

THE REFUGE AT WHITEHALL

THE REFUGE TIMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 AUGUST 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Refugees,

I am sure each of us had a reason for seeking The Refuge as our place of comfort and shelter from the rigors of life beyond its boundaries. As your newly elected President of the Home Owner's Association (HOA), I am committed to ensuring The Refuge remains one of the premier Low Country neighborhoods. I am joined in this commitment by my fellow directors who are motivated and enthusiastic about the roles and responsibilities they have assumed. The current list of directors are reflected on page 5 in the section titled "Meet the Board Members". I thank the previous directors who gave of themselves for our neighborhood.

The only way to preserve the beauty and value of The Refuge is for each of us to accept our responsibility to comply with the provisions of our Covenants and Restrictions and By-Laws. We recognize there is always room for interpretation and we will do our best to resolve any ambiguity. Beyond preserving and enhancing the beauty of The Refuge we are committed to fostering a community culture that embraces and promotes a positive and safe environment where all neighbors are respected. This cannot be achieved without your involvement and open and honest two way communications. To facilitate your involvement we have created the Common Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) and the Community Interface Advisory Committee (CIAC) to assist us in making the best decisions possible for The Refuge. Please take the time to review the duties and responsibilities of each of the committee; I am sure you will see where you can contribute to your neighborhood. Every owner has a vested interest in keeping The Refuge at its best.

Your HOA's Board of Directors, in coordination with the Advisory Committees, Architectural Review Board (ARB) and others are working on improving The Refuge. The creation and deployment of The Refuge website is indeed a step the right direction. I know those who participated in the Fourth of July celebration can attest to how much fun we can have with each other. The painting of stop bars in front of the stop signs has enhanced the safety of our neighborhood. We are assessing The Refuge disaster preparedness in coordination with the White Hall Property Owners Association and the Coosaw Creek HOA which will ultimately improve our readiness posture. Of course the preceding efforts are not all inclusive.

I invite each of you to attend our board meetings which will be posted on The Refuge website. Please let us know if you have any ideas or suggestions to help improve the neighborhood. If you wish to discuss a community issue, I am always willing to talk with you and I welcome your feedback.

Carlisle Harrison Jr., President

President@refugeatwhitehall.org



Carlisle Harrison
President

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Renae Gasser
Welcome Committee
Chairman & Secretary

FROM THE WELCOME COMMITTEE:

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

As many homes are being sold in our neighborhood, the HOA would like to ensure that everyone is made to feel welcome. A committee is being formed to help welcome new neighbors.

There are two ways you can help:

- 1) If anyone would like to help serve on a Welcome Committee, please contact Renae Gasser to volunteer.
- 2) If you notice a new neighbor moving in, please let Renae know so that information can be put together and distributed to our new neighbors.

If you are new to the neighborhood, welcome to The Refuge!

Any comments or questions regarding the Welcome Committee can be directed to Renae by email or by phone, 843-901-9379.

Sincerely,

Renae Gasser, Welcome Committee Chairman
Secretary@refugeatwhitehall.org

**“ANYONE
INTERESTED IN
JOINING THE
WELCOME
COMMITTEE
SHOULD
CONTACT
RENAE GASSER
AT
843-901-9379”**

FROM THE TREASURER:

Greetings fellow neighbors!

We are proceeding through the year very close to the budget as published and distributed last December. Thanks to all who have promptly paid their dues and have allowed us to stay on track!

If you have not yet paid your annual dues, I encourage you to promptly mail your payments to:

The Refuge Home Owners Association
PO Box 42276
North Charleston, SC 29423

Sincerely,

John Thompson, Treasurer
Treasurer@refugeatwhitehall.org



John Thompson
Treasurer

FROM THE ARB CHAIRMAN:

Members,

The Covenants and Restrictions and By-Laws are the written guidelines we use to ensure our neighborhood remains a beautiful, safe, and enjoyable place to live. I encourage each of you to read it in its entirety to ensure you are not in violation of any particular article. If you do not have a copy of the Covenants and Restrictions and By-Laws, one can be provided to you upon request.

We are all doing a great job with adhering to the rules of the neighborhood, and I really appreciate it! There are just a few important reminders I have for you in case you might have forgotten:

- Any changes to your home's exterior appearance **MUST** be submitted for approval to the ARB **prior** to performing the work. (Some examples include home paint color changes, landscaping changes, building of fences, tree removal, yard decorations, flags, etc).
- Trashcans and yard waste such as grass clippings, and tree branches are not to be placed by the road until **5pm the night prior** to trash pickup. Trashcans should be removed from the street by the end of the day, on the day of trash pickup. Remember, Trash refuse should be placed in front of your home **ONLY**.
- Empty lots are privately owned by developers. Trespassing and dumping trash on empty lots is both discourteous and illegal. Please be mindful of the private property of others!
- Homes that border the conservation easement must remember that the conservation easement is a protected area which must remain untouched and allowed to naturalize. If any homeowner removes any trees or natural growth from these areas they will likely be required by the City of North Charleston to mitigate by replanting trees and shrubs. This can be a costly mistake. If you have any questions, please contact me to discuss further.
- For the protection of everyone in our neighborhood, pets must remain on leashes at all times. The City of North Charleston has been known to issue fines in excess of \$1,000 for violating the leash law. We want to make our neighborhood as safe as possible.
- Many of us have celebrated New Years and the Fourth of July with fireworks and have enjoyed flashes of brilliance and bangs with "ooh's" and "ahhh's". Please be courteous to the community and your neighbors and clean up the debris left behind from fireworks.
- Vehicles are not permitted to be parked on the street overnight. Vehicles should never be parked on your front yard or in your back yard.
- North Charleston public works recently painted stop bars on the roads to help make the intersection safer. The North Charleston Police Department has recently staked out the intersection and even written a few violation tickets for speeding violations or for ignoring the stop signs. Please be careful and courteous to your fellow neighbors by obeying all posted speed and traffic signs within The Refuge.
- The Board of Directors is developing official guidelines on the displaying of flags, which will be forthcoming. However, the current allowance is for one (1) US flag, and one (1) SC state flag. A formal approval from the ARB is all that is required to fly a flag in The Refuge.

Thank you very much for doing your part to keep our neighborhood safe and beautiful!

Will Terrell, ARB Chairman
ARB@refugeatwhitehall.org



Will Terrell
ARB Chairman

**“ANY CHANGES
TO YOUR HOME’S
EXTERIOR
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**“PLEASE BE
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THE REFUGE.”**



Will Terrell
CPAC Chairman

FROM THE CPAC CHAIRMAN:

The purpose of the Common Properties Advisory Committee (CPAC) is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities by assessing the viability, acceptability and adherence to standards of all common properties. The role of the CPAC is advisory; it is not the duty of the CPAC to enforce standards or to serve as quality assurance evaluators.

To fulfill its responsibilities and duties, the CPAC shall:

- Report upon discovery of any situation, emergency repair, or remediation needed on common properties immediately to the Board for action.
- Conduct periodic informal surveys or interviews of members of the Refuge to determine satisfaction with common properties.
- Review common properties for viability, acceptability and adherence to standards and provide a quarterly advisory report to the Board (Mar, June, Sept and Dec).
- Formulate an enhancement and operational plan for common properties each year and present it to the Board for consideration and possible inclusion in the annual budget (Nov).

The current CPAC Chairman is Will Terrell.

The current CPAC members are: Mike Kelly, Amanda Clinton, Kathy Hensley & Russ Miller.

The CPAC committee is currently working on a number of suggestions to the Board on how specific common properties throughout the neighborhood can/should be improved. Our intent is to enhance the beauty of The Refuge, and in turn enhance the quality of life in our wonderful neighborhood.

Our next meeting will be August 6th @630pm, at 8529 Refuge Point Circle (Will Terrell's home). Anyone interested in joining the CPAC should contact Will Terrell at 843-619-1245.

Will Terrell, CPAC Chairman

ARB@refugeatwhitehall.org

**“ANYONE
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JOINING THE
CPAC SHOULD
CONTACT
WILL TERRELL
AT
843-619-1245”**



FROM THE CIAC CHAIRMAN:

The primary function of the Community Interface Advisory Committee (CIAC) is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its responsibilities of ensuring HOA members are well informed, properly welcomed, and socially integrated, while maintaining healthy two-way communications.

To fulfill its responsibilities and duties, the CIAC shall:

- Ensure new residents have an updated copy of “The Covenants and Restrictions”.
- Provide a welcome packet and collect family information for The Refuge Directory.
- Publish an annual Refuge Directory.
- Conduct, plan and execute social functions at least three times a year.
- Obtain feedback from a random sampling of attendees at each social function.
- Establish and maintain an HOA website and publish a quarterly Newsletter.
- Formulate an annual social calendar each November for the following year.

There are several areas that need support. If you are interested in joining this committee please contact me ASAP. The first committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 9th @630pm, at 8574 Refuge Point Circle (Rodney McLeod’s home).

Social Committee - The 4th of July BBQ was a success and we are working on an oyster roast and shag dance to be held at the pavilion this Fall.

Welcome Committee - Renae Gasser has taken the lead and is doing a great job.

Website Committee - The website is up, but very basic. There are many plans that will be implemented in the near future.

Newsletter Committee - Julie Terrell is our editor and has taken the lead on publishing this quarterly newsletter.

Please join us in order to make this the best Neighborhood in the region!

Rodney McLeod, CIAC Chairman & VP
VP@refugeatwhitehall.org



Rodney McLeod
 CIAC Chairman, VP

**“PLEASE JOIN US
 ON THE CIAC IN
 ORDER TO MAKE
 THIS
 THE BEST
 NEIGHBORHOOD
 IN THE REGION!”**

MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS:

President	Carlisle Harrison	president@refugeatwhitehall.org
Vice President	Rodney McLeod	VP@refugeatwhitehall.org
ARB Chairman	Will Terrell	ARB@refugeatwhitehall.org
Treasurer	John Thompson	treasurer@refugeatwhitehall.org
Secretary	Renae Gasser	secretary@refugeatwhitehall.org





THE REFUGE AT WHITEHALL
OWNERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 42276
North Charleston, SC 29423

E-mail: board@refugeatwhitehall.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
REFUGEATWHITEHALL.ORG

ABOUT THE REFUGE...

The Refuge's 63-home neighborhood on 1/4 to 1/2 acre lots is a world apart from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. The community has a stocked pond, spacious pavilion and a community boardwalk with a dock extending into unspoiled Coosaw Creek. There's a 35-foot height restriction, 20-foot setback from the street, perimeter sidewalks, and strategically placed gas lanterns. At least 30 percent of the plantings must be indigenous South Carolina foliage such as palmettos. The Refuge uniquely combines a feeling of a close-knit community with the quiet and serenity of nature in a setting steeped with history.

RECENT EVENTS:

4TH OF JULY BBQ

The 4th of July BBQ and Bike parade was a success. Thanks to all who participated and a special thank you to Mike and Laurie Kelly for organizing the bike Parade. Pictures will be posted soon on the website: refugeatwhitehall.org

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Meetings:

- CPAC Meeting: 6-August-2012 @ 6:30pm
Location: 8529 Refuge Point Circle (Will Terrell's home)
- HOA Board Meeting: 8-August-2012 @ 6:30pm
Location: The Refuge Pavilion
- CIAC Meeting: 9-August-2012 @ 6:30pm *Tentative*
Location: 8574 Refuge Point Circle (Rodney McLeod's home)

Planned Social Events:

- Fall Oyster Roast and Shag Dance: 27 October 2012 @5:00 pm *Tentative*
Location: The Refuge Pavilion

Do you have questions or comments about the newsletter?

Email us at: newsletter@refugeatwhitehall.org