

LIGHTING UP LINKSIDE

Keeping Neighbors in the Know



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Updates from Larry Leonhardt, Linkside Board President

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Greetings

This edition of the Lighting Up Linkside newsletter finds us in a much different world than the last issue. Although it is very disappointing but necessary, access to our swimming pool is not allowed until the SCDHEC order for the closure of all non-private pools is rescinded. But what better place to self-shelter than in our little paradise on Isle of Palms! Being one of those “high-risk” folks, as are most of our neighbors, I appreciate how the great majority of residents are abiding by the CDC’s guidelines for social distancing and sanitizing while being considerate for the wellbeing of all. I hope all of you are now, and remain, healthy and safe. In the meantime, enjoy this newsletter!

Linkside Properties

The Linkside Board of Directors continues with plans for enhancements to Linkside properties that will improve the esthetics, safety and structural integrity thereby strengthening your investment. This includes a proposal from the company who installed our lighting last year for upgrading and adding additional landscape lighting. We are also in discussions with companies to assess the viability of our existing roofs following last year’s repairs to include proposals for replacement.



Upgrades & Renovations

For all additions and renovations to Linkside units especially exterior work, please review the rules and regulations that are posted on the Linkside page of the Property Management Services (PMS) website at <http://charlestonpms.com/propdetail.php?id=25>. Please contact Dawn Lord, property manager, at 843-881-5459 or dawn@charlestonpms.com prior to starting any project to move it through the required approval process. This includes the addition or replacement of front doors, front storm doors and air conditioning units. Also, please contact Dawn for any issue that needs to be fixed for which the regime is responsible.

Board of Directors' Positions

There are two Board of Directors' terms expiring in October 2020. Those interested in running for one of these three-year terms, please send a letter to Dawn Lord at dawn@charlestonpms.com indicating your interest. Please include a short biography and qualifications or experience important to become a candidate. A list of the candidates including a proxy voting form will be sent to all owners in September prior to the Annual Meeting held in October.

Landscaping at Linkside

By Teri Pesapane, 29 Linkside Court

Our Linkside Villas' landscaping and its upkeep has become a major focus this year. Many of our shrubs have reached their "old age" and cannot be managed any longer with just a trim. During March and April you will have seen some hard pruning drastically reducing the size of the plants. Kind of unattractive right now, but we will watch to see the presence of new growth and if it does not happen, those shrubs will be removed and/or replaced.

In tandem with this effort, we have connected with a landscape architect who worked on Linkside ten years ago. She is going to give us a hand to identify where we need to replace or upgrade plantings and help with the plant selection. This would be a concentration on the beds at the front of our buildings. Some buildings need nothing; others look pretty bare. We want them all to look pleasing.

The firm we use to handle our arborist work spent a day grinding ten tree stumps in the complex. They will also be trimming palms in the near future.

It has been reported by several people that they observed the irrigation system seems to not be doing its job very well. A firm that specializes only in irrigation was engaged to carry out an assessment of the system. All controllers, zones, heads, and drip lines were turned on and checked for needed repairs, levels of efficiency, locations, and replacement. This involves electric wiring, water pressure, flow, valves, pumps, water source, and tubing. A thorough report has been submitted and is being evaluated.

We are hopeful that once all information has been gathered, we can proceed in a thoughtful way to coordinate the work. Timing is unknown at this point. Our vendors are struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic as we all are. Although they can come into Wild Dunes and can work outside, many companies have a shortage of staff.

Linkside Neighbors

By Nancy Windler, 28 Linkside Court



Bill Milcarek

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I grew up in

I've spent most of my life in Manhattan, New York City. I was born in New Orleans, lived briefly on an Air Force base in Abilene, Texas and then moved to NYC when I was about three years old. I grew up on 14th street in Greenwich Village. My parents divorced, and my mother moved to Milan, Italy when I was around seven years old, so my sister and I then split our time living between Milan and New York City. When I was thirteen years old, my father moved us to Basking Ridge, New Jersey, where I attended high school. After graduating from high school, I moved back to New York City as my mother had moved back from Europe.

Best thing that ever happened to me was . . .

Marrying my wife and having our two children! Was that a trick question? Haha!

How did you wind up living on Isle of Palms?

After my son was born, living in NYC started to lose its luster. I didn't want him growing up on concrete as I did. The city had changed since I was a kid. I said to my wife, let's pull the trigger on a move as long as it's on or near the water (and it's warm!). Once we made up our mind to move, it happened very quickly. Since our move, five of my friends have also moved to the Charleston area. We are just importing Yankees down here!

Tell us about your art? I know you paint in acrylics. What subjects do you like and why?

I'll use any paint . . . acrylic, oil, watercolor, house paint, you name it. I've even made a painting from the juice of a cactus pear! The ocean and what lie beneath and above it have always inspired me. I've sketched and painted a bit of everything, though. It doesn't matter the medium; whether it be painting, drawing or sculpting, I find peace in creating and being creative.

Tell us about your love affair with Japanese inking and dead fish . . .

I was researching the Japanese art form of Gyotaku (fish printing), and I came across some stuff I really liked. It turns out that the guy who was making these great pieces resided in Charleston. Strangely enough, he grew up right down the street from where we have a home up north in East Hampton, New York. After reaching out to him, we became friends, and he gave me some pointers. I have friends who are commercial fishermen up north, and they send me the tails of large fish right after they catch them. Most recently, I printed a set of giant blue fin tuna and swordfish tails, but I also print smaller local sea life I catch here.

At Linkside you are a famous cook. How did that happen?

That's a no brainer. My mother and stepfather have always cooked. In the past, they would have competitions over who could make the best pasta. It was actually pretty amusing how serious they were. Even to this day, a nice pasta is everything. I tried my hand at my first "family" pasta when I was around eighteen years old. I've always enjoyed cooking pastas and risottos but have branched out into other cuisines over the years.

You are a skilled fisherman. What is there about fishing that you love so much?

My sister and I used to spend dawn to dusk on the beaches, rocks, and cliffs of Sardinia spearing crabs and octopus, and if we weren't doing that, we were hand lining small fish. We also spent a lot of time on the river at my grandparent's house in Illinois. There, we would seine for minnows (locals would call them shiners), and then we would go out on the boat and set trot lines (a line with 20 hooks set three feet apart). When we would check them the next day, they were usually loaded up with massive catfish. Sometimes, there would be a big turtle on the end, WATCH OUT! My grandfather looooved to eat turtle soup! From the south and visiting my other grandparents in New Orleans I have a love for crawfish, crabs, and gumbo! I think another thing that has contributed to my fishing passion is the fact that I've spent so much time out east on Long Island, where the fishing is epic. Although I like going offshore for big fish, tuna, wahoo, etc., my happy place is in the creeks crabbing, gathering shellfish and catching inshore fish.

In 20 years I hope to . . .

I hope to be with a healthy family, maybe bouncing a grandchild off of my knee while I'm painting, fishing, or cooking!

Our Furred and Feathered Friends

By Joel Pesapane, 29 Linkside Court

If you look into the marsh that surrounds Linkside on three sides, you will probably see *Ardea alba*, our friend the Great Egret. He is distinguished by black legs and a smooth head of white feathers. A swamp and marsh dweller, he lives as far north as Maryland but prefers our much better weather. Differentiated from the Great White Heron by black legs and a differently curved neck, our friend can be found fishing in the marsh when the tide is low and perching in the dead tree by the 16th tee of the Links course when he rests. The thick covering of *Spartina* Grass provides him a dinner plate of fish as they swim in the marsh looking for their food. Graceful and elegant, they are an even more distinctive as they take off, flapping their wings and trailing their legs in a straight line that defines them. He is part of the cycle of life in the marsh and is only surpassed in line by the alligator.

Speaking of which . . . we have a new resident at Linkside! A 3-foot alligator has taken up residency in our pond. This is therefore the time to remind everyone, residents and guests that they should never approach, tease or otherwise engage with any of our wild neighbors. Most of all, remember that an alligator that is fed is a dead alligator. Interaction of any kind with humans will create a creature that will approach expecting food and when they are not fed, they will attack. The state will remove and kill any alligator that has been fed.



Some very fancy words for a very loud nuisance! The *rallus crepitans*, The Clapper Rail, is also called the marsh hen. These birds have a distinctive cackle that keeps some of our residents up at night. One resides in the fresher brackish water that borders the main entrance to Linkside, nesting in the reeds while bedeviling the folks in units 1 through 4. Once very common throughout the Eastern United States, their habitat has been dwindling in recent years because of marsh side development. That is not the case in South Carolina and they are increasing in population due to privatization of more of the marshes for homes. There are two open seasons in the fall when they can be hunted. Eating them is an adventure because of their diet which consists of whatever they can pull out of the mud, catch scuttling along or the occasional fish. Remember the saying, you are what you eat.

Invitation to Linkside Residents

We invite all Linkside residents to participate in this newsletter. Please let us know what topics you would like to see discussed and reported, and please submit your own articles and pictures to be included in the publication.

Please send responses and submissions to
amsawyer77@gmail.com



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