

July 2023

## **COUNTRY LAKES HOA NEWS**

PO Box 632

Mechanicsville MD 20659

**3<sup>th</sup> Quarter Newsletter: July -September**

**#10**

***St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office*** – Has suggested members keep doors locked while at home if possible. Keep automobiles doors locked when parked. There have been a few cases with people going through automobiles at night and people walking into members' homes. Keep outside bright with LED lighting, lowest cost today. Protect yourself and your property.

***Code Enforcement*** – Are checking homes in Country for automobiles with no tags. It is unlawful to store any automobiles on your property that are not tagged. Any vehicle or trailer that is not for sale, being repaired, or covered must have a tag.

***Newsletter*** – Will be published January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1. Please send items to PO Box 632 Mechanicsville MD 20659. Please mark "Newsletter" outside on envelope to get to the correct board member handling newsletter.

***Lighted Sign Rental*** – If you want something stated on the lighted sign at the park. Please go to the website to contact the Event Coordinator to make arrangements for this to happen. Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Congratulations Graduate, etc. Sign rents for \$5.00 for a 24-hour period and can be rented for up to four (4) days. Members must have dues pay in full to qualify. All rentals are at the discretion of the board for approval.

***Dues Management*** – The Country Lakes Dues statement will be mailed out the First of June and your full payment due back by/on July 1. Any member behind in their dues are subject to be turned over to the lawyer. Once a member is turned over, it is no longer in the hands of the dues manager or any member of the CLHA Board. All concerns will be directed to the Lawyer. Once turn over, the member will be responsible for court cost, Sheriff's department cost, Lawyer's fees and all cost associated with collection of this account.

### **Up Coming Events:**

***National Night Out*** – August 1<sup>nd</sup>, 6 pm – 8 pm, This event will start at 6 pm until 8 pm. We are excited to have back Maryland State Police Helicopter Trooper 7, St. Mary's Sheriff's Department, Maryland State Police Department, St. Mary's County Parks & Recreation, St. Mary's County Fire Department, St. Mary's County Rescue Department, SMECO, USDA, and

more. Last year was a big hit with all the organizations coming to share and talk about their goods, answering questions from the many people that attended. Come on out, hamburger, hot dog, chips, desserts, water, and cold drink are provided at no cost. Kids games, lots of handouts! A good time will be had by all.

**Vendor Fair** – September 9<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm, Will be held on the grounds at the park. Country Lakes Board is looking for Arts & Crafts vendors **NOW** who would like to set up at the park to sell their goods for this event. This is an event to help raise money to buy more playground equipment for the park playground. Please look on the [Country Lakes Homeowners Association website](#) for information on this event.

**Fall Clean Up** – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 8 am until (around noon), This event will start at the park as people are placed in groups to clean a designated area. Gloves & trash bags will be provided along with snacks and drinks. If your high school child needs community credit towards graduation, this is a way to receive community credit. People are needed to pick up trash along the roadways within Country Lake. All are welcome to help.

**Quarter Auction** – October 1<sup>st</sup> from noon to 3pm. This even will be held at the Mechanicsville Moose Lodge. Doors open at 12 noon with auctions starting at 1 pm until 3 pm. This event is to help raise money to add more playground equipment to the park. Refreshments, Pizza, Hot Dogs, and drinks are sold along with 50/50 raffle tickets and a lottery scratch off raffle. Please come out and see all the vendors who display their goods and purchase a paddle or two to help support this event.

**Trunk-or-Treat** – October 28<sup>th</sup>, At the park starting at 5 pm until 7 pm. Weather permitting, cars will back up to the ball field and display their decorations from the back of their automobile, if you choose to decorate. About 300 trick or treaters may pass by your automobile trying their best to “scare you”, or have you guessed who they are dress as??? A fire will be in the center also if the weather permits. Prizes will be awarded to the two best decorated vehicles!!!

**Scouting For Food** – November 11<sup>th</sup> at the parking lot. Scouts will be collecting food to donate to the needy in St. Mary’s County. Tine to be announce.

**Santa Visits The Park** – December 10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday from 12 noon until 2 pm. Santa will be at the Pavilion to wish all the good children “Merry Christmas” after Santa has a conversation with each. Bring your camera to get that special picture of this great event. Hot Chocolate and Apple Cider will be provided.

***Annual Meet & Greet*** – December 17th, At the Pavilion starting at 3 pm. This annual Meet & Greet will elect the new officers for 2023. Elected are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The board is made up of the four (4) executive board members and twelve (12) voting members at the monthly board meeting. All others are invited to the open meeting but are not eligible to vote. All members have the right to vote at the Annual meeting and special called meetings. To qualify for an executive position, you must be on the board for not less than one (1) year.

***Home Christmas Decorating Contest*** – December 14 - 17<sup>th</sup>, From 5 pm until 7 pm, the board will ride throughout Country Lakes to select the best decorated homes. All other members are also eligible to select their three (3) best decorated homes and go to the **Country Lakes Homeowners Association** to the “**President website**” to send in their picks by 8pm on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The President will calculate all votes and the Dues Manager will verify that all picked are in good standing with dues paid up to date. The winners will be posted on the lighted sign at the park showing the winner’s address so all can ride by to check them out!

**Past Events:**

***Spring Clean-Up*** – This event is scheduled for Spring and Fall. So far, the board has not decided on a Spring cleanup date. Anyone who is interested in helping with this event is asked to contact the board to help organize this event. The board will provide the job description, along with gloves, and trash bags for the job. This is a fun event that will be taking place for a few hours. If you are a high school student and need community hours for graduation, this is a great opportunity to earn your hours.

All are asked to keep an eye on the park and neighborhood. If you see anything that looks suspicious, please contact the St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office (911) so we can keep our investment secured.

If you have a question that you would like answered here, please send your questions to P.O. Box 632 Mechanicsville, MD 20659 and we will do our best to find an answer for you. Mark your envelope “Newsletter” to get it to the right person.

Thank you and have a Great Summer!

Jim \ The CLHA Board

