



December 2017

Greetings Everyone,

On behalf of the SOA Board I'd like to wish all of you the happiest of holidays and may time spent with family and friends create cherished memories that last a lifetime. Since this is my first newsletter, and the first since the annual meeting, I feel compelled to cover some things that have been brought to the Board's attention in the past month as well as some other significant items.

1. The Board would like to welcome Andy Lightner as the SOA's new Vice-President. The Board selected Andy because he brings many years of experience from our Board and other HOA Boards.
2. A homeowner has brought it to our attention that an individual in the neighborhood has not been stopping for the school bus at the corner of McPherson and Sommerville. The children in our community deserve better and this is not acceptable as their safety should be paramount to any driver. If you witness this happening, please take a picture of their vehicle (license plate if possible), email it to me, and I will forward it the Sheriff's Office. I may not be able to get them a ticket, but I can request a Deputy stop by their home. Additionally, we've had numerous complaints about people exceeding the 25 MPH speed limit on Sommerville Way. There have been some who'd like a speed bump installed, however VDOT owns the roads and informed me that was not an option. I also tried to have a stop sign installed which will at least slow the speeders down, VDOT nixed that idea as well. Our only course of action, which I did, was to call the Sheriff's Office and request an increased presence in our community. There are many children, pets, and homeowners walking on our streets, please at least try to abide by the traffic rules while you're driving through our community.
3. Having our Board audited was discussed at our Annual Meeting. We've looked into having this done and it will cost in excess of \$3,000 to have an audit done by a CPA firm. As per our Attorney, it's not a requirement that we be audited since we're having our annual taxes done by a CPA. We as a board have nothing to hide and anyone wishing to review our books is welcome to at any time. Our Attorney also suggested that we can get a group of homeowners together to perform an audit

which won't cost us anything. Their findings would be reported at the annual meeting. If you're interested, please let me know.

4. Several Board members met with our landscaper recently to discuss removing some trees and shrubbery from around the pond. We plan to work with the county to ensure we follow all environmental pond management rules and hope to make some progress next month.
5. The Board has decided to have our Reserve Fund Study updated late in 2018. We will request the County come out in early fall to give their assessment of the pond which covers a 3-year period. Having a new certification letter from the county will ensure a smooth Reserve Study update. When available, both documents will be posted on our website, www.sommervilleowners.org.
6. Cars parked in the streets continue to be a problem for some homeowners, if possible please use the space in your driveways before parking in the streets. As was stated at the Annual Meeting, if a large firetruck can't get through and they take off your mirrors, it's going to be on you to repair the damage. Also, please refrain from parking on curves or close to dimly lit intersections as drivers may have problems seeing around your vehicles at night.
7. A few miscellaneous items:
 - Assessment are due January 1st for those who have not paid them yet.
 - If you see a pothole forming in neighborhood, please let me know and I'll get VDOT to repair it.
 - If you see something out of the ordinary in the neighborhood, let myself or someone know.
 - If you own a trailer, boat, RV, or other large vehicle, please remember they are only permitted in driveways for short periods, anything more than a weekend is probably too long.
 - We all love seeing you walking your pets, please remember to clean up after them.
 - Please refrain from throwing anything into the storm drains to include grass clippings, leaves, animal waste, etc. Everything that goes into the storm drains ends up in the pond, the more sediment that forms on the bottom, the more it's going to cost the community for dredging.
 - We recommend leaving your lights on at night, keep ALL of your doors locked, watch out for your neighbors, and don't leave packages on front porches overnight as they may get stolen.

Happy Holidays!

John Cooker
SOA President
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