

# HILLSIDE NEWS

## Homeowners Association of Clay County, Inc.

### Hillside HOA Board of Directors

**President- Steve Markwith**  
**Vice President- Kim Gibbs**  
**Secretary- Cindi Markwith**  
**Treasurer- Rodney Breher**  
**ARC- Al Gibbs**  
**Pond CC- Thelton Cox**  
**Member- Debbie Cox**  
**Welcome - Michaela Lecas**

### President's Message

Hello,

The annual community meeting was held on Saturday, February 16. There are a few changes to the board

Diana Phillips was the HOA Secretary last year. Due to other obligations, she has stepped off the HOA board.

Linda Moon was Chairman of the Welcoming Committee. She has stepped off the HOA board due to family obligations.

I would like to personally thank both of you for your commitment, dedication, Knowledge and honesty. You will truly be missed!!

Steve Markwith  
Hillside HOA President



### Winter Newsletter February 2019

Hello Neighbors,

Another year has come and gone! I hope each and everyone of you had a blessed holiday season and a prosperous and healthy new year is in your future.

The Board of Directors have been meeting once a month to discuss any and all issues concerning the Hillside neighborhood and its residents. Since becoming President in 2016, Steve Markwith has worked eagerly and persistently to achieve positive outcomes on matters that keep this neighborhood looking beautiful and a safe place to live.

Below is a list of projects we are currently working on:

1. Entrance Light repair.
2. Cemetery fence repair
3. 2019 Community Barbecue
4. Community Yard Sale.

## New to the Neighborhood

Hello Neighbors,

It is hard to believe that six months have passed since the last newsletter. Time continues to fly by! The Board of Directors continue to work diligently to make the best and most cost effective decisions concerning our neighborhood.

Welcome Neighbors!!!!

We would like to welcome

Juan and Veronica Orrego

James and Crystal Hart,

To our neighbors, if you have any questions or need anything, please contact

Steve Markwith- President

Kim Gibbs- Vice President



### Completed projects

1. Pond Committee to improve the ponds status
2. Ally Murray access road
3. 2018 Community Barbecue
4. Community Yard Sale
5. Pot Hole repair.

### Entrance Light repair

The lights at the front entrance were constantly shorting out due to water getting into the wires. They have since been replaced with solar lights until we can get the wiring replaced.

### Cemetery Fence Repair

Parts of the fence separating our neighborhood and the cemetery are in need of repairs. We would like to get a group of residents that could volunteer for small projects such as this. If you have a few hours on an occasional Saturday morning, please email Steve Markwith, Al Gibbs or Kim Gibbs.

If we can not find enough volunteers, we will have to hire a professional to complete the job.

### 2019 Community Barbecue and Yard Sale

The Board of Directors has not set a date for our community Barbecue as of yet. We would prefer to have it scheduled on or around National Night Out which will occur on Tuesday August 6th, 2019.

The date has not been set yet for the Community yard sale. We are looking for some ideas on the time and date. We will make sure that everyone has ample amount of time to prepare.

### Message from a neighbor

To the homeowners of Hillside,  
Thank you to those who attended the annual meeting this past Saturday. It was extremely informative.  
I was your HOA secretary this past year, and stepped down due to other

**BUNCO NIGHT**

We have some neighbors looking at starting up a Bunco Group to meet once a month. If you are interested in joining the Bunco Group please contact Cindi Markwith at 904 406 0263 or

[cindiomb@me.com](mailto:cindiomb@me.com)

**SCREENED****ENCLOSURES**

Looking at building a screened enclosure, give a neighbor a call.

James Hart. 15 years experience

[jrhart75@gmail.com](mailto:jrhart75@gmail.com)

(229) 938-8509

obligations. As I submitted my resignation, I looked back and found our newsletter to be the most informative piece of information for all of us. Unfortunately, it is drafted, written and sent out by one person, Kim Gibbs. She continually uplifts me in her positivity, and self-motivation to uplift this neighborhood. She looked into speed bumps for our neighborhood, but the cost (allowed only via the county), is \$3,000. Please slow down.

In a nutshell, our bylaws state that the HOA is responsible for the maintenance of the retention ponds. Developmental contracts, in direct conflict with the above, stated that homeowners on the south pond were responsible for cutting grass to the water's edge. This has been a bone of contention the past year, due to owners aging, and possible liabilities, and the obvious conflict between the 2 sets of rules. A door to door survey was done. When enough votes were cast that predicted the vote outcome, the survey was shut down. (At the time, we, as volunteers, stopped going door to door when it was obvious that a 2/3 majority would not be accomplished to change the bylaws). Arguments were made at the meeting that not all homeowners were involved in the survey. Well, that is true, and I hadn't taken that into consideration as we walked in 90 degree heat, knocking on doors, getting no answers, moving on, enjoying conversations with others, however, it was time consuming.

Other issues arose. Persons who took the time to attend the meeting complained about different things, which was good to hear.

There was some backlash regarding the increase in dues. However, a homeowner took the time to bring a representative from St. Johns Water Management. To our meeting to discuss the positive and negative aspects of our retention ponds. Everything we blow out from our yards to the street winds up in our ponds. The sediment will eventually need to be dredged out. We have \$30,000 in our savings account. Dredging will cost between \$45,000 and \$70,000 in approximately 15 years. (I am summarizing in very generic terms, only to give you an idea.

We're raising fees due to increases in printing, supplies, and postage. And a post office box, (\$117?) because that, too, is written in our bylaws that we're required to maintain one. To be forthright, I submitted receipts for toner, stamps and mileage reimbursement to collect mail this past year. Rodney will be purchasing envelopes in bulk and will be paying for the post office box. To me, in this day and age, it's absolutely silly to be doing snail mail. It's costing us hundreds of dollars when we could be keeping in touch with all homeowners via email, if, and only if, you would provide us with your contact information.

Thus, my conclusion. We had 10 BOD/annual meetings in 2018. Only 1 outsider, beyond the 9 BOD members, attended any of those meetings.

To me, that is depressing.





Our board genuinely cares about all of us. I commend our president Steve Markwith for his attention to all matters and graciousness to all. To Rodney for paying our bills, keeping new homeowners informed and for appraising us of new developments around us, like the county being in charge of the Old Jennings Rd. passing lane zones directly in front of our neighborhood that will probably never change.

To Kim Gibbs who spent countless hours creating the newsletter and giving us the neighborhood cookout. It didn't just happen. A cookout requires planning, time, and all the extras, without any clue of how many people will actually come. It's a crapshoot. But it worked! To Thelton and Al, who supervised multiple pond visits to make sure our contractors were, and were not, doing the job(s) they were contracted to do. It wasn't being maintained as specified in our contract, and thanks to both of them, we were made aware, and changed contractors. To Debbie and Kim, who provided our Christmas lights at the front entrance, again! And to Linda, who continually stepped up to the plate to go door to door for various chores, and be on the welcoming committee, and take the time to plan and provide refreshments to our meetings and host our BOD meetings. And again, I applaud Steve for all his texts, emails, his home for meetings, and for being there for everything, including fixing lights, and water works and saving camera pictures. I need to add Cindi, his wife, as well, for all her contributions. She was like the pastor's wife. Assumed volunteer duties, and she did them. And stepped up even more this year by volunteering to become a board member. Thank you!!

If you don't know any of these people, they are the ones taking care of us. The lights, camera, action committee. It's not perfect. There will always be opposition. And possibly conflict. But we got through another year successfully.

I am stepping down. My goal was – I didn't have a right to complain about anything if I didn't do my fair share beforehand. It takes an hour per calendar quarter, to be involved. It takes 30 minutes to contribute a piece to our newsletter. It takes an hour to set up luminary bags along your sidewalk at Christmas. 30 minutes to attend a spring BBQ. 5 minutes to check on a neighbor during a hurricane. And the best of all? It only takes 30 seconds to contribute your email address to [hoahillside@gmail.com](mailto:hoahillside@gmail.com) and get us off snail mail. <http://www.hillsidehoa.com/>

The email address should be at the top of every mailing to you for convenience sake. It is not. It took me 30 minutes one night last year to find it, so yes, I feel your pain. I forgot to bring it up at the meeting! Thank you for your time. If I offended anyone, my apologies. I am your neighbor who is thankful for what others have done, and wish to relay this. That is all.



## Trivia Questions

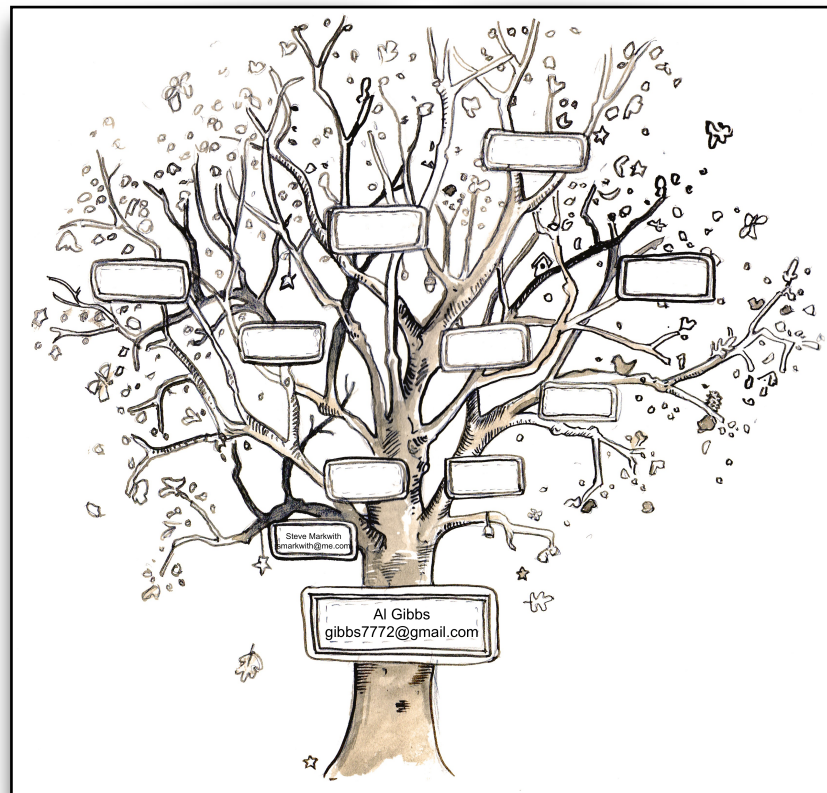
Diana Phillips

### Saving Water Resources

Water is a resource shared by all, so each of us should do our part to conserve. Water conservation may seem unnecessary in a state surrounded by water, but not all of that water is readily available for drinking or irrigation.

More than 90% of the water used in the St Johns River Water Management District comes from groundwater, water drawn from underground aquifers. Though Florida usually receives about 50 inches of rain each year, only about 13 inches of water seeps into the ground to replenish underground aquifers. This source will not be able to meet all future demands, which makes water conservation a key strategy to sustaining this source for as long as possible.

The District restrictions allow watering only before 10:00 am or after 4:00 pm year round. Watering during the early morning or early evening hours reduces losses from evaporation and wind that can occur during the middle of the day. This also allows the water to seep into the ground to the grass and plant roots, promoting healthier plants with deep root systems.



Answers on last page

1. Who was the legendary Benedictine Monk who invented Champagne?
2. Name the largest freshwater lake in the world?
3. Where would you find the Sea of Tranquility?
4. What is someone who shoes houses called?
5. What item of clothing was named after its Scottish inventor?
6. Which word goes before vest, beans and quartet?
7. What is another word for lexicon?
8. Name the seventh planet from the sun.
9. Who invented the rabies vaccination?
10. Which is the only American state to begin with the letter 'P'?
11. Name the world's biggest island.
12. Where would you find the world's most ancient forest?
13. What blockbuster was set on Isla Nublar near Costa Rica?
14. What is the diameter of Earth?