

THE REFUGE AT WHITEHALL

THE REFUGE TIMES

DECEMBER 2013

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fellow Refugee's,

The holiday season is upon us and we are closing out another year of enjoying the uniqueness that is the Refuge. We have for the first time in a number of years seen the completion of new homes which signals an upturn in the housing market and growth in the Refuge. This past year we have welcomed new homeowners to our corner of the Low County. We all appreciate the value of any community is driven by its location, amenities and above all individual owner's commitment to pride in ownership. With the holiday season I know many of us will have guest visiting the Refuge and we ask you take a look at your home to ensure it is adhering to highest standards and complying with the Declaration of the Covenants and Restrictions for The Refuge at Whitehall.

At year's end I applaud the volunteers who have labored to maintain the highest standards enhancing the quality of life and appearance of the Refuge. Your neighbors have volunteered many hours to assure our landscape and pond were maintained; new neighbors welcomed, needed support provided to successful socials and the list goes on. Other neighbors have answered the call by serving on the Architectural Review Board (ARB). We will be recognizing some of your neighbors at this year's Annual Meeting.

I ask in the New Year that you make a commitment to enhance the quality of life and appearance of the Refuge by volunteering for one of the chartered advisory committees: (Common Properly Advisory Committee (CPAC), Community interface Advisory Committee (CAIC), Preservation Lane Advisory Committee (PLAC) and Disaster Preparedness and Public Safety Advisory Committee (DPPSAC). These charters are on the refugeatwhitehall.org website.

As I have stated before each of us owes a debt of gratitude to those among us who voluntarily serve on your Home Owner Association's board of directors. This is often a thankless job but is essential to the functioning of the Refuge. The past year we have seen tremendous strides made in the quality of our socials, welcoming of new families, viability of our refugeatwhitehall.org website, reduction in delinquent accounts, increased owner's involvement in Preservation Lane and safety enhancement by extending our sidewalks and installing a handicap accessible crosswalk. I have heard positive comments about the noted improvements in the operation of the HOA. Please let Rodney McLeod, 8574 Refuge Point Circle, John Thompson, 8616 Nesting Place, Robert Young, 8537 Refuge Point Circle and Smith Rivière, 8673 Refuge Point Circle know how much you appreciate their efforts on our behalf. You can communicate directly with these dedicated Directors through their email account on the refugeatwhitehall.org website.

John Thompson will be leaving the board after three years of dedicate service and I will be



Carlisle Harrison
President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| FROM THE PRESIDENT | 1 |
| FROM THE TREASURER | 2 |
| FROM THE ARB CHAIRMAN | 3 |
| FROM THE PLAC CHAIRMAN | 3 |
| FROM THE CPAC CHAIRMAN | 4 |
| FROM THE DPPSAC CHAIRMAN | 5 |
| FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE | 5 |
| FROM THE CIAC CHAIRMAN | 6 |
| MEET THE BOARD | 6 |
| IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS | 7 |

**IF YOU SEE
SOMETHING
HAPPENING THAT
THE POLICE
SHOULD KNOW
ABOUT, CALL
THEM! FOR NON-
EMERGENCY
SITUATIONS,
CALL THE NON-
EMERGENCY
NUMBER AT
843- 743-7200**

Continued from page 1

completing my tour of duty this year. There will be two opportunities to serve as a director and assist in charting the future of the Refuge. As the old saying goes "if not a part of the solution then you are a part of the problem. If you are interested in serving on the board feel free to contact any of the serving board members. We will also be accepting nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2014 at Coosaw Creek Country Club starting at 7:00pm. Historically, we have not seen the level of participation we desired. To this end the meeting has been moved to February so as to not compete with holiday celebrations and New Year commitments. Hopefully this will remove the majority of reasons for not attending this one time a year critical meeting. If you are unable to attend please exercise your voting right by executing a proxy vote. You should have received your Annual Board Meeting Notice with Proxy and 2014 Dues Schedule in the mail.

I wish you a happy holiday season and prosperous New Year. Please be safe! On personal note I lost a very precious young Air Force Lieutenant Colonel who served his country in a combat zone to a drunk driver. So please do not drink and drive.

As always if you have any question or concerns feel free to contact me or any of other Directors

Carlisle Harrison Jr., President
president@refugeatwhitehall.org

FROM THE TREASURER:

This past year as the Treasurer I am been very busy and productive. We have had a very good year collecting dues and assessments owed and I extend thanks to all who have made timely payments. We have had many homes sold in The Refuge and very few vacant houses in this desirable neighborhood. Utilizing a Certified Public Accountant has certainly helped ensure professional documentation and reporting of the HOA's income and expenditures. PLEASE NOTE: The annual assessment has remained the same amount, \$630, but the DUE DATE has changed to 1 JANUARY and we are requesting payment no later than 31 January.

The Covenants state the term limit of three years as a maximum as a board member therefore I will be turning over my seat. I have enjoyed being your Treasurer and have certainly learned a lot regarding the community and serving on a voluntary board as a director. I have also learned that my neighbors are wonderful people and we should all be thankful to live in The Refuge.

Very respectfully and God bless,

John Thompson, Treasurer
treasurer@refugeatwhitehall.org



John Thompson
Treasurer

FROM THE ARB CHAIRMAN:

First let me thank those owners who made it a priority to maintain their homes to the highest standards. We still have lingering issues of homes in need of pressure washing, repairs and applications of pine straw and mulch. Also we ask you to review specifically Article V Use and Restrictions and Article X Maintenance and Repair of the Declaration of the Covenants and Restrictions for The Refuge at Whitehall to ensure you are in compliance.

The fall is here and leaves are falling and we ask that you manage these leaves so as to not create an eyesore and prevent migration into your neighbor's yard or streets.

In the New Year we are planning on providing you with a simpler user friendly version of standards for use in maintaining your property.

Have a happy holiday season and be on the lookout for potential hazards and especially those surrounding electrical and cooking fires.

If there are any questions then feel free email arb@refugeatwhitehall.org

Carlisle Harrison Jr., President
president@refugeatwhitehall.org



Frank Glover
ARB Chairman

FROM THE PLAC CHAIRMAN:

The Preservation Lane Advisory Committee held a meeting on October 22 with several residences that live on the lane in attendance. The points of discussion included: History of Preservation Lane, effectiveness of most recent maintenance and advising the HOA board as to a maintenance plan, evaluation of the problem areas and reporting schedule. The advisory committee plans to evaluate Preservation Lane each quarter and present to the HOA board its' recommendations for maintenance, if any are required, along with potential problem areas which may need to be reevaluated/addressed at a later date.

The PLAC members have received much positive feedback from the most recent maintenance.

The current status of Preservation Lane roadway seems to be holding up well, except a few areas, which will be re-evaluated in January. It is estimated that it will take about 1 to 1.5 loads of crushed concrete at the most. The committee is also researching solution to fill in the jasmine on the fence at the beginning of the lane.

If you live on the lane, consider joining this committee, your input is valuable to the future enhancements.

Robert Young
Secretary@refugeatwhitehall.org

**“YARD WASTE
IS NOT TO BE
PLACED BY THE
ROAD UNTIL
WEDNESDAYS
AFTER
5:00PM.”**



Robert Young
PLAC Chairman

FROM THE CPAC CHAIRMAN:



Smith Rivera
CPAC Chairman

**“ANYONE
INTERESTED IN
JOINING THE
CPAC SHOULD
CONTACT
SMITH RIVIERE**

The Refuge is a desired neighborhood because of its location, common properties, unique homes, pride of ownership and overall ambiance. In order for the Refuge to continue it is critical that owners accept the challenge of maintaining its desirability by having their voices heard. One way to ensure your voice is heard is to become a member of the CPAC. The primary function of the Common Property Advisory Committee (CPAC) is to assist the board of directors in fulfilling their oversight responsibilities in assessing the viability, acceptability, and adherence to standards and owners satisfaction with common properties. The planning for 2014 has begun and therefore if you are interested in assisting the committee, please do not hesitate to contact the CPAC Chairman; Thanks.

Major common properties: Front Entrance, Pond, Pavilion and Dock.

Previous CPAC efforts resulted in the following improvements:

- Pavilion Motion Sensor and Light Installation
- Procurement of New Cushions for the Pavilion
- Placement of Two New Picnic Table in the Pavilion
- Secured City Trash Can Service for the Pavilion
- Safety Repairs to the Floating Dock
- Purchased New Light Kit for the Pond Fountain
- Sidewalk Extension with Wheel Chair Accessibility
- Crosswalk
- Crosswalk Warning Signs

Pending CPAC Recommendations:

- Installation of a Safety Mirror at the Front Entrance at the Curve
- Gas be Reinstalled at the Pavilion, with Controls and or Lock on the Shut-Off Valve.
- Purchasing Replacement Bulbs for the Landscaping Lights at Entrance and Pavilion.
- Replacing the Gated Entrance to the Dock and Access Mechanism

Potential CPAC Interest Areas:

- Purchasing Lot 24 for the Refuge's Use
- Accessing the Adequacy and Level of Satisfaction with Front Entrance Appearance
- Structural Modification and Equipping of the Pavilion For Enhance Usage
- Protocols for Scheduling and Usage of the Pavilion by Owners
- Accessing the Adequacy and Level of Satisfaction with Playground
- Establishment of a Refuge Kayak Program to Enhance Dock Usage

Smith Riviere, Chairman
CPAC@refugeatwhitehall.org



FROM THE DPPSAC CHAIRMAN:

Natural disasters are ever present as attested to by the recent Tornados in the Midwest and the devastation experience by the people in the Philippine. By all account the loss of life would have been greater if individuals had not adhered to weather alerts and warning and not taken the appropriate actions. I ask each you take a few minutes to reviews the active links that the DPPSCA have on the refugeatwhitehall.org website.

We are in need of owners who are willing to assist in the development of an Emergency Response and Public Safety Action Plan for the Refuge. We are susceptible to hurricanes and we live on an earth quake fault. We should also be ever vigilant of potential dangers and threats that may present themselves in our neighborhood and be prepared to communicate with appropriate authorities and take necessary precautionary actions.

If you are interested in making the Refuge a safer and better prepared neighborhood then please send an email to president@refugeatwhitehall.org.

Carlisle Harrison Jr., President
president@refugeatwhitehall.org



**THE BOARD
WOULD LIKE TO
CONVEY A BIG
THANK YOU TO
LARRY & NIETA
DRAKE, TAMMY
JENKINS AND
DEBBIE MCLEOD
FOR DECORATING
THE ENTRANCE
FOR CHRISTMAS.
GREAT JOB!**

FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN:

Rodney McLeod, Vice President of the association is appointed as the Election Committee chairman for the 2014 Annual Meeting and we are seeking at least two volunteers to serve on the committee. If you are interested in serving or have questions about the committee, contact Rodney at vp@therefugeatwhitehall.org.

The Nomination form is included with this newsletter - if you'd like to nominate yourself or another homeowner, fill out and return the nomination form to a Board member or the election committee. Remember that if any Homeowner wishes to "nominate" another Homeowner for any of the vacancies as Director, the person nominated MUST agree to his/her nomination by co-signing the Form.

All nominees must be in good standing i.e. not delinquent on homeowners association dues, penalties or any other fines of the Association.

The Board



Rodney McLeod
CIAC Chairman, VP

FROM THE CIAC CHAIRMAN:

The Community Interface Advisory Committee has had another successful year! The social committee started off with a social at the annual meeting in February, celebration and BBQ for the 4th of July and Shag dance and oyster roast in October. We are starting to plan for next year, if you are interested in assisting with this committee contact the CIAC Chairman

The website continues to improve. This year the website committee added a program to manage the emails you receive about the community. A link is in the front page of the website to register your email address. Please take the time to complete the Community directory form included in the annual meeting notice mailing. This will be a valuable tool for the HOA board and for your neighbors. The committee continues to look for suggestions on how the community website can be improved. Send suggestions to improve the website to the webmaster at webmaster@refugeatwhitehall.org.

The welcome committee has had a busy year greeting many new residences. If you are new to the community, give us feedback on how we can improve this service. Just send an email to the CIAC Chairman.

The newsletter is a valuable tool to share information about the community. The goal is to produce 4 issues a year. We came up a little short this year with three issues, but we plan to do better next year. If you are interested in assisting with editing or publishing please contact newsletter@refugeatwhitehall.org.

There is a lot going on in the Community Interface Advisory Committee and thank you to all that supported this year's activity. If you haven't already, get involved and let's have fun improving our community.

Rodney McLeod, Chairman
Community Interface Advisory Committee (CIAC)

**"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 |
| Treasurer | John Thompson | treasurer@refugeatwhitehall.org |
| Secretary | Robert Young | secretary@refugeatwhitehall.org |
| Director | Smith Rivera | cpac@refugeatwhitehall.org |
| ARB Chair | Frank Glover | arb@refugeatwhitehall.org |
| ARB Member | Will Terrell | arb@refugeatwhitehall.org |
| ARB Member | Robert Young | arb@refugeatwhitehall.org |
| ARB Member | Larry Drake | arb@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:

OYSTER ROAST AND SHAG DANCE

With a crisp chill in the air, the night was warm in dance and food. The festivities continue to grow. This year we added a fire pit so the kids could roast marshmallows and build smores. Keep an eye out for the announcement of the annual meeting in February 2014. If you are interested in participating in the planning of these events, contact Rodney McLeod

IMPORTANT DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS:

Meetings:

CPAC Meeting: Time -TBD (Check the website for updates)

Location: Place -TBD (Check the website for updates)

CIAC Meeting: 16 January 2014 @ 7:00pm

Location: 8574 Refuge Point Circle (Rodney McLeod's home)

Board Meeting: 8 January 2014 @ 7:00pm

Location: 5404 Nesting Place

Social Events:

Annual Social 20 February 2014 (Check the website for updates)

Location: Coosaw Creek Country Club

Check the website for updated times and locations

Do you have questions or comments about the newsletter?

Email us at: newsletter@refugeatwhitehall.org

