Island.

The potential increase of student at Coosa and the possible reassignment of students currently attending Coosa to another school.

We strongly urge all of you to get involved and speak out against this development. There are multiple steps that must be accomplished before this development will receive its final approval. The County Council must meet three time prior to making a final decision regarding this proposed development. Please contact the County Planning Department for specific dates, times and locations.

You must speak out loudly and strongly if you want your voice heard. It is our understanding that the last meeting is to take place at the Natural Resources Committee of the County council on Monday, April 18, 2016 at 2pm in the Executive Conference Room, located on the first floor of the Beaufort County Administration Building, 100 Ribaut Road, in Beaufort.

COMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 2, 10:00 a.m.— Beaufort Sheriff Security Presentation (*See article page 6*)

MAY 7, 5– 7 p.m. — Derby Day Party (*See article page 8*)

MAY 21, 9 a.m. -- 12 Noon — Community Garage Sale (*See article page 6*)

JUNE 2, 5:30 p.m. — RP HOA Board Meeting

THANK YOU

On Saturday April 9 several volunteers participated in the periodic clean up of Royal Pines Boulevard.

Royal Pines Homeowners Association wants to thank all of the volunteers who assisted in this clean up.

The main entrance to our neighborhood benefits us all.

In the very near future look for the improvement to the "Royal Pines" signs and surrounding area. The HOA Board has authorized funds for the beautification of these two areas.

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DERBY DAY 2016 THE TAVERN AT LICC



Most people in the “horse world” know that the first Saturday in May is the day of some great horse racing. However, people in “the know” understand it is the day of days to have one heck of a party. Parties have been associated with Derby Day as far back as 1872, when Meriwether Lewis Clark, the grandson of William Clark – of the famed pair Lewis and Clark – traveled to Europe .

It is a time to dress up, strut your stuff, show off your hat, eat, drink and be merry and get ready for 3 minutes of the most exciting horse race held in May. Derby parties are held throughout the world. We even held them in Ajijic, Mexico every year!

It is with great pride and excitement that we announce our First Annual Beaufort Derby Day party to be held on May 7th, sponsored by the Royal Pines Homeowners Association. The event will be held on the covered patio at the Tavern. We will have 2 TV's playing to show all the events of the derby, including the race.

A Kentucky Derby party lets a woman's Southern belle shine through. Ladies can have fun choosing bright colors, springtime patterns, and, of course, a bold hat.



A good rule of thumb is to pair a very bold hat with a solid print dress and a less extravagant hat with flowers, polka dots, or other springtime prints.

Hats - When it comes to Kentucky Derby hats, the fun-filled motto has always been the bigger, the better, which has inspired some legendary styles over the years. Typically, Southern women wear wide-brimmed hats decorated with flowers,

In the great tradition of many countries around the world, we have located someone who has a multitude of Derby Hats for women that she will either sell or rent for the day! Her name is Kristi Adams, she can be reached by calling 843-605-3132.

Dresses - the Kentucky Derby calls for elegant, feminine dresses that celebrate springtime. Ladies typically sport brightly colored dresses featuring stylish but not over-bold patterns or solid colors, depending on the extravagance of the hat.

There will also be **prizes** for the: **BEST OUTFIT, *determined greatly by the hat***
HORSESHOES, CORN HOLE TOSS



This is unlike any event that the HOA has hosted so we are restricting the number of attendees this year. The tickets are \$30.00 per person, payable in advance and includes wonderful derby influenced “small plates”, games and prizes and TV's for viewing. There will also be a cash bar available. To get your tickets now and reserve your spot at this special event contact:



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES IN BEAUFORT

The John Mark Verdier House Museum at 801 Bay Street is looking for volunteers to be docents and greeters. They would especially appreciate people who can help on Saturdays. Please call Sandy Patterson at 843-379-6335 if you are interested.

The Santa Elena History Center at 1501 Bay Street is looking for volunteers to be docents and greeters. They would especially appreciate people who can help on weekends. Volunteers to work in the gift shop are needed. you can either sign up on line at their website -www.SantaElena.org or call 843-379-1550

Santa Elena History Center is in need of volunteers to help out as greeters at the Spanish Galleon that will be visiting Port Royal between April 23rd and 30th. you can either sign up on line at their website - www.SantaElena.org or call 843-379-1550

(Cont'd from page 2)

because prior administrations had given them approval. Uneven enforcement over the years has created as many problems as it has solved. If you have a complaint please e-mail the association.

3. Ditch area: Could homeowners plant in the ditch in front of their home? It is state easement property. Bill Farrar said that they could plant but it would be at their own risk.

4. Water Pressure Issue: James Bollack stated that Wade Hampton is having water pressure issues. The concern is what will happen when the Oyster Bluff subdivision opens.

5. Unsightly homes, yards and roaming dogs: Questions regarding the state of some homes in Royal Pines were brought up. All yards need to be kept in such a way as not to be offensive to neighbors. When the issue involves a renter, the association can contact absentee homeowners and remind them that their renters are required to abide by the rules of the covenants. You can always contact the board with any complaint you have and are encouraged to do so. If we know there is a violation we can help address the issue. As for roaming dogs, if it is a consistent problem with the same dog, Beaufort Animal Control should be called. A comment was made that to have a good neighbor we need to be a good neighbor.

6. Newsletter Needs: Bill and Karen Farrar are always looking for newsletter articles. There are many residents of

Royal Pines that have lived interesting lives and have had fascinating experiences. Sharing your unique story with others builds a sense of community. Karen is willing to interview you at your home or talk to you over the phone if you do not feel up to writing an article.

7. Gordon Mabie thanked the board for all the work they have done this year, their forward thinking, and their work to help build community.

8. Board meetings: Board meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of most months, at 5:30pm. These meetings were open to the community and held at the clubhouse.

The discussion was frank and occasionally heated. This is to be expected and is more a sign of healthy give-and-take—where people feel free to say what they really think and that their opinion will be listened to—rather than personal enmity. It is fundamentally important that we share ideas, criticisms, and suggestions. We are a large body of homeowners and one size definitely does not fit all. In spite of that we share a common concern; we want to live in a community of which we can be proud. Following the 'rules', establishing relationships with neighbors, and bringing issues out into the open will ultimately lead to a better community. Your input in 2015 has been much appreciated. Get involved during 2016.

Thanks to everyone for coming to the meeting.

Royal Pines

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MARY KAY

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This is to clarify an article in the last HOA newsletter about the pickle ball court. The club had nothing to do with it. After months of trying to get them to do something with one of the courts, my husband Gordon sprayed it for weeds, cleaned it up as much as possible, and adjusted the net. He and a friend then marked it off and painted it. The club is not charging for its use and cannot unless they resurface it and clean it up. It has minor hazards with cracks, etc but is a good learning and practice court. Pat Mabie

Ed. Note: The RP Times apologizes for any misinformation about this topic. Unfortunately, the information came to us at the last minute before the previous issue went to the printer and we did not properly check the information.