

The Thorough-Read News

Steeplechase Resident Homeowner's Association, Inc. 1925 Furlong Run, Lawrenceville, GA 30043



2004 Steeplechase Board

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webmaster@steeplechase.org

► Community Bonfire - Friday PM

WHAT: Community Member Bonfire

WHY: Socialize With Neighbors & Have A Great Time!

WHEN: Friday, December 3rd, 7 p.m. until

WHERE: Volley Ball Court at Steeplechase Pavilion

WEATHER FORECAST: Warm next to the fire!!!

FIRE-MASTERS: Nate Orrico & Scot Sherwin



Come down to the volley ball court next to the Steeplechase Pavilion and wind down the week with an evening of socialization and relaxation by the bonfire!

Bring your own drinks (BYOB) and S'Mores (BYOS)(M-m-m-m!) and be sure to bring good conversation!



► From the Chair...

Greeting Everyone,

Thanks to those who showed up at our General Meeting – it was a record!!! Annual elections were held, and we have some new board members for 2005. We also talked a lot about the “proposed” covenants and how they may affect you.

There has been a LOT of misinformation, which has caused a LOT of concern over the “proposed” covenants. On page 3, I address some of the major concerns we heard at the meeting.

The Board has set up a new eMail address, covenants@steeplechase.org, and we welcome all suggestions, comments and complaints regarding the new bylaws or covenants. This is the official EM address for this issue, and the ONLY one to which we will respond. (We're volunteers, folks. We just can't monitor umpteen bulletin boards and blogs).

For your comment to count, you must include your name and address; no anonymous comments will be considered (and please, no bomb throwing). The Board has no problem discussing the pros and cons of what is being proposed. We welcome all comments and suggestions.

With all that being said, I hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season.

Scot Sherwin



Words From Our President ...

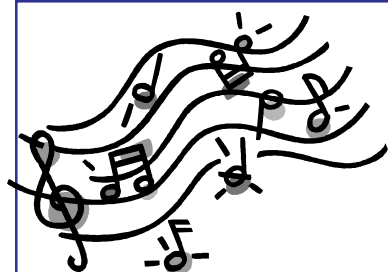
► COMMUNITY NEWS:

The 1st Fall Tennis Classic was a huge success! We raised over \$1600 and it was a great day for tennis. The evening gathering was also well-attended. Former residents - Randi & Mike Gubala flew in from California and Lynne & Jeff Drews drove in from Kentucky. We really appreciated their efforts to make this a fun weekend!

Congratulations Winners:

Peggy Boydston, Nicole Lister, Matt Curl & Tom Ard. A special thanks to the committee for their hard work putting this fundraiser together. They are Peggy Boydston, Sally Campbell, Nancy Orrico & John Waller.

Wrapping up 2004 as Community President, I enjoyed working with the board and I especially enjoyed the task of keeping Steeplechase a "great place to live". Thanks to the rest of the Board for their dedication and to all those who volunteered throughout the year! Happy Holidays! Nate Orrico, Community President



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Steeplechase Covenants Email

WHO: Steeplechase Community & Facility Members

WHAT: The Official SRHA Covenants E-Mail Address

E-MAIL ADDRESS: covenants@steeplechase.org

The official Steeplechase covenants e-mail address has been established in order that your questions, comments, suggestions and concerns regarding the proposed covenants can be responded to by the SRHA Board on a person-by-person and point-by-point basis. When emailing, please include the following:

- Your Question, Comment, Suggestions or Concerns
- Your Name
- Your House Number & Street

Please allow a reasonable amount of time for the board to read, research (as necessary), and respond. Also, please keep the content of your submission professional and to the point.

The SRHA Board is genuinely interested in hearing from you, so send in your questions, comments, suggestions & concerns!

covenants@steeplechase.org



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By-Laws & Covenants - Misinformation & Answers

– By Scot Sherwin

There has been a LOT of misinformation over the bylaws/covenants recently, which has caused concern over the “proposed” changes. Here are some of the major concerns we heard at the meeting. An attorney has advised us regarding these responses.

- The Board is “forcing” this upon you.... NOT TRUE.

We, the Board, are responding to requests from the community to look into updating the B&C’s of this neighborhood. This is strictly VOLUNTARY!! YOU, the homeowner, choose whether or not you want to join. The board or the county has no influence on whether or not you need to join.

- The Board can foreclose on your home for non-payment of dues.... NOT TRUE.

We will NEVER have the power to foreclose on your home - with or without the Covenants.

- If I sign up to be under the new B&C’s, then my lender will make me join if I go to refinance..... NOT TRUE.

After talking with several lenders, we have not seen this action required; however that does not mean that in the RARE occasion, certain lenders may ask for this. If this becomes the case, get a new lender.

- If I join and there is a lawsuit brought against the SRHA over and above what we have insurance for, then whatever is leftover gets split amongst the homeowners in the association..... NOT TRUE.

You are no more liable today than you would be if you joined.

- If I do join and can’t pay my \$45 do to a hardship situation, then you can put a lien on my house.

We are not so unfeeling that we would put a lien on your property if you were having unforeseen hardships. Remember, the Board is made up of YOUR NEIGHBORS, and we are elected by YOU. To address this concern, I propose setting up a “hardship fund.” If we had the current members, which is 340 out of a potential 427, contribute \$2 extra, it would generate \$680, covering 15 hardship cases per year. The money would be put in a separate fund and used in those hardship cases. That way you can feel that you have helped someone in your neighborhood and you will only be out \$2.

Again, this is VOLUNTARY; take some time to look at the proposed changes. Remember that we are still bound by the county regs. Visit the website, www.co.gwinnett.ga.us and go to the planning and development section. Print them out, and see the regulations we must all meet as Gwinnett County homeowners.

Make 2005 the Year You Get Caught Up!

Power™ Sort is the solution to years of scattered family memories. The Power™ Sort Box holds up to **2,400** 5 x 7 photos in a photo-safe, easy-to-use container. Sort by theme, year, friend, or family member – it’s your choice!



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Creative Memories Consultant
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December '04 - January '05 Workshop Schedule

Crops

Sun, 12/26 2-5:00 pm This is a “**Leave Your Stuff Here**” crop.
Tues, 12/28 7-10:00 pm Admission is \$5 total for any or all crops!
Wed, 12/29 7-10:00 pm (In other words, you can attend 1, 2, 3, or
Thurs, 12/30 7-10:00 pm all 4 crops for the \$5 price).

Leave your supplies in my crop room, & pick up where you left off next day!

Classes & Shows

Thurs, 1/6 7 – 10:00 pm **PowerSort Class** – (supplies list finally, get your photos organized!)
Sat, 1/8+ 10:30 am – 2 pm **Borders Class*** (\$10 + supplies), (Basic Class or scrapbook experience requ'd)
Sun, 1/16 2 – 5:00 pm **Basic Class** (\$10)
Tues, 1/18+ 10:30 am – 2 pm **Advanced Borders*** (\$10 + supplies), (Borders class or experience required)
Sun, 1/23 2 – 5:00 pm **Home Show** (free)
Sat, 1/29 10:30 am – 12:30 pm **PowerSort Class** – (supplies list), finally, get your photos organized!

* Bring a brown-bag lunch.

Business Opportunity Meeting

Tues, 1/10 7 – 8:00 pm Learn how you can have your own Creative Memories Business



Steeplechase Community Bulletin Board

► Community HAPPENINGS for the Family

I was surfing the net and found some interesting events coming up for the whole family at the Gwinnett Center. Here are the basics and how to get more info:

The Nutcracker At the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center, Nov. 26 – 28
Contact www.ticketmaster.com. December 3–19 weekends only, contact the Gwinnett Ballet Theatre at 770-978-0188.

Gwinnett Philharmonic Christmas Brass At the Gwinnett Performing Arts Center, December 14 at 8:00 PM. Contact www.ticketmaster.com

Enjoy! – Sandy Parris, Community Social Director



CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSETS?

Do you have any gently used winter coats that no longer fit your children? The Foster Children’s Foundation in Duluth is working to stock their Needs Center with winter clothing for children ages newborn to 18 years.

For more details, you can go to www.fosterchildrensfoundation.org or call 770-623-6135.



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► **The Steeplechase Social Scene**

HELP THOSE IN NEED THIS SEASON



The girls of Brownie Troop 1554 (some Steeplechase residents), are collecting food items for the Lawrenceville Cooperative Ministry, Inc. Any help you can offer will be greatly appreciated. The following items are most needed:

Canned meat (no tuna), canned fruit, peanut butter, cereal, soup, spaghetti sauce and noodles, oatmeal and grits, canned and powdered milk and canned pasta meals. Also, some of the newer complete boxed dinners would be great.

You may drop off any items on the front porch of the Parris home at 2208 Sandown Drive, or you can arrange for a pickup by calling Sandy Parris at 770-822-0437.

All items are due on or before December 3, 2004. Thank you in advance for your support!

► **Welcome, New Neighbors!**

Mark Filipek and Fiona Lewis
1365 Midland Way
646-345-8830
lewisfm@hotmail.com
Move-in date: 5/28/04

Robert & Frances Langstine
Gretchen, Victoria, and Erich
1211 Steeple Run
678-985-1726
franlangstine@juno.com
Move-in date: 08/04/04

Donna & Thomas (Tom) Ohaus
Zachary & Madison
2120 Sandown Ct.
678-985-5359
tohaus@charter.net
Move-in date: 8/1/04

Please help the Welcoming Committee!
If you know of a family who has moved into the neighborhood, whom we have not welcomed, won't you give us a call? Cathie Weschrek, (770) 277-9918 or Donna Redmond, (770) 962-3663 or by e-mail at welcome@steeplechase.org.

Steeplechase Events Calendar, 2004

Check out the following dates and mark them in your calendars — Sandy Parris and Bud Fletcher.

Date	Event	For Whom
December 3	Community Bonfire (7PM, Volleyball Court at the Pavillion)	Community Members
December 8	Hanukkah begins	
December 25	Christmas Day	
December 26	Kwanzaa	
December 31	Lawrenceville Rings! (New Year's celebration. See pg 6).	

► **A SPOOKY TIME WAS HAD BY ALL**

The annual Community Halloween Party was a ghoulish success! It was wonderful to see so many people there enjoying the festivities, from the crafts to the hayrides and the bonfire.

The COPS block captains were there to fingerprint the children and hand out child ID kits — thank you, Patti Pardi and Martha Carmack, for organizing this. A special Thank You also to Ed Hawkins for letting us use his trailer for the hayride, and to Chris Parris for driving kids all over the neighborhood... many, many times!

I also want to thank all the neighbors who helped out inside the Pavilion with the crafts and munchies. I saw too many faces and fear I may leave someone out, so please accept my "blanket" Thank You to all of you — it is neighbors like you that make Steeplechase a great place to live and raise a family. Have a wonderful holiday season!
— Sandy Parris

► **Attention, DOG OWNERS!**

Unleashed dogs have been roaming around the neighborhood. This is a huge nuisance to those of us who walk and run, often with our children and our own leashed dogs. In addition, many neighbors have reported dogs tearing their trash bags and dropping unwanted "presents" on their yards.

While many dogs run away from home on rare occasions, there are those who are left outside on a regular basis. Please remember that there is a Leash Law in Gwinnett County. Be a responsible dog owner and neighbor!

If you're having an ongoing problem with an unleashed dog, contact Animal Control at 770-339-3200.

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The logo for 'Lawrenceville Rings 2005' is a square divided into four quadrants. The top-left and bottom-right quadrants are purple and feature a white bell. The top-right and bottom-left quadrants are green and feature a white steeple. The year '2005' is written vertically in the center. Below the square, the word 'RINGS' is written in large white letters, followed by 'A New Year's Celebration!' in smaller white text.

► Golden Triangle Community Association News

Hi All, Our December meeting is scheduled for Monday, 6th at 7:00pm. In lieu of our usual meeting at Collins Hill High School, we will be meeting at Annadale Village, and while we talk we will volunteer to wrap presents. Please help spread the word so we have a good number of volunteers show up. I do need to get an approximate number of attendees, if possible. They want to make sure they put us in a big enough room to accommodate us.

Annadale is located just off of Lawrenceville-Suwanee and Satellite. I will email each of you the building and detailed directions once I have a head count of how many plan on attending.

Also, we have been accepted into the Gladiators fundraising program. Our fundraiser night is set for Saturday, January 8th at 7:35pm. This game will be "Kids T-Shirt Night." We will have premium seat tickets available for \$12.00 (a \$16.00 value). The catch is that we have to sell a minimum of 100 tickets and then we get 500 additional on consignment. We will have a table
(continued, page 8)



*Christmas Shopping –
Right in Your Neighborhood!*

Open house on Sun, December 5

Time: 3:00pm to 6:00pm

Address: Dawnya Reda, 1197 Camden Hunt

I offer a LARGE selection of Italian charms, sterling silver jewelry, and custom beaded designs. Italian charms are one of the hottest fashion trends out there today, and they make a perfect, personalized gift for anyone of any age! Stop by to see my selection.

If you are unable to attend the Open House, visit www.NeverEnoughJewelry.com, or call me at 770-339-6416 for a personal shopping appointment. Hope to see you soon! – Dawnya





Letters To the Editor

The proposal before us (re-bylaws changes) has generated a lot of concern,

and I heard a lot of it at the meeting, however, please consider this: we are talking about the FUTURE of our neighborhood. I bought a house 10 years ago for \$100,000 and it was in a nice clean, upper middle-income neighborhood. Try and go buy a house in a \$100K neighborhood today and its generally no longer upper middle.

Now we live in a neighborhood of \$200K houses, which I consider upper middle or lower upper income type houses. In 10 years, will this become a "lower income" neighborhood?? Is this what we all bought in here for? To have a property that is worth less than it

potentially should and live in a less desirable neighborhood? I heard some comments at the meeting stating "why would you give up your rights to get an additional \$30,000 in property value?"

Do your due diligence, consider what is being proposed, and make that judgment yourself. It was also commented that the houses in Whitehawk are similar to the houses in phases 3 and 4 in Steeplechase, and they DO command an additional 30K in value AND they have covenants.

Yes, we are proposing that if you want to paint your house a color "not consistent" in the neighborhood, to get permission and approval before you paint, when your chain link fence rusts and rots away, replace it with a wood fence, don't park your RV, trailer, 18-

wheel cab, large commercial vehicle or boat in your driveway. Satellite dishes are not banned, and we are not asking anyone to give up their property rights.

So if you can improve the value of your property, and you can agree to a few common sense rules, why is that not appealing? If the property values go up in phase 3 and 4 then they also go up in 1 and 2.

That is up for you to decide, I have no problem discussing the pro and cons of what is being proposed, but don't call the board names or assume anything that you yourself have not taken the time to read and understand.

Scot Sherwin

(Letters to the Editor are subject to editing for spelling, clarity, and length. Send your letters to communications@steeplechase.org)



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Golden Triangle News (continued from pg. 6)

set up at the game and our organization name will be on the display boards during the game.

This is a great opportunity to get all of us together for some fun. Please spread the word to your neighbors through your newsletters or flyers. I do need to purchase the first 100 tickets no later than December 10th. If we could get at least 10 neighborhoods to commit to 10 tickets, we will meet our minimum requirement and then we will get the rest on consignment and can sell additional. Please contact me as soon as possible if your neighborhood can commit to 10 tickets or more. I can provide batches to each GTCA liaison to sell after we sell the 100. We will have a great night of fun!!!

Lots of exciting things on the 2005 Agenda. A few of the things we have planned are:

- December 6th - Volunteer at Annadale Village
- January 10th (Meeting changed – school break)
- February 7th - Guest Speaker, Connie Wiggins, Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful
- March 7th - Guest Speakers, Kevin Kenerley and Lorraine Green, Commissioners
- April 11th Alvin Wilbanks, Gwinnett County School Superintendent (Meeting changed – Spring Break)

Thanks, Pam Ledbetter



ALL ABOARD THE SANTA TRAIN!

Do something different this holiday season, and take the kids to visit Santa Claus at the South-eastern Railway Museum in Duluth, located on Buford Highway just south of downtown Duluth. Santa will be on site every day the museum is open through Dec. 24th, and you can also schedule a breakfast with the jolly fellow.

Breakfast with Santa takes place on Saturdays Dec. 4, Dec. 11 & Dec. 18 at 9:30 and 10:30. Admission to the event will be \$3 per person, in addition to museum admission. Attendees and their parents can enjoy priority seating on the train rides at 10:15am and 11:15am, along with Santa.

Advance reservations are required to ensure breakfast seating; contact the museum Thursday - Saturday at (770) 476-2013. Train rides aboard restored cabooses are complimentary with admission. Visit www.srmduluth.org for more information.



Ginger Pear Crisp

- 6 pears, peeled and sliced
- 1 Tbsp. finely chopped ginger
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 Tbsp. butter, cut in bits



Topping:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1/4 cup flour | 1/4 cup sugar |
| 3/4 cup rolled oats | 1 tsp. cinnamon |
| 1/4 cup brown sugar | 6 Tbsp. butter |

Method:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Toss first six ingredients together in a bowl. Pour into a buttered baking dish. In a separate bowl, use a fork to combine the remaining six ingredients. Spoon topping across pears. Bake for 30 minutes or until brown & bubbly.

See more delicious recipes, household tips, and our latest Steeplechase listings at our business website, www.steeplechaseonline.com.

THE TAYLOR TEAM
678-775-2745





Health & Safety

– by Christine Taylor

Rechargeable Batteries are Earth-Friendly

Billions of batteries are used to power everything from watches to household gadgets. A battery is made up of hazardous chemicals, including mercury and cadmium, which can leak and seep into the ground. Although rechargeable batteries cost more, they can be recharged, reused, and recycled. At this time of year, we're buying batteries for all the toys we expect to be in our stockings, so keep in mind the environmental benefits to the rechargeable kind!

Here are some tips for to extend the life of your battery:

-  Always charge batteries at room temperature, as elevated temperatures reduce charging efficiency.
-  To keep the contact of a rechargeable battery clean, wipe it with a cloth soaked in alcohol.
-  Never re-charge a fully-charged battery; this reduces its life.
-  Don't use the charger as a stand. Keeping the batteries in a state of continuous charging will shorten their useful life.

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December 2004

<http://www.steeplechase.org>

**The Official Newsletter for the
Steeplechase Homeowners'
Association**

SRHA 1925 Furlong Run, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

► THOROUGH-READ NEWS ◀



<http://www.steeplechase.org>

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Business Ads:

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- 1/4 pg, \$15, (4.5"H x 3.5"W)
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