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## Spring / Summer 2008 Newsletter

As many of you have noticed, our web site has not been updated since the hurricane several years ago, and we have not put out a newsletter since then. So we decided to send out a printed version this time to let everyone know that the web site will be updated soon, and that all future newsletters will be published there. The web site also contains the Covenants, Deed Restrictions and By-Laws which make our community such a desirable place to live. It can be accessed at [www.lakeshoa.com](http://www.lakeshoa.com)

**Directories** – Copies of the 2008 Lakes directory were distributed at the beginning of the year, but there was a problem which prevented some residents from receiving theirs. If you didn't get one, please contact Cyndi Seruntine at 727-7910.

**Street Signs** – The new street signs have been up for a while now, and the reviews have been overwhelmingly positive. Please take every opportunity to come to a complete stop at each intersection and admire them for a moment, and encourage any younger drivers in your family to do the same. In all seriousness, many parents have expressed their frustration with drivers who speed and disregard the stop signs. The alternatives are to ask the sheriff's office to have their deputies write some tickets back here, and to install more and larger speed bumps. So a word to the wise for both adult and teen drivers...

**Gatehouse** – Several repair / improvement projects are underway at the gatehouse. The wood decking and underlying support beams at all three entrances are being replaced or repaired as necessary, and the wood railings repaired. Deteriorating areas of brick and stucco are also being attended to, and when that is finished, wrought iron hand rails will be installed on the brick steps at each entrance. Finally, all exterior surfaces will be pressure washed.

**Gates** – Please be aware (and tell your children) that if you push or pull on the gates the mechanism is easily broken. We have installed a new optical trigger farther back from the exit gate which will make it very unlikely that a vehicle can approach without causing the gates to open. There is also a new high resolution camera at each gate, along with flood lights which serve an added security function. The entry gate remote operating system has been overhauled, and now works from several car lengths away.

If you need one of these remote 'clickers', they are \$25 each. Please don't post your gate code at the entry gate, for obvious security reasons. If you are having a party or other function, the gates can be programmed open for any period. Contact Bill Phillips at 624-8745 for any gate related issues.

**Litter** – There is an awful lot of litter in the neighborhood lately. If you're thinking 'Wait a minute, I haven't seen much litter', that's because some of your neighbors who walk regularly pick up lots of candy wrappers, water and juice bottles, fast food bags and cups, and beer cans. The candy wrappers are mostly found where children wait for the school bus in the morning and walk home in the afternoon, so please remind your kids that the neighborhood is an extension of their home, and to please help keep it clean. The fast food bags are often found early on weekend mornings, which would seem to point to teens coming home late the night before. Please ask any teenagers in your household to respect their neighborhood also.

**Drinking and Driving** – The beer cans mentioned above indicate a much more serious problem, because there are lots of them on most weekends. Please don't get upset and think that we're saying all teens drink, because we know that's not the case. But obviously some do, and if your son or daughter is not among those doing the drinking, then you should at least consider the possibility that he or she may be riding in a vehicle with someone who is. Its too important a subject not to talk to your kids about it.

**Tree Removal** – Please remember that approval from the ARC (architectural review committee) is required before you can cut down any tree on your property, and we encourage the planting of new ones to take their place. The Hackneys at 8055 Winners Circle are a good example of both.

**Mail Boxes** – For repairs, try Mr. Kenny Davis at Arc Welding and Fabrication, Hwy 59 near Abita Springs, 985-892-0809. For a complete replacement, go to the following web address <http://store.mailboxes.info/imp.html> and select 'box' #7, 'post' #1, and 'number plate' #1 (2 inch high numbers). And if yours just needs to be cleaned up and repainted, Tom Ballantine will do an outstanding job for \$60, and his work can be seen at 7009 Longview.

**Gas Lamps** – If the gas lamp in your front yard is not lit, please light it. If it is not lit because it is in need of repair, please have it repaired. If it is not lit for any other reason, please abide by that first sentence.

**Boats, Trailers, etc.** – Just a reminder that boats and trailers (any type or size, not just the ones used to haul boats) may not be stored in view anywhere on your property, with the exception of small skiffs and canoes at the rear of those homes on the water. Political campaign signs are also prohibited.

**E-mail Contact List** – If you didn't receive an email about the crawfish boil, you are not on our contact list. Please drop me a note at [WLP624@bellsouth.net](mailto:WLP624@bellsouth.net) so that we will have a way to get in touch when something important comes up.

**Don't Burn** – Its not just a subdivision regulation, the parish also prohibits the burning of trash, leaves, branches, pine needles, or anything else on your property. Its a fire hazard to all of your neighbors, so please haul it away, don't burn it.

Thanks for taking the time to read this, and have a great summer...

Your Homeowners Board,

Rick, Warren, Lara, Tom and Bill