# Garden Estates Newsletter

#### THIRD EDITION

MARCH, 2015

Welcome to the third edition of the 2015 Garden Estates Maintenance Association (GEMA) newsletter. This newsletter is meant to give you the latest and greatest news and information from the recent Homeowner Association meetings. This newsletter contains information from the March Board meeting. Thanks.

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# SECTION 1 STANDARD PARTS OF EACH MONTHLY MEETING

- March Board Meeting Directors attending the March 10th meeting were: Katherine Williams (President), Jonathan Burke (Vice President), Steve Corea (Treasurer), and Lee Schneider (Secretary). Fifi Chao (Member at Large) was not able to attend. Katherine ran the meeting.
- Financial Review Steve Corea, Treasurer, provided the financial update. Below is a summary of the 5 page financial report.

Financials as of 01/31/2015			
Assets		Liabilities & Equity	
Total Operating Assets	\$70,683.45	Total Liabilities	\$12,729.06
Total Reserve Assets	\$586,988.14	Total Reserves	\$601,316.10
Total Other Assets	\$24,938.63	Total Equity	\$68,565.06
Total Assets	\$682,610.22	Total Liabilities & Equity	 \$682,610.22
Income			
Total Income	\$35,930.94		
Current Year to Date Surplus	\$15,184.17		

- Homeowner Forum A homeowner attended the March meeting to make the board aware of the poor quality and unacceptable work done by a contractor to correct a problem with the cement fence that surrounds this homeowner's property. The most glaring of errors by the contractor are two-fold. The first error being that the fence is not level. The second error is that the contractor moved the fence in (onto the homeowner's property) by 10". The board requested that the contractor be contacted to understand their reasoning and to ask the contractor to correct the issue. If the contractor is unwilling/unable to make the necessary corrections, a different contractor will be sought.
  - ✓ A homeowner reported that GEMA's insurance provider (Berg Insurance) no longer provides proof of Master Condo Insurance to the homeowner's mortgage lender. Instead, homeowners would need to go to <u>www.eoidirect.com</u>. The homeowner will need a copy of the letter sent by the owner's mortgage lender with the loan number and address for the lender. Once at the web site,

select from the options presented; refinance, proof of insurance, etc. Answer the questions and EOIDIRECT will send you a current insurance certificate. EOIDIRECT will also mail a copy to the homeowner's lender.

- Landscape Committee Report It was brought to the committee's attention that when it rains, water pools near the foundation of a home, creating a potential flooding issue. The association's landscaper (TruGreen) inspected the home and reported that the grade sloped towards the home and that an abundance of bushes were trapping the water against the foundation. TruGreen proposed removal of some of the bushes (and re-planting elsewhere), as well as re-grading the slope away from the home. The board approved the TruGreen proposal.
  - At the end of 2014, the Landscape Committee created a list of trees in the association with issues (i.e. dying, dead, tree roots impacting the utilities). This list was re-visited and 5 trees were identified for removal with TruGreen to provide a bid.
  - ✓ The sidewalk near 508 EYL is in need of repair. The sidewalk is severely cracked, pulled up in sections, and the top coat of cement has been removed. Since this is a Woodbridge Village Association sidewalk, WVA will be contacted to make the necessary repairs.

# **SECTION 2 OLD BUSINESS**

Shared Fence Replacement – A little background...some of GEMA's fences are shared with other HOAs or with individual homeowners (not in an HOA). As these shared fences need repair, GEMA attempts to make contact with the HOA or homeowner to negotiate repair costs. GEMA has established a minimum standard for repair materials to extend the fence's life. Normally, the repair costs are split 50/50 with the HOA or homeowner. A non-HOA homeowner (at 58 Silkberry) has approached GEMA on the replacement of a shared fence. This fence boarders 358 EYL. The Silkberry proposal was brought up at the February 2015 GEMA meeting, but was missing key components (i.e. materials being used), so the board decided to table a decision until the missing decision components were provided. At the March GEMA meeting, the 58 Silkberry homeowner provided the necessary information, allowing the board to approve the replacement of 40' fence at a cost of \$1,800.00 (GEMA's portion).

## **SECTION 3 NEW BUSINESS**

Wood Shingle/Siding Proposals – There are 6 homes where the original builder used some or all wood shingle/siding on the homes' exterior. Due to the deteriorating condition of the wood shingle/siding, the board is currently investigating the cost to replace the wood shingle/siding. The bids have gone out to three vendors for Hardie Board Siding and Stucco alternatives. The bid responses span from \$90K to \$127K. (The funding for this work would come out of Reserves). One bidder would only bid Hardie Board and their work would be subbed out. The remaining two bidders responded with both Hardie Board Siding and Stucco alternatives. These two vendors are being considered for bid awarding. The cost for pulling permits is being investigated, the vendor references are being reviewed, and ultimately the GEMA attorney would review the contract. Further updates will be provided as they become available.

## **SECTION 4 REMINDERS**

- The Next Association Meeting The Garden Estates Maintenance Association meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every month. This means that the next association meeting will be held on April 14, 2015 (6:30PM, 31 Creek Road). Please attend if you can. We hope to see you there.
- The GEMA Website The Garden Estates Maintenance Association website can be found at <u>http://www.myhoa.com/gardenestates/</u>