Hi Neighbors,

The board met on Monday, September 10, at 6 p.m. at the Summerbrooke clubhouse. All five board members were present. Following are a few highlights from the meeting. The official minutes of the meeting will be posted on the website after they have been reviewed and approved by the board. Look for them sometime next week.

Financial Report: The financial report looked good—we had almost $1,500 in outstanding dues paid since our last meeting.

ACC: The house at 457 San Martin has been abandoned. We will have the front yard mowed as needed until the bank takes over. All charges will eventually be billed to the bank.

Landscaping: We will have Espositos prepare landscape plans for the newly-cleared areas at the main entrance and the holding pond at Meadow Ridge at a cost of $150 for each area.

The five water oaks that were in the median on Ox Bottom Manor Drive at the north end were removed by the City of Tallahassee this week (at their cost). The trees were inspected and deemed to be dead, dying or in decline. Espositos will also give us a recommendation for replacing the trees in this area. Our lawn maintenance crew will begin maintaining the newly-cleared area at the main entrance on the right and will also start mowing the grassy area on the left side (which was previously maintained by the adjacent homeowner).

Social: The board discussed and agreed to a maximum budget of $4,500 for the fall social event being planned.

The applications required by Hawks Rise Elementary School for use of their facility will be reviewed and completed by Chris Keena and Marie Eddy.

Since no members of the Social Committee were present, there was no update regarding the status of the event planning.

We have started delivering welcome baskets to new homeowners beginning with July home sales. If you would like to assist with deliveries on your street, or just want to volunteer for a one-time delivery, please let the office (or me) know.

Website/Communications: I am in charge of coming up with some prototypes for revamping our website. I did not get a chance to do this since our last meeting so I will try to get to it before our next meeting. (If you would like to help, please email me!)

We discussed setting up a list management service to maintain our growing email list. An automated service would allow homeowners to put in a profile and update/change their email address and would include a subscribe/unsubscribe button. The management association will look into offering this as a service of their business. If not, we will consider a service just for our homeowners association. In order to manage and limit the number of emails sent from the association, we discussed compiling a list of circumstances when emails would be sent. Suggested occasions would be 1) criminal activity, 2) missing children, 3) missing pets, 4) road hazards/construction, 5) newsletters, and 6) upcoming meetings. Please let us know your thoughts. We would like to use the email communication as conservatively as possible since we all get more emails than we want already.

Our next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 22, at 6 p.m., pending confirmation of availability of the clubhouse at Summerbrooke. As always, we welcome your attendance. If your neighbors do not receive our e-newsletter, please encourage them to send us their email. You may email me at ckurtz.for.oxbottom@gmail.com with your thoughts or suggestions regarding the newsletter, the website, or the neighborhood in general. Thank you for your interest in our community!

Cathy Kurtz,
Secretary

Cathy Kurtz
**Neighborhood Forum**

This article is the first, of what we hope will be many, by or about our neighbors, their interests and subjects which benefit our community.

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**Meet the Metals Family**
-By Rita Hebert - Thornberg Dr.

Addiction and acts of bullying can and do occur at any school age. It is important therefore, for children, as early as possible, to become aware and knowledgeable of the dangers of habitual and aggressive behaviors.

Addiction, for example, isn’t limited to substances alone. There are numerous things to which anyone, at any age, may become addicted. Bullying is no longer just face to face intimidation or physical force. Telephonic and cyberbullying are now common methods of delivering harassment. Often, little bullies grow into adult bullies. Again, as we all know, neither bullying nor addiction is limited to age, gender, or ethnicity.

Today, many school-aged children lack proper and acceptable social skills and conduct. From front yards, where conduct is sown, to the school yards, where habits and behaviors are cultivated, addiction and bullying are disturbing and growing realities.

Concerned by such realism, sisters, Rita Hebert and Rhonda Hicks, have teamed up to bring greater awareness to these ever-increasing behavioral concerns facing youngsters and society today. In their new chapter book *The Perils of Mr. Metals’ Thrill Ride* young readers and their parents will learn how quickly one can fall into the depths of addiction. In *Little Mike Metals and the Bully* they will discover several reasons a bully might choose to harass another. Both books are recommended for ages 10 and up. Filled with illustrations and splashes of humor, the stories are sure to entertain while enlightening readers.

To learn more about the authors and their books, please visit [www.mrmetals.net](http://www.mrmetals.net) or [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Both books are illustrated by Rita Hebert. There are also discussion sections which are perfect for a family or group setting. Also included is a detailed behavioral contract for those who wish to be held accountable for positive behaviors.

For more information contact your neighbor at: Rita Hebert, mr.metals@comcast.net.

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**OBM Calendar**

October 14 - Saturday - Neighborhood Fall Social (tentative)

October 22 - Monday - Ox Bottom Manor Community Association Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m. Summerbrooke clubhouse.
Curmudgeon’s Corner

Golf Carts & The Law (Florida State Statute)

316.2122 Operation of a low-speed vehicle on certain roadways. The operation of a low-speed vehicle, as defined in s. 320.01(42), on any road as defined in s. 334.03 (15) or (33), is authorized with the following restrictions:

1. A low-speed vehicle may be operated only on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. This does not prohibit a low-speed vehicle from crossing a road or street at an intersection where the road or street has a posted speed limit of more than 35 miles per hour.

2. A low-speed vehicle must be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, taillamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirrors, windshields, seat belts, and vehicle identification numbers.

3. A low-speed vehicle must be registered and insured in accordance with s. 320.02.

4. Any person operating a low-speed vehicle must have in his or her possession a valid driver's license.

5. A county or municipality may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if the governing body of the county or municipality determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

6. The Department of Transportation may prohibit the operation of low-speed vehicles on any road under its jurisdiction if it determines that such prohibition is necessary in the interest of safety.

320.01 Definitions, general. As used in the Florida Statutes, except as otherwise provided, the term:

22. "Golf cart" means a motor vehicle that is designed and manufactured for operation on a golf course for sporting or recreational purposes and that is not capable of exceeding speeds of 20 miles per hour.

SIGNS: Ox Bottom Manor

ARTICLE XI

No sign of any kind shall be displayed to the public view on any Lot except one (1) professionally lettered sign of not more than five (5) square feet to advertise the property for sale or lease and except signs used by Declarant to advertise Lots for sale. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Declarant shall have the right to use such signs as the Declarant deems appropriate to promote the sale of improved or unimproved Lots. Any sign shall be mounted on a freestanding post or sign holder.

NUISANCES

"No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any Lot or any Common Area, nor shall anything be done thereon which may be or may become an annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood."

This applies to barking dogs, etc. Try to speak to the neighbor. If that doesn’t work, notify the Community Assn.
How to Have a Beautiful and Lush Green Lawn

Having a green, lush lawn is easier than you might think. If you don't have the ideal lawn you have always dreamed of, don't worry. With just a few simple steps, you can have an amazing lawn.

When you consider your own landscaping options, there might be some decisions on whether to hire professional lawn care or if you can do it yourself. Here are some of the basic considerations you'll face so you can approach do-it-yourself lawn care with confidence.

In order to have a beautiful lawn, you must start with a good foundation. Whether starting from scratch or trying to bring life back to your lifeless lawn decide whether you prefer instant gratification with sod or try seeding. A rotary spreader will evenly distribute the grass seed over the entire surface. Once you have installed the sod or seed you will need to make sure the grass has sufficient water. Lately we have received normal rainfall to maintain a lawn, however, you might still need to water after seeding the lawn. You will want to make sure you water the seeds enough to help them grow.

On average, a healthy lawn needs between one and two inches of water a week. If we are fortunate enough to receive this amount, you will not need to bother with sprinklers. However, most of the time we are in a drought and then it becomes necessary to provide additional water to keep the lawn green and healthy. If you need to water by hand or with sprinkler, it is important to water for short periods of time in order to avoid run-off or puddles. Also, you want to water in the early morning hours when it is cooler outside. Otherwise, you risk frying the grass from the hot summer sun.

To help the lawn maintain a healthy look, you will need to fertilize it. In the early spring, you will want to wait until you have mowed the grass several times before applying a fertilizer. Be sure to match the fertilizer with the specific time of year. Spring, summer and winter fertilizer all contain different ingredients and are designed for use during the specific seasons. In the fall it is important to fertilize the lawn before the first frost.

Another step in maintaining a healthy lawn is to properly mow it. Be sure not to set the mower blade too low or you will end up killing the grass. Also, be sure not to mow in circles. There's a lot more to mowing than just cutting the grass every Saturday. One of the most fundamental steps to a perfect lawn is getting the mowing height right for your type of lawn. Most grasses can survive with a length of 2" - 3". This applies for spring and early fall. In the summer, if possible, set it a little higher. Mowing height is important because the length of that grass blade is the part that absorbs sunshine which the grass blade then miraculously converts into food!

There are many that think fertilizer is lawn food, but that's not true. Plants actually make their own food using sunlight. Grass needs to grow and develop into a healthy plant. When mowing, be sure to overlap the strips you have mowed. This will ensure that all of the grass is mowed evenly. The type of mower doesn't matter, but the blade's condition does. A dull blade tears at the grass. Take a close look at a grass blade a few days after mowing. If the blade is dull you'll notice a jagged brown line across the tip of the cut grass. This is a good indication that your blade needs sharpening. For most homeowners, twice a year is recommended. The jagged edges caused by a dull mower blade make it more difficult for the grass to fight off pests and disease.
LAWN - continued from page 2

If the turf looks damaged, wilted, and water-starved, then an insect may be involved. During root feeding, insect species that feed on roots detach the thatch and blades from the roots and permit the sod to peel off the soil without any root attachment. In addition, some insects defoliate or suck the grass blades. You must search in the blades and thatch to find these insects. Blade defoliation damage appears as brown scars where the blades are clipped off by the insect. Blade sucking damage appears as brown lesions where the blade’s sap was removed by the insect.

Many times an area of turf is brown and damaged, but damaging insects cannot be found. Search for the insects along the margin of brown and green grass. When turf damage is noticed and before applying pesticides, make sure insects and not diseases or some biotic factor are the cause of the damage. Turf damage may be caused by fungal diseases, biotic conditions, and improper maintenance.

Fall/Winter is the best time to control broad leaf weeds that can mar a beautiful lawn in the spring. Dandelions and clover tend to prepare for the winter months by pulling all of the nutrients from their leaves down into their roots. Since we still have a lot of warm weather it may be best to wait until the temperatures drop and stay lower before application in our area. November-December is an ideal time to use a herbicide because the poison will be drawn down into the roots along with the plant’s leafy nutrients. If you treat your weed problem in the fall/winter, you will notice a dramatic difference in the amount of weeds that pop up once the weather turns warm again. Don’t worry about any brown spots that might appear where the weeds were. Healthy grass will quickly fill in the dead spots. Getting rid of weeds is time consuming, back-breaking, and can be expensive if you use herbicides. Ideally, you should stop weed growth before it starts--this is easier and cheaper than killing weeds when they pop up. Preventive lawn weed control is also safer for the environment and more long-lasting than defensive approaches.

If crabgrass appears in your lawn it is very important to get rid of it at once. Pull it out by the roots. If necessary, dig it out with a shovel. Then re-seed the grass and water. Be sure you don’t ignore the crabgrass or it will soon take over the entire lawn. A little work now is better than a lot of work later.

Rake fallen leaves and pick up debris. Sometimes it can seem like a losing battle, but it is important for your lawn that you continue to clear falling leaves away as often as possible. Stacks of dead leaves or debris will shield your grass from the sun and cause it to die fairly quickly. Moist dead leaves can also lead to diseases and mold that can be very harmful to your lawn. Clear the leaves away at least once a week for the best results. Dead leaves make excellent organic compost that can be used to fertilize your lawn once it has decomposed properly.

In conclusion, having a beautiful and healthy lawn requires some effort. However, the rewards are so great that you won’t mind putting a little effort into the care of your lawn. By following a few simple steps, you can maintain a beautiful lawn all year long.

Happy Digging!
Sharon Elsberry
894.0506

Sign Placement Along Roadways: City of Tallahassee

Signs are not allowed in the right of way or medians within the City of Tallahassee, according to City Ordinance, LDC Chapter 7, Article III, Division 2, Section 7-81 (12). The right of way extends from the street to the sidewalk, utility pole or fire hydrant (whichever is farther away from the street).
Ox Bottom Manor Community Association

Vision
We envision a community of neighbors working together in private, voluntary association to achieve a higher quality of life and increasing property values. We envision a neighborhood that is considered by residents and non-residents alike to be a desirable place in which to live and enjoy the benefits of family, friends and community.

Mission
Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our neighborhood through management and enhancement of common areas, enforcement of covenants and rules, support of initiatives that strengthen bonds among residents, and investment in capital improvements that benefit the greater good of the community.

Values
In fulfilling our mission and achieving our vision we value honesty, fairness, firmness, equity, common sense, participation, respect, cooperation, and neighborliness in all our actions.

In case you can’t find it, here is the link to the following City of Tallahassee subjects:

http://www.talgov.com/residents/construction/permreg.cfm

Applications & Forms
Forms and instructions on permitting, construction and development.

Building Inspection Reports
Weekly reports from building inspections and yearly new construction reports.

Code Enforcement
Think your neighbor is violating a City ordinance?

Codes/Ordinances/Policies
Various policies from the Growth Management folks.

Concurrency
Land use regulations and how they affect local projects.

Fee Schedule
How much do all these forms and permits cost?

Growth Management Meetings

Land Development Process
Ensure the land you are building on meets the proper criteria for what you are planning.

Permitting Process
Knowing what to do and when is important when filing for a permit.

Residential Permits
Information on what permits you will need for residential projects.

If you walk your dog with an extendable leash, please “curb” your dog so he is prevented from going on to your neighbor’s lawn and damaging shrubs and other plantings.