

GPOA Update

July 2016

Assessments for 2nd Half of 2016

The invoice for the second half of 2016 is included with this update. Payment is due by July 31, 2016. Please call the office if you have any questions regarding your account at 757-547-9229. For your information, we do not accept debit, credit or telephone payments, as this would be an additional expense to the association. However, if you bank online, you can set your account up to be paid via check from your bank. Contact your bank for details. **Late assessments will be turned over to collection much sooner in the future.**

Many owners are paying their bills several months late and this is creating a cash flow problem for the association. Accounts not paid on time that have not made previous payment arrangements will be turned over to collection and additional charges such as interest, court costs and attorney fees will be added.

Fireworks are Prohibited in Chesapeake!

According to city code, the possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks are prohibited. This includes firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrocketers, model rockets, roman candles, dago bombs, sparklers, etc. See city code Section 34-5(a) In other words, no fireworks of any kind are to be used in our neighborhoods. Exceptions can be made by obtaining a permit under Section 3301.2, that in part requires a \$1,000,000 public liability insurance policy or a greater amount can be specified. See the applicable city and state codes to find out more information. Play it safe and leave the fireworks to the experts!

Are You Prepared for Hurricane Season?

Step 1. Know your hurricane risk.

Hurricane storm surge is very deadly, much more than winds collapsing a building. We always preach “run from the water, hide from the wind”. The City of Chesapeake has a storm surge lookup tool at www.gisweb.cityofchesapeake.net/slosh/. This tool can help you look up your property and its storm surge risk.

Step 2. Develop an evacuation plan.

If you are in a low area such as a Cat 1 zone, please develop a plan to evacuate your home should the City be threatened by a hurricane. Virginia has an evacuation plan that can be viewed at vaemergency.gov. If you live in a higher area of the City and think you would shelter in place in case of a hurricane, you may want to consider buying a generator, investigating ways to strengthen your roof connections and protect your windows, etc. Make sure your outdoor furniture, trashcans, etc. are secured and that trees are trimmed so their branches are away from the house.

Step 3. Schedule an insurance check up with your insurance agent.

There are complex issues surrounding insurance and natural hazards. For example, regular homeowner’s insurance does not cover flooding—a separate flood policy needs to be purchased. Also, there may be a “natural hazard deductible” on your policy that requires you to pay the first 10-15%. This could mean several thousand dollars you would have to pay before the insurance coverage begins. Check with your insurance company for details. Don’t forget about your vehicles!

Step 4. Prepare a disaster kit.

Are you evacuating the area or going to a relative or friends house nearby? Are you sheltering at your place? Do you have pets or people with special needs? All of these things should factor in what you put in your kit. FEMA suggests packing enough supplies to be on your own for a week. You may want to consider increasing this to two weeks (remember Hurricane Isabel?) It is likely you will not have electricity, water or other utilities during this time. Check out www.flash.org for suggestions.

Yard of the Month Winners for June and July

Low Density

1242 Lake Point Drive 1302 Thyme Trail

Low Cluster

1929 Shepherd's Gate 1314 Summerset Court

Low/Medium Density

1010 River Birch Court 1239 Cedar Mill Square

4 Simple Ways to Keep Your Neighborhood Looking Good

- Mow and edge your yard on a regular basis. This usually means at least once a week. Letting the yard go longer without mowing encourages weed growth. The yard should be edged along the driveway, walkways and at the curb. Make sure to clean up grass clippings and do not blow them into the street or a neighbors yard. Remove grass from driveway cracks.
- Pick up trash from your yard on a daily basis. Trash that is dropped in or blows over to your yard is your responsibility to pick up and properly dispose of. The newspaper advertisements and other items that are thrown into your driveway must be picked up and thrown away. Do not pick it up and throw it out into the street! If you do not want these items delivered to your home—call the advertiser and advise them to stop. Their number is 757-446-2533.
- Keep all trash stored in the rear yard or garage. All cans should promptly be returned to the back yard or garage after collection on Friday. If you choose to not use trashcans (in the townhome neighborhoods) your trash should be placed in a heavy duty trash bag. Do not place the white plastic bags, paper bags or other indoor bags at the curb for pickup as they are easily torn. When they tear—your trash ends up all over the neighborhood!
- Do not place leaves and other yard waste at the curb over the weekend for everyone to look at all week long! These items as well as bulk trash items should not be placed at the curb until Thursday. The bulk trash number is 382-2489 or report it on line at www.cityofchesapeake.net.

Chesapeake Police

A police officer attends the Open Forum meeting every other month or as needed. Please attend a meeting to share any concerns you may have. Remember to report non-emergencies to the Police at 382-6161, or online at www.cityofchesapeake.net or call 911 in case of emergency. To find out what is going on in your area, sign up for the daily crime reports at crimemapping.com. This site allows you to select what crimes you want to be notified of up to a 2 mile radius of a specified address. The report can be customized with a variety of options. An email is sent to you on a daily basis based on the criteria that you select. Sign up so you can be informed about what is happening in your neighborhood. ***Remember to report all crimes to the Police Department!***

Monthly Meetings

Board of Directors/Open Forum meetings for the remainder of 2016: July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15.

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) meets twice a month—on the first and third Monday at 6:30pm. Any exterior change to your house or lot that is considered a permanent change must first be approved by the ARC before the change is made. Examples of some of the changes that require approval are the addition or modification of: Sheds, decks, roofs, windows, paint colors, fences, and driveway extensions. However, tree removal and most landscaping changes do not require approval by the ARC. Applications can be printed from the website www.gpoahomes.org and are also available at the office.

Are you interested in serving your community? GPOA is looking for a person who can serve on the Board of Directors. This position requires attendance at the monthly meetings and any other efforts you can give to assist the Board. Please attend the next Board meeting if you are interested.