

# South Point Homeowner's Association, Inc.

Established March 2003

South Point Homeowner's Association, Inc. Governs the 1st, 2nd, 3rd (part 1), 4th, 5th, 6th, 9th and 10th Filings Only  
[www.southpointsubdivision.com](http://www.southpointsubdivision.com)

## March 2008 Quarterly Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Stacy Scott

Why the increase in 2008 dues? Homeowner's Association dues that do not keep pace with increasing costs, inflation, and increased responsibilities will result in the Board being unable to pay for adequate maintenance, service and repairs necessary to maintain South Point Subdivision. The current inflation rate is around 2½%, and HOA fees should be minimally increased each year to meet the inflation rate. Boards that fail to increase HOA dues each year must eventually address the deficit by increasing the fees even more the following year, or by special assessments, or both.

Reserves are necessary and vital and need to be considered in the budget each year. The monies set aside in reserve are to be used for unanticipated repairs, maintenance, or replacements. The need for reserves should not be ignored as the lack thereof will eventually catch up with all homeowners by way of special assessments. 25-30% of HOA fees should be dedicated to reserves. The 2008 SPHA budget includes a reserve allocation.

Our HOA needs to be competitive with similar HOA's. Currently the dues in South Point are the lowest in the area. Keeping dues artificially low can cause future owners to pay expenses that should have been partially subsidized by current owners.

## March



### DUES PAYMENT DEADLINE

If paying for 2008 in full, your payment is due on March 31, 2008.

If you are paying in two payments, the first payment of \$38.05 is due on March 31, 2008. Your second payment is due on June 30, 2008. Second invoices will be mailed to those opting for the two payment plan.

Liens will be filed on August 1, 2008, for non-payment of dues (in full or outstanding balance owed for calendar year 2008).



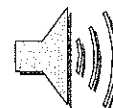
### SHARED PRIVATE POLICE PATROLS

In October 2007, the Board of Directors came to an agreement with Forest Ridge Subdivision's Board of Directors regarding a joint venture to share in the community patrols. Effective November 1, 2007, the weekly patrols were increased from twice a week to three times a week. The two subdivisions evenly split three random patrols per week that are coordinated by Forest Ridge's Safety, Traffic & Awareness Committee. This allows South Point to have an additional patrol each week and reduces the yearly budgeted cost for private police patrols.



### SPEEDING AND STOP SIGNS

At the request of numerous residents, we once again ask that everyone please **RESPECT THE POSTED SPEED LIMIT** in South Point Subdivision! The speed limit is 20 mph throughout the entire subdivision all the time, not only when you see a police officer. All stop signs at 3- and 4-way intersections should be respected. Passing vehicles which are stopping at a stop sign is another problem and increases the risk of serious accidents and injury to pedestrians. Contrary to popular rumor, those speeding through the subdivision *are* residents.



Another request is for individuals to turn down the volume of their music or bass when they enter the subdivision. While you may enjoy the music or song, that does not mean your neighbors want to hear it. This should be conveyed to your guests as well.

**ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE  
PROBLEM AREA 1: DOGS**

We continue to have a big problem with residents who walk their dogs, but do not properly clean up the fecal matter. No one likes to walk out on the lawn or driveway to find that someone else's dog has left a "surprise." Be considerate, clean up after your pet(s). You can be fined for violating this restriction.

Louisiana does have a leash law. This is not a SPHA law, it is a **state law** which is enforceable by law enforcement. Louisiana Revised Statutes. Title 3. Agriculture and Forestry. Chapter 18. Animals Running at Large. Part V. Dog License Tax. 2771. Dogs are not to run at large. Citation: LA R.S. 3:2771 Summary: This Louisiana law operates as a state leash requirement for dogs. It states that no person shall permit any dog in his or her possession to run at large on any unenclosed land, or trespass upon any enclosed or unenclosed lands of another.

South Point is not within the city limits of Denham Springs, therefore, we do not have animal control resources. Livingston Parish does not have animal control at this time and the LPSO will not pick up stray animals.

**PROBLEM AREA 2: TRESPASSING & PONDS**

The detention ponds in South Point were created as part of the drainage system, not for recreational purposes, such as swimming or fishing. "No Trespassing, No Swimming, No Fishing" signs are posted at the ponds. When a child or adult walks through another person's yard to access the pond, they are in fact breaking the law by trespassing. We have received multiple complaints from homeowners who live adjacent to the ponds about this increasing problem. Understandably, the homeowners are concerned about their property, their pet(s), their fence or their yard. Some trespassers have left trash in neighbors' yards, or have thrown plants and vegetation from the ponds into yards where dogs are housed.

Parents – your children are your responsibility and it is your duty to talk to them and teach them about the law. Trespassing and littering are both against the law.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

On May 12, 2008, first class postage goes up 1 cent to .42. The Forever Stamp can be purchased for the current rate of .41 and used after the price increase.



**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH TIP**

Bullies have been a known problem for centuries. Not only can the problem be found in schools, but also in neighborhoods, especially those where families with children of various ages reside. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is a comprehensive program used in schools in more than dozen countries around the world. The Olweus Program is used in elementary, middle, or junior high schools. The goal is to reduce and prevent bullying problems among school children and to improve peer relations at school. The program has been found to reduce bullying among children, improve the social climate of classrooms, and reduce related antisocial behaviors, such as vandalism and truancy. For more information check out their site at: <http://www.clemson.edu/olweus/content.html>.

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER UPDATES**

For those who are in our email database, a monthly update is provided via email to advise as to the status of current projects or matters on which the Board is working. For those who do not have email access, copies of the monthly updates can be picked up from one of the two boxes located on either side of the front entrance sign on South Point Drive.



**SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

Brenton & Cindy Moss welcomed their first baby boy, Briss Cordell Moss, on March 3, 2008.

Bret & Elizabeth Andres welcome a baby girl, born in February 2008.



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS**

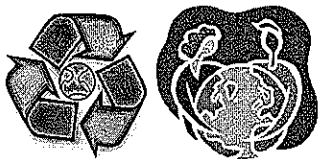
Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month and residents may attend as guests. If you have an item you would like added to the agenda or wish to have an appeals hearing on a Restrictive Covenant Violation, you **must** contact the Board no less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. at a Board member's home.

## PONDS

The weather continues to be a hindrance in allowing the Developer to bring in heavy equipment required to dredge ponds.

## VOLUNTEERS

We have had a wonderful response from those who are willing to give their time and energy to the community. A communication will be sent soon to those who have volunteered and a general meeting will be scheduled.



## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE EARTH DAY 2008

Earth Day 2008 is April 22. This annual event began in 1970. What is Earth Day? It is a time to celebrate the gains people have made and to create new visions to accelerate environmental progress. Earth Day is a time to unite around new actions. Earth Day and every day is a time to act to protect our planet.

We encourage everyone to take a few minutes of their time on **Saturday, April 19, 2008**, to look around the curb and street in front of their home and pick up any litter or debris. This includes paper, package wrappers, cigarette butts, and crushed cans.

If everyone would take the time to do this weekly, not just on Earth Day, this little step would aid in keeping our neighborhood looking clean and litter-free.

Other ways you can contribute year-round in preserving the earth and helping the environment can be found at [www.earthday.gov](http://www.earthday.gov):

### Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Practice the three R's: first reduce how much you use, then reuse what you can, and then recycle the rest. Then, dispose of what's left in the most environmentally friendly way. You can read tips and explore the Consumer's Handbook for Reducing Solid Waste at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/reduce/catbook>

### Reduce

- Buy permanent items instead of disposables.
- Buy and use only what you need.
- Buy products with less packaging.
- Buy products that use less toxic chemicals.

### Reuse

- Repair items as much as possible.
- Use durable coffee mugs.
- Use cloth napkins or towels.
- Clean out juice bottles and use them later.
- Use empty jars to hold leftover food.
- Reuse boxes.
- Purchase refillable pens and pencils.
- Participate in a paint collection and reuse program. For information on handling household solid waste, visit <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/citizens.htm>.
- Donate extras to people you know or to charity instead of throwing them away.
- Reuse grocery bags as trash bags.

### Recycle

- Recycle paper (printer paper, newspapers, mail, etc.), plastic, glass bottles, cardboard, and aluminum cans. If your community doesn't collect at the curb, take them to a collection center.
- Recycle electronics. More information is at <http://www.epa.gov/ecycling/index.htm>
- Recycle used motor oil (read an EPA brochure in PDF format; 750K; [epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/recy-oil.pdf](http://epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/recy-oil.pdf)).
- Compost food scraps, grass and other yard clippings, and dead plants.
- Close the loop - buy recycled products and products that use recycled packaging. That's what makes recycling economically possible. Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/buyrec.htm>

You can drop off your recycling at the BFI Recycling Community Drop on Florida Blvd. & Donmoor the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon.

*You can make a difference in your neighborhood - get involved!*

### INSPIRATION QUOTES

*"What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." – Jane Goodall*

*"The best inheritance a parent can give his children is a few minutes of his time each day." – Orlando A. Battista*

**- REMINDERS-**

HOA Dues Payment Deadline - March 31, 2008

Earth Day Event - April 19, 2008

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