



www.villagesofsandcreek.org

After a long hard winter this beautiful weather is even more welcome. I hope everyone is happy and healthy this spring season. I wish to take a few minutes of your time to bring you up to speed on changes and improvements in our community.

For the longest time speeding has been a problem that endangers the safety of our residents. Sawgrass, Colonial, and many of the other streets have been a racetrack for outsiders, and residents that just did not care. We have worked with the Town, and Police Dept. to officially get these speed limits lowered to 20 MPH. We are now waiting the final approval from the town, at which point we will get signs made for each entrance stating the speed is 20 MPH ,and also that the community is a private one. In the meantime please feel free to use the website to report these problems. If you see a speeder, feel free to send a name, license plate, or address to me at the website. I will have First American send a letter to the resident, with a copy to the Chesterton Chief of Police. Everything will be kept anonymous. This problem has existed for so long we feel an aggressive approach as this is necessary.

You will also notice the addition of two other new signs. The first is at our West entrance. It is a smaller, less elaborate sign than the one at our Main entrance, but so far seems to do the job. The other is on Sawgrass in front of the pond. Over the past year we have had numerous complaints of people from outside the subdivision coming in and fishing all day long, and then taking the fish with them. This is a small pond designed for the children in the community to fish at, and not for people outside the community to feed their families from. This sign states that VOSC is a private community. It also states no skating/swimming/or boating.

Our landscape has been at the top of our list for some time. Last year we hired a new company, A Plus. This year we were able to secure a 5 year contract with them that includes a no increase clause, except gasoline. We feel this will be a beneficial relationship and will keep us looking good. Again, if you have any complaints, and or suggestions please use the website so we can follow up. Our biggest news in this category is our landscape redesign. Sue Kueltsso has worked with Lehman, and Lehman, a professional landscape architect out of South Bend, on a 5 year design



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project. 2008 will be the first of the 5 years. Currently they are putting together a design for our main entrance, and the two islands on Highland behind it. These are the oldest in the community, and look like it. We hope to have a planting early enough to enjoy for the summer, but worst case scenario it would be a fall planting. Lot's of Kudos to Sue. This was a lot of hard work, and she deserves a lot of credit.

While we have a lot of good to say about landscape in the community, we also have problems. A handful of homeowners still do not maintain their lawns, and planting beds. As you walk through the community you will notice a handful of residents that really do ruin, and "slum up" the overall aesthetics. We are proactively taking care of these. We have been sending letters, and when nothing is done, we have the landscaper do it. After this we bill them back. If they do not pay we turn it over to a collections agency. The same goes for lights out, dues not paid, debris in yards, and any other problem we need to temporarily pay for with HOA money. As a reminder, all yards need to have a tree in the front yard. It is in the bi-laws. We will send letters this spring to residents that need to plant, and will ask our landscaper to offer a discount.

Kirk Redman is presently researching, and bidding a mailbox project. He is working on a package that would give us a similar look to Sand creek. Great job Kirk for all your hard work. More to come.

Elections are coming up. We are looking for a few good people. Are you good at organizing? Do you want to improve your surroundings? Want to be able too say you made a difference? Their will be three terms up. They are Kirk Redman, Jeff Vantil, and Bob Thomas. Start thinking about it.

Our quarterly HOA meeting will be on June 19th at 6:00 pm. We will have it at the Library service Center as usual. This is open to all homeowners. Hope too see you there.

Bob Thomas