

# *Lakes at Belle Terre*

Homeowners' Association Newsletter

May, 2011

We hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather as much as we are! Activity around the lake has been picking up, with lots of kiddies catching their very first fish and lots of Moms and Dads getting some great photo ops. There have been several parties, lots of kayaking and canoeing and the ducks usually have very full tummies. Speaking of ducks, there has been quite a bit of "duck fighting" going on, with the happy result that we have at least 3 newly hatched babies with more on the way...

Only 3 of the earlier babies survived to adulthood, so please continue to supervise the kids and pets pretty closely for the next several weeks until the newbies have gotten a bit stronger. And don't forget that, for your own safety, swimming and wading is not permitted in the lake.

## **THE LAKE AND COMMON AREAS:**

As you may have noticed, the back lake cleanup is going well, with the majority of the brush and "junk" trees having been cleared. We will be burning debris over the next couple of weeks, and then comes the dirt work, smoothing the way for regular maintenance...we are also looking into doing some erosion repairs and prevention as well as eco-friendly waterweed control, so please bear with us as we make some long-awaited changes that will guarantee a beautiful and bountiful lake for years to come. Also, please **DO NOT** take it upon yourselves to introduce any other fish or weed killing chemicals into the lake; we are being advised by specialists at L.S.U. and are formulating a long-term plan of action that will be effective without harming the aquatic life. **LOOK FOR:** new plants at the entrance and fresh mulch. Many thanks to our own Mike Tank for his immaculate work at a very reasonable price! He also does private lawns, so give him a call at 933-4101 if you would like a free estimate.

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC):**

A cautionary note...please, before you put up a fence or build a patio, shed or other structure, contact the Architectural Control Committee to get your plans approved and make sure you are not violating a restriction or encroaching on HOA common areas. It is much easier to alter your plans than it is to move a fence or rebuild or repaint a structure. We are enforcing the restrictions and even painting your house a different color can be a violation if the color is not in harmony with the other homes in the neighborhood. THE ACC is making regular inspections of the subdivision, so don't be alarmed if you see our Inspector, Danny, walking around with a clipboard in the interest of keeping our property values up. It is easier on everyone if you follow the rules, mow and edge your yard, weed your flowerbeds and take care of any deferred maintenance before it becomes an eyesore.

## **SOME DEFINITE "NO-NO'S"...PLEASE BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!**

While life continues to be good here in Lakes at Belle Terre, there are still some folks who will be having liens filed against their properties for non-payment of dues, late fees, fines and maintenance. There are not many in this category and you know who you are, but after the liens are filed the information will be made public on our website as well as in this newsletter. We will also pursue collections through the courts by garnishment and other actions, for which you will ultimately have to pay. Please, do the neighborly thing if you are delinquent...contact our Treasurer now to make payment arrangements and avoid this embarrassment...it is little enough to pay for the privilege of living in our beautiful and well-maintained subdivision!

Unfortunately, there have been reports of other activities that should not be taking place...two streetlights close to the entrance have been broken in the past month and some 9 to 12 year old boys were seen throwing rocks at passing cars in the same area. Recently, an adult was seen swimming in the lake (setting a bad example for our children); some boys driving a 4-wheeler were seen making ruts in one of the ditches at the entrance, and one family recently removed over 200 fish in order to stock a pond belonging to a friend.

It has also come to our attention that one or two residents have been burning trash and trimmings on the common area on the shore of the lake and digging fill dirt there...this is **NOT ALLOWED**. If you must burn, you may do so only on your own lot and in a manner that does not create a nuisance or an eyesore.

Of course, someone has to pay to repair the damage caused by a few thoughtless individuals...and that someone is you! Please report this type of behavior to an officer or director immediately so we can put a stop to it...your name will not be used. As always, we welcome your comments and share your concerns, so do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email, as noted on our website.

Sincerely, *The Board and Officers of Lakes at Belle Terre HOA*