



DELLWOOD DIGEST

Reduction in Annual Dues

By: George Steikes

If you think nobody cares whether you are alive, try missing a couple of payments. Well, this is certainly true. It is not too difficult remembering yearly who it is that fails to take care of their responsibilities. Can you believe the following excuses were used for not paying their bills?

- My pet goldfish died.
- With my daughter's graduation, our new boat, and our trip to Europe this year, we're a little strapped.
- We are a little short right now. But do not worry – we are getting a refund on my wife's tattoo.

Bottom line: We Understand. We know that money seems to be an issue with some folks, regardless of how little it is. Our government spends a billion dollars every six hours. By the time we make ends meet, they move the ends. And so we are going to do something about it.

Actually, we have enough money currently in the budget to cover any emergencies that may occur. Therefore, we are lowering the \$25.00 annual dues for one year back to the \$12.00 for 2017. We will consider the matter year by year based on current needs.

I recognize that this might sound confusing, but if all the economists were laid end to end, they would never reach a conclusion and I trust that we have reached the right one for next year. And of course, this is not due until April 20, 2017.

Searching for new board members....

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the families that call Dellwood home. It has been my pleasure to serve on the homeowner's board for the past four years. It's allowed me to meet many of my neighbors and enjoy some friendships that I might not have otherwise had. From the very beginning I felt the whole purpose of the board was to maintain property

values of the homes in Dellwood. We addressed many issues and concerns during my time on the board with the rewriting of our covenants and by-laws – thanks in great part to Beth Echols’s diligence – being the biggest thing that was accomplished. Now with that being said we are set to lose three board members in April. George Stiekes, president, Annette Hudson, secretary, and myself, vice-president/treasurer will be required to leave the board due to our four year term limit. We are looking for people to participate in the new board. It really does not take a lot of time – a two hour meeting every few months and maybe some time on a special project or two. Our community is at a point currently where there are not a lot issues to be dealt with so it’s a good time to get your feet wet if you’ve never done anything like this before. For those of you that feel that your voice has not been heard here’s a perfect time to get involved and for those of you that have served in the past it would be great to have someone with some history in the neighborhood to return on the board. Once again I’ve enjoyed my time with the board and would be open to returning at some point, but for now it’s time for some new voices.

If you are interested in joining the new board in April, please contact one of the current board members or myself and we can give you any guidance you need or want.

Thanks

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NEWS AND NOTES

1. DELLWOOD SIGNS

It is very noticeable that something is finally being done at the end of our subdivision. Duke energy has removed their pole and the drainage issue has now been resolved. The ground is now level and the stakes are set for the new signs. The ground needs to set properly before the signs are put in place. Since the previous signs were removed, I have not heard one complaint about being able to see to get out on 191. Let’s trust that it will stay that way when the new signs are constructed.

1. CULVERTS

With winter coming on and the possibility for lots of rain, snow and ice, it would be good to make sure your culverts are cleared of leaves and other debris that can force freezing water onto the road.

Please: It is possible, as seems to happen each winter, that your vehicle could slip, slide and even go off the road, damaging a mail box or someone’s lawn. Character is very important. Let the owner of the property know that you are sorry and share your willingness to help. Most of the kind neighbors we have in Dellwood would take care of the matter on their own but would appreciate knowing how the damage occurred.

3. SNOW PROBLEMS

In the event that we do have some bad snow days, if driving up the hill is impossible, you can leave your car down at the bottom of the hill and walk back up to your homes.

EMERGENCIES – Are there residents with four-wheel vehicles that could help a neighbor in

case of a medical emergency or even to get someone out to 191 to catch a ride to work. If you are available to help, let us know. You can relay this information to any board member.

SNOW AND ICE

Most of you are aware of the fact that the county does not consider the roads in the subdivision as a high priority. They have promised to get to us by the third day.

If we do have some bad days this winter, each of us can do a little that would assist everyone a lot. For example:; Keep a little ice melt available in your garage for the winter and throw a little out on the road when it is bad.

Also: for those of you who are physically able, a little shoveling on the road in front of your houses can prove to be very helpful to anyone needing to get in and out of the subdivision.

4. SPEEDING

A word of "THANK YOU" is in order as many of you have really worked on keeping your speed down while driving in the neighborhood. There are still a couple of violators being watched, but for the most part, I think our neighborhood is safer due to your faithful attention to this matter. Some of the companies that make deliveries have been warned and this has helped some as well. If you notice a company truck speeding, do not be afraid to make a call and let them know. If you find that difficult, let me know who it is and I would be glad to make that call.

5. NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

This is the time of year when thieves are very active because of the purchase of Christmas gifts. Some of these thieves actually will watch a neighborhood to see who is not home and where deliveries are being made. Keep an eye out for what is taking place around you and your home, especially in this Christmas season.

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR AT CHRISTMAS

For every area of life, I find myself turning to the Scriptures. The message of Christmas is one of world-wide peace. We sing it in the Christmas carols and hear it read from the Bible in special Christmas services, and yet people are more and more ignoring God's Word. As a result, peace is hard to come by these days.

The Bible states that we are to love God and then our neighbors as ourselves. In fact, we are to even consider others as better than ourselves. We are especially commanded to love one another and to be kind one to another. However, this cannot be done if you do not know one another. This is part of the reason why we have a yearly neighborhood picnic and an annual meeting.

Christmas is a very busy time of year for most of us – shopping for gifts, preparing our homes for guests, cleaning and decorating and going to various Christmas functions – church, community, friends and family gatherings.

Christmas is often a very lonely time for seniors, especially those who live alone. Visiting an elderly neighbor with a plate of

freshly made bread or Christmas cookies can be very encouraging. There are times when a lonely person would love to have someone just sit and talk to them and to listen to them.

Perhaps there is a neighbor you offended in the past year or that offended you. Sometimes we are not aware of it and yet we recognize that they never talk to us any longer and perhaps even stick their nose up at us now and then. It is sad, but that is the kind of world we live in and thank goodness, that is not the kind of neighborhood we have.

Look for opportunities to be a good neighbor this Christmas season and throughout the winter months in particular. There is a special sense of feeling good when you are kind to someone else.