

## October, 2014 Newsletter for LaSalle's Woods

LaSalle's Woods (LW) board of directors (BOD) is proud of a new interactive website developed by Mr. Blake Pell, a home owner in LW. The address of the site is <http://www.lasalleswoods.com> . Please, take time to review and bookmark the site as we will begin to send information via the web site. There will be monthly as well as quarterly topics for you to view. The monthly meeting minutes will be available on the web site and will only be sent to those people who do not subscribe to the site. However, we would like everyone to participate by giving us your email address so that we can clearly and expeditiously disseminate information regarding your home, the community of LW, as well as the Pointe Services Association. Let us know immediately if you do not use the internet so that we can continue to snail mail you information regarding your home. Mailings cost you/ us money while electronic information is practically free and can be viewed from anywhere not just at home.

The site allows you, the home owner, to suggest changes electronically so that we can better serve you. Pictures can be included to give us a better perspective. It also allows us the opportunity to consider the work schedule and react in a timely and appropriate manner. Several owners have already made use of the new website. There will likely be an adjustment period for us all but this is a positive step to make us all aware of the cost and involvement that is needed to maintain one of the Pointe's most attractive communities.

The BOD is working to redefine the job descriptions and roles of all people that work with and for the home owners association (HOA). This includes the BOD. The purpose is to ensure continuity when new people enter into a working relationship with the HOA such as president, treasurer, property manager (PM), etc.

With all the above information, we now ask everyone to contact the HOA via the web site for work repair, neighbor issues, improving the community, etc. Contacting our property manager will no longer be acceptable unless there is an emergency and he will only respond to property issues. Nuisance or criminal issues will be directed to Pointe Security.

LW is currently looking at cedar siding issues that have gone underfunded and overlooked by the BOD for the last 10+ years. When roofing is replaced, the vertical surfaces between the roofs, those surfaces most affected by weather, are being replaced. However, all the siding that has not been replaced is approximately 40 years old. This siding accounts for nearly 60% of LW. The decision was made years ago to not stain or otherwise seal the wood while letting it age naturally. The appearance is

quite unique and gives our community its distinctive look. However, this decision has allowed the wood to degrade much quicker especially where it is subject to sunlight, freezing rain, and temperature extremes. Adding to this current dilemma is the ever increasing cost and availability of cedar siding. What was plentiful and moderately priced 40 years ago is now over 10 times the cost and very difficult to find. There are alternatives to consider. We can begin to replace with non-cedar material which could be easier to install and longer lived. We could go with less expensive, shorter lived material that might require more maintenance. There are many options to consider and the BOD is considering options. Currently, however, we are replacing the cedar siding with the money we have. There was not much money allocated to replace/ repair the siding. Obviously, we could ask for more money to keep the community looking the same as we replace the damaged siding. We are interested in your opinion on this topic. Consider using the new web site to offer your suggestions or drop your ideas of at the suggestion box on the side of the office adjacent to the pool entrance.

This community of LaSalle's Woods is your/ our community. We want to keep it as attractive as possible. To do so, we ask that before you make any changes to community property or any interior space you inform the BOD so that we can coordinate work to best suit everyone and not just the individual. (Changes to interior walls can weaken the building if the wall is load bearing.) If there is a time constraint, please allow us response time to gather information before you feel it is time for action. Taking your own course of action could jeopardize the result, the safety of the community, and your finances if the board is unwilling to pay. Just because you see an issue does not mean it exists for everyone else.

Water heater pan installation is at 32 %. If you have installed your own pan, please let us know via the web site or by calling any of the board or the property manager (PM). If you need to have it installed and do not have the time, we can arrange for this to happen. Please contact a board member or the PM to arrange the pan installation. Remember, our community insurance company asked this to be done to mitigate any damage that leaking water heaters cause. We would like compliance by year's end.

John Bernstein

President of your LaSalle's Woods HOA