

# Gem Lakes



# Spring 2015

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:



Hello to all of our Gem Lakes residents! This newsletter brings us to the close of another fiscal year for the Gem Lakes

Recreation Association (GLRA).

As I look back, we can report many accomplishments along with memories of fun times and great fellowship had by all. One of the board's priorities this year, as with most years, is to make improvements to the recreation area such that all Gem Lakes residents experience the appreciation value to their own property.

Speaking of improvements and accomplishments for the recreation area, here are some that come to mind for this past fiscal year and planned for the near future:

- Launched a new website to make it more user friendly and informative for all residents at [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org)
- New Springwood Drive handrail down to the wooden bridge implemented as an Eagle Scout Project by Chet Taylor and his group.



- One of the best Memorial Day Picnics (over 400 attendees) and Oktoberfests (over 500 attendees) to date!! See photos on our website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org)

- New pavilion banners were designed by Susanna King and executed by Carol Lepp. Great job by Susanna & Carol!



In early May, one of our best annual Fishing Rodeos. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.



- New Recycle Collection System implemented with help from Beth Copenhaver. We will now have special bins for recycle material and collection by the city.

## Future Near Term Projects:

upgraded new tennis and basketball court surfaces, (See current condition on website [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org) )

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- Upgraded playground equipment.



- New handrails for safer walkway access to the swimming lake.



## Community News Update:

Resident's Phone Directory to be updated thanks to the lead efforts by Vicki Thomas, Joyce Stanley & Lynda Barton. Look for your authorization notice to opt out on publishing your phone number included in the letter hand carried to each resident.

*Your phone number will be published by default if you do not "opt out".*

Hartwell Drive median clean-up driven by Erin Boyleston. This has really enhanced the Beauty of our neighborhood entrance and a big thanks to Erin and the city of Aiken!



We are pleased to announce the revival of the previously known organization called Gem Lakes Organization of Women (GLOW) which has now been renamed Gem Lakes Engaging Everyone (GLEE). Some of the initiatives that will be activated once again include the annual garden tour, annual garage sale, luminaries, phone directory updates, new entrance signs etc.

We would like to thank all of the folks who participated in the Luminary trial run in December. The turnout was beyond expectation; therefore, we are looking forward to a community wide luminary effort in December 2015.

We will need at least one volunteer for each street in Gem Lakes to help distribute notices, sort candles and bags, etc.

We look forward to input from our neighbors on new initiatives for GLEE ( Gem Lakes Engaging Everyone ).

If you are interested in volunteering to support this new organization, please contact either, Joyce Stanley, (H) 803-649-3836, (C) 803-270-1219, [stan8200@bellsouth.net](mailto:stan8200@bellsouth.net), Or Vicki Thomas, (C) 803-508-1162, (H) 803-642-6394, [Vicki48@atlanticbb.net](mailto:Vicki48@atlanticbb.net).

## Events/Activities:

1/ There is a workday planned for Saturday April 18th, to prepare for our Memorial Day Picnic, anyone wishing to participate, please meet at the Pavilion at 9 am.

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2/ The GLRA Board Members are preparing for our annual meeting Scheduled for Monday April 20th starting at 7:00 P.M. at the pavilion.

As always, we really need the residents to attend since this is your meeting, to meet the board members, receive GLRA status for the past and for the future, but most importantly, voice your opinions, issues, and ideas.

3/ The annual Memorial Day Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at noon so mark your calendars for one of our biggest events of the year. Remember to sign in at the registration table to be eligible for the door prize drawings.

4/ The annual July 4<sup>th</sup>, Potluck Supper should be fun for all family members. This event will be closely supervised to ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone.

5/ This year's Oktoberfest has been scheduled for Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:00 pm. Please mark your calendars since we've once again Reserved Rudy and his Oompa band, "The Channelheimers"

We hope that most of you can make our upcoming Bingo and Movie Nights at the pavilion which has been fun for the whole family. Watch for the calendar dates for both events on, [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org).

I'm hoping that the GLRA Board has given and will continue to give you and your family a reason to say, "We love living in Gem Lakes".

*Sincerely,  
Your President & Neighbor,  
Gary Marozas*

## **Association Financial Report:**



Through the end of February, the association finances are favorable overall to the 2014-15 budget.

Despite significant unexpected expenses (such as replacing the mower and refrigerator), overall expenses are within 7% of budget (about 5% when adjusted for an early insurance payment).

***Expense control;*** the 2014 dues Adjustment specified in the by-laws, and collection of significant past due fees and dues, will result in a year end surplus. This surplus, along with other available funds, will allow the major maintenance and capital improvement projects described elsewhere in this newsletter.

## ***Association Dues:***

Included with this newsletter is your invoice for the current May 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 to April 30<sup>th</sup> 2016 fiscal year. It is due and payable May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

Visit [www.gemlakes.org](http://www.gemlakes.org) for more detail and background on dues

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**Why Pay Dues?** I, and other board members, have been asked “Why am I paying annual dues when I don’t attend events or use the recreation facilities?” Any realtor will tell you a significant part of your property value results from being in a community with the scenic, natural and leisure opportunities available from our lakes and recreational facilities. We wouldn’t be Gem Lakes without the “lakes” and they are a very important use of your dues.

Dues pay the costs associated with upkeep and maintenance of the lakes and dams, including dam inspections by the SC DHEC and on-going water quality testing.

In addition to your dues paying for operation and maintenance of existing Gem Lakes facilities, your enjoyment, and property value, increases with every improvement implemented utilizing your dues.

Finally, you don’t realize what you’re missing until you attend our terrific events and enjoy the excellent facilities, so do it!

*Lloyd Copenhaver,  
Gem Lakes Treasurer*



Spring is here and it won't be long until the lake is open for the summer! We have so much planned for the season.

I am looking for a few lifeguards for the swim season.

Thank you to those residents who continue to use the recreation area daily & let me know if problems arise.

I hope that you can make plans to attend the Fishing Rodeo, upcoming movie & bingo nights, and the Memorial Day picnic. We are also planning the 4<sup>th</sup>, of July Potluck Supper again this year. Please watch for signs advertising the events.

One thing that I could ask of all residents is that you watch out for anything out of the ordinary as you walk through. Please call police if it is serious.

See you at the lake!  
*Johnny Spears,  
Recreation Mgr.*



## Board Members Contact Info:

**President :**

*Gary Marozas, 803-642- 5026, (C) 803-507-3179*

**VP & Security Mgr. :**

*Bill Mathison, 803-643-3035, (C) 803-507-3818*

**Treasurer :**

*Lloyd Copenhaver, 803-502-1153, (C) 803-671-4194*

**Secretary :**

*Orchid Grass, 803-649-1309, (C) 803-522-0488*

**Recreation Mgr. :**

*Johnny Spears, 803-502-1458*

**Board Members :**

*Bob Mell, 803-642-8423, (C) 803-617-8015*

*Carol Lepp, 803-648-4849, (C) 803-645-1380*

*Vickie Murray, 803-643-3456, (C) 803-640-0771*

*Hai Nguyen, 803-649-0094, (C) 803-507-4767*

*Kevin Armstrong, 803-842-6459*

*Suzi Kilgo, 803-648-9296*