



THE REFUGE AT WHITEHALL

# THE REFUGE TIMES

DECEMBER 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Refuges,

We must all be vigilant to ensure the safety of our neighborhood. This year we have seen undesirable activities at the Pavilion and the removal of street signs from the neighborhood. I ask that you report suspicious activities to the North Charleston Police Dept or if you see any hazardous and or unsafe conditions to report it to one of your HOA directors.

Another year is rapidly coming to an end. We have been fortunate to have gone through a hurricane season without a significant storm. I ask each of you to look at your personal level of preparedness now before a real emergency situation presents itself. We have included on The Refuge's website links to Public Safety and Disaster Preparedness information.

We are experiencing new construction with all its ensuing challenges. It's been several years since we have had new construction and we ask each of you to beware of the heavy vehicle traffic and potential hazards. Please ensure we do not put ourselves or allow family members in harm's way by illegally entering these construction sites.

Each of the HOA board members has been challenged by demands placed on our time professionally, personally and in service to the neighborhood. We have made every possible attempt to accomplish the lofty set of goals we set for the HOA board back in March when we assumed our elected positions. To assist us in completing all of our goals, we need more volunteers to serve on the Architectural Review Board (ARB), the Common Property Advisory Committee (CPAC), and the Community Interface Advisory Committee (CIAC).

I encourage you all to volunteer for the ARB, CPAC, and CIAC. More information can be found on our website under the "Volunteer Column".

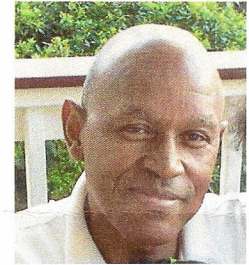
I know those who participated in the Fourth of July Celebration and the Fall Oyster Roast and Shag Dance can attest to how much fun we can have with each other. To continue this momentum the CIAC is working on the next social outing to correspond with our Annual meeting in February (date to be determined).

I invite each of you to attend our board meetings which will be posted on The Refuge website. If you have an idea to help improve the neighborhood then please let us know. If you wish to discuss a community issue, I am always willing to talk and welcome your feedback.

I ask whenever possible, please express your appreciation to your directors for the sacrifice of their valuable time and talents to make The Refuge a place we all can be proud of.

The holiday season is upon us and I wish each of you a happy and safe season!

Carlisle Harrison Jr., President  
[president@refugeatwhitehall.org](mailto:president@refugeatwhitehall.org)



Carlisle Harrison  
President



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Renae Gasser  
Welcome Committee  
Chairman & Secretary

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

## FROM THE WELCOME COMMITTEE:

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Our neighborhood is continuously changing. Homes are being rented and sold, and with that comes wonderful new neighbors. The HOA would like to ensure that everyone is made to feel welcome. This year we have formed a Welcome Committee to help welcome new neighbors. We would love you to join the Welcome Committee!

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.

Renae Gasser, Welcome Committee Chairman  
[secretary@refugeatwhitchall.org](mailto:secretary@refugeatwhitchall.org)

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## FROM THE TREASURER:

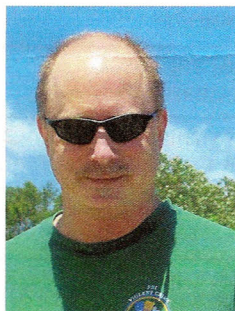
Neighbors,

Kate Hoyt has resigned as our Bookkeeper and we will miss her support that she has been performing for many years. Many thanks go to her for the countless hours she expended for our community. We now have a CPA, Maurice White, supporting our Board to manage the financial accounts, develop our expense reports, invoices, billings, and taxes. Maurice's performance is excellent and we look forward to a successful business relationship.

My time has become limited for personal reasons and even with the support of a CPA I can use an assistant to the HOA Treasurer position. The principle area I need assistance with is a focal point for quality assurance of the services performed for our community; i.e. landscaping, pond maintenance, mosquito spraying, etc. I have a process developed and a checklist for all services, but I need a willing assistant to help validate services are performed before payment. I would also like to train an assistant to be an alternate in the event I become unavailable. If you have been interested in supporting the Board but are hesitant for a full time position this is your ticket.

It's time again to remind the community of the annual dues. We were very successful this past year collecting monies owed with only a few outstanding accounts that we are addressing with professional legal assistance. The annual expense report and 2013 budget will be forwarded for the communities information.

John Thompson, Treasurer  
[treasurer@refugeatwhitchall.org](mailto:treasurer@refugeatwhitchall.org)



John Thompson  
Treasurer

## FROM THE ARB CHAIRMAN:

Members,

The Fall and Winter months bring with them the arduous task of bagging up those pesky leaves that cover our lawns. The covenants and restrictions state that we are to keep our home's exterior in A-1 condition. Many of you are doing a great job of keeping up with the fallen leaves, and we all appreciate that. Please keep these points in mind:

- It is your responsibility to keep your lawn free of leaves and debris as much as possible.
- **Yard waste is not to be placed by the road until Wednesdays after 5:00pm.** If you are using a lawn maintenance company, it is still your responsibility to remove the bags of yard waste from the street until Wednesdays after 5:00pm. Continued non-compliance will result in assessment fees per incident.

Please also remember that:

- 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).
- 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. Violators will be notified once as a courtesy. Habitual violators will be referred to the City of North Charleston for non-compliance and remedy.
- 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. Parking violations will result in assessment fee per incident.
- Home owners regularly pressure wash their homes to keep the exterior free from mold and mildew. Additionally, touching up the exterior paint is required if there is visible chipping of paint. Please stay proactive to keep your home in A-1 condition!
- When lighting off fireworks on New Year's Eve, it is your responsibility to clean up the debris afterwards.

**An important note for homeowners surrounding the ponds:** Starting January 1, 2013, other than the common areas, the lawn maintenance company WILL NOT be maintaining the areas around the pond which are part of those homeowners lots. It will be each homeowner's responsibility to perform the maintenance in those areas around the ponds. If you have any questions, please contact one of the board members for clarification.

Two new homes on lots 1 and 4 are currently underway. The ARB committee worked with the builders and an independent architecture firm to review the plans, and work with the builders to modify the plans as necessary to protect the look and feel of the neighborhood.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as the ARB Chairman for 2012. I will be handing over the reins in February 2013 to the next willing person. If you think you are interested in performing the duties of ARB Chairman and/or would like more information about what is involved, please contact me at 843-619-1245.

Merry Christmas and have a safe New Year!

Will Terrell, ARB Chairman  
[arb@refugeatwhitchall.org](mailto:arb@refugeatwhitchall.org)



Will Terrell  
ARB Chairman

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Will Terrell  
CPAC Chairman

### FROM THE CPAC CHAIRMAN:

During the past quarter the Common Properties Advisory Committee (CPAC) was successful in making recommendations for the following improvements and getting them completed:

- Installation of motion sensor flood lights at the Pavilion to deter vandalism and loitering.
- Structural repairs to the dock, including a new aluminum ramp down to the floating dock.
- Pressure washing of the Pavilion.
- Purchase and installation of two 8 foot picnic tables at the Pavilion.
- Purchase and installation of new seat cushions for the existing furniture at the Pavilion.
- Removal of the old grill.

Agenda items for CPAC focus during the next quarter:

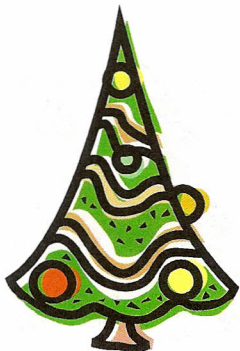
- Site survey and safety assessment for the installation of a safety mirror at the front entrance to allow drivers, bikers, and pedestrians to see around the corner for oncoming traffic.
- Assessment of the gate on the dock, designing a replacement door, and replacement as necessary.
- Conduct an informal survey or interview of members of the Refuge to determine satisfaction with common properties.
- Assessment of pond fountains and lighting.

As you can see, the CPAC committee has been busy and will remain busy up to the end of the elected term. 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 January 2nd @7:00pm, at 8529 Refuge Point Circle (Will Terrell's home). Anyone interested in joining the CPAC, and are in good standing with the HOA, should contact Will Terrell at 843-619-1245.

Will Terrell, CPAC Chairman  
[arb@refugeatwhitchall.org](mailto:arb@refugeatwhitchall.org)

**"ANYONE  
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WILL TERRELL  
AT  
843-619-1245"**



## FROM THE CIAC CHAIRMAN:

The Community Interface Advisory Committee (CIAC) had a busy year and we are looking forward to many new opportunities in the New Year. This year we had two successful functions, 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ and the fall Shag Dance and Oyster Roast. Next year we are planning three communities' activities, starting with a valentine social in conjunction with the annual meeting.

The Refuge website <http://www.refugeatwhitehall.org> is taking shape and we are looking for input from the community on the content of the site. Does it meet your needs? Is it missing valuable information that will be beneficial to the entire community? Let us know what you think, it's your site so let's make it useful! The web team is looking for volunteers to help keep the information up to date, so if you are interested please contact any board member.

Our team is continually looking for volunteers to assist in the many areas of our responsibilities. If you are interested in volunteering in one of the areas below contact me or any of the Directors.

- Social Committee – Planning and hosting events three times a year. (Winter, Spring and Fall)
- Welcome Committee – Greeting new residence and introducing them into the neighborhood.
- Website Committee – Maintaining content and creative direction.
- Newsletter Committee – Assist the editor in developing content.

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

Rodney McLeod, CIAC Chairman & VP  
[vp@refugeatwhitehall.org](mailto:vp@refugeatwhitehall.org)



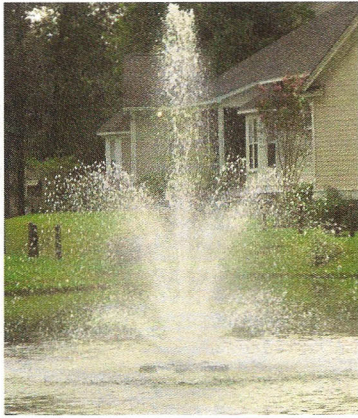
Rodney McLeod  
CIAC Chairman, VP

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

## MEET THE BOARD MEMBERS:

President	Carlisle Harrison	<a href="mailto:president@refugeatwhitehall.org">president@refugeatwhitehall.org</a>
Vice President	Rodney McLeod	<a href="mailto:vp@refugeatwhitehall.org">vp@refugeatwhitehall.org</a>
ARB Chairman	Will Terrell	<a href="mailto:arb@refugeatwhitehall.org">arb@refugeatwhitehall.org</a>
Treasurer	John Thompson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@refugeatwhitehall.org">treasurer@refugeatwhitehall.org</a>
Secretary	Renaë Gasser	<a href="mailto:secretary@refugeatwhitehall.org">secretary@refugeatwhitehall.org</a>





THE REFUGE AT WHITEHALL  
OWNERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 42276  
North Charleston, SC 29423

E-mail: [board@refugeatwhitehall.org](mailto:board@refugeatwhitehall.org)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[REFUGEATWHITEHALL.ORG](http://REFUGEATWHITEHALL.ORG)

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## 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:

### OYSTER ROAST & SHAG DANCE

The Oyster Roast and Shag Dance was a lot of fun! Thanks to those who helped to plan and assist with the event. If you were unable to make it, we missed you! In case you are interested, pictures will be posted on the website: [refugeatwhitehall.org](http://refugeatwhitehall.org)

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## IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Meetings:

- CPAC Meeting: 2-January-2013 @ 7:00pm  
Location: 8529 Refuge Point Circle (Will Terrell's home)
- CIAC Meeting: 31-January-2013 @ 7:00pm  
Location: 8574 Refuge Point Circle (Rodney McLeod's home)

- HOA Annual Meeting: 21-February-2013 @ 7:00pm  
Location: Coosaw Creek Clubhouse

### Social Events:

- Valentine's Social: 21-February-2013 @ 7:00pm  
Location: Coosaw Creek Clubhouse

In conjunction with the Annual Meeting on 21-February-2013, there will be a fun social event. All are invited to join in the fun! For more details and updates, please check out our website.



Do you have questions or comments about the newsletter?

Email us at: [newsletter@refugeatwhitehall.org](mailto:newsletter@refugeatwhitehall.org)