

Lake Jackson Citizens Association's The Heron



Next LJCA meeting: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 @ 7:30pm

Road Committee meeting: Tuesday, March 16, 2010 @ 7:30pm

Open Letter from The Road Committee

Dear Fellow Lake Dwellers,

Hopefully we are through with winter weather and we can start getting our boats ready for the spring. I wanted to take this opportunity to give you all a rundown on “Snowmageddon” and our issues with the snow removal contractor (Company A) and possible resolution achieved with the help of PWC. Our issues with Company A began back in December during our first blizzard of the year. The contractor arrived with relative timeliness and began clearing our roads, and then left, without notice and without clearing most of our roads. The Road Committee (RC) worked frantically to get our road maintenance contractor (Company B), PWC, and anyone else possible into the community to clear our roads. Following the December snow event and another snow event to which Company A failed to respond; the RC scheduled a meeting with PWC to discuss options and possible remedial actions to ensure that we received adequate response during the next event. The meeting did not go well; the PWC representative determined that all parties failed, so no action was recommended. Following this meeting, PWC did open an emergency snow removal contract, won by Company B.

Then came Snowmageddon. The RC, PWC, and Company A agreed to a plan of action to begin plowing before the snow was too deep. Company A arrived on site later than they had proposed, and by that point the snow had to be cleared with heavy equipment instead of plow trucks. Company A worked all day on Saturday, February 6th until their skid-steer (Bobcat) got stuck on Hickory Hill Dr (approximately 5pm). On Sunday, February 7th there was no indication that Company A cleared any roads at all and did not respond to the 9 phone calls placed by the RC. By Sunday night, PWC had activated Company B at the request of the RC to take over the cleanup. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday both Company A and Company B had equipment working onsite, but unfortunately the original snow removal plan had not been followed, and we had only a total of 2 pieces of equipment working.

Following the additional 5” of snow that we received on Wednesday February 10th, Company A never reported to site after being put on notice, so Company B cleared all of the roads. Which is where we are now; we have Company B in place and Company A has been removed from the Lake Jackson snow removal contract.

This is just a recap of the events surrounding Snowmagedden. Please understand that the RC was and is working very hard for this community. In fact, we are still planning to contest the original fault determination by the county for the December snowfall, as this sets a negative precedent for future Road Committees.

All this being said, I can’t wait for boating season!!! See you at the next RC meeting on March 16th.

Ryan Paquet – LJRC Section 1 Representative

P.S. Please refrain from using salt to melt snow on gravel roads. Salt water makes clay particles do funky things, such as moving upward through gravel road sections. We’ve inquired with the county on other solutions that may be available, including providing sand and gravel barrels in known problem areas.



The Heron

Goals for 2010

We did not accept the roles of President and Vice President of LJCA because we think we have all the answers or can do things better than the previous board. We did so because we love this lake and genuinely care about its residents and future. We have a few simple goals for 2010. First is to provide information in a more consistent manner than simply once a quarter when the Heron is distributed. Many lake residents have found us on Facebook and are using that for a resource as well as an outlet. We also are working on getting the “official” website active again. These 2 Internet sites will give everyone access to important up-to-the-minute information.

Our second goal is to get more residents involved and active. This community will thrive when all residents get involved, have a voice, and collectively and continually make Lake Jackson a great place to live.

Our third goal for 2010 is to improve our relationship with Prince William County. This DOES NOT involve road maintenance at all—we have an active road committee that handles all road issues. We are referring to PWC being more responsive when major issues arise. For example, we are battling a lawsuit that uses money from our legal fund. If PWC had done its part, this lawsuit could have been avoided. Thank you for reading, and see you at the upcoming Road Committee and LJCA meetings!

Jodi Perry – President, LJCA

Jesi Smith – Vice President, LJCA

Meeting agenda for Tuesday, March 23:

1. Road Committee meeting update
2. Update on lawsuit of Schwarz v Lake Jackson
3. Re-start Beautification Committee

2010 Membership Dues

No matter when you paid your dues in 2009, that carried you over only until March of this year. Beginning April 1, anyone who has not paid in 2010 is considered to not be a member until payment is received.

The membership form is included on page 5 of this newsletter. Please feel free to bring the form and your payment to the March 23 meeting to pay in person with cash or check, or mail your check to the PO Box listed in the footer of each page of this newsletter.

Snow Plow Concerns Reserved for Road Committee Meetings

All opinions, thoughts, and concerns regarding snow plow issues are reserved for the Road Committee meeting on March 16.

The snow plow situation will NOT be discussed at the upcoming LJCA meeting, since the Road Committee meetings are the proper forum for all road issues. We will have a 5-minute update on the RC meeting but there will be no other snow plow talks.

2010 Road Committee and LJCA Meeting Schedule

The Road Committee meets each 3rd Tuesday every other month beginning with January.

The LJCA meets each 4th Tuesday every other month beginning with January.

All meetings are at 7:30 pm at the Lake Jackson Volunteer Fire Department.

Road Committee

~~January 19~~
 March 16
 May 18
 July 20
 Sept. 21
 Nov. 16
 Jan. 18

LJCA

~~January 20~~
 March 23
 May 25
 July 27
 Sept. 28
 Nov. 23
 Jan. 25



The Heron

2010 Membership Form

Remember that with citizens' input and unanimous approval, the annual boat ramp fee was increased during the last meeting to \$50. This additional resource for the LJCA, though small, is greatly needed and will help ensure repairs are taken care of promptly when necessary, help increase our various budgets, and kick-start our emergency cache should anything arise.

The revised membership form is included in this edition of the newsletter on page 5. You may also receive it by email by sending a message to HeronEditor@hotmail.com. Lastly, you can download the form from the web at: www.lakejacksonva.com.

For your convenience and that of new folks moving in, buying boats, or becoming active, the membership form will be included in each newsletter from here on.

Cheap Gym Rates for LJCA Members

Fitness 19 has offered a huge discount to current LJCA members at **\$15/month with a \$49 processing fee**. Regular initiation fees of up to \$199 have been waived with this offer. No contracts—plain and simple you pay \$15 month-to-month and get fit. Located near Lake Jackson at Wellington Station Giant shopping center on Rt. 234.

Current LJCA members can take advantage of this offer by asking a Board member for a validated coupon with your name on it to bring when you sign up. Coupons will also be available at the March 23 LJCA meeting. Talk to Stephanie or one of the staff about adding family members to your membership.

Fitness 19 VA 198, LLC

Where You Can Afford To Get Fit

Phone: 703.368.4490 / Fax: 703.368.4493

Email: 198manassasva@fitness19.com

10104 Dumfries Rd., Manassas

WANT SPEED LIMIT SIGNS?

Come to the meetings!

KNOW OF A COMMUNITY AREA IN DISREPAIR?

Come to the meetings!

HAVE AN IDEA OF IMPROVEMENT FOR OUR COMMUNITY?

Come to the meetings!



Ideas Encouraged and What You Can Do

LJCA wants to hear your opinion and encourages you to voice it. As the saying goes ...

YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN

IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!

- Pay your annual dues for membership into the LJCA, giving yourself voting rights, and your neighbourhood the opportunity to improve
- Attend the LJCA meetings to hear what's happening and stay on top of our news
- Read the newsletters
- Suggest article ideas and items for the Board to discuss to HeronEditor@hotmail.com
- Visit the new Facebook page often and post timely questions to be answered there

We can't do this alone — We Need You!



The Heron

Save LJCA Money and Receive the Heron by Email (Please!)

We are actively pushing all members to help us save money in various ways this year, and one of them is very simple:

Let us know on the membership form, by email, or in person that you would prefer to NOT have the Heron mailed to your house, and want to receive it by email instead.

The revised membership form includes a very clear waiver and space to enter your email address. Providing this information ensures you will not receive the newsletter in your mailbox, thereby saving the LJCA time, postage, and print costs.

Lake Jackson on Facebook

The LJCA is running Lake Jackson on Facebook to keep you up-to-date on hot topics, upcoming events, and help people on the lake get to know each other. The page will be updated with Events, Notes in the form of newsletter articles, meeting times and the agenda, photos, and anything interesting and relevant to this community. The Facebook page is a fast-acting, up-to-the-minute, and timely method of communication.

When logging into Facebook, search for “Lake Jackson” as a person, and send a friend request.



President	Jodi Perry	jodiperry@verizon.net
Vice President	Jesi Smith	jesismith@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Marianne Jetten	jettmax@comcast.net
Correspondence Secretary	Robert Grinstead	robert.grinstead@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	Betsy Campagna	betsycampagna@hotmail.com
Heron Eeditor	Jesi Smith	heroneditor@hotmail.com
Official web site	www.ljca.info	
Unofficial web site	www.lakejacksonva.com	
Lake Jackson on Facebook	www.facebook.com/profile.php?ref=profile&id=100000642730062#/profile.php?ref=profile&id=100000642730062 ... or click this link	
LJCA Phone Number	877. 705. 5522 (LJCA)	
Road Committee	703. 792. 7480	roads@lakejacksonva.com

Lake Jackson Citizens' Association 2010 Membership Application

The new membership year for the LJCA began on Jan. 1, 2010, with a grace period for 2009-paid members until April. This is put to the LJCA on a calendar fiscal year. Adopted in 1948, the LJCA is focused on promoting and encouraging positive contributions to the health, safety, protection, and betterment of Lake Jackson residents. The LJCA is committed to these constitutional goals, while representing Association members in negotiations with Prince William County, Virginia state officials and local civic groups and organizations. Members must be Lake Jackson property owners or permanent residents, and at least 18 years old. Your membership will be active from January-December 2010. The LJCA requires at least one membership for boat key requests. This year's keys will be available on or about the first week in April.

Contact via Email // WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT TO BE NOTIFIED BY MAIL

The current Constitution of the LJCA requires all members can only be notified by mail; however, in an effort to reduce costs, reduce the burden, and to increase efficient communication between the LJCA and its membership, I hereby waive the requirement that I be notified by mail and grant permission to be notified electronically by email only for the purposes of 1) meetings, 2) receiving the Heron newsletter, and 3) emergency information from the Board. It is agreed that my email address is to be held confidential and at no time is to be given or sold to others without my permission. Only the Board may contact me via email with community events, issues, and business.

Signature _____ Email address 1 _____

Email address 2 _____

Boat ramp keys are only available as an addition to the paid membership fee.

Single (1 voting member)..... \$25
Household (2 voting members) \$40
Boat Ramp Key \$50
Total \$ _____

Member / Voter 1: _____ Member / Voter 2: _____

Address: _____

Lake Jackson address, if different from above: _____

Phone: _____

Please circle one: Owner / FT resident Renter Owner / 2nd home Owner / land only

Volunteer Membership Information for use in planning events and finding needed resources:

Number of men in household: _____ Ages: 0-3 3-12 12-20 21-30 30+

Number of women in household: _____ Ages: 0-3 3-12 12-20 21-30 30+

Profession / Trade of household members: _____

Hobbies / Interests: _____

Number of years at Lake Jackson: _____

Do you own a: Powerboat? Jet Ski? Row/Paddle boat?

Please send this entire form, plus your check or money order (no cash, please), to:

Lake Jackson Citizens' Association
Attn: Membership Dues
PO Box 1267
Manassas, VA 20108

The Lake Jackson Citizens Association
PO Box 1267
Manassas, VA 20108

