

## **MOUNTAIN VIEW SHORES – FALL 2021 NEWSLETTER**

*(sent out via email 11/1/2021)*

Dear Neighbors,

Hope 2021 brought a lot of enjoyment to you through lake events, reunions and visits from family and friends. It appears that our daily activities are being less impacted by the virus. While not over yet, the numbers do seem to be heading in the right direction.

Your Board has accomplished several items that should prove beneficial in the future. One of these actions is that we now have a legal team on call to review our documents, validate any legal issues that come before the Board of Directors, and basically ensure we perform in accordance with the numerous state mandates. Also, the website is growing with helpful information which includes minutes of the monthly Board of Directors meetings for your review.

Lastly, we would appreciate your helping us to continue maintaining Mountain View Shores as one of the best areas on the lake to live. If you see any actions or improvements that could be performed, please contact your Block Captain, or send us an email at [mvshoa@gmail.com](mailto:mvshoa@gmail.com)

Looking forward to the holiday party, and hope everyone enjoys the upcoming festive season.

Don Moorman  
President

*Past newsletters can be found online at <https://mountainviewshores.org>*

### **Directory & Holiday Party**

The 2022 MVS Directory will be mailed on or about November 8<sup>th</sup>. Once again to save money, we will hand deliver envelopes to those neighbors who live in Mountain View Shores full time. If you are not at home, your envelope will be mailed.

The Annual Holiday Party will be held at Smith Mountain Manor on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Any questions should be directed to Jackie McKeown. Invitation and return envelope will also be in the same mailing as MVS Directory.

- Want to RSVP early? We have attached a copy of the Holiday Party invitation for your convenience.

### **THINKING OF SELLING YOUR PROPERTY?**

A new page has been added to our website at [mountainviewshores.org](https://mountainviewshores.org) entitled, "Before You Sell". It is the responsibility of the Seller/Seller's Agent to request a POA Packet from MVS HOA. You will find detailed instructions on this webpage plus some other helpful information.

### **BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR**

Please remember that according to Bedford County's Code of Ordinances (Sec. 14-4. - Excessive Noise) any noise, including but not limited to music or loud conversation, should not be heard across a residential property boundary between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am.

Last winter the Board received reports of portable fireplaces not being operated safely. There were accounts of fires being placed under decks and too close to structures and property lines. We would appreciate all homeowners and their guests to be mindful of a few basic guidelines from local and state websites:

- Recreational fire pits must be at least 25ft from any structure or combustible material. These fires should be no larger than 3ft wide by 2ft tall.

- Portable outdoor fire fireplaces (commercially sold units) must be at least 15ft from any structure or anything combustible.
- Fires must always be attended and the means to extinguish a fire must be readily available for instant use. An extinguisher with the minimum rating of 4-A and/or other approved equipment such as dirt, sand, water barrels, garden hoses, or water trucks shall be available for instant use.
- Hot Embers and ashes shall be thoroughly extinguished when the fire will no longer be attended and prior to disposal in a non-combustible container.

## Water Quality

All of us know that Smith Mountain Lake (SML) is beautiful from end to end, and from one season to the next. Less well known, perhaps, is that water quality (i.e., clarity and nutrient levels) varies significantly across the lake. SML is cleanest and has the best water quality near the dam, and less clean in its upper reaches. Much of this is due to runoff and erosion, but the effects of dilution and nutrient uptake also drive the overall pattern. In other words, MVS homeowners are fortunate to be near the dam, not merely for the view, but because the waters are deep and cool, and the major nutrient sources are well upstream. These are just a few takeaway messages that Sally Wagner and Eric Edgerton (MVS HOA reps) reported from the Smith Mountain Lake Association (SMLA) annual meeting. SMLA, an all-volunteer, multi-stakeholder organization, has been monitoring water quality and promoting water safety on SML since 1987.

### Additional tidbits from the SMLA annual meeting:

- SML, like most lakes, is phosphorus (P) limited. This means that photosynthetic algae (the base of the food chain) respond much more quickly to P than to other nutrients.
- Overall water quality in 2021 was generally better than 2020. This was largely due to low rainfall and no flooding in 2021. The 2020 floods caused nutrient runoff from the entire shoreline (500 miles!) of the lake.
- Over the longer term, SML water quality improved from the late 1980s through the 2000s and has stabilized or deteriorated slightly since then.

**What can we do to maintain good water quality?** We are in a good place by virtue of our location on the lake. But the flip side of this is that we have a lot of control over local water quality. Below are some things to keep in mind as we manage our properties and gardens:

- Join, volunteer, or donate to SMLA. Direct or indirect participation in SMLA will sustain water quality monitoring of SML and its main tributaries.
- Consider planting buffer gardens near your shoreline. Buffer gardens require little to no fertilizer and absorb nutrients in runoff before they can get into the lake. SMLA has horticulturists who can assist in the design of buffer gardens.
- Consider using low-P fertilizer on lawns and gardens. P is the middle number displayed on a bag of fertilizer. For example: a bag of 10-10-10 contains 10 percent nitrogen (N), P and potassium (K).
- Keep leaves and other debris out of culverts to maintain proper drainage and prevent soil erosion, a source of unsightly, red silt and P.
- Scoop the poop! Rather than sweep goose or otter poop off your dock into the lake, scoop it up and put it in a natural area or garden. This serves the double purpose of removing nutrients from the lake and fertilizing your gardens.

Stay tuned for further updates from Sally and Eric under the Water Quality tab on the MVS HOA website.

## KEEP YOUR CULVERTS CLEAN

We would like to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of each property owner to clean and maintain the culverts and swales on your property which are part of the community's storm water management system. This is necessary to help avoid erosion on the side of the roads or causing floods to you and your neighbors.