



the lakeside scoop

december 2008

fifty-ninth edition

Have You Checked Out the Community Website?

[www. hmlnews.com](http://www.hmlnews.com)

If not, give it a try. It is an interactive site built to aid the community's communication with one another. It is full of useful information. You can post pictures of family and friends, pets and decorated homes. You can post classified ads, look for jobs, link to the school systems, get important phone numbers, print registration forms for pool reservations and swim team. The calendar for community events is there -- you can even post your own events including clubs and organizations you are involved in. Many merchants have advertised on the site -- check out their coupons. The website is sponsored by Duane Bargar.

Have You Checked Your Chimney?

Economists say that your home is probably your single most valuable asset -- don't let it lose value!

Are you preserving your investment with regular maintenance and repair?

Do you check your furnace and air-conditioner yearly?

Do you clean gutters and check trim condition with the seasons?

Do you keep record of model and serial numbers of your appliances?

Do you know when warranties expire?

Online Newsletter??

Several homeowners have suggested going to an online-only newsletter. If it isn't delivered to your house, will you go online to read it?

Please send your comments via e-mail to Info@HalfMileLakeHOA.com or call 864-990-2222 and leave a message with your thoughts of going online-only with the newsletter.

Thank you.

Half Mile Lake Mailboxes and Posts

If your mailbox and post need some help, here's some information to perk them up. If a quick coat of gloss black spray paint won't bring your mailbox back to life, you can pick up a new one fairly inexpensively at Home Depot or Lowes. Here are the model numbers and prices at each location.

- Home Depot 442-034 Elite T1 Mailbox--just under \$15
- Lowes 37715 Classic Mailbox--just under \$15

If your post could use a fresh coat of paint, contact the HOA. We'll have someone stop by and paint the post. If you are getting a new mailbox, let us paint the post before you mount the mailbox. It saves a few minutes and you end up with a better paint job. Also, check with your neighbors. It's more efficient to paint several mailboxes in an area instead of just one here and there.

If you need a new post, there are a couple of sources for them. Contact the HOA for these sources.

The HOA will provide the numbers for the side of your mailbox. Contact the HOA if you need new numbers.

The contact info for the HOA is: voicemail --- 990-2222 or e-mail info@HalfMileLakeHOA.com.

And, if you'd like to be one of the people who helps with the numbers and painting, contact us. We'd love to have a list of folks who could help out our neighbors.

New Babies

Hunter, born to Tom and Allyson Bergin at 4 Natahala Ct.

Landon Jefferson, born to Robby, Tiffany and Brycen Bannister at 408 Junaluska Way.

New Move-ins

Richard Keller and Sarah King-Keller, 22 Julesking Court.

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We Gladly Accept



Lost and Found

A pretty drop earring has been found by the lake. Call a board member or e-mail us if you have a single earring you'd like to check for a match.

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From the President's Corner:

It's fall again. The first thing that comes to mind is leaves. This generates some calls to the HOA. Please don't block the streets with your leaves. If you bag them, they will be picked up on Fridays. If you don't bag them but just leave them on the curb, the county will get around to it on their normal schedule, which is once every 4-5 weeks. Or better yet, put a mulching blade on your mower and mulch them. No bags; no rakes.

Putting your leaves in the street is a safety issue. It goes along with parking cars in the street. Parking your car in the street is against a state regulation. The basis of that regulation is that emergency vehicles must be able to get through. If your vehicle or leaves keep an emergency vehicle from passing, are you willing to assume the liability for the problem you caused? Please help keep our roads clear. If your driveway is not large enough to park all of your cars, consider adding on to the side of the driveway. At one time we had 4 cars in our family, but all of them were off the street each night.

Another issue that came up this month was in the woods behind Beckenham Lane. Someone was doing target practice and shot a bullet through the kitchen wall of one of the houses. If you hear anyone doing target practice, please call the Sheriff's office. There are ordinances about discharging a firearm within a short distance of a house.

As always, if you are going to add onto your driveway pad, add a satellite dish, or make other exterior changes to your house, please fill out the Architectural Review Form that is on our website (www.HalfMileLakeHOA.com) or fill out a copy of page 12 of your HML directory and drop it in the mail. One of the main purposes of the AR form is to support the homeowner. If the board approves an AR form for you and there are problems from neighbors, the board is on your side. If you don't fill out a form, the homeowner ordinances are against you.

We hope to see a lot of you out for the Christmas parade on December 13th at 5:30. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the HML HOA board.

Tom Berg

Budget

Dues for 2009 are going up to \$315. If you pay before January 23, 2009, you may pay this year's rate of \$300. They are due by March 1. After that date, a late fee will be assessed for each month they are overdue. The 5% increase is necessary because of an increase in utilities and taxes (remember the homeowner tax rollback—it put the tax burden on businesses—our HOA property taxes rose quite a bit last year).

We will print the budget in the next newsletter.

If you have any questions about the budget, please contact one of the board members or e-mail Finance@HalfMileLakeHOA.com.



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