

# Yellowleaf HOA

Yellowleaf Ridge Estates Homeowners Association, Inc.,  
Chelsea, Alabama



## IMPORTANT DATE

March 6, 2012

HOA Meeting

7:00 PM

Chelsea Senior Center

## DIRECTIONS

From the subdivision  
entrance, turn right  
onto Hwy 39.

Go 2.0 miles and turn right  
onto Hwy 36.

Go 0.7 miles and the gray  
building is on your right.

Travel time: 5 minutes

SEE YOU THERE!

GOT AN IDEA OR INFO  
FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

Contact Pam Kimball  
pjk4@hotmail.com

WEBSITE  
[www.yellowleafhoa.com](http://www.yellowleafhoa.com)

## Developing News...

Ever wonder about the property at the end of Sweet Gum Drive by the bridge? It is 14 wooded acres with creeks wandering through, donated in 2002 to the HOA by the Yellowleaf developer. While talk has occurred over the years about developing it into a recreational area for the neighborhood, HOA board member **Brenda Mellen** and president **Paul Garmon** decided it was now time for action. A project is being launched this month to evaluate the property and formulate a 5 year plan.

*Why?* The potential benefits are many: recreational areas provide a fun place for our children to play, outdoor activities generate health benefits for everyone, and the land development enhances the

value of the neighborhood.

An Outdoor Recreational Committee (ORC) is being formed; volunteers are needed for tasks such as planning, clearing walking trails, fundraising and more. Contact **Brenda Mellen** at [igmi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:igmi2000@yahoo.com) if you are interested, even if just for a few hours to help in a clean-up effort.

There is much to be done to evaluate the project feasibility and determine what homeowners would like to see in a neighborhood park.

This could be **BIG!** Check the website *Current News* for more information, pictures and future updates.



## Treasurer's Report

On 12/31/11, we reached the mid-point of the fiscal year. Income and expenses were:

**Dues Received**  
67% or 83 residents paid dues

Expenses	
\$1,825	Electricity & Water
\$1,200	Landscape Maintenance
\$ 463	New Landscaping
\$ 286	Insurance
\$ 250	Tax Preparation
\$ 216	PO Box, Printing, Mailing
\$ 200	Website
\$ 172	Repairs
\$ 17	Property Taxes
\$4,629	Total Expenses

Updates are posted on the website *Treasurer's Report* (1) as dues are received and (2) monthly for expenses.

## From the President

As I think back on all that has happened this past year, I can't help but be thankful for all the great support and positive comments we've received at the HOA. While we still face many challenges, I am very optimistic about the opportunities to improve and maintain our neighborhood as one of the best places in the Chelsea area in which to live.

In the coming year, we will continue to use the HOA website to post activities and communicate the direction and business of the association. I can't think of a better way for each of us to stay in touch and find out how best to support one another.

Thanks to each of you for all your help and support.

Paul E. Garmon



## Communicating With You...

*What's the difference between this quarterly newsletter and Current News on the website?*

*Current News* provides the most up-to-date info affecting Yellowleaf and is posted very quickly. If you've read it lately, you've seen over 20 postings covering Christmas activities, Halloween, HOA meetings, entrance fund-raisers and landscaping events...all since the Sept. website launch. In comparison, the newsletter is more like the general website: it has a little bit of everything. Plus it can be printed and delivered to residents who have not provided an email address. There will be minimal overlap

between the newsletter and website, which continues to expand. The website menu now includes:

\* Home Page \* About Us  
\* Current News \* Newsletters  
\* Quarterly Meetings \* Pets  
\* Treasurer's Report \* Poll  
\* Paying Dues \* Donations  
\* Board of Directors \* Contact Us

Under *Current News*, an archive has been built, and *Quarterly Meetings* contains bullet points of items discussed, plus detailed presentations of guest speakers. Multiple links to the city of Chelsea and other sites have been made. *It's worth a look if you haven't seen it lately!*

## Yellowleaf HOA

P. O. Box 573  
Chelsea, AL 35043

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

## Board Members

Paul Garmon, **President**  
PHONE:

(205) 678-9488  
[pegarmon@southernco.com](mailto:pegarmon@southernco.com)

Randy Welch, **Vice-President**  
PHONE:  
(205) 678-7740

Pam Kimball, **Secretary**  
PHONE:  
(205) 678-9257  
[pjk4@hotmail.com](mailto:pjk4@hotmail.com)

Rose Wade, **Treasurer**  
PHONE:  
(205) 678-8349

Lori Cheney  
PHONE:  
(205) 678-0696

Brenda Mellen  
PHONE:  
(205) 678-2437

Duane Phillips  
PHONE:  
(205) 678-9225

Jim Powers  
PHONE:  
(205) 566-2937

## Lagniappe

*.. a little something extra ..*

*"Be at war with your vices,  
at peace with your neighbors  
and let every new year  
find you a better man."*

--Benjamin Franklin

## Fireplace Safety

Fireplaces can be a source of warmth and enjoyment, but all too often, homeowners instead get sirens, firefighters, and big red firetrucks. Taking your fireplace for granted can be dangerous and expensive.

Dozens of times in winter, we get calls on chimney fires and residence smoke due to neglected fireplaces. It's the same story: *"it was OK last year"*, *"I never had a problem"* or *"we went to bed and awoke to the house on fire"*. Usually, this can be avoided.

Improper disposal of fireplace ashes causes more problems than chimney fires. Ashes can stay hot and cause a fire for up to three days. Placing them in trash cans, bags or boxes on your deck or dumping them in the woods will cause a fire hours after your fireplace is out.

## Other News & Reminders ...

### LUMINARIAS!

Wasn't it wonderful to see Christmas luminarias in the neighborhood? The idea came from **Anita Shields, Beech Circle**, who almost single-handedly decorated her street and *Sweet Gum Lane*. The idea was sent to the HOA board; volunteers then put together and distributed starter kits to all homeowners. Impressed by recent HOA actions, two anonymous donors sent funds to pay for the expanded effort, and plans were then made to decorate the entrance and bridge common areas. Several postings about the lightings were put on the website and are still in the *News Archive* (December).

For 2012, the effort will be evaluated, a potential plan developed and communicated well in advance: perhaps we should have just one **BIG** lighting event on


## By Lieutenant Don Williamson, Chelsea Fire & Rescue

The best method is to place ashes in a lidded metal container and let them sit for several days. Be cautious when using a natural fiber broom or vacuum to clean out the fireplace: you might find a fire later, started from hidden ashes.

The most common smoking problem occurs when a homeowner forgets to open the damper or it's not fully open and falls shut. Smoke pours into the room and smoke detectors are set off while family members panic and call 911. Smoke fans are used to get the smoke out, but we can't cure an embarrassed face.

Have your fireplace inspected every year. It may or may not need to be cleaned out, but it's critical to check for cracks, blockages, or other maintenance

issues. If you've just moved in, have your fireplace inspected: it should be done by a certified chimney sweep company with the education and training to comply with national standards. Keep soot and creosote swept out of the fireplace, as this greatly reduces damage if a chimney fire breaks out.

Other common sense practices include keeping items at least 6 feet away from fireplaces, using screens, plus keeping leaves out of gutters and roof valleys (they become tinder material for roof fires). Children should not be allowed to start a fire or add wood. Avoid cooking, roasting marshmallows or popping corn in the fireplace: this is fun for a campfire outside! These are the best tips to avoid fireplace problems during the cold months. 

**Lt. Williamson's December HOA presentation is on the website under "Quarterly Meetings"**

the night of the Chelsea Christmas parade?

Many thanks to all who helped with the effort: **Anita Shields, Jim Powers, Matt and Brenda Mellen, Clint Smith and Pam Kimball**. Plus to those two generous donors: *Bless You!*

### ENTRANCE DECORATIONS

Thank you to **Cynthia McKinney** for putting up the Christmas entrance decorations.

### COOKIE EXCHANGE

The first official Yellowleaf Christmas Cookie Exchange was held on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Go to the website *News Archive* for mouth-watering pictures and more details.

### EMAIL ADDRESSES

*Do we have your current e-mail address?* Get timely Yellowleaf info by sending it to: [pjk4@hotmail.com](mailto:pjk4@hotmail.com). It won't be shared with anyone.

### PASSAGES

Our condolences to **Mike and Patsy Densmore** on the loss of their loved one.

### DOORBELL MISCHIEF

Doorbell "ringing & running" incidents continue to be periodically reported. Possibly connected, one homeowner reported his front door handle rattled and a break-in feared. This is potentially dangerous activity for the boys involved. *For safety's sake, let's hope it ended in 2011.*

### ENTRANCE SIGN REPAIR

Vandals damaged the HOA sign frame last month; repairs are being made. It will return!

### DOG ORDINANCE

Please obey the roaming dog ordinance: several complaints recently resulted in periodic patrols by the city's enforcement officer. We would truly hate to see our loyal pets picked up by Animal Control!