

Springdale Estates Association Quarterly Update March 2024

Kelly Scofield and Maddie Segal both completed their terms and stepped down from Board; we say thanks for the years of support for our neighborhood! At the 2023 Annual Meeting, we had several new board members voted in:

SEA Board as of January 2024

Title	Name	Term
President	Alyson Emanuel	2024 - 2025
Vice President	Katie Coss	2023-2024
Treasurer	Sue Prathi	2023- 2024
Secretary	Debbie Brennan	2024 - 2025
Area Director 1	Jim Brennan	2024-2025
Area Director 2	vacant	2023-2024
Area Director 3	Paul MacDougal	2023 - 2024
Area Director 4	vacant	2024-2025
Area Director 5	vacant	2024-2025

2023 Annual Meeting: our Annual Meeting this past November was very sparsely attended with only 9 households. Even though we had over 30 proxies delivered before the Annual Meeting, and we certainly appreciate the confidence, the low attendance is still of concern. The Board is interested in any comments regarding the attendance at Annual Meetings - is it the agenda? The facility?

The slides and draft minutes are available on the website at:

https://springdaleestates.org/Minutes_2023_11_15.pdf

https://springdaleestates.org/Slides_2023_11_15.pdf

The minutes will be adopted as final at the 2024 Annual Meeting this coming year.

Snake sampling at the lake

The NCSU will be sampling the non-venomous snakes at our big lake in the next days. The findings for 2023 are:

“In 2023, we visited Springdale several times. During these visits, we found 10 northern water snakes (*Nerodia sipedon*). We also encountered 5 rough earth snakes (*Haldea striatula*). Neither of these species are venomous. One of the Northern water snakes had skin lesions on its face and body and tested positive for the skin fungus. The second snake did not have any skin lesions and tested negative for the skin fungus.”

The **2024 Board activities** continue to be driven by the priorities identified in the 2022 Long Range Survey. The top priorities were:

- Traffic and Speeding, Safety
- Big Lake
- Neighborhood infrastructure and aesthetics
- Clean up and maintain white fences on Leesville and Oneal Roads, as well as white brick entrances as needed
- SEA webpage, and creating “back office” structure via Microsoft Office 365
- Yard waste to the curb day 2x/year

Traffic and Speeding, Safety

We continue to request a meeting with Principal Jacobs and are pursuing a traffic calming project for Springdale Estates, which is a rather long process. If there is a finding that the situation merits a traffic calming solution, we had recommended speed tables (which are very elongated speed bumps. Speed bumps are not allowed on State Road due to hindering emergency vehicles). 3 way and 4 way stop signs are not recommended by the County as it is their observation that they are generally ignored.

More can be found in the draft minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting (see link above).

A revitalized **Community Watch**, while voted a priority in the Long Range survey, has not been organized due to competing priorities. If there is any resident that would like to volunteer to organize an approach, please contact anyone on the Board.

Big Lake

- Improve vegetation & biodiversity. Keep fishing & natural appearance
- Maintain path along O’Neal side of lake and access at Lakewood side
- Improve big lake water quality i.e., dredging, aeration, etc.

We have instituted mowing along 40 feet in the middle of the lake facing area, hoping to provide access to the lake for those wanting to observe the flora and fauna or to fish, and avoid the vandalism that we had last year. We continue to keep shrubs to either side 3 feet or lower and remove nuisance trees/ shrubs.

There have been **reports of cars very close to the lake at the Lakewood Access**; it is assumed since this is in the middle of the day, these are students from LRHS. We are investigating a solution that will prevent easy entry, but enable authorized vehicles (Duke Energy, grass mowing/ tree pruning).

Neighborhood infrastructure and aesthetics

Repair/ maintain storm drains & culverts: since last year’s success with the sinkhole and storm drain repair, we continue to map culverts and storm drains that are likely to clog. Wake County

has been willing to repair / clean these trouble spots. We have a map done some years ago, it can be found on the website: <https://springdaleestates.org/SEStormCulvertMaps2.pdf>

We continue to make incremental progress to renovating the entrances:

- **cutting down the large shrubs blocking view of traffic on Leesville (all entrances)**
- North entrance: removing old diseased gardenias and azaleas and replacing with native shrubs.
- North entrance: treating the huge hollies and adjacent shrubs with reduced risk pesticide to address the two different types of scale, and adding wood chips to improve the soil underneath → please note these trees have berries for the first time in years!
- South entrance (traffic light): the irrigation project continues with the engineering company preparing to make detailed plans as requested by NCDOT
- all entrances: seasonal clean up, pruning and mulching

It has been recommended to focus on one entrance at a time so as to make progress more visible.

Yard Waste to the Curb: during last fall's **Big Stick Pick up**, we had about 20 residents join, and was well received.

SEA webpage, and creating "back office" structure

We are using Google drive to share folders between Board members and reduce emails, and are establishing the criteria for comparisons of available website platforms (ie., HOA Start) vs. a modest custom webpage (look at Springdale Gardens).

Events

Yard Sale: April 27, 8 - 12 noon. We will put out signs and send tips in advance.

Adult social/ neighborhood potluck: May/June (date to be announced)

Fun run/ Halloween: Saturday November 26

Dues - due Feb. 29, 2024. 167 households have paid.

We thank all the residents that have paid their dues so far and that the dues received will be put to good use to improve the safety, aesthetics, and social engagement of the neighborhood.

We encourage the residents that have not yet paid to pay via the PayPal link on the website (you do not have to have a PayPal account) or send us a check to the address again on the website. We look forward to everyone's participation at the upcoming events and suggestions for future improvements and residents are welcome.

Your SEA Board