

# Wickham Forest Homeowner's Association

<http://www.wickhamforest.com>

September 2016



Summer is a time for swimming, grilling, sipping lemonade and enjoying the great outdoors! Unfortunately, summer also brings a number of potential hazards to your home. Knowing the risks and adequately preparing for them can help to prevent common home disasters.

To help you protect your home, the following is a list of common home damages that can occur and steps you can take to avoid them:

Water damage can be caused by burst pipes, ruptured washing machine hoses, overflowing toilets, leaking bathtubs and a host of other problems. To protect against water damage, know where your water shut-off valve is located, inspect your home for sitting water or excess moisture, and monitor your water bill for unusual price changes. Replace the hoses on your washing machine, toilet or refrigerator with non-burst hoses that you can purchase inexpensively from your local hardware store.

You may not be able to control the weather, but you can prepare for excessive wind, hail and flooding. Put hurricane clips on roofing, install storm bracing for overhead doors and shutters over windows. Secure patio furniture and other items vulnerable to wind. Keep tree limbs properly trimmed and away from your house.

You can prevent fires by looking for fraying electrical cords and overloaded connections. Fireplaces should be regularly maintained and open flames should be watched carefully. Do not place electrical cords under rugs or high traffic areas. Turn off all lights, appliances and electrical items when not needed. Never leave burning items unattended (stoves, ovens, cables, fireplaces, cigarettes)

Thieves are well aware that homeowners travel during the summer. To protect against theft, install a home security system, properly secure doors and windows and inform your neighbors when you will be gone so they can survey your house.

Wickham Forest  
Homeowners Association,  
Inc.  
PO Box 410621  
Melbourne FL 32941-0621  
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## **CONTACTS**

### **Association Board**

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**1st Vice President**  
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**Nancy Phillips, 2nd Vice President**  
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**Carol Smith, Secretary**  
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**Ed Clark, Treasurer**  
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**Carol Theiler, Chairperson**  
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- Susie Nichols
- Linda Beckwith
- Dan Reichel
- Bernadette Pinto (alt)
- Georgette McWilliams

**Webmaster**  
Duane Charter (321) 255-8382

**Wickham Forest Website**  
<http://www.wickhamforest.com>

**North Melbourne HOA Alliance**  
[www.northmelbournehomewonersalliance.com](http://www.northmelbournehomewonersalliance.com)

# Wickham Forest HOA Board of Directors Meeting

**DATE:** August 10, 2016

Determination of Quorum: Ingrid Smith, Pres., Mary Greenfield, 1st VP, Nancy Phillips, 2nd VP, Ed Clark, Treasurer, and Carol Smith, Secretary

Meeting convened at 7:05 PM Minutes of previous meeting approved

Ingrid Smith introduced the two representatives from Leland Management. They gave a presentation and answered questions and concerns.

President's Report:

Ingrid sent thank you letters in July to the businesses identified by the welcoming committee as those who have donated goods and discounts for our new residents.

Green Leaf cut back the branches overhanging our sidewalk at the entrance. The result is not pretty since the vacant lot is so overgrown. Pat McGuire (Green Leaf) suggested it will look better once the ferns and vines cover the bare branches. The board is looking into the possibility of planting a low maintenance screen, possibly Florida friendly plants with low irrigation needs. Updates at the entrance are moving forward, L & M Masonry has been contracted to construct 8" stacked stone planters on the North and South side of the entrance as approved earlier this year.

2nd VP Report:

The following letters of violations were mailed: 1-Fence replacement, 1-Parking, and 1-Commerical vehicle.

Treasure's Report: Approved

Old Business:

Scanning and filing records is still on hold.

New Business: Fence Sections were taken down, along the Wild Wood pond, for a short period of time. It appeared that Florida Power & Lights were back there trimming trees. The fence sections are back up.

Mary will call FPL to have the trees trimmed along the Wild Wood walkway to Sherwood.

Ingrid made motion to adjourn, all approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

CAROL SMITH, SECRETARY

**WFHOA TREASURERS REPORT****7-1-2016 - 7-31-2016****INCOME**

Dues	\$100.00
Fees	\$150.00
Fines	
Returned CK	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>TOTAL \$250.00</b>

**EXPENSES****Administrative Expenses:**

Corporate Report	
Office Supplies	\$76.67
Newsletter	
Bank Fees	
Meeting Room	
Accountant	
Computer Maintenance	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$76.67</b>

**OPERATING EXPENSES:**

Entrance Decorations	
FPL	\$75.00
PO Box Rent	
Insurance	
Postage	\$65.45
Legal Fees	
Web Hosting	
Garage Sale Ad	
Decorating Contest Winners	
Salary	
Holiday Decorations	
Holiday Bonus Arc	
County Taxes	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140.45</b>

**MAINTENANCE EXPENSES:**

Flags & Repairs	\$168.00
Ponds Qrtly	
Ponds	\$290.00
Mowing	\$450.00
Entrance Landscaping (Tree Trim)	\$400.00
Excavation Mowing & Repairs	\$975.00
Entrance Light Repair	
Sprinkler Repair	
Pressure Washing	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,283.00</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,500.12</b>
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**CASH ON HAND:**

Chase Checking	\$56,473.54
Chase Savings	\$12,503.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,977.06</b>

## Chinch bugs. To them, your lawn is dinner.

You do everything right, You water your lawn regularly. You feed it when you're supposed to. Yet, here and there, you have what looks like drought damage, If you live in the south and have St Augustine grass or zoysia grass, you could be entertaining a whole troop of chinch bugs. These nasty little critters suck your grass blades dry. Then they inject a poison that kills them. They can kill patches or your entire lawn.

Southern chinch bug activity occurs from March through November in north-central Florida. One generation may last 6-8 weeks in hot temperature. Populations tend to be clumped in an area of a lawn. As their host plants die, individuals will walk to neighboring St Augustine grass plants to continue feeding. Thus, dead patches of grass seen to get larger over time. The bugs can also feed on other types of grass. The speed of turf's death probably depends on chinch bug density and the turf's overall health.

Grass attacked by chinch bugs looks like grass suffering from drought. Along your driveway and sidewalks, your grass blades wilt, turn yellow-brown, then dry out and die. Chinch bugs tend to stay out of shady areas. They can be hard to see. They're about 1/5" long with black bodies and white wings folded across their backs. It takes chinch bugs about four to six weeks to mature. They start out yellow, then turn red as they grow. They have a telltale white stripe across their bodies. If you've checked for chinch bugs and are still not sure you have them (there are several insects that can be confused with them) you may need to call in professional help, contact your local extension office or visit a lawn and garden center for assistance. Chinch bugs can become resistant to a pesticide over time so it may be necessary to switch to a different product periodically to maintain control.



### **Yard waste reminder:**

Trash and yard waste shall not be placed at curbside earlier than **5:00 pm** on the evening before scheduled pick up. Most yard waste can be held in a trash can or two that can be kept screened from sight until **Thursday evening**. It only takes a few moments to haul a garbage can to the curb. If very large amounts of yard waste need to be removed the city should be called to schedule a special pick up (see page of this newsletter). If you hire someone to trim your trees/shrubs they are required to haul the debris away. Unlicensed/uninsured vendors may not provide complete service and could present possible legal problems for the homeowner.

## THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink, and the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom—and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
7. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door—understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it).
9. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.
10. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kid's rooms.
11. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into the safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
12. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard, Sometimes I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook
13. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors.
14. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
15. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?
16. I love looking in your windows. I'm looking for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.
17. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Facebook page. It's easier than you think to look up your address. Parents: caution your kids about this. You see this every day.
18. To you, leaving a window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
19. If you don't answer when I knock, I'll try the door. WOW—I hit a jackpot and I walk right in.



## Wickham Forest ARC Meeting Summary

Date: August 8, 2016

Members Present:

Georgette McWilliams, Dan Reichel,  
Carol Theiler

Requests Approved:



**2785 Forest Run Drive:** Install white PVC fence on sides and rear of property

**2905 Forest Run Drive:** EXTERIOR HOUSE/TRIM PAINT House/Garage Door—  
Light Green Trim—Dark Green

**2525 Red Maple Place:** EXTERIOR HOUSE/TRIM PAINT House/Garage Door—  
Richards—custom Color-Blue Trim—Richards—custom Color –Cream

**Our next meeting will be September 7, 2016, 7:00 P.M., at 4590 Willow Bend Drive**

Most items are easily approved, and most questions answered. We are working to make our Wickham Forest Neighborhood the best and loveliest in this area!

Also, remember to check with the covenants or the ARC members if you have any questions regarding exterior changes.

September 11, 2016 is  
Grandparents Day—Do  
something nice for your  
grandparents!!!



## Interesting Facts about September:

There are (3) birth flowers for the month of September; the forget-me-not, the morning glory and the aster. The birth stone for September is the sapphire. Grandparent's Day is observed in the United States on the first Sunday after Labor Day. The United States was attacked by terrorists on September 11, 2001. Almost 3,000 people in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington DC died because of the attacks that took place on that day. Band-Aids were invented in the month of September. World War II began in September, 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland. September is Cholesterol Awareness Month. On September 18, 1851 the infamous New York Times newspaper published their first edition. The poem "Mary had a little Lamb" was published September 1st, 1830. The name September comes from the old Roman word 'septem', which means seven, because in the Roman calendar it was the seventh month. September 17 is International Eat an Apple Day. September 22 is the first day of autumn. September 8 is the 80th birth anniversary of Patsy Kline. The zodiac signs for September are Virgo (August-September 22) and Libra (September 23-October 22). On September 6, 1901 William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States, was assassinated.

## Pets & Heat:

Heat stroke in dogs and cats can occur rapidly in enclosed areas such as cars, garages, poorly ventilated buildings, and even outside without access to shade cover and a water source. It is very important to remember that our pets dissipate heat via panting and evaporative cooling,



and have limited to no capacity to sweat. This means that in high temperatures, and moderate to high humidity pets can rapidly approach body temperatures that can cause heat stroke. Studies have found that in 80-90 F ambient temperatures the temperature in a car can rise rapidly to fatal temperatures even with its windows open about 1/3 of the way down. As the temperature and humidity increase, your pet's core body temperature can increase rapidly. Dogs begin to suffer the effects of heat stroke at body temperatures of 105-106 F, or sooner depending on their state of health. Symptoms of heat stroke and hyperthermia can include: Vomiting, diarrhea, depression, respiratory distress, seizures, and death. All year round in Florida, heat and humidity in enclosed spaces can quickly turn into inhumane conditions for our pets. Never leave them unattended in your car, or in enclosed areas that lack air conditioning or appropriate ventilation. If you encounter an animal exhibiting signs of heat stroke please take them to the nearest veterinary office as soon as possible. If you encounter a dog trapped in a car or overheated environment first attempt to notify the authorities, and if possible stand by until they arrive. Always make sure that your pets have plenty of fresh water.

The board would like to welcome you to the community. If you do not have a copy of our Covenants and Deed Restrictions, or have any questions about them, please contact any board member.

A few reminders regarding our Covenants, for those who do not have a copy —

1. **Yard trash is picked up on Fridays.** Yard trash should not be placed at the curb until the night before pick-up. Tree branches/shrub clippings, etc. need to be cut down to 4 foot sections and bundled for easier pick up by waste management. **Waste Management will NOT pick up any yard trash in plastic bags.**
2. **Bulk Items:** You do need to call Waste Management to schedule a pickup bulk items (including furniture). These items can be placed at the curb on Fridays. For information, contact Waste Management at 321-723-4455.
3. **Electronics:** You still need to call to arrange a special pick up for appliances and electronics.
4. **Garbage is picked up on Tuesdays and Fridays. Recycling is picked up Wednesday.** Garbage containers/recycling bins should not be placed at the curb until 5pm the night before pick up. Garbage containers/recycling bins must be stored as not to be visible from the street or adjacent property within sight distance of the lot. Only items in the recycling container will be picked up on Wednesday. Large loose items will be picked up on Friday, if you call Waste Management early in the week. **Plastic bags do not recycle.**
5. If you are planning to paint your home or plan any exterior changes, please contact the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) for approval **BEFORE** starting any new project. A sample of paint color, shingle type/color, plan layout, etc. must be submitted to the ARC for approval.
6. Waste Management trucks are automated, maned by only one employee. Therefore, any trash articles NOT in the garbage bin WILL NOT be picked up. The driver is not supposed to leave his truck.

#### **IMPORTANT CONTACTS**

Melbourne Police Dept. (non-emergency) (321) 608-6731 (MPD1)  
Fire Department (321) 752-4642  
Melbourne City Hall (321) 727-2900  
City of Melbourne Water Department (Normal Hours) (321) 674-5726  
City of Melbourne Water Department (Emergency) (321) 255-4622  
Fix a pothole: City of Melbourne (321) 953-6231  
FPL Power Outage (800) 468-8243  
FPL Meter Check (800) 468-8243  
Florida City Gas leaks, Odors, or Emergencies (888) 352-5325  
Waste Management 321 723-4455  
Appliance Pick up: (321) 953-6302  
Large yard pile Pick Up: (321) 953-6302  
Dispose of old paint or other household chemicals: (321) 255-4365  
AT&T Residential Repair Service: (877) 737-2478  
AT&T Fast Access DSL Technical Support: (888) 321-2375  
Bright House Customer Service (321) 254-3300



## Back to School Safety Tips—Going to and From School More Safely

Every day, millions of children take to the streets and highways to get to and from school. For many children this experience is a new one and they may not understand or be able to use the safety rules. Young children do not have the same frame of reference for safety as adults do. They may not “look before they leap,” which is why it is so important for families to supervise young children and practice safety skills with their older children to make certain they really know and understand them. The tips noted below will help prepare for a safer journey.

### Tips for Parents and Guardians:

1. **Instruct your children to always TAKE A FRIEND, always stay in well-lit areas, never take shortcuts, and never go into isolated areas.** Teach them to stay aware of their surroundings and observe all traffic rules in place to more safely share the roads and sidewalks with others.
2. **Walk the route to and from school with your children pointing out landmarks and safe places to go if they're being followed or need help.** Make the walk to and from school a “teachable moment” and chance to put their skills to the test. Make a map with your children showing acceptable routes to and from school. If your children wait for a bus, wait with them or make arrangements for supervision at the bus stop.
3. **If anyone bothers your children or make them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused, while going to or from school, teach your children to trust their feelings, immediately get away from that person, and TELL you or another trusted adult.** If an adult approaches your children for help or directions, your child needs to avoid contact and move away from the stranger. Adults needing help should not ask children for help; they should ask other adults. Instruct your children to never accept money or gifts from anyone unless you have told them it is OKAY to accept in each instance.
4. **Even though there can be more safety in numbers it is still not safe for young children to walk to and from school, especially if they must take isolated routes anytime during the day or in darkness.** Always provide supervision for your young children to help ensure their safe arrival to and from school.
5. **Instruct your children not to wear clothing or backpacks with their name if visible to strangers. If anyone calls out their name, teach them to not be fooled or confused.** Teach your children about the tricks someone may try to use to confuse them or engage them in conversation. Children should also be taught that they do not need to be polite if approached and to get out of the situation as quickly and safely as possible.
6. **Ensure current and accurate emergency contact information is on file for your children at their school.**

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If you, or another trusted family member or friend, need to pick your children up, make sure to follow the school's departure procedures. These procedures need to include the school's confirmation of your children's departure with only those you authorize to pick them up.

7. **Teach your children if anyone tries to take them somewhere they should quickly get away and yell, :This person is not my father/mother.”** Teach your children to make a scene and every effort to get away by kicking, screaming and resisting if anyone tries to grab them.
8. **Teach your children if anyone follows them on foot to get away from that person as quickly as possible.** If anyone follows them in a vehicle they should turn around, go in the other direction and try to quickly get to a spot where a trusted adult may help them. Advise them to be sure to TELL you or another trusted adult what happened.
9. **Instruct your children to never leave school with anyone until they've checked with a trusted adult.** If anyone tells them there is an emergency and they want your children to go with them, teach your children to always CHECK FIRST with you before doing anything. Also teach your children to always CHECK FIRST with you if they want to change their plans before or after school. Make sure your children always play with other children, have your permission to play in specific areas, and let you know where they are going to be. Instruct your children to TELL a trusted adult if they notice anyone they don't know or feel comfortable with hanging around them.
10. **In the event your children may be lost or injured, make sure they carry a contact card with your name and telephone numbers such as work and cellular.** This card should be hidden from plain view.
11. **Key Tips to Reinforce with Your Children:**
12. **Always TAKE A FRIEND** with you when walking, biking, or standing at the bus stop. Make sure you know your bus number and which bus to ride.
13. Say NO if anyone you don't know or a person who makes you feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused offers a ride. Quickly get away and yell, “THIS PERSON IS NOT MY MOTHER/FATHER” if anyone tries to take you somewhere or is following you. If anyone tries to grab you, make a scene and every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
14. **NEVER LEAVE SCHOOL GROUNDS** before the regular school day ends. Always check with the office before leaving school early. NEVER take shortcuts or walk through alleys to get to or from school faster. Talk about which way to go to and from school. Discuss activities they participate in that cause them to leave earlier or arrive home later than usual.

## **Safety Tips for Teens Going Back to School**

According to a study conducted by SafeKids.org, 61 children are hit by cars every day in the United States, most often during the hours before and after school, and peaking in September. But now there has been a noticeable demographic shift. It is much more likely a teenager will be hit by a car than a younger child.

Of the 490 pedestrians ages 19 and younger who died after being hit by a motor vehicle in 2012, 48 percent were ages 15 to 19. A huge contributor to this increase in our youth being struck by vehicles is the increase in cellular phone usage. In other words, our youth are paying attention to the text messages and video games on the cell phone, rather than looking where they are walking. According to a study by The Nielsen Company, kids age 13 to 17 send more than 3,400 texts a month. That's seven messages every hour they are awake!

\*Keep in mind that walking while distracted is serious and here are some tips to help you:  
Never walk while texting!!

- \*If texting, move out of the way of others and stop on the sidewalk
- \*Never cross the street while using an electronic device
- \*Do not walk with headphones on (you can't hear the beep of a horn)
- \*Be aware of the surroundings
- \*Always walk on the sidewalk if one is available; if a child must walk on the street, he or she should face oncoming traffic
- \*Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street
- \*Cross only at crosswalks and do not cross ahead of an intersection to avoid the crosswalk

If any homeowner would like to have a paper copy of the WFHOA newsletter, contact Carol Smith, Secretary by email –[simpsonsmith@msn.com](mailto:simpsonsmith@msn.com).

Remember to visit the website “[Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com)” for a great variety of interesting articles to any homeowner.

**FROM THE WFHOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE A GREAT  
AND RELAXING LABOR DAY—SEPTEMBER 4, 2016.**

**ENJOY YOUR DAY OFF FROM WORKING**