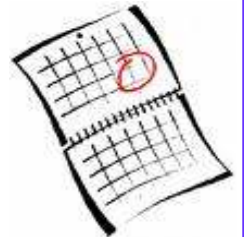




MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The annual meeting of the Huntington West Homeowners Association is currently scheduled for Thursday, **April 29**. Stay tuned for more info via the HWHOA web and on the message board at the front entrance. Submit any requests for agenda items to the Board via the website (<http://hwhoa.org>) or in writing to any current or new Board member by **April 24**.



EDITOR'S NOTE

As announced at the 2009 membership meeting and in the last two newsletters, the entire Huntington West Homeowners Association newsletter will now be available on the Association's web site (<http://hwhoa.org>) This one-page printed version of the most important Association information is being provided to highlight upcoming events, such as Board elections and the HOA membership meeting. **The full version of the newsletter is now available on the HWHOA web:** local community news, President's report, Treasurer's report, Gwinnett County property tax info, 2010 Census info, covenants updates, neighbors in need, new neighbor updates and much more. Printed copies of the entire newsletter are always available by calling Susan Powell (770-945-1849) or e-mailing (sip01@bellsouth.net)

Visit HWHOA.ORG for the complete Spring 2010 Newsletter!

BOARD ELECTIONS COMING SOON!

Nominations are now being accepted for 2010-2011 Association Board members: President, Treasurer and Secretary. Nominees must be current dues-paying members who joined the Association in 2009-2010 and are in good standing (no outstanding mandatory dues, covenants violations and/or fines). Nominations will close on Sunday, **March 28** and ballots will be mailed to each current paying member. Ballots will be mailed in to Val Moore and must be received by Saturday, **April 17** to be counted. Only current paying members in good standing are eligible to vote. If you would like to nominate yourself or another member for a Board position, please send your nomination to the entire Board via the HWHOA web site (<http://hwhoa.org>) or submit in writing to any present Board member.

POOL OPENING DAY CELEBRATION

The Opening Day Celebration is scheduled for **May 15**. All residents are welcome for the celebration party – afterwards, the pool will be open only to paying members. Volunteers are needed to ready our pool and tennis courts for Opening Day. Check out the full newsletter on the website for a list of tasks to be completed before the pool opening for 2010 and how to volunteer.

If you are interested in the cleaning job for the pool restrooms, please submit a written bid to Val Moore via e-mail (s_vmoore@mail.com) or drop off in her mailbox (3955 Gables Place) by May 1.



From The President...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Huntington West neighbors for all the support over the last few years, as I faced all the challenges of holding office of President of HWHOA. It has been quite a challenge with the “not so lovely economy” and all of the things that go along with 230 homes in a 20 year old neighborhood. With that said, the Board has been able to plan for, budget, and execute many wonderful things in our neighborhood that will serve as a benefit to all of us. Thank you to all who have chosen to support the Board, cooperate, and stay involved in keeping our neighborhood strong and desirable, not only to ourselves, but to a steady flow of newcomers, as homes become available. As we approach elections for a new Board, I will not seek re-election as President, therefore, I would like to challenge any of you to step up and continue the path we have laid out for Huntington West. As stated in the treasury report, a lot of major repairs, upgrades and maintenance have been completed and most everything is in place for a smooth transition. We need to maintain a strong HOA with people who are willing to put in time, dedication and strength in overseeing the covenants continue to be enforced and the quality of our neighborhood maintained. We have a great neighborhood here at Huntington West and need YOU to put your name on the ballot, in any capacity, or even volunteer for many other things that are always open to neighbors!

Be involved ~ Stay involved!

Thank you again for all of your support and I look forward to offering my support and working with the new Board as we kickoff another year!!!

David Hamby

TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the close of the 2009 swim season, HOA President David Hamby has collected bids from a number of contractors for needed repairs and possible improvements for our pool and tennis courts. The pool drains must be replaced in order to comply with recent changes to County Code.

“A federal law governing main drain covers was passed in 2008 that requires manufacturers and pool owners to comply with new standards by December 20, 2008, Known as the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa safety act of 2008” (VGB Act) .



David was able to negotiate with our current pool service contractor, Dacula Pool Service, to reach a competitive bid for this work. The total cost for this work was \$13,081. Details of the invoice and all work completed are posted on the web-site with the December financial statement. As outlined at the last HOA meeting, the pool surface is in need of resurfacing, so that work was scheduled for this year. Other repairs also completed by Dacula Pool Service this year are ladders refastened and step treads replaced. The treads on the wall ladders were also replaced at a cost of \$500.

The drainage system in the pool decking near the shallow end (opposite of the gate opening) also needs repair, so at this same time plans are underway to enlarge the deck area to make this space more accessible and usable. The area is often very congested with small children playing, so additional decking will allow more freedom for children to enjoy and adults to be in close proximity to small swimmers in the shallow end area. This improvement will cost approximately \$1500 and will be completed by R & R Pool and Spa.

Our tennis courts are also in need of some repairs for the upcoming season. The concrete will be raised in areas where water tends to pool **and surface cracks will be filled, lines re-painted. The cost for this work is approximately \$2175 and will be completed by Concrete Raising of Atlanta and Signature Tennis Courts.** Eventually, the courts should be completely resurfaced due to wear and tear. Since the concrete must be raised before resurfacing, the concrete will be raised for now and then plans will be underway to re-surface later in 2010 or in 2011, as the budget allows.

Another long-awaited improvement to our pool and tennis amenities is the installation of a key card system to allow entry to pool and tennis areas. Members have expressed interest in this type system for years and, considering the difficulties our traditional key system presented this past year, the upgrade has been implemented for the upcoming swim/tennis season. The new key card system offers ease of use and improved security for our facilities. One major advantage of the new system is eliminating the need to use a key to "leave" an enclosed area. Final cost of the new key card system installed by Hi Tech Access Systems is approximately \$5700. Note: The Board took several different bids for each of these different projects before making final decisions. All final invoices are posted on the web (<http://hwhoa.org>) with the current income statement.

Our swim and tennis facilities are featured prominently at the entrance of our neighborhood and are appealing to potential new homeowners. Our Association is fortunate to have the ability to maintain and improve our amenities, thus continuing to keep our property values high. That being said, the Association will be able to reduce the cost of some work to be done by having homeowners volunteer to offer assistance. **The Opening Day Celebration is scheduled for May 15.** A list of tasks to be completed before the pool opening for 2010 is included below - any help with these projects would be much appreciated. **If you can help with any of the following projects on the weekends of May 1 and May 8, please contact the Board via the HWHOA website (<http://hwhoa.org>) or by calling any Board member:**

- pressure washing and sealing the pool deck
- cleaning and setting up pool furniture
- cleaning and painting the floor of the covered area of the pool
- general clean-up of pool/tennis areas
- front entrance cleanup along Hwy 124
- playground cleanup
- corner arbors cleaned and stained



If you are interested in the cleaning job for the pool restrooms, please submit a written bid to Val Moore via e-mail (s_vmoore@mail.com) or drop off in her mailbox (3955 Gables Place) by May 1.

TAX BILLS FOR 2010

Property values have plummeted in Gwinnett County, largely because of record numbers of foreclosure and declining home sales – Huntington West is no exception. If you believe the value assigned to your property for tax purposes is too high, Gwinnett County offered taxpayer homeowners an opportunity to declare what you believe the fair market value of your individual property to be as of January 1, 2010, by filing a Property Tax Return. If you missed the March 1, 2010 deadline for filing the return with the Tax Assessor's office, you will still have the option of appealing the tax assessments mailed out by the County. Until the economy recovers and property values climb back to their previous levels, we encourage each of you to avail yourselves of every opportunity afforded to homeowners by Gwinnett County to dispute the tax assessment determined by the County. You can learn more about the opportunities to dispute your property taxes on the County's Tax Assessor's website (www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) or County website (<http://gwinnettcountryga.gov>) or e-mail questions to assessor@gwinnettcountry.com (770-822-7200).

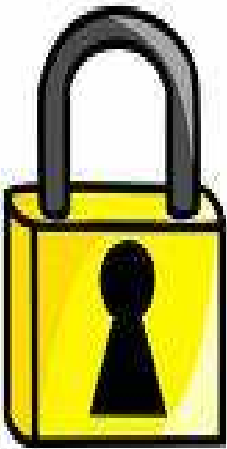


SECURITY UPDATE

This past fall our neighborhood experienced a rash in car break-ins and minor vandalism. The thefts all seemed to be similar, although law enforcement has thus far been unable to make any arrests. Many of the stolen items were eventually located in the creek, so the thieves may be using the cover of the creek for their access to our homes. Most of the thefts were of valuable items left in cars parked outside overnight, but the Board was alerted to at least one incident where the thief was incredibly bold – a window was broken out of a locked car while the car's owner had just stepped into the house at 6:30 p.m. Clearly, the thieves were or have been in and around our neighborhood looking for easy opportunities, so we cannot be too careful:

- Park all vehicles in the garage and keep garage doors down at all times, even during the day.
- Keep cars locked at all times and do not leave valuables in the car.
- Call police if you observe any suspicious behavior

Alert the Board to any new incidents – security alerts will be posted on the message board to direct homeowners to the HOA website for more details and information.



UNITED STATES CENSUS 2010

By now, you have probably heard public address announcements in the media about the upcoming 2010 U.S. Census. The U.S. Constitution mandates that a count of everyone living in the United States is taken every 10 years – and you are required by law to participate. The easiest way to respond, of course, is to devote 10 minutes to filling out the survey and returning it right away – and it will save the \$85 million in taxpayer dollars for every 1% increase in mail response! The personal information you include on your questionnaire is protected by federal law, but is very important to the state of Georgia because it will determine if our state is able to gain another seat in the US House of Representatives and our portion of \$400 billion in federal funding for our state and local communities. **If you do not return the census form in the postage paid envelope provided, a census taker must follow-up with you in person at your home address.**

Here's what you need to know about census takers coming to your home:

- Even though Huntington West has clearly posted “No Soliciting” signs, the census is required by law and we cannot prevent census takers from going door-to-door.
- Census takers will knock on the door of every household that does not mail back the survey – census takers will come between April and July 2010.
- Census takers must present a valid ID badge and carry a bag bearing the Census Bureau logo
- Census takers may not solicit donations or contact you by e-mail
- Census takers are sworn to protect your personal information or face criminal punishment, including fines of up to \$250,000 and imprisonment.



Needless to say: the best way to make sure we do not have to deal with census takers at all or face any risk of others canvassing our neighborhood pretending to represent the US Census Bureau is to return the questionnaire by mail. You can find more information by visiting www.2010census.gov or calling 800.424.6974.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS

Many of us have watched in anticipation as our tax dollars are at work around our community in the form of a new library and a new fire station. Plans to open the new **Gwinnett County Hamilton Mill library** are currently being finalized. Although the building appears to be complete, much is involved in installing all the books and other media into the library. Our new Hamilton Mill branch is scheduled to open in early May. The **brand new state-of-the-art home for Station 18** (behind our neighborhood at Hog Mountain and Mineral Springs Roads) is also nearing completion. According to Gwinnett County Fire Chief Bill Myers, 66 new employees will be hired to staff the relocation of Station 18 and 2 other new fire stations. Training for those new employees will begin in late March and take about 7 months. Based on that timetable, it looks like our friends at Station 18 could be in their new station around the first of November – just in time to celebrate our 10th annual “Huntington West Gives Thanks” project!

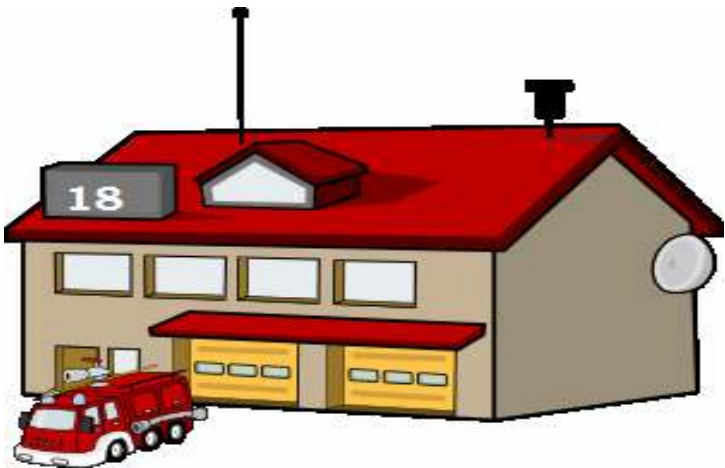


UPDATED WEBSITE

Many thanks for Andy Mitcham for serving as our Association’s Webmaster for the last several years. Andy has now “retired” from maintaining the HOA website, due to changes in his work schedule. The Board is excited to have found a highly qualified replacement for Andy right in our own neighborhood. Our website has been re-designed to make it more user-friendly and more accessible to everyone. Check out our neighborhood’s newly updated website (<http://hwhoa.org>) and be sure to stay tuned to it for up-to-the-minute security alerts, regular updates, HOA documents and other pertinent Association information.

NOTE: As mentioned in the last newsletter and also in the last HOA membership meeting, newsletters will now be published on the web, but paper copies will always still be available by contacting any Board member.

Thanks Andy!



HOLIDAY HOUSE

Our friends at Station 18 served as honorary judges once again this year for our 2009

HOLIDAY HOUSE decorating contest. Congratulations to all our winners and thanks to all who participated!

First Place: Delbert and Joyelle Metz – 1800 Huntington Hill Trace

Second Place: Richard and Jerri Simerly – 1810 Huntington Hill Trace

Third Place: Andy and Sandra Mitcham - 4016 Avonlea Court

Honorable Mention: Chip and Kristi Bradley – 1645 Huntington Hill Trace



WELCOME WAGON REPORT

We have welcomed quite a few new families to our neighborhood since this past summer:

Jeffrey and Tiffani Robinson Hawes – 1959 Green Gables Court

Jeffrey and Tiffani moved to Huntington West from Augusta and are parents to an adorable 3 year old boy named Daniel. Tiffani is a Paralegal, and Jeffrey works as a business rep for Gwinnett Place Honda.

Gene and Kerri Mason – 4004 Green Gables Trace

Gene and Keri have been married for 5 years and are parents to a 4 year old little girl, Eden, who was adopted from China in 2007. They are in the home study process of adopting one or more children from Africa to build their family, which also includes an 11 year old Chocolate Lab named "Maggie." Gene and Keri moved to Huntington West from Birmingham when Gene took a position at Cross Pointe Church in Duluth as the Communications Minister, where his duties include the church's graphic design, media, web design, IT, etc. The Mason family enjoys travel, including international and local mission work. Eden enjoys swimming and ballet. The Mason family reports that they love just hanging out in their new home here and already consider Huntington West to be their favorite place they have ever lived.

Tyler and Leah Recker – 1724 Gray Gables Way

Tyler and Leah both grew up in Lawrenceville and are new to home ownership. We are honored that the Recker's chose to purchase their very first home in Huntington West. Tyler is the Student Minister at New Branch Community Church (the church where we have always held our HOA meetings) and Leah teaches pre-school at Legacy Academy. Tyler and Leah enjoy reading, hiking, and playing with dog, "Noel." Tyler enjoys watching sports, writing, playing basketball and flag football. Leah enjoys scrap booking and Tyler reports she has already perfected the "honey-do" list!

Kenneth and Nicole Branch – 1850 Huntington Hill Trace

Kenneth and Nicole are new parents to 21 month old Chase Michael Branch. Kenneth is a Lead Carpenter for Exovations of Atlanta and Nicole teaches pre-school at Duncan Creek Academy.

Mitch Williamson and Cathy Willis – 4069 Manor Hill Place

Mitch and Cathy had a very hectic September – new baby Michael was born on September 12 and then they moved into their new house here in Huntington West a few days later on September 18! Mitch is a network technician at CTDI in Buford, and Cathy is mailroom supervisor at CIBA Vision in John's Creek. Mitch and Cathy enjoy sports, reading, karaoke....and obviously changing diapers! Mitch and Cathy report they are looking forward to getting to know other people in the neighborhood. And that they love it here in Huntington West.

Also joining our community are:

Glenn Gilmore – 3980 Gables Place

Matthew Valestro and Natalie Brady – 4055 Gables Place

Anthony Cicco – 4220 Gables Place

Mike Scalera and Jackie Bouysou – 1739 Gray Gables Way

Jade Reinkemeyer – 3987 Ivory Gables Place

Samuel and Celena Blackshear – 4052 Gables Court



Be sure to greet all our new neighbors and welcome them to Huntington West. Our dedicated Block Captains deliver "Welcome" packets to all our new families, but if you are new to Huntington West and have not yet received your packet, please call Susan Powell (770-945-1849) or e-mail (sip01@bellsouth.net)

WEDDING BELLS



Long-time
Huntington
West resident
Elise Narby
(4089 Manor

Hill Place) has recently married and is now Elise Moriarty. Elise's new hubby, Harvey, has moved into our community and we hear he is "retired" but most resourceful as a master woodworking craftsman and he also restores antique cars. Congratulations to Harvey and Elise – you can reach the Moriarty's at 678-557-5958.

WHAT THE FLOCK?

If you don't live on Gray Gables Way, perhaps you missed the recent birthday celebration Bill Phinazee's daughters treated him to in honor of the 80th anniversary of his 2nd birthday.... Bill awoke to find his normally pristine lawn littered with a flock of tacky plastic birds. Happy Birthday, Big Guy!



CARE AND CONCERN FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Our neighbors, **Chris and Deidra Mays** (1749 Gray Gables Way), experienced a destructive house fire a few weeks ago. Thankfully, Stan Shelton was home and able to go over to help fight the fire before the trucks from Station 18 arrived, but the interior damage is extensive. The Mays family will be out of the house until late April or early May. Right now, they are staying at the Lake Lanier Lodge while the house is being restored and are trying to feed a family of 4 with only a small under-cabinet refrigerator and a small microwave (Chris and Deidra have a son and a daughter who are both college students). Eating out is expensive and the Mays are trying to juggle paying for 2 households at present. Chris and Deidra come by the house several times a week to check up on the progress. A few neighbors have already reached out to Deidra and Chris with offers of home-cooked meals they can heat in their microwave or with gift cards for local eateries. If you would like to help, please call Deidra on her cell phone (**404-819-5651**). You can also call Susan Powell (770-945-1849) and she will make arrangements to pick up your gift cards and deliver them to the Mays family. Deidra and Chris asked us to convey they are most thankful for the love and support neighbors have offered to them so far - we do indeed live in a great neighborhood!

Rick Quiett (1665 Huntington Hill Trace) reports he is hell-bent on staying strong in his on-going battle to put his Lymphoma into remission. Donations of O Positive blood in Rick's name are much appreciated –

Rick and Kim have expressed thanks to all who have offered food, cards and well-wishes and those who have volunteered to care for their little guy. Please continue to support Rick and Kim in this difficult time – Rick says all prayers are needed and welcomed. As of this printing, details are still being organized for donations, so if you are O Positive and would like to donate blood in Rick's name, please call Susan Powell (770-945-1849) or e-mail (sip01@bellsouth.net) for the specifics.

Big Bama fan **Ben Miller (1620 Huntington Hill Trace)** is now home and recovering from major back reconstruction surgery. Ben is just now able to walk and get out of the house, but is on the first leg of what promises to be a slow, but steady recovery. Ben hopes to be good as new by the time the Crimson Tide hits the gridiron this fall. In the interim, Ben is hoping to find a loving foster home for his 80 lb. dog, "Duke" because his size and strength are difficult for Ben to handle while recovering. Duke is a sweet, lovable "mutt-i-gree" so if you know of a suitable new home for Duke, please e-mail Ben (bamajet12@gmail.com)

Our young men in uniform are still safe and both are currently state-side. **Austin Horne** has completed his mission as an Army medic in Iraq and is back at Ft. Bragg for now. Mom Alice hopes he will continue to be state-side until his enlistment is up in November. You can write to Austin at his base:

Austin Horne
C Co 82nd BSB 3rd BCT
Bldg #C-6133
Fort Bragg, NC 28310



Michael Dailey is fully recovered from his previous injuries and is still officially stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, but he is currently on a temporary assignment to Twenty-nine Palms, CA until July.

COVENANTS UPDATES

Although the real estate market has been slow to recover, there have been 7 home sales in Huntington West in the last 6 months – in large part because we have worked hard to ensure Huntington West continues to look great, even in the face of an economic downturn. As winter dies down and warmer weather approaches, it is time once again to take stock of repairs and maintenance needed to spruce up our homes and lawns for spring. Here are a few of the most common appearance issues to check out:

- As a result of the continued wet weather we have had in the last 6 months, many homes have noticeable mildew on the siding, particularly on sides of the house that do not get much sun. Be sure to check out the siding on your home and clean off mildew and/or apply a fresh coat of paint. Reminder: the Homeowners' Association owns a pressure washer and it is available for rent to paying members of the Association for \$10 per day (\$25 per day for non-members). To reserve the pressure washer, call Val Moore (770-945-6286).
- Ditto for mailboxes – thanks to those of you who voluntarily cleaned up your mailbox and post. Still, the wet weather has left many mailboxes dull and rusty and many wooden mailbox posts in need of mildew removal and fresh paint. Be sure to check that your mailbox is clean and freshly painted; numbers are solid black and uniform.
- The harsh fall and winter has also done a number on many lawns, leaving bald spots and bare dirt. Don't forget the covenants require all front yards to be sodded – any natural areas should be covered with appropriate landscaping mulch such as pine straw or natural tree bark.
- Reminder: the covenants require that all vehicles (homeowners and guests) be parked in the garage or driveway – not in the street. Gwinnett County code and our covenants also prohibit parking vehicles on any yarded area.
- As spring approaches, please remember trailers are not permitted at all if parked on any area of the property visible from any street. Boats and campers are permitted only for a period of 24 hours, in order to prepare for a camping trip or recreational outing.
- Speeding continues to be a problem in our neighborhood and will continue to be an issue as warm weather brings children out in the yards to play and folks running, walking pets and visiting with neighbors out on our streets. Please help to protect our children, friends and pets by reminding all family members and visitors to your home that the speed limit in Huntington West is 25 mph at all times.
- Don't forget – the covenants require that trashcans be stored in a location not visible from the street, except on trash collection day. If your trashcan is visible from the street, please designate another storage location.
- Some homeowners have replaced aging heat pumps with newer units. Reminder: the covenants require that any air conditioning units/compressors located on the side of the home must be screened from view by shrubs or fencing. If you have a unit visible from the street, please take steps to screen it from view.
- One of our neighbors recently collected a bag full of trash he found on our streets and common areas: a milk jug left laying next to a storm drain, drink cans, juice boxes, old newspapers, beer bottles and other debris. He asked that we remind parents to ask teens and children to refrain from throwing out trash in our neighborhood because it detracts from the appearance of our neighborhood. If you see trash in the streets, please stop to pick it up.

HERE, KITTY, KITTY



Unfortunately, one of the sadder signs of spring is the increase in unwanted kittens – cats breed and give birth to way too many kitty cats in the spring. Several residents in Huntington West report numbers of feral cats living in the wooded areas surrounding our creek and neighborhood and being fed by neighbors. As heartbreaking as it is to see so many stray cats, feeding them is only part of the responsibility...if you choose to feed them and encourage them to live in our neighborhood, you should also be aware of the added responsibility to spay and neuter to prevent even more homeless cats and kittens. Animal lover Julie Hemminger did some research and provided the HOA with the following statistics (below) on the potential for staggering numbers of unwanted pets in our community.

The Feral Cat Program of GA is a TNR program: Trap, Neuter, Release. They provide loaner traps & instructions. According to the Feral Cat Program of Georgia in Cumming, GA (770-888-8130) www.fcpga.petfinder.com

"A fertile female cat can produce three litters per year with four to six kittens per litter. In seven years, **one female cat and her offspring can theoretically produce 420,000 cats!** In communities which have implemented Trap/Neuter/Release programs similar to the Feral Cat Program, the number of animals who had to be euthanized declined by 30 to 60 percent."

Per the **SPOT Society Inc.**, (Stopping Pet Overpopulation Together) website:

"Annually, between 88,000-131,000 animals have been killed in Atlanta area shelters in recent years. In more graphic terms, area animal shelters *destroy 20 tons of household pets per week.*" Statistics indicate that 70% of dogs and cats who enter the shelters are euthanized.

SPOT Society Inc., (www.spotsociety.org) is a really great one-stop shopping website for low cost spay neuter programs, adoptions, rescue groups, shelters, etc. http://www.spotsociety.org/atl_shelter_list.htm

Julie has also provided the HOA with an extensive list of agencies that provide low-cost spaying and neutering and can also assist if you are having difficulty paying veterinary costs. Check out the HOA website (<http://hwhoa.org>) for more details and the list of agencies that can help to spay and neuter stray cats and kittens. Thanks, Julie, for your concern for our community and for the welfare of stray animals living around us.

ARCHITECTURAL CHANGES

Below is a list of recent Architectural Change Requests approved by the Board/Architectural Review Committee. Architectural Change Request forms can be downloaded from the HOA website (<http://hwhoa.org>) Please note: the form states the Board/Committee may take up to thirty (30) days to review request plans and specifications.

DON'T FORGET: Approval is required for architectural changes to your home and/or changes that impact the appearance of your home....such as paint colors, roof shingles, siding, fences, additions, etc.

1580 Huntington Hill Trace – whole house siding replacement, new windows, new paint colors

1959 Green Gables Circle – Corning Onyx Black roof replacement

4095 Gables Place – privacy fence

1839 Gray Gables Way – concrete parking pad adjacent to existing driveway

1655 Huntington Hill Trace – extended front bay window replacement

1774 Gray Gables Way – Colonial Black roof replacement

4175 Gables Place – satellite dish placement

1875 Huntington Hill Trace – new paint colors for siding, trim and shutters

Newsletter
Graphics by:
Lauren Hamby

