



APRIL 12, 2016 LETTER FROM THE HOA PRESIDENT

Well, it is now mid-April, and Ashford Park has survived several severe rain storms and blustery tornado "threats" already this year. Keep your fingers crossed.

Unfortunately, since our last newsletter, one of our board members was assaulted (by a former HOA board member) and his wrist injured and put in a cast. The perpetrator was arrested and taken away in handcuffs, only to be released on bail. We are waiting for a trial date.

This kind of behavior will NOT be tolerated by this board. Intimidation, spreading of rumors against a board member, and now physical assaults --this kind of boorish behavior by a few in the community, has prompted two lawsuits already. The current board will not be intimidated by this type of bullying. That's why we told our lawyer to proceed with the lawsuits already on the books.

UPDATE: The two young men who were caught after their failed home invasion in our community on Jan. 13, are behind bars awaiting a court date and sentencing. They are probably going to go away for some length of time. We're lucky no one was shot during this ordeal.

And let me say here and now, I am very proud of our current board members. We remain steadfast in our mission -- to make Ashford Park a safe and well-maintained neighborhood for all of us.

Board member Laura Daily has assumed the position of Treasurer for our HOA. She takes over for Mike Callihan who stepped off the board for personal reasons. Mike remains a volunteer on our Architectural Committee. We've added a sixth board member, as required by by-laws. His name is James Parris. He and his wife Gail have lived in Ashford Park for several years, and are always heads up on community affairs. Welcome aboard James!

Mike Wilde's architectural and maintenance committees are doing a yeoman's job, keeping our community beautiful and orderly. Mike's committees are also seeking a few more volunteers. Go to our website and sign up. [www.ashfordparkowner.com](http://www.ashfordparkowner.com)

A big thank you to all volunteers working for our Home Owners' Association. And a special thank you to those of you who do little things for our community. People like Linda Pledger and Teri Meilles who, when they found out I had two surgeries and was laid up for a few days, saw to it that I had plenty of brownies and lasagna. So good! People like Bobbie Hale and her husband Wayne, who are always at the ready whenever someone needs a helping hand.

Our first Board meeting will be held May 10th. All homeowners and spouses are welcome to attend. We are asking homeowners to submit to the Board any questions they would like answered **before May 3rd**. Send issues or questions to: Ashford Park HOA, P.O. Box 1078, Foley, AL 36536 or go to our website - [www.ashfordparkowner.com](http://www.ashfordparkowner.com) The board will review the issues and questions received, involve the proper committee and get answers to questions. Communications will be read and discussed after the general board business meeting. We will ask the authors of the questions to stand and be recognized as we read the question and answer it to the best of our ability.

Please take the time to read this newsletter. It contains several good articles of importance to all of us. It is time we all get involved in our community, even if it is just keeping abreast of all the issues we are dealing with. And we welcome all of you to attend our next 4 Board Meetings at the Foley United Methodist Church, 915 N. Pine St., 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Dave Roffman, HOA President*

**Ashford Park 2016 Board Meeting Dates**  
May 10 - July 12 - Sept 13 - Nov 15 – December - No Meeting.  
January 10, 2017 Annual Meeting



## HICKORY RETENTION POND UPDATE

The subdivision has three retention ponds (holds water permanently) and a number of detention ponds (holds water temporarily) Detention ponds are the low areas of the common area that are mowed by the Friths Lawn Service. These detention ponds drain into the Hickory Pond from the other side of the subdivision. The homeowners voted at the yearly meeting not to repair the Hickory Pond until after the lawsuit with Adams is resolved, in lieu of paying \$300.00 per homeowner for the repairs. HMR did an extensive survey working with the city to establish the best option, which is a properly functioning retention pond (holds water permanently). The Hickory Pond cannot be a detention pond (holds water temporarily) due to having a possible natural spring and a clay bottom which causes the water not to evaporate. The Board has retained HMR to fix the Hickory pond, either when a settlement with Adams is resolved, or at the time of the assessment to homeowners. In the meantime, the last time the pond was dry enough to be cut (October 2015) only part of it could be mowed due to water. Chemicals are not an option due to the expense, and the fact that the pond will eventually be dug out 3-4 feet deep which will eliminate the vegetation. The depth will keep the vegetation from growing. Chemicals cannot be put in the stream to the jointly owned Hampton pond because the vegetation in the Hickory Pond will continue to grow downstream until the Hickory Pond is repaired. The Hickory Pond will continue to have snakes and rats and frogs until the resolution recommended by the engineers and city environmental department is executed. The goal is to make a safe neighborhood for everyone in the community.

## HAMPTON JOINTLY OWNED POND UPDATE

The Hampton Homeowners Association informed us that they are cutting the cattails in the whole jointly owned retention pond and putting chemicals in. The 2015 Board got a waiver from the city to hold off our part of repairs to that pond until 2017, due to needing to correct the Hickory Pond first. The Hampton Park Board is aware we do not have the funds to pay for our 24% of the repairs. The Joint Hampton Pond does not drain, due to the stream being blocked with debris, on the farmer's land that runs to County Road 20. This is the only outlet for four ponds including the Hickory Pond and Joint Hampton Pond. The city has been unable to get permission to go on the land the stream is on, to do a drainage study or even clean out the stream. Trustee Dale Torrence and Architectural Chair Mike Wilde went to a city council meeting in March and discussed this situation with the city council. The city reported that the current drainage situation was approved when the subdivision was being built, but would never be approved under today's environmental regulations. Dale and Mike met with the city and with a homeowner whose house is on the Joint Hampton Pond. The homeowner's house got water in it during the spring storm in 2014 and the backyard floods during rains to this date. The result of this meeting is that the city is still working to help us resolve this issue. Possible actions by the city are to install a sand filter, or a drain to County Road 20. They have agreed to reengineer the elevation due to the completed work on County Road 20, which was suggested by Dale. The city has also assured us they are working on establishing a right of way on the farmer's land to be able to maintain the stream.



## ARCHITECTURAL/MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The majority of violations during inspections was for garbage cans visible from the road which comes with a \$100.00 fine. The committee members sincerely feel distressed to fine someone for a garbage can that is visible in the front yard, on the porch or in front of the garage door. We must enforce all covenants to be fair to all homeowners, until such a time that the homeowners with a 2/3 vote choose to change them. Please skim the covenant on page 4 in your covenants or review on the website.

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Any home improvements, fences, screened in rooms, sheds, etc. must be submitted to the Architectural Committee with a diagram and a city permit or permit waiver, for approval by the committee, BEFORE construction begins.

## THE GRASS IT IS A GROWIN'

Grass can be a reason for violation if it is longer than 6 inches and has weeds longer than 8 inches. The sidewalk and curbs of your lot must also be edged. These are the two most common reasons for grass violations and which the committee hopes can be minimized.

Spring has sprung, frogs are jumping and snakes are hunting. PLEASE be careful around the retention ponds. Due to work being done in the Joint Hampton Park Pond, and the new subdivision on Hickory, where they are filling in wetlands, snakes are on the move. Mike's year to date snake kill is 4. His total for the last six years is 234. That is 39 a year.

## SINKHOLES AROUND DRAINAGE PIPES

The committee is aware of the sinkholes around some of the drainage pipes that flow through the neighborhood. We will be working with city on this issue after the Joint Hampton Park drainage issue is corrected. We are trying to stay focused on one issue at a time with the city. Please **do not** let your children play in these areas for safety reasons.

### Safety First

Let's keep Ashford Park safe for everyone! Please monitor your children to be sure to teach them about safety. We want to be sure that there are not any accidents. Watch for little ones who may ignore the warnings on the electric transformers in some yards.



Welcome New Neighbors!!  
Dan & Marla Gilliam  
Rachel Shavers  
Sharon Stephens  
Mr and Mrs Burt Webb



## ASHFORD PARK NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

Citizens from Ashford Park have met with The Foley Police Department to organize a neighborhood watch program for the subdivision. The neighborhood watch program establishes a better line of communication between the subdivision and the police. We will also receive information from Crime & Safety to Lost & Found that may be trending in other areas of Foley along with crime prevention reminders. The purpose of this neighborhood watch is to strictly observe and report any suspicious activity to the police. It is a volunteer program. Block captains are in place throughout the subdivision. Information from the police will be forwarded to the liaison for the subdivision. The liaison will disseminate the information to the block captains who will notify the homeowners in their area. We will be using e-mail primarily to pass along information. If you do not own a computer or use e-mail let your block captain know this. We are using a computer app. called **Nextdoor.com** to quickly get information out to the homeowners. This app is a free service. It requires anyone wanting to join the service to provide an e-mail and telephone number. **Nextdoor.com** verifies that you reside at the residence and gives access to the site. This program is pc, I-phone and droid compatible. I encourage everyone to join **Nextdoor.com** and participate in our watch program to make us a safer and well informed subdivision. Our sign-up for Nextdoor Ashford Park is continuing with good success. If you need help with this, contact Deb Peterson [debiloup@gmail.com](mailto:debiloup@gmail.com) This free service keeps our neighbors connected with a quick notification to everything. There is some concern that the site asks for your credit card number OR the last 4 digits of you SS#. This is so that they can make sure you are the person living at that address. It is a security measure only. It is not asking for money as some have misunderstood. The site is rated so safe that even the Fairhope Police Department uses it. I would suggest that you just use the last 4 digits of your Social when signing up. The success of this program will depend on most all neighbors signing up. 78 neighbors have joined to date. You can sign up today by going to <https://nextdoor.com/invite/mqdegwefkhufqmckdzit> or sign up on our website. Nextdoor Ashford Park works best when all neighbors are members.

Neighborhood watch signs have been ordered from Vulcan Sign located in Foley. The signs are currently being made. The signs will be eventually be hung under the No Solicitor signs located on Park and West Ashford Dr.

### TALKING POINTS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH FROM OFC. CUELLAR, FOLEY PD

Here are some talking points for Neighborhood Watch Program:

- it's not a lot of work
- looking out for each other, communication, reporting all crime and suspicious activity
- program ran by neighborhood
- **no vigilante acts**
- meetings short but informative
- any info sent to neighborhood from the Foley PD will be police/crime specific

Our next HOA Committee/ Neighborhood Watch meeting is April 26 at 6:30 pm at the Foley Library. We will be discussing the new program with our chairman Chris Canupp. All are welcome. Come join us and see how you can make a difference in your community.



## COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The 2016 HOA Dues to date: 274 have paid and five homeowners have not. They are the same members that have not paid in previous years. Their names have been sent to our lawyer who will continue to place liens on the homes. Lot's 25, 47, 85, 223, and 276 will continue to accumulate monthly fines.

Regarding fines, the Board unanimously passed a change to the By-laws. The change involves Article XIII "assessments" of the By-Laws, which can be found on page 9 of 9 of the By-Laws. The change which was voted is to replace the verbiage of: twelve (12%) per annum with **\$15.00 per month, each month the assessment is late.**

### HOW TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE HOA BOARD

All suggestions, issues, complaints are required to be in written form in order for the board to research the issue and find the best solution. You may write to the board by USP mail or email: PO Box 1078, Foley 36536 or [ashparkhoa@gmail.com](mailto:ashparkhoa@gmail.com). Go to our website at [www.ashfordparkowner.com](http://www.ashfordparkowner.com) for all the help you need for successful communication. **Any special needs from neighbors can be sent to our board at any time.**

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### FOLEY FEATURES

*Have you seen our new local dog park? It opened on March 19 and is a great facility. The park is divided into two sides (Big dogs and small dogs) and the entry areas are superb. There is a small corral area to get your dog off the leash before entering the park itself. Litter bags are available as well as water. A water feature to keep dogs cool will be installed soon. There are entrance ways on both sides of the park. If you have a canine friend, try to visit our new Foley facility.*

*Sign up for Sanitation Recycling with Riviera Utilities*

*Once upon a time, April was dedicated for Earth day. We all need to be responsible and try to be as earth friendly as possible. So on that note, try to join the recycling effort if you do not already recycle. Just call (251) 943-5991*

### IMPORTANT (251) NUMBERS

*South Baldwin Regional Medical Center 949-3400*

*Foley City Police Dispatch 943-4431*

*Foley Fire Department 943-1266*

*Foley Senior Center 943-1877*

*Public Works 943-9997*

*Sanitation 943-8897*