

## SURREYWOOD Scene

www.surreywoodliving.com

### We'll Miss the Wonderful Willie

#### Carley Hamilton

Moving to Surreywood 6 years ago was a powerful and influential change for our family. Coming from the city, with a very small toddler, where we barely knew our neighbors names to a family focused place such as Surreywood has reminded us of our community and civic duty. We looked around and were inspired by the volunteers that we were witness to and how much each board member gave to make the community such



*Thanks to Wonderful Willie for all that you have done!!*

a special and beautiful place. I joined the SCA board in 2015 - where I met key leaders in this neighborhood. These leaders recruited me to serve on my first board and hold the position for most of my time in Surreywood. One of the key influencers for me was the Houck family. Willie and Shirley both served on the pool and SCA boards in the past five years. Shirley as a very detail oriented treasurer for the pool and Willie has continued to serve in a much more than full-time capacity for the duration of my tenure. What I have seen from Willie is above and beyond what one would ever wish for in a volunteer.

Willie has donated countless hours every week focusing on the buildings, grounds, streets, lake, and signage of Surreywood. Willie has replaced playground structures, pool fixtures, painted street signs, cleared debris, donated to the neighborhood generously not just with his time, strength and tenacity but also financially. Willie was the pool president in the 1980s and served as the Building and Grounds Director for the past six years. He has helped not just maintain but improve our property values, and also our moral values. His dedication, grace and unparalleled generosity will not be forgotten. As Willie steps back to enjoy more time with family and friends, I hope you will all join me in a toast to our appreciation for all that the Wonderful Willie represents.

### President's Report

#### Merry Christmas Surreywood!!

##### Travis Hamilton

The leaves have finally all fallen (and hopefully been removed from the yards), the lights have gone up and we are all busy getting ready for many holiday celebrations at home, work and right here in Surreywood.

##### Annual Meeting

We had our Surreywood Civic Association Annual

general meeting on Monday, Nov, 4th, where we were graciously hosted by Providence United Methodist Church and had one of the best turnouts of neighbors that I can remember. At the meeting, we reviewed the SCA's current initiatives and talked about some potential projects that are on the horizon. Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Dominion Power Project continues to progress. Dominion is working on securing the last few easements they need and hope to have a construction

*Cont. pg 3*

December 2019

# Scene

Volunteers

## President's Report -

Travis Hamilton

## Scene Editor -

Ed Knight

## Building & Grounds Report -

Willie Houck

## Welcoming Report -

Betty Austin

## Retiree's Report -

Barbara Thomas

## Vice President's Report

Billy Glynn

## Lake Report -

James Losen

## Publisher -

Surreywood Civic Association (SCA)

## Scene Delivery -

Nicole Harris & Family

Next Scene Deadline: Fri. Feb. 7, 2020 by 6pm.

# Scene

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Size	Rate SCA Member	Rate Non-Member
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1/2 Page 7.25" x 4.75"	\$75	\$100
Full Page 9.75" x 7.25"	\$120	\$150

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SPEAK  
UP

Do you have a suggestion or comment about a community issue? SCA members are encouraged to submit Letters to the Editor.

Submit to:

**Scene@SurreywoodLiving.com**

According to the guidelines set by the Executive Board, all letters should:

- be brief and to the point
- address a subject relative to the general welfare of the community
- include the writer's email, phone number, and other contact information

Furthermore, the Board reserves the right to edit for taste, brevity, clarity, legality, and appropriateness. Submitting a letter does not guarantee publication in the Scene. The SCA and the Scene are not responsible for Letters to the Editor.

# President's Report Cont.

Cont. from pg. 1

plan and timeline in place in early to mid-2020. Once the plan is finalized it is our understanding the actual construction will occur quite quickly.

- At the direction and advice of Ben Coaker, we decided to engage with Harbor Lake and Dredging to do a topographical survey of the lake. Once this survey is completed we will be able to determine and decide exactly where to focus the dredging and how much needs to be removed. It is expected that dredging will occur in 2020.

- Willie shared with the group the work he's been doing with county leaders and VDOT to have the neighborhood streets re-surfaced with a "Slurry" topcoat which will likely occur in 2021

- Willie also shared with everyone his proposal to consider replacing our wood signposts and wood signs with metal posts and composite signs which will not only last longer but also reduce the amount of maintenance and upkeep required.

- Membership shared that in 2019 we again grew our SCA membership to over 350 or almost 70% of Surreywood homes.

- We reminded the group that Willie Houck was stepping down from his role as Building and Grounds director and he was given a rousing round of applause for his tireless efforts to not only maintain but enhance the beauty of our neighborhood during his time in this role.

Again these are just a few of the highlights from our meeting, I encourage each of you to read the full minutes which can be found on TownSq. under documents.

### **TownSq & 2020 Membership**

Over the past month, we sent both paper and digital messages to everyone in Surreywood on how to register for our new TownSq App, along with the current owner information on file and instructions on how to pay 2020 dues either electronically or by check. Please look for it to not only pay your dues but also verify and correct any of your information that may have changed. If you haven't seen a letter or email, need names corrected or are new to Surreywood please email me at [president@surreywoodliving.com](mailto:president@surreywoodliving.com).

The SCA knew implementing this new system was an ambitious task, however, I am very pleased to report that as I write this we have almost 500 (over 50% of eligible

Cont. pg. 5

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# SURREYWOOD Civic Association

**Your Surreywood board is made up of members of the Surreywood Civic Association who are elected in a General Membership Meeting. The last election was held in November 2019. Board members are unpaid volunteers who serve for one year. They coordinate events and projects that benefit the community.**

## 2020 SCA Board

**President..... Travis Hamilton  
President@SurreywoodLiving.com**

**Vice President..... Billy Glynn**

**Secretary..... Shannon Perry**

**Building & Grounds Director..... Willie Houck  
Grounds@SurreywoodLiving.com**

**Communications Director..... Carley Hamilton  
Communications@SurreywoodLiving.com**

**Community Events Director..... Haley Glynn**

**Covenants Director..... Tim Young**

**Lake Director..... James Losen**

**Membership Director..... Betty Austin  
Membership@SurreywoodLiving.com**

THE SCA BOARD HAS 10 VOTING POSITIONS

**Past President..... John Pride**

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Architectural Review Committee..... Bill Pisa  
ArchitecturalReview@SurreywoodLiving.com**

**Liminaries..... Patty Young**

**Publications/SCENE Editor..... Ed Knight  
Scene@SurreywoodLiving.com**

**Retirees..... Jane Logan & Barbara Thomas**

**School Liason..... Renee Shimo Daye**

**Welcoming..... Patty Young & Jane Logan**

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- Serious buyers have fewer houses to choose from during the winter months; less competition means a higher price for your home! Inventory is still at an all-time low!
- People looking during the winter months are often here due to a job transfer and they must make an immediate decision based on available inventory!
- List and close on your home before it's necessary to put a lot of time into springtime yard work!

Whether you're buying or selling we're here to help! *Lisa & Chris Joseph*

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Recently Sold by Lisa and Chris: 1407 Turnmill Drive

Recently Sold by Lisa and Chris: 8208 Capelwood Drive

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Chris Joseph: 804.310.0017 Lisa Joseph: 804.310.0018

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# Presidents Message (cont'd)

Cont. from pg. 3

residents) that have registered for TownSq! This is an incredible amount and I expect this number will grow even more as we continue to utilize this new platform. In addition to paying your dues, we have also now turned on the resident directory. This is a very handy little tool that basically gives you an easy to use and searchable resident directory right on your phone. Please see the visual instructions included in this issue of the Scene to ensure your information is viewable.

## Help Needed

Unfortunately, despite my many attempts and even bribes, I have failed to convince Willie to reconsider stepping down as our Building and Grounds Director at the end of 2019. What's even more unfortunate is that we still haven't found someone to take on this crucial role for 2020. As I outlined in the last scene we understand

replacing Willie isn't possible so we envision this role going forward as more of a coordinator that will document all requests and projects, prioritize them and then organize periodic community workdays and communicate issues with VDOT and the county to get them completed. So if you have an extra few hours a week and want to make a big difference in our neighborhood I would love to talk to you about it.

In closing, I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and take time to reflect on the passing of another year and decade. Carley and I feel truly blessed to have the life we do here in Surreywood, raising our children surrounded by so many of you that have become our best friends and chosen extended family. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child and I know we have picked the right one.

Travis

# Vice President's Report

## Update: Neighborhood Watch, Streets, Speeding

**Billy Glynn**

Here we are welcoming another winter season in Surreywood. Hopefully everyone had a wonderful holiday - I know that I had a great time at the Grand Illumination getting to know our neighbors better. Personally I can't wait to hopefully enjoy the snow and all the seasonal activities that go along with it. As we enter such a wonderful time of year I want to share updates on a few topics.

First is around blocking the thoroughfares in Surreywood, Whether it is from parking in the street or blocking passage with leaves, we have received multiple complaints from both our neighbors and the Chesterfield County Police. Regardless of the reason, please be mindful that this creates a serious safety concern for pedestrians, motorists and yourself.

Secondly is around the Neighborhood Watch program. We had our quarterly meeting in November which yielded a valuable discussion about a variety of topics including speeding, signage, lake access and crime trends.

These meetings will continue quarterly, and if you are interested in learning more we will post the meeting notes and forum discussions on TownSq. If you haven't signed up yet, TownSq is a valuable tool when it comes to sharing, engaging and organizing Surreywood discussions so please create your account today.

Lastly is in regards to speeding in the neighborhood - it takes every one of us to do our part to drive safely. We are working with the county to explore alternative options for enforcement that include traffic studies, higher fines, new signage, etc. In order to be prioritized, we need to have a "documented speeding issue" - which is where your input is needed. To ensure the appropriate documentation as well as receiving response action I encourage residents to report specific issues to CCPD traffic enforcement via either the hotline (804-318-8084) or the email address (speeding@chesterfield.gov). This will help us receive the needed attention in both the short and long term.

Thanks again to everyone for their engagement this year. I am continually encouraged from the interactions with everyone and can tell that this neighborhood really cares for each other. This will be a great year and I am looking forward to continuing to serve this community.

# Retiree's Report

## Retiree's Luncheons Have Resumed

**Barbara Thomas**

Hats off to our great SCA retirees attendance at the IHOP. Amazing! Thank you all for the support and awesome spirit of the season. Our next IHOP lunch will commence January 6, 2020.

Our annual Christmas Party is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, at 5:30. It stands to be successful (maybe without snow this year) for the party.

Subsequent luncheons will be held:  
February 3, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1.

# Building & Grounds

## Building & Grounds Early Winter

**Willie Houck**

My last month! Clear those ditches as soon as possible to prepare for luminaries and hayrides.

Still looking a B&G volunteer.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Volunteers welcome: 804-690-2429

# Events Report

## 2nd Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange

**Kelly Sotelo**

Drop off a \$10 donation AND at least one dozen of your favorite homemade holiday cookies (fancy store bought OK) and you'll receive a beautiful tray of cookies to share with family and friends over the holiday. All proceeds benefit Surreywood Swim & Tennis Club.


**Cookie and Donation Drop-Off:**  
*Saturday, December 21st from 10am - 4pm*  
*1640 Elmart Lane*

(Include your name, address, # of cookies donated with your \$10 donation)

**Cookie Delivery:**  
*Sunday, December 22nd*

Alternative drop-off and delivery dates can be arranged if necessary. You don't need to be home on Sunday for cookie delivery.

Please let us know if you plan to participate. Email [surreywood.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:surreywood.fundraising@gmail.com) to participate or for any questions.

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## Update: Lake Dredging

**Ben Croaker**

My fellow Surreywoodians.

Other than the soul-crushing onslaught of leaves that rain down upon us each year, I believe this is one of my favorite times to be in Surreywood. With the grand illumination in early December and the Lights of Peace on New Years Eve, Surreywood's neighborliness and splendor are on full display. Speaking of leaves, (here it comes), please take care to keep them out of the ditches in an effort to prevent them from washing into the lake. Speaking of the lake, I believe it's time for another update on the dredging project. Over the summer we were in contact with several dredging companies in an effort to find the most economical option. We have engaged Harbor Dredge & Dock (HDD) to proceed with the dredging project. In my article this summer, I discussed some of the options we were looking at to dredge the lake. HDD will mechanically dredge the lake, but they will not need to drain the lake as they will be working from barges. The benefits of this method are many, but the main points are:

- Adverse weather will not affect their progress
- Reduced traffic in and around the neighborhood
- No need to access the lake through resident's properties
- Access lake at a single point (at boat ramp)

The SCA is working with the pool board to access the dump site that we have identified. It is located in an area on the far side of the tennis courts. The fence around the volleyball court will need to be removed so trucks can access the dump area. Once the work is complete, the SCA will re-install the fence and repair the volleyball court.



HDD has provided an initial estimate based on an assumed 2' excavation throughout the target areas. To increase the accuracy of their estimate and better understand the limits of areas to be dredged, HD&D is going to perform a topographical survey of the existing conditions of the lake in specific areas of concern - area around the island (near Surreywood & Bloomsherry), and the East cove (Stone Tree and Lake Forest). The overall goal is to get as much of the lake to a depth greater than 3.5 feet as possible as that is the limit that light will penetrate. This is an effort to limit/prevent future algae blooms.

We hope to have the work completed in the January/February timeframe so we can have the lake up and ready to go once the weather turns nice in the springtime.



*Congratulations to Derek's Chili for taking back the Surreywood Cup in our Chili Cookoff!*

## Events

Haley Glynn

### 2019 Trunk or Treat

Thank you to all the trunks that were festively decorated for the 2019 Trunk or Treat. Congrats to third time winner



*Two of Santa's best elves!*

### Chili Cook Off- Hat's off to Derek's Chili

The Chili Cookoff was a huge success. After fighting for three years to take back the Surreywood Cup (or should I say Spoon), Derek LaPrade's chili came out on top. It was a tough competition with 13 delicious entries, but Derek's perfected chili was a notch above the rest. The event brought out approximately 100 residents and was an evening of great food and even better company. Start working on your recipes now. We will host the 2020 Chili Cookoff in conjunction with Trunk or Treat again in October.

### The Grand Illumination- May Your Days Be Merry And "Bright"

Surreywood welcomed the holiday season with a Grand Illumination of the lake on December 7, followed by an Italian potluck. A big thank you to Nancy and Steve Taylor for hosting this year! Nancy worked her magic and organized special surprise- Santa! Santa showed up and gave out gifts to all the good boys and girls making for a truly memorable evening. We would also like to thank our volunteers for helping! Thank you to Molly and Mark Mercer, Kathy Pride, Bob Meagher, Willie Houck, Buz Engelhard, Billy Glynn and all the lakefront owners set up holiday lights. We simply would not have such amazing events without the help of our amazing residents! Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

**Next event- Mark your calendars for the 2020 Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt- Saturday, April 11.**



*Thanks, Surreywood for your support for our Food Drive!!*

### Troop 2894 Food Drive

Troop 2894 thanks Surreywood for the food donations!! Thank you everyone that helped this great cause!

Scott Wharton & Bart Elkins



# Vice President's Report

## Update: Neighborhood Watch, Streets, Speeding

**Billy Glynn**

Here we are welcoming another winter season in Surreywood. Hopefully everyone had a wonderful holiday - I know that I had a great time at the Grand Illumination getting to know our neighbors better. Personally I can't wait to hopefully enjoy the snow and all the seasonal activities that go along with it. As we enter such a wonderful time of year I want to share updates on a few topics.

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Thanks again to everyone for their engagement this year. I am continually encouraged from the interactions with everyone and can tell that this neighborhood really cares for each other. This will be a great year and I am looking forward to continuing to serve this community.

## Welcoming Report

**Mark and Molly Erickson** moved to their new home on Surreywood Drive in September and are excited to be part of our Surreywood community. "We feel like such a friendly and active community is so rare and a real treasure!" Mark is originally from Michigan, and is now a PE teacher in the county. Molly is from the Fredericksburg area, and works for a local pediatric ophthalmology practice. Both of them are new to Richmond and are enjoying the wonderful food scene! Their love of traveling recently took them on an adventure to Greece. Mark and Molly have been involved in church ministry for many years and recently started to volunteer with an organization that does treatment foster care and would love to meet any neighbors that could lend any experience. We are very happy to welcome this lovely couple to our neighborhood! *Welcomed by Betty Austin.*

## Help Needed

### Welcoming Committee Chair

*Currently held by: Patty Young*

Time Commitment: 3-6 hours per month

### Overview:

This person will oversee our fantastic group of volunteer "Welcomers" and assign them to welcome all new neighbors in Surreywood.

### Fundraising Chair

*Currently held by: Sarah Poland*

Time Commitment: 2-4 hours per month plus 10-20 hours in December to organize and oversee the distribution of luminaries

### Overview:

Traditionally this role has mainly handled Luminaries and the spring yard sale, however as give the yard sale to the Pool so we have decided to add handling all of the Scene advertising to this role.



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## Help Needed

### Building & Grounds Director

Currently held by: *The Incredible Willie Houck*  
Time Commitment: 10 - 20 hours per month

### Overview:

This is a vital role in Surreywood and a key factor that differentiates us from our neighboring communities. We are very realistic that no will ever replace Willie as he has set the bar so high and taken on the lion share of the work personally. Going forward we expect this role to go back to how it was originally envisioned, where the Building and Grounds director keeps a running list of projects and duties that need to be done and utilizes more community workdays or individual volunteers to complete the work required. Willie is also working on a detailed listing of all his ongoing maintenance items and planned repairs and improvements over the next 3-5 years so there will be a very good road map to follow.

### Specific Responsibilities:

Be responsible for maintenance of Community Property including the entrance walls, signs, kiosks, bulletin boards,

the Dell Drive median strip and its entryway sign, flag, flag pole, and spotlights, the Lake dam, the Lake access road, the Lake access path, the street signs and any other property owned by or controlled by the Association.

Monitor the landscaping contractor's grass cutting on Community Property and maintenance of the Dell Drive median strip.

Coordinate road repair issues with the Virginia Department of Transportation and maintenance of the street lights through communication with the County and Virginia Dominion Power.

Coordinate Community workdays for specific neighborhood spring and fall maintenance projects on an as-needed basis; publicize such events in the Association e-mail notification system and the Surreywood Scene.

Assist in any other project pertaining to the beautification of the Community.

# Surreywood, we now have over 500 residents registered on TownSq!

Now that we've reached this milestone, we want to start using and educating everyone about some of the tools available. One of the features that I have already found very helpful is the online resident directory. In the directory, you can quickly search for a neighbor to see their address or send them a message on the platform. If you would like to also share your phone number and/or email with your neighbors you can. However you will need to adjust your personal setting to "opt in". Take a look at the information below for a quick visual guide on how to do this. Please note it may look a little different depending on if you are on a smartphone versus a computer.

If you have any questions just let me know.. Travis Hamilton

