

# The Newsletter of Your Summers Creek Homeowners' Association

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## Association Board Members

President:  
Charles Rock

Vice-President:  
Mike Ferrall

Treasurer:  
Richard Moticska

Secretary:  
Stephen Bowles

Directors:  
Joe Ratino  
Jon Saul  
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## Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Chairperson:  
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(Those receiving hard copies of this publication can send their email address to the HOA address above to receive full color newsletters via email. All email addresses are kept private.)

Summers Creek HOA Website:  
[summerscreek.us](http://summerscreek.us)

When scheduled, the Summers Creek Board meets at 6:30PM on the second Thursday of each month at Kiwanis Island. Notices and agendas for meetings are posted two days in advance at the entrance and online, respectively. Everyone is welcome to attend and contribute their concerns and ideas. Meeting minutes are posted on the website as they are approved.



*From The Board of Directors....*

*It's been a great year for Summers Creek. There were no troublesome storms, no unsolvable problems, no unusually difficult issues. All things considered, with the exception of the car accident on the front wall last March, things have been relatively uneventful. The neighborhood seems to be doing better as a whole. For instance, the number of foreclosures within the community has fallen to less than 1% currently.*

*The board accomplished a lot this year; effectively managing its administrative tasks, taking care of the many maintenance items needing attention and lowering dues again. It's been a record year for dues collection also with over 98% collected as of this writing.*

*As this year draws to a close, we extend a sincere thanks to all those that contributed to the improvement of Summers Creek in one way or another this year: the owners that paid their dues on time, those who volunteered for various projects or assisted us in getting things done and those that worked hard to maintain the high standard of our community by keeping their individual properties looking good and covenant compliant.*

*In closing, we wish everyone a joyous and safe holiday season and the very best of new years.*

## Association News

**Dues Reduction—** The 2014 dues will be \$125. This is the third consecutive year that the dues have been lowered. These reductions have been made possible by keeping an extra close eye on costs, exploring all practical ways to save and taking the time to find the best way to get things done rather than what might appear initially as the most expedient.

**New Additions—** Twenty-five new grass carp were added to the lake last week to help control Chara algae and aquatic weeds.

**Membership Meeting & Election—** The annual membership meeting and board election will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 in the Kiwanis Island Karen Rood Room at 6PM.

The duties of a board member require a commitment of time that varies with position and level of involvement. Typical activities include attending meetings, researching topics necessary for the board to make informed decisions, participation in the planning and decision process regarding maintenance and administrative issues and generally assisting the board in carrying out its duties as specified in our association's governing documents.

Anyone interested in serving on the board may submit their name to the Nominations Committee by email to [nominations@summerscreek.us](mailto:nominations@summerscreek.us) or by contacting a board member. The deadline is Jan 9 for getting your name on the ballot.



## *Important Announcements, Messages & Information....*

### **An Important Reminder From the ARC—**



As the community gets older, more people will be painting the exteriors of their homes. All exterior color changes must be approved by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) according to the covenants everyone signed that they would comply with at their closing before moving in. This is not a complicated process. You can email the ARC at [arc@summerscreek.us](mailto:arc@summerscreek.us) for instructions, call 872-7462 or contact any board member for assistance. The ARC will require color swatches of your desired colors. If they are within the range of colors currently accepted, you will be approved generally within one day.

Also, any major additions or changes to your lot such as fences, sheds, travel trailers, boats, recreational or commercial vehicles, etc. need to be submitted to the ARC as specific guidelines apply in these instances.

### **A Note on Cold Protecting Plants—**



With colder weather approaching soon, it is frequently asked: what kinds of plants need covering, when and how? Fortunately, we do not get many freezes for long enough to have to do anything. Most of the common plants in our area are cold tolerant within the range we normally see and many plants that are susceptible to cold damage revive in the spring. However, the short answer is to protect when a hard freeze is forecasted, to use cloth instead of plastic and arrange by tenting instead of laying material directly on plants. Material designed for this can be bought from many garden centers. Mulch will protect roots. Sensitive potted plants can be brought indoors or put in the garage overnight. Don't run your sprinklers and don't cut back frost damaged growth before the end of March. More information can be obtained online by Googling- "how to protect florida plants from freezing temperatures."

### **Holiday Security Precautions—**



Here are three tips repeated every year by various police departments around the country. They are actually good practices throughout the year, but particularly around the holidays when people tend to carry more money, buy more when out shopping and be less on their guard at times.

- Remember to breakdown boxes discarded from expensive Christmas gifts like home electronics and computers to avoid advertising what's inside your home to criminals.
- Never leave your car with anything of value visible inside. Even if you lock your doors, some thieves will break the glass to get a purse, cell phone, tablet, etc.
- Always stay aware of your surroundings when out shopping, particularly in parking lots, day or night.

### **Holiday Decoration Safety—**



- Use the proper extension cords and connections rated for your application, don't overload, check periodically for excessive heat.
- Never leave electrical decorations on overnight unattended.
- Keep outdoor decorations a safe distance from sidewalks to avoid creating a trip and fall hazard for passers by. You may be liable if someone gets hurt by stumbling over your decorations.

### **Household Tip of the Month—**

To remove sprinkler rust stains from vinyl fences or stucco walls, a product called Goof-Off "Outdoor" gets good results when used as directed. It can be found at Home Depot for about \$9.50/gallon.

***Have a Great Holiday  
Season Everyone!***

