



The Orchid Lake Heron

JUNE 2022

Volume 2, Issue 6

ADDRESS:

1 Bass Avenue,
Gum Spring, VA 23065

EMAIL:

OrchidLake1@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbie Blanchard, President
Corinne de Jesus, VP
Rick Cromwell, Treasurer
Hope Goza, Secretary
Chris DeMaioribus
Brian Steele
Glenda Wood

Community Involvement Committee

Chris DeMaioribus

Dam and Environmental Committees

Prentiss de Jesus

Road Committee

Brian Steele

Workday Committee

Megaan Bandy

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Summer is almost here and it's time to get out and enjoy our beautiful surroundings!

Our Community Involvement Committee has been busy planning a calendar of events for the summer. Check out the list of events and then follow the directions on how to register. Residents and lot owners are welcome.

In addition, preparations are under way for our 60th Anniversary Celebration in September. There will be more information coming your way, so be watching.

The Board and the Environmental and Dam Committees have been hard at work addressing the various issues surrounding our lake and dam. We recently filed the Engineer's Annual Inspection Report of the dam with the Department of Conservation. The hope is by filing this report, next year's recertification of our dam will be easier and hopefully cost less than currently budgeted.

There is also an article on the status of controlling the grasses currently impacting the lake. In that article, you'll find a link to a detailed environmental report on our website prepared by Prentiss de Jesus.

Finally, there will be monthly workdays held over the summer in which residents and lot owners can participate.

I am proud to be a part of a community that is working together to provide opportunities for our members to come together for the benefit of our community while enjoying each other's company.

See you around the Lake,
Debbie Blanchard, President

*****NOTE: The speed limit at Orchid Lake is 15 MPH at all times. With children out of school for the summer and residents enjoying the outdoors, please follow the speed limit for the safety of others.***

SUMMER EVENTS

Here is a list of our Summer Events.:



June 24 - Popsicle Happy Hour – Join us on Friday evening from 6:00 to to 7:00 p.m. for a Popsicle

Happy Hour. Nothing fancy, just an opportunity to kick off the summer with ice cold popsicles and conversation.



July 23 @ 10:00 a.m. - Bee Keeping – Our very own Corinne de Jesus, an urban beekeeper, will

present a talk on the joys and challenges of beekeeping. You're encouraged to bring a bagged lunch to enjoy with fellow attendees after the presentation.



August TBD - Photography Tips – Jennifer Lewis, who has been supplying outstanding photos

for our website, will be sharing some of her tips for capturing great photographs of our surroundings.



September TBD - 60th Anniversary Boat Regatta – Be watching

for information on how you and your family can participate in our 60th Anniversary kick-off event.



September TBD - Cooking with Christie – Join us for a one of a kind cooking experience with our

very own talented chef, Christie Langdon. Lesson will feature in season produce.

To register for the events, please email OrchidLake1@gmail.com.

NEW WORKDAY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Megaan Bandy of Deer Drive has volunteered to head our OLE Workday Committee. She is currently planning monthly workdays which will target specific projects around the lake. Dates, times, and projects for each workday will be posted at the mailboxes, online at www.orchidlake.net, and in the newsletter. The first event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 25 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.** with supper provided. To volunteer for the event, please email OrchidLake1@gmail.com.

UPDATE FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

At last year's Annual Lot Owners Meeting, Prentiss de Jesus, Dam and Environmental Committee Chair, shared a detail report on the environmental health of our lake and dam. Since that time, a number of items have been addressed.

Invasive Grasses – A specialized rake was purchased to remove the invasive grasses. There has been little success with the method due to the lack of manpower to do the raking. Efforts with raking will continue as volunteers are available. In addition, landscaping tarp was used to cover the invasives near the spillway. Even though several of the tarps were removed, it appears the remaining tarps are working.

Ten triploid carp were introduced to the lake in June. While we will not see immediate improvement, in the long run, the carp will consume some of the invasives. These carp are sterile and will not reproduce. If you happen to catch a carp, please release it back into the lake.

The Board voted this month to look at the cost and risks for spraying the grasses. Members have the opportunity to weigh in on the use of chemicals in the lake. More information will be provided once Board members have met with an expert on spraying the grasses.

Fishing Guidelines - While the majority of fish in the lake are catch and release, all crappie that are caught should be kept. Our goal is to remove all crappie from the lake to improve the health of the lake for the other fish. Spawning areas have been enhanced with pea gravel. Our goal is to preserve Bluegill, Bream and Large-Mouth Bass.

You will soon see new signage on the Gold Beach and the pier with OLE regulations regarding fishing, boating, and use of the beaches.

For a copy of the full report, please visit our website at www.orchidlake.net.