

Royal Pines Times

June - Aug. 2020

Board of Directors

President

Mike Bars

Vice President

Vacant

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Nancy Howard

At Large Directors

Tim Connelly

Bill Farrar

John Gallagher

Barbara Joidon

Don Lombardi

Gwen Taylor

Editor

Bill Farrar

Website:

www.royalpineshomeowners.com

Email address:

royalpineshomeowners@yahoo.com



RPHOA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 5:30 P.M.
See Full Announcement page 4

The RPHOA Board hopes this edition of the RP Times finds all of you well and safe.

As you are aware the Annual Meeting scheduled in March was postponed due to the COVID19 outbreak. The Board has rescheduled the Annual Meeting for Tuesday, August 18 at the Olde Beaufort Grill.

At this time we cannot say what the requirements will be for maximum attendance numbers. However, we do have the flexibility of having all or overflow seated on the patio. As the time approaches these details will be announced on the RPHOA website at least 10 days in advance of the scheduled date. royalpineshomeowners.com.

For each annual meeting the Bylaws require that all home owners be given advance written notice of the meeting.

The cost of the printing and postage for the notice is several hundred dollars. As a result of the cost and uncertain time the Board has voted that if the annual meeting cannot take place on August 18, 2020 this year's meeting will be cancelled and the next annual meeting will take place in March, 2021. Reasons for cancellations would be issues with the pandemic or severe weather as the 2020 hurricane season is predicted to be very active.

If cancelled, the Board will necessarily deal with the issues of terms for officers and directors.

ELECTIONS

The General Meeting will see the election of a number of positions on the RPHOA Board of Directors.

These are the positions with the indication of those persons who will be ending their participation, running or continuing their term.

President - Mike Bars
Not Running

Vice President - Vacant

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Nancy Howard
Middle of Term

At Large Directors

Tim Connelly - *Not Running*

Bill Farrar - *Not Running*

John Gallagher - *Middle of Term*

Barbara Joidon - *Middle of Term*

Don Lombardi - *Middle of Term*

Gwen Taylor - *Middle of Term*

RPHOA BOARD MEETINGS

TUESDAYS @ 6:00 P.M.

JULY 14, AUGUST 4

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT Mike Bars

Hello Folks,

Well, the last few months have been a test for all of us. Our Board has been meeting regularly, but because of the Virus, it has been telephonically. This month has been the first time we have met in person. By the way, all future Board meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm at the Clubhouse.

We are still planning per our Bylaws, to have an annual meeting when safety allows. We must replace Board Members and my position as President. Please try to attend as we are planning to have the meeting August 18. You will receive written notice, as usual, so please consider helping our Community by serving on the Board.

You will notice our ditches are now being maintained and dredged by the County. Thanks to Barb Jodoin for your fine efforts in getting the County Officials to address the flooding issues. We are also addressing other issues, such as

young people riding the streets in golf carts while under age and without a license.

Jon and Debbie Fulmer are working very hard in improving our Golf Course and Clubhouse, please attempt to support them, as this enhances our Community.

Lastly, we are still planning our golf outing to be held in September, so please plan on attending. Please review our Covenants when building fences, sheds and other structures. Hope all of you are staying careful and remaining in good health.

Sincerely,

Michael Bars

President, RPHOA

ILLEGAL ACTIVITY/TRESPASSING

It has come to light that some members of the Royal Pines community are participating in illegal activity in the form of trespassing on the unused golf course. The management of the Olde Beaufort Golf Course has posted "No Trespassing" signs in several places on the course which is the private property of the owners of the golf course. In acts of defiance the perpetrators have stolen the signs.

The trespass that is occurring is the use of the private property by both adults and teenagers "playing" with ATVs, Motor Bikes and other powered vehicles. Often these perpetrators are operating these vehicles in a reckless and unsafe manner that is a danger to themselves and others.

The owners of the golf course have given permission for walkers, runners and bicyclists, along with properly operated golf carts to use the property but have strictly forbidden the use of any other motorized vehicles on golf course property. In attempting to encourage compliance with the

restrictions, golf course personnel have been subjected to hostile comments, threats and, in one case, an assault by a thrown projectile.

It has also been observed that persons are firing weapons on the unused course. It is against the law to discharge a firearm in a residential area. Not only is it illegal but it is inherently dangerous to do so. This activity has been reported to the Beaufort County Sheriff.

The RPHOA Board strongly condemns such illegal activity. Law abiding homeowners and residents are encouraged to immediately contact the Beaufort County Sheriff if you observe these illegal activities. The Golf Course owners, with the full support of the RPHOA Board, will be interacting with Sheriff's Office to bring this illegal and dangerous activity to a halt. The Golf Course owners, with the full support of the RPHOA Board, will encourage officials to apprehend and prosecute these individuals to the full extent of the law.

PLEASE MOW THE BERM

The BERM is the area between the edge of your property and the street.. This area is often a gully. The berm is part of the right of way for the street and is generally the 8 to 10 feet at the edge of the street. Most of our streets are State Roads and should be mowed by SCDOT twice per year. Even if that happens, the berm needs to be mowed more often. Also, if you have a vacant lot next to you it will be good if you mow that berm also. **THANK YOU.**

RPHOA GOLF OUTING - SAVE THE DATE

The RPHOA Golf Outing originally scheduled for the end of May is tentatively rescheduled for either Saturday September 26 or Saturday October 3 at the Olde Beaufort Golf Club. Golfers will assemble at 8:30 a.m. for a 9:00 a.m. shotgun start. Format will be foursomes, Captain's Choice. When finalized details will be posted on the RPHOA website and at the Club.

DIFFERENT RULES FOR GOLF CARTS ON THE ROADS

A recurring problem in Royal Pines is the operation of privately owned golf carts on our streets which are not licensed and operated by children. Most of the streets in Royal Pines are state roads and subject to state laws. Here they are:

The Law: South Carolina Code of Laws section 56-2-150 sub-section (B) and (C) provides:

“(B) An individual or business owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart may obtain a permit decal and registration from the Department of Motor Vehicles upon presenting proof of ownership and liability insurance for the golf cart and upon payment of a \$5 fee.

(1) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated within 4 miles of the address on the registration certificate and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 miles an hour or less.

(2) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated within 4 miles of a point of ingress and egress to a gated community and only on a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 miles an hour or less.

(3) During daylight hours only, within 4 miles of the registration holder's address, and while traveling along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 miles an hour or less, a permitted golf cart may cross a highway or street at an intersection where the highway has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles an hour.

4) During daylight hours only, a permitted golf cart may be operated along a secondary highway or street for which the posted speed limit is 35 miles an hour or less on an island not accessible by a bridge designed for use by automobiles.

(C) A person operating a permitted golf cart must be at least 16 years of age and hold a valid driver's license. The operator of a permitted golf cart being operated on a highway or street must have in his possession:

- 1. the registration certificate issued by the department;**
- 2. proof of liability insurance for the golf cart; and**
- 3. his driver's license.**

4. The Penalty: The fine for this violation is \$237.”

We receive complaints regarding golf carts zipping around RP streets with young children operating them. Most phone calls we receive are residents wanting to know who can and cannot legally operate golf carts, as well as, where and when they can be operated.

The new law provides that golf cart operators must be at least 16 years of age and have a valid driver's license. In addition, the Legislature mirrored the requirements for all motor vehicles by mandating that all golf cart operators be in possession of the vehicles registration, proof of insurance and their driver's license while operating one.

For those of you who have children under the age of 16 and you allow them to operate a golf cart on a road or street, you are in violation of this law. With that said, we are asking all golf cart owners to make sure that you and anyone who operates it becomes familiar with the new section of the law before moving it on the road again. If you should see a violation occurring, please call us so our officers can educate the drivers and ensure that no one gets hurt.

ROYAL PINES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCEMENT OF POSTPONED ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 5:30 p.m.,

Location: The Olde Beaufort Grill

Proposed Agenda (as of publication date):

Significant Business of Previous Year: Membership; Welcome Wagon; Royal Pines Boulevard entrance landscaping; mowing; Community activities, Covenant issues.

Presentation of past year financial report and proposed budget.

Election of officers Board positions.

Open Discussion

The following is a list of Officers and Directors. Nominations will be accepted in advance as well as nominations from the floor of the meeting. Only persons who are dues paying members of RPHOA in good standing with no outstanding fines or violations are eligible to vote or to be a candidate.

OFFICERS

President - Mike Bars - *Not running*

Vice President - Vacant

Secretary - Vacant

Treasurer - Nancy Howard - *Middle of Term*

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Tim Connelly - *Not Running*

Bill Farrar - *Not Running*

John Gallagher - *Middle of Term*

Barbara Joidon - *Middle of Term*

Don Lombardi - *Middle of Term*

Gwen Taylor - *Middle of Term*

YOU MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE RPHOA TO VOTE.

Depending on personal interests, At-Large Directors may be involved in the Architectural Review Board, covenant enforcement, government relations, community activities, publicity, landscaping, or other activities as they arise.

Additional candidates will be accepted at the meeting. If you nominate someone other than yourself, please obtain that person's agreement (in writing if the person is not present at the meeting) to run in advance of the meeting.

The time commitment for a Board member is 3-4 hours a month. Our RPHOA needs to have the Board positions filled, so we ask you to consider being a nominee. Please call Mike Bars (248-866-1471) if you are interested or have questions, or email royalpineshomeowners@yahoo.com.

There is a RPHOA membership application on page 7 of this newsletter. Please join by remitting your dues in the amount of \$85 with the application in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

A proxy form will be enclosed with the formal mailed notice and also appears on page 7*7 of this newsletter. The person you select as a proxy must be a homeowner and a member in good standing of RPHOA.

ALL property owners are subject to the Royal Pines covenants, as noted in your deed.

Gardening tips from the South Carolina Garden Guru

JUNE:

1. Plant daylilies
2. Keep plants well watered.
3. New plants can still be planted but don't allow them to dry out. Mulch will help.
4. Fertilize to keep plants healthy and blooming. Follow container directions.
5. House plants can be put outside but not in direct sun.
6. Keep deadheading flowers.

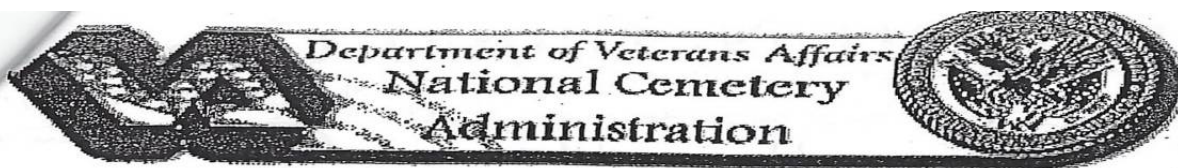
JULY:

1. You can still plant in July but you must keep them well watered and the roots cool.
2. Keep on the look out for various pests and diseases.
3. Watch the container gardens. Most need water every day. If one does dry out, give it a good soaking to wet all the soil, not just the edges.
4. After the 2nd week in July don't prune azaleas. They will now begin to set buds for the spring flowers.

AUGUST:

1. Water! Water! Water! Keep watering, especially container plants. Small containers might need to be watered twice daily.
2. Order spring blooming bulbs for fall planting.
3. Keep pruning cannas to prolong bloom time.
4. When annuals and/or perennials get scraggly cut them back about ½ and fertilize. Continue to water as days get cooler and they will bounce back.

HAPPY GARDENING!



BEAUFORT NATIONAL CEMETERY

1601 Boundary Street; Beaufort, SC 29902; (843) 524-3925; FAX: (843) 524-8538

A brick wall surrounds the cemetery that is laid out in the shape of a half wheel; the cemetery's oyster shell roads form the "spokes", and the large iron gates are set at the "hub". The cemetery grounds are serenely landscaped with numerous shrubs and large trees, predominately magnolia, live oak, and palmetto (the State Tree).

Beaufort was one of the first U.S. National Cemeteries designated by President Abraham Lincoln, who personally authorized its establishment, in a letter dated February 10, 1863.

The Commanding General of federal occupation troops bought the twenty-nine acre tract known as Polly's Grove for \$75 at a tax sale on March 11, 1863. It became the final resting place for soldiers who gave their lives during the War Between the States.

The cemetery contains a cross-section of veterans of every conflict between the Civil War and the Persian Gulf. Remains of Union troops were removed from several places in Eastern Florida, Savannah, Charleston, Morris Island, Hilton Head Island, and islands near Beaufort. About 2,800 remains were removed from Millen, Georgia and reinterred in the National Cemetery.

There are more than 7,500 Civil War soldiers interred here, including 4,019 unknown Union soldiers and 117 known Confederates. Many of the troops fell on battlefields in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina. In addition, there are presently more than 6,500 veterans of the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf, as well as peacetime veterans who have joined their comrades in final rest here.

Ralph H. Johnson is interred in Section 3, Grave 21. PFC Johnson was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for service as a marine reconnaissance scout on March 5, 1968, near Quari Duc Valey, Republic of Vietnam. His courage and selfless devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

A German World War II Prisoner of War is interred here. He was a crew-member of the German submarine U-Rathke which was sunk May 9, 1942 off of Cape Lookout, North Carolina by the Coast Guard Cutter, Icarus. He died while en route to Charleston, SC.

A Memorial Section has been established between Sections 58 and 59 for those veterans whose remains are unrecoverable (Missing In Action, Missing in Service), buried at sea, or whose remains were scattered.

On May 29, 1989, 19 Union soldiers of the all black Massachusetts 55th Infantry were reinterred with full military honors. Their remains were found on Polly Island, South Carolina in 1987. Their grave is marked with a bronze plaque near section 56.

This cemetery is under administrative control of the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration. Visitors are welcome at the Beaufort National Cemetery daily. Memorial Day services are observed annually in May.

COUNTY AND STATE DOT UPDATE

As many of our homeowners have experienced, Royal Pines tends to have many areas of localized flooding after significant rain events. In April, we had three heavy rainfall amounts within a seven day period resulting in flooded yards, homes and streets.

The complex issues facing Royal Pines include a combination of intersecting County and State roads, aging infrastructure, a long term lack of maintenance at County and State levels and insufficient water retention for the area.

The discussions between the RPHOA Board and the State DOT and County have been ongoing for some time.

We did see early on significant improvement in our County maintenance but a stall on the State DOT side of our community.

I am very pleased to report that we are now making great progress on both fronts!

The County is undertaking first steps to conduct an overall survey to initiate suggested long term improvements and they have completed many drainage projects in Royal Pines.

The State DOT has also begun to initiate some of the drainage maintenance to allow water

to flow to the proper outfall areas. You may have notice clearing of drains and excavation of ditches on Wade Hampton, Francis Marion and Seagull in addition to some work at Royal Pines Blvd and Sam's Point.

Much remains to be done but with the assistance of our Board, homeowners and contacts at the State and County, we will continue to work on this very necessary issue.

Many thanks to Neil Desai at Beaufort County Public Works and to Elizabeth Sanders at the State DOT for all their efforts. We look forward to a continued and productive partnership.

If you are experiencing property flooding and have additional concerns, please contact Barbara Jodoin from our RPHOA Board who is our Government Liaison on these programs.

You can reach Barbara at wbjodoin@bellsouth.net or call, 770-841-5859 for assistance.

RECIPE

Garlic Shrimp Kabobs

INGREDIENTS

1 pound frozen shrimp, thawed and peeled
1/4 cup olive oil
1 tablespoon minced garlic
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon pepper
1 pinch finely chopped parsley
1/4 cup Extra Virgin Olive Oil
Metal skewers

Fresh peeled and deveined shrimp may be used. Wooden skewers may be substituted for metal skewers, if desired. Before using, soak wooden skewers in water for 15 minutes to prevent them from catching on fire on the grill.

DIRECTIONS

- * Rinse and dry shrimp.
- * Whisk olive oil, garlic, lemon juice, pepper, and parsley together in a bowl and pour into a large resealable plastic bag. Add shrimp, coat with the marinade, squeeze out excess air, and seal the bag. Marinate in the refrigerator for 2 hours.
- * Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate.
- * Lightly coat metal skewers with cooking spray.
- * Remove shrimp from the marinade and shake off excess. Discard the remaining marinade. Place about 5 shrimp on each skewer.
- * Cook on the preheated grill until shrimp are bright pink on the outside and the meat is opaque, about 5 minutes; do not overcook.

PLEASE JOIN TODAY

Annual Membership \$85.00

Unimproved Lot \$45.00

Complete the form below and include it with your remittance. Make your check payable to "RPHOA" and mail to RPHOA, P.O. Box 1763, Beaufort SC 29901. If you like, you can bring it to a monthly Board Meeting on the first Thursday of each month. If you choose not to join, please consider making a contribution to assist the Association in covering its costs of operations. The Association's sole reason for existing is to create an environment in the Royal Pines Community that helps maintain the value of our homes and fosters a sense of community.

NAME(S): _____

ROYAL PINES PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE #** _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different than property address): _____

If you want to participate in the voting for Officers and Board Members but are unable or unwilling to attend the Annual Meeting on August 18, 2020, you may designate a proxy to vote for you. By using the form below you are able to name another RPHOA member or Board Member as your proxy. You may also fill in "any Board member" as your proxy. Mail this proxy with your dues or give it to your proxy to bring to the Annual Meeting.

+++++ PROXY FOR ANNUAL MEETING +++++

I, _____ (name) own property in Royal Pines at _____ and am a member of the Royal Pines HOA.

I hereby appoint _____ as my proxy to vote on my behalf at the 2020 Annual Meeting. This proxy is void if I am present. This proxy can serve to establish a quorum for the meeting.

Signature _____ Date _____

**IF YOU WANT GOOD NEIGHBORS
BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR**



ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

Numerous Realtors and others over the past few years have commented that the appearance of Royal Pines has improved dramatically. One result of this is that property values and sales have also increased significantly. The most significant contribution to the improved appearance is the work of the Homeowners Association. Previous owners of the Covenants, i.e., real estate developers and others, did little to enforce the Covenants so as not to interfere with the sale of a parcel of land or patronage of a business. Put in a little caveat, such as "there is an HOA" and the sale might fall through.

About five years ago the Royal Pines Homeowners Association was given ownership of the Covenants and started enforcing the Covenants as originally intended. That is where the dramatic improvement in looks began and continues today.

Unfortunately the Covenants do not require property owners to be dues paying members yet all property owners reap the benefits of the enforcement of the Covenants. Membership is a mere \$85.00 per year and there is not one property owner in Royal Pines that cannot afford that fee, yet over two thirds of

property owners do not belong. DOES THIS SEEM NEIGHBORLY to you, letting a few people foot the bill for everyone.

If you want to continue improvements in the community and keep increasing property values you better get involved with the RPHOA as well as become a "dues paying member".

Not having more Owners pay the Annual Dues and not electing a pro-active new Board and letting the Association expire will be very costly to every Homeowner in Royal Pines. With no RPHOA housing values will go down and this will have a negative impact on all of us. I have been a volunteer Board member four over years, involved with the ARB (Architectural Review Board) plus written articles for the Newsletter, helped with the Semi-Annual "Yard Sale", help putting up fencing on the Blvd, Coordinating efforts with the State and County, Greeting New Homeowners, etc., and it is time for other Owners to step up, pay the Annual Dues and take on some of that responsibility. Otherwise you may see your Community suffer significant deterioration and financial consequences in the lowering of property values.

PET LEASH LAWS ARE MANDATORY

One of the ongoing issues in Royal Pines are the number of **dogs roaming free** in the neighborhood including the golf course. It is certainly acceptable for pets to run free in a fenced yard. But once free of the yard it is the pet owner's responsibility to exercise total control over the animal.

It is also important for parents to make sure that when children are walking their pets they are aware of the importance of control and that the child has the physical ability to exercise appropriate control.

The following are provisions excerpted from the Beaufort County Code.

Sec. 14-28. - Restraint of animals by owners.

(a) **Running at large.** It shall be unlawful for any owner or custodian of any dog, cat, or other animal to permit the dog, cat, or other animal to run at large at any time upon any street or highway or other property within the county (S.C. Code 1976, § 47-7-110).

(b) **Control of animals generally.** No owner shall fail to exercise proper care and control of his animals to prevent them from becoming a public nuisance.

(c) **Female dogs and cats in heat.** Every female dog and cat in heat shall be confined in such a manner that such female dog or cat cannot come into contact with another animal.

Other provisions including description and laws applying to "dangerous animals" can be found in Chapter 10 of the county ordinances which are on line at www.municode.com/library/sc/beaufort_county/codes
If you see dogs running loose you can call Animal Control at 843-255-5010 to report. If a dog poses a threat to you or you observe such a threat call 911 immediately.