**July 2025**

**COUNTRY LAKES HOA News**

PO Box 632Mechanicsville MD 20659

**3rd Quarter Newsletter: July - September #18**

**Summer is here, our kids are riding bikes, walking the roads in Country Lakes, and people are running along the road edge, mowing. Please drive carefully, drive in control always doing the speed limit. Have a great summer!**

**St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office –** Suggested all members keep doors locked while at home if possible. Keep automobiles doors locked when parked. There have been a few cases of people going through automobiles at night and people walking into member’s homes. Keep outside bright with LED lighting, lowest cost today. Protect yourself and your property. Speeding is now excessive throughout all roads in Country Lakes. Members are complaining and taking pictures and videos of speeders, and police are looking and acting. Please email The CLHA officer at edward.evans@stmaryscountymd.gov

School kids are home, please drive carefully. Watch out for walkers, runners, bike riders. Please keep an eye open and be careful.

*Slow Down, Drive Careful, Protect Our Neighborhood.*

***See Something, Say Something***

**Code Enforcement** – Summertime is upon us and time where the County will be checking 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, visibly being repaired, must be covered or must have a tag.

**Lighted Sign Rental** – ***High Light*** your special event by posting on the lighted sign at the park. Please Email: Infocountrylakeshoa@gmail.com to plan for this to happen. Happy Birthday, Happy Anniversary, Congratulations, Happy Graduation, etc. Sign rents for $5.00 for a 24-hour period and can be rented for up to five (5) days. Members must have dues pay in full. All rentals are at the discretion of the board for approval.

**Dues Management** – The Country Lakes Dues statements were mailed out the first of June and full payment is due back by/on July 1. Any member behind in their dues is 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. If you have any questions, please call or email Property Manager, Propertymanagement@clha.org. The Property Manager will make contact to you as soon as possible as there is not an office housing CLHA Board members.

**Walking Path Around Park** –The walking path around the park is now blacktopped. Members are encouraged to enjoy walking and jogging around the pathway. Under no circumstances are any motorized equipment allowed to be on the pathway, or in the park/playground area. The CLHA Board encourages any suspicious misconduct in the park area, are encouraged to call the police. Non-Emergency number (301) 475-8008.

**Upcoming 2025 Events:**

**National Night Out** – August 5th, 6pm – 8pm,We are excited to have State Police Helicopter Trooper 7,St. Mary’s Sheriff’s Department, Maryland State Police, St. Mary’s County Parks & Recreation, St. Mary’s County Fire Department, St. Mary’s County Rescue Squad, SMECO, and more. Last year was a big hit with all the organizations coming to share and talk about their goods and answer questions from the many people that attended. Come out for hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, desserts, water, and cold drinks at no cost. Kids games, lots of handouts! A good time will be had by all.

**Vendor Fair** – September 6th from 9am – 2pm, (Rain Date 9/13/2025) Will be held on the grounds at the park. The 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 email vendorfair@clha.org or look on the **Country Lakes Homeowners** **Association website** for information on this event.

**Fall Clean Up** – September 27th, 9am until (around noon), This event will start at the park as people are placed in groups to clean a designed area. Anyone who is interested in chairing this event is asked to contact the board to help organize the event at eventcoordinator@clha.org. Gloves & trash bags will be provided along with snacks and drinks. If your high school child needs community credit towards graduation, this is a great way to receive community credit. People are needed to help pick up trash along the roadway within Country Lakes. All are welcome to help. **A leader is needed for 2025**

**If you would like to handle this event (Fall and Spring Clean-Up), please contact the CLHA board. Information can be found on the web site or email:** **Infocountrylakeshoa@gmail.co**

**Yard Sale** – October 4th, 7am until, CLHA will advertise this event along with placing an ad on the lighted sign. You can set up in the parking area at the park or post signs along roadway, or place balloons heading to your home. *SO*, Get Ready, your trash is someone else’s treasure! Also, please pick up your signs after the event is over.

**Trunk or Treat -** October 25th, 5pm until 7pm. Weather permitting; cars ***MUST*** be in place and ready for the Trunk or Treaters by 5pm. 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 guess who they are dressed as??? A fire will be in the center also if the weather permits. Prizes will be awarded for the two best decorated vehicles!!!

**Scouting For Food** – WHEN: November 1, Saturday, from 10am – 2pm

WHERE: Country Lakes ball field parking lot.

WHAT: Non-perishable, unexpired food items

WHO: Scouts BSA Venturing Crew 1785

WHY: To help those in need in our local community

Visit us at - facebook.com/crew1785

**Meet and Greet** – November 9th, At the Pavilion starting at 2 pm. This annual Meet & Greet will election the new officers for 2026. Elected are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The board is made up of 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 meetings. To qualify for an executive position, you must be on the board for not less than one (1) year.

**Santa Visit at The Park** – December 14th, Sunday from 12 noon until 2pm. Santa will be at the Pavilion to wish all the good children “Merry Christmas”. Santa will have a conversation with each child. Bring your camera to get that special picture of this great event. Hot Chocolate and Hot Cider will be provided.

**Home Christmas Decorating Contest** - December 19 – 21, 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 President1clha@gmail.com to send in their picks by 8 pm on the 22nd. The President will calculate all votes, and the Dues Manger 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.

**Results of 2025 Events:**

**Yard Sale** – April 26, 7am CLHA will advertise this event along with placing an ad on the lighted sign. You can set up in the parking area at the park or post signs along roadway, or place balloons heading to your home. *SO*, Get Ready, your trash is someone else’s treasurer! Also, please pick up your signs after the event is over.

*With the rain date having to be used the following Saturday, the members finally got through the yard sale. Talking with the members who did participle, this went well. Thank you to those that participated and helped!*

**Newsletter** – Will be published January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1. Please send items to PO Box 632 Mechanicsville MD 20659, or email Treasurer@clha.org. Please mark “Newsletter” outside on envelope to get to the correct board member handling newsletter.

Thank you and have a Great Summer!

Jim / The CLHA Board

**Important Phone Numbers for St. Mary’s County Offices:**

St. Mary’s County Sheriff’s Office 911 Non urgent number 301-475-8008

St. Mary’s County Volunteer Fire Department 911

St, Mary’s County Volunteer Rescue Department 911

St. Mary’s County Libraries, Charlotte Hall library 301-884-2211

 Leonardtown Library 301-475-2846

 Lexington Park Library 301-863-8188

St. Mary’s County Health Department 301-475-4330

St. Mary’s County Board of Elections 301-475-4200

St. Mary’s County Animal Control 301-475-8018

St. Mary’s County Highways 301- 475-4200 Ext. 3540

St. Mary’s County Metcom 301-737-7400

SMECO 1-888-440-3311

**SMECO has posted a waring for all members in St Mary’s Country and surrounding areas.**

1. **Cannot post signs to SMECO Electric poles**
2. **Cannot attach support post to SMECO Poles**
3. **Cannot attach wiring or anything to SMECO Poles**

**This is against the law and person’s will be held accountable!**

Shown are three safety violations: