



# February 2022



## Pool Committee

Our neighborhood is in need of Pool Committee members for 2022. If interested, please email [HighlandOaksHOAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandOaksHOAPresident@gmail.com).

Duties of this committee include:

- Attend lifeguard meeting (if possible) prior to pool season to introduce yourself to guards
- Be available to help if you are at the pool and a question arises
- Be listed on the lifeguard sheet as an emergency contact if ever necessary
- Periodically check the camera system
- Suggest improvements or report problems to the Board
- Help with trash can duties during the off-season
- Help with freeze duties during the off-season (drip the faucets, check for leaks)
- Receive the gratefulness of your fellow homeowners

## Welcome Committee

Do you like meeting new people? We are looking for volunteers to deliver welcome bags to new residents. Please email [HighlandOaksHOAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandOaksHOAPresident@gmail.com) to join.

Please Welcome our newest neighbors:

- 1572 Teal Drive
- 1603 Macy Lane
- 1803 Macy Lane
- 1658 Macy Lane
- 1660 Highland Oaks Way
- 802 Pinder Point Court

## Adopt A Road: February 26th

If weather does not permit the cleaning, we will move the date by one week, please check the e-mail from AMAG and the posting on the Facebook page. We will meet at the pavilion at 8 AM and pick up trash between Buford Drive and Azalea through the Gwinnett County Clean & Beautiful Adopt-a-Road Program.

You get to meet old and new neighbors, have a nice workout, keep Ridge Road looking nice, AND you can proudly say you did something for your neighborhood. If you are in high school, you can earn some community service hours. Please make sure to bring your school's form.

Please note that due to the program guidelines, children under 12 are not permitted to participate for safety reasons. Let Guido know if you can make it so we have enough supplies. We will have bags and vests. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring a pair of gloves.

We're looking forward to seeing you again and would love to see new faces.



### 2022 Dates

Feb 26<sup>th</sup>  
May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Aug 13<sup>th</sup>  
Nov 12<sup>th</sup>

## Graduation Celebration



Please send the name and current school of your graduate to [HighlandOaksHOAPresident@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandOaksHOAPresident@gmail.com) so they may be added to the entrance banners.

## Violations

If you received a violation letter in error, PLEASE CALL AMAG. The problem can easily be rectified by reaching out directly to the management company. If you have an extenuating circumstance that precludes you from amending the violation, that may be discussed as well. Please contact AMAG at 678-407-1115.

## Financial Update

Our neighborhood finances remain in good shape as of the end 2021. We were right on budget from normal operations for both income and expenses. However, because of a one-time payment from a prior legal case we received more cash than budgeted. This allowed us to contribute more to our reserve account than planned.

The reserve account is still below where it was at the end of 2019 but is in better shape than we had anticipated. In the fourth quarter we finished the repaving project begun in 2020 with the application of the seal coat of the amenity parking lot.

We also improved the drainage around the playground and replenished the mulch around the play equipment. So far the new drains are working and should prevent the mulch from being washed away. This expense will be reflected in our January financial statements.



## Tennis

America's fastest growing sport, Pickleball, is a combination of tennis, badminton, and ping pong. Designed for players of all ages, Pickleball is typically played on tennis courts that have been lined with pickleball court measurements (smaller than tennis). The cost to outfit a doubles team is very inexpensive. Most 2 person packages (two graphite paddles, 2 indoor / 2 outdoor balls, carry case) that are USAPA approved cost under \$70 on Amazon. Learning to play pickleball is quite easy. There are hundreds of video tutorials on YouTube for beginner, intermediate, and advanced players. The information includes learning how to keep score, playing tactics, serving - everything you need to understand the game is there.

Our Highland Oaks tennis facility has one court lined for Pickleball play. Alan and his wife Diane use it often to play mixed doubles Pickleball with local friends. A 15-point game lasts about 15 to 30 minutes. You get plenty of exercise, cardio workout, and social interaction playing Pickleball. This sport is all about finesse with minimal power, making pickleball fun for men and women of all ages. We start lessons very soon with a USAPA certified coach to ensure we are interpreting Pickleball rules correctly before we play in tournaments. Lawrenceville is rich with league play, tournament play, and open facilities that offer courts and lessons. Google "pickleball in Lawrenceville GA" for more information about county parks offering pickleball.

Diane and Alan would like to create a Highland Oaks Pickleball team at some point. Of course, that would mean residents have a desire to play the game. Once we are comfortable with the rules, we would like to share it with other enthusiasts. It shortens the learning curve for beginners! Have an interest in playing? Send Alan an email [laeisner@comcast.net](mailto:laeisner@comcast.net) with your name, contact info, age, and what type playing (singles, doubles/mixed doubles) you are interested in. If there is enough interest generated, he will ask the Board to consider lining the second court.

## Annual Assessments

Reminder that annual dues must be paid by February 28<sup>th</sup> to avoid interest and late charges.

## Newsletters

Have you missed a newsletter? No worries! They are available on our website: [myhighlandoaks.com](http://myhighlandoaks.com). The Highland Oaks newsletter is published quarterly. If you have an item to add, please contact Amy Rehn at [amyrehn@bellsouth.net](mailto:amyrehn@bellsouth.net).

## Our Community Has Heart



Thank you to all neighbors who donated coats and blankets. Amy Rehn collected 675 for her initial drop off to Atlanta Mission and Must Ministries. Then you just kept giving and an additional 90 coats and blankets were collected and dropped at Must Ministries in early January. Your support to help keep local families warm this winter was AMAZING! If you have organizations your family supports regularly, share them with us! Post on our Facebook page or email [amyrehn@bellsouth.net](mailto:amyrehn@bellsouth.net) who will share them in the next newsletter. Let's encourage and support all efforts to give back in our local communities!



## Ladies' Night

Highland Oaks neighborhood women are welcome to join a new Ladies' Night. We meet just for fun, to get to know one another and share ideas. Meetings are hosted every week at 7:00 PM. If you would like to join or like more information, please contact Leslie Johnson at 404-441-4382. We look forward to seeing you soon.

## Landscaping Tips

As winter slowly comes to a close, many neighbors are preparing their yards for the upcoming spring season. Consider these tips:

1. Begin with Cleanup. Remove debris that can accumulate in your yard. Rake up leaves, pinecones, and acorns.
2. Find the Edges. Edging keeps grass from overtaking flower beds and sidewalks.
3. Prune. Check out shrubbery and trees and remove overly long branches or shoots.
4. Mulch. Give your soil an extra boost of nutrients after the cold months. By applying mulch at the base of trees and in flower beds.
5. Add Fertilizer. Fertilize before or just after a light rain to allow the nutrients to seep into the lawn.



## Holiday Decorations

Thank you to all the neighbors who decorated this past holiday season. Here are the winners:

