

MVS FALL NEWSLETTER

Sent out via email 10/4/2020

Hi & Happy Fall Y'all,

As the summer season comes to an end, we are reminded that this has been an unusual period on the lake and in the surrounding area. The virus most definitely had an impact on everything and everyone we know. So much so that a lot of folks would like to write off 2020 as a wasted year. I look at it a little differently.

We have undoubtedly had more opportunity than we wanted to accomplish things around our homes. With all the walking traffic this summer, it was a great time to get to know neighbors you might not have previously met. But mainly, once again, it was proven how lucky we are to live in this area and especially Mountain View Shores.

Each day we are one day closer to the end of this epidemic. Hang on, stay healthy, the best is yet to come

Don Moorman,
President

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Board is sad to announce that there will not be a 2020 Holiday Party.

KEEP YOUR CULVERTS CLEAN

Now is a good time to clean out your culverts of old debris before the leaves start falling and we get to do it all over again. Your HOA spends a lot of money keeping the roads up to date, and water rushing down the street rather than through the culverts does a lot of damage.

It is the responsibility of each property owner to clean and maintain the culvert(s) on your property to prevent erosion onto community roads. Clogged culverts may also be causing damage to your property or even your neighbors during a heavy rain which might force the water to cascade down the driveway and yard towards the homes.

Property owners who maintain driveways onto their respective lots installed a culvert pipe along the street to prevent erosion onto community roads. Maybe one of your neighbors can help or advise you on how to unclog your culvert pipe should this be a problem.

SEPTIC SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Recommendation from the Tri-County Lakes Administrative Committee (sml.us.com)

- Septic systems should be **pumped out every three to five years**. All homeowners need to be aware of the importance of maintaining their septic systems. This is true for all homeowners but is particularly crucial information for the Smith Mountain Lake area because failing septic systems degrade the environment, especially lakes, streams, and groundwater.
- If septic systems are to continue working properly, they need to be maintained. The most essential step is to have the solids that accumulate in the bottom of a septic tank pumped out every three to five years. Doing so will help prolong the life of the system.

The delicate balance of being on a septic system around Smith Mountain Lake is just one of the reasons Bedford County Zoning Ordinances requires short-term rentals to be registered and permitted for said use.

- According to Sec. 30-100-18 of the zoning ordinances, the maximum number of occupants in the dwelling unit for overnight accommodation shall be calculated as two (2) adults per bedroom. An adult, for the purpose of this regulation, is any person over the age of two (2). The number of bedrooms shall be determined by reference to health department permits specifying the number of bedrooms or the certificate of occupancy issued by the Bedford County Department of Building Inspections.

MOUNTAIN VIEW SHORES DIRECTORY

The 2020-21 directory has been sent to the printer and will be included in a mailing that will be sent out mid-October. Thank you to everyone for your patience as this publication has been reorganized and updated during the past year. We make every effort to keep the HOA database current. If your contact information changes, please let Sue Moylan know.

WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

The HOA Board is looking for someone to take care of the Mountain View Shores website. Kathleen McDonough has done a fabulous job, but she is ready to pass the reins to another neighbor. Please let one of the Board members know if you are interested.

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR PET

The Board has heard from quite a few property owners that this is becoming an issue. Please take the time during your walks to clean up after your dog on your neighbor's yard and all common grounds – *Thank You*.

LIGHT RESTRICTIONS

Please be mindful of the effect that outdoor lighting has on your neighbors. No one is suggesting that a person does not have the right to light their own property to be able to see down their driveway, into their yard, etc. The concern comes when these lights go beyond one's own property.

If your neighbor's light is a problem for you:

- Talk to them about it. Explain how it affects you. They might be unaware of the intrusion.
- If your neighbor fails to address the issue with a helpful solution, you should contact someone on the HOA Board.

UNSAFE BOATING PRACTICES & WAKE DAMAGE

The Board has heard about many unsafe encounters happening in our neighborhood. The most common seems to be jet skis being operated too close to the shoreline and on many occasions within a couple feet of swimmers.

- According to Virginia DWR speed laws, it shall be unlawful to operate any watercraft greater than no wake speed when within 50 feet or less of docks, piers, boathouses, boat ramps, and people in the water.
- "No wake" is defined as the slowest possible speed required to maintain steerage and headway.
- Operators shall reduce speed to avoid endangering persons or property by the effect of the watercraft's wake when approaching or passing vessels under way, lying to, at anchor, or made fast to the shore; or, when approaching or passing piers, docks, or boathouses; or when approaching or passing persons in the water or using water skis, etc.

Did you know you are responsible for any damage or injury your wake may cause? Smith Mountain Lake Association suggests:

- Stay at least 200 feet away from the shoreline, docks, or other structures.
- Minimize repetitive passes on any one portion of shoreline. Once you have run the same line for a while, move on to another area.

Ways to report or get help:

- Take a photo of jet ski or boat in question and post to Nextdoor.com. Maybe a neighbor will recognize the watercraft and be able to assist the owner in understanding safe boating practices.
- To report violations of boating laws on Smith Mountain Lake, contact VDGIF Lake Watch at 800-237-5712. A photo would also be helpful if possible.
- Tri-County Lakes Administrative Committee (TLAC) is collecting information regarding damage and incidents caused by high wakes. If possible, take photos and report the incident at <http://sml.us.com/navigation/boating-incident-form>.