

Springdale Estates Association Quarterly Update

June 2023

Greetings to Springdale Estates! It's been a busy year so far for the Board, as we move forward with many items agreed to in last November's annual meeting, and expressed in the 2022 Long Range survey.

Safety

A resident asked that we call attention to all parents that all children who ride bikes, scooters, or gokarts around the neighborhood should have an orange flag and reflectors. At times these are low to the ground and hard to see when they are being ridden behind your car (or behind cars coming towards you). In addition, please tell your kids not to assume that drivers can see them — that there some spots on our roads where it is impossible to see clearly due sun/shade spots.

Finally! The Sinkhole is fixed!

The sinkhole at the corner of West Lake and O'Neal has been repaired and the two stormwater inlet basins rebuilt. The crew let me know that while there was no damage to the concrete stormwater pipes, the stormwater basins on either side of West Lake Court did need attention. The main damage and erosion was due to repeated improper installation of fiber optic cables. These companies don't tamp down the soil after installation, and rain will start to create the kind of issues we saw there.

While the work crews were there, Mark Connolly and I inspected the 48" inch stormwater culverts nearby under O' Neal and reported significant blockage to them — and they cleared the culverts before they left.

On the topic of storm drains - we are trying to pinpoint the storm drains that are problematic and clog quickly. Please let us know, as we can get NC DOT to (sometimes) clean them. We are looking into service providers that will clear them for a fee.

Traffic speeding committee

Paul Nani, Dan Rea and Alyson Emanuel met recently to discuss the issue and lay out action items over the next weeks. First discussions with the Wake County sheriff's office reveals that they are well aware of the speeding issue and detours being taken in the morning due to backups at LRHS. We were also told that when the sheriff sitting at the lake ticket speeders, 4 of the 6 tickets were for residents of Springdale Estates. This undercuts our argument that the problem is the students at LRHS. PLEASE do not speed!

Finally street signs at Leesville and O'Neal (north entrance)

For some reason, this took over a year of repeated requests. We think the two entrances, both Leesville and O'Neal, confused the issue. Providing them with pictures of the correct intersection cleared up the problem.

Beautiful native plants emerging along the dam at big lake

Mark Connolly spotted jewelweed and lizard's tail emerging along the shoreline. Per the discussion at last year's annual meeting, we plan to keep vegetation very short along the middle 40 feet and have beneficial plants for pollinators along stretches on either side. Hopefully we will not see a repeat of last year's vandalism.

The willows on the sandbar at the north end had blocked the lake view for residents there and while they also want SEA to dredge the sandbar entirely, we did prune the willows to clear the view. We had reviewed the Neuse River basin guidelines and decided we were allowed to periodically prune vegetation there and remove invasive species such as ligustrum, etc.

Inspection of the tributary stream leading into the north end shows areas where sediment has built up besides sand and stone from construction leaves, branches (and seemingly millions of pine cones) are washed into our creeks and streams. Added to erosion off of adjacent properties, all adds significant organic loading to the big lake.

Events

Adult social: June 10 at the dam. Come join us and meet some of your neighbors!

There is a sign up on Facebook (<https://fb.me/e/3orMAKzdp>).

The SEA Board will provide adult beverages (including non-alcoholic options) and snacks. Kids are welcome, but we will not have any specific kid activities. Feel free to bring fishing poles.

Event Details:

Location: Big Lake Beach Area

Date: Saturday, June 10th

Time: 3-5 (come and go as you please)

Bring: Just yourself and maybe some folding camp chairs. Seating is limited.

We will have signs showing what pollinator plants are growing along the shore. We will also have people on hand to explain our plans going forward to implement input to the 2022 neighborhood survey that told us residents want a functional but natural environment at the dam.

Fun run and Halloween party: Tentative date: Saturday October 28th

Clean up day: The Board wanted to have a clean-up day but very unsure of volunteers. We are targeting to schedule a day in October but need to know we will have about 25 volunteers for the following activities:

1. Wash and strengthen street signs, stop signs, speed limit signs etc (10-15 people??)
2. Rake leaves and prepare beds for fall on the medians and garden beds at all entrances (we find we need several leaf raking days, so while we have a gardener who also does this, we need some extra days with volunteers).
3. Seed grass at big lake dam: the middle 40 feet will be cleared and grass planted. We need the ground there prepared and then grass seed planted. Gravel in the path also needs to be topped up.

Membership in the Association - a drop this year, but why?

We have experienced a drop in membership in the Association (i.e., less residents paying homeowner dues). The recent mailer to 158 residents only resulted in 28 responses. Over the past couple of years we have had significant turnover in the neighborhood. We realize that many new folks do not even know about the Association. If you can help with new neighbors, that would be greatly appreciated.

Look for communication in the coming days re: use of reserves for major projects.

There are vacancies on the Board representing Areas 2 & 5. Please send an email to any of the Board members if you are interested (email addresses are on the website: www.springdaleestates.org).

Springdale Estates is 50 years old - now is the time to lay the foundation for the next 50 years!

Alyson and the SEA Board