

# Pilot Mill Newsletter

September 2011

## *In this Issue:*

*HOA Board Happenings  
Communication Committee Update  
Meet the New Neighbors  
Social Activities*

*Landscape Corner  
Holiday in the Village  
Hot Topics*



## HOA Board Info

Linda De Grand, President,  
829-1547 or  
[ldegrand@nc.rr.com](mailto:ldegrand@nc.rr.com)

Chris Yetter, Vice President,  
719-2907 or  
[chris.yetter@atcmail.com](mailto:chris.yetter@atcmail.com)

Gail McDonald, Secretary,  
755-7939 or  
[gailcmc@aol.com](mailto:gailcmc@aol.com)

Marty Aaron, Treasurer,  
523-1116 or  
[martylaaron@gmail.com](mailto:martylaaron@gmail.com)

Robert Winchester,  
931-5782 or  
[rrwinchester@gmail.com](mailto:rrwinchester@gmail.com)

The Board meets the third Tuesday of every month at 7pm at the home of a board member on a rotating basis. Any homeowner is welcome to attend – please contact Gail McDonald in advance.

## Property Management

Kohn-Ell  
Biff Eller, 919.856.1844 or  
[biffeller@kohnell.com](mailto:biffeller@kohnell.com)

## Public Safety Officer

For non-emergencies to report incidents or concerns, call 996-3855.

## HOA Board Happenings

**Save the Date** - The Annual Pilot Mill Homeowners Association Meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced at a later time and meeting materials will be mailed in advance to individual homeowners.

One of the agenda items will be election of Board members to fill the expiring terms of two current members. If you are interested in serving your community please contact Gail McDonald, Secretary, prior to the meeting. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting with the nominee's consent.

## Communications Committee Update

The Communications Committee has continued to be very active and is making good progress on our goals. A few highlights:

**Survey** – We conducted a survey of the community in June/July. We received 30 responses (29% response rate). Congratulations to Helen Landi on winning the drawing for survey responses. The results of the survey and related follow up items are attached to this Newsletter.

**Website** ([www.pilotmillonline.com](http://www.pilotmillonline.com)) – The community website will be revamped for a better look and feel and for ease of managing content.

**Paperless HOA Communications** – 74% of our community (76 of 103 households) have signed up to receive HOA communications (dues assessments, required meeting notices, Newsletters, etc.) via email. This is already saving our community a great deal of money as well as a few trees. If you received this newsletter via the US Mail that indicates that you have not authorized us communicate with you electronically. Please consider signing up for paperless communication by reaching out to any member of the Communications Committee.

**GoogleGroup (aka ListServ)** – We continue our drive to sign up as many people as possible to participate in the GoogleGroup. We currently have 70% of the households in the community with at least one email address in the GoogleGroup. If you don't currently participate and are interested in signing up, please reach out to any member of the Communications Committee.

## Meet the New Neighbors at 1113 North Blount Street

We are pleased to welcome Jason, Lindsey and Sam Walter to neighborhood. They have lived in Raleigh since 2007, prior to that they lived in Charlotte. Jason is an HR Generalist for Parker Poe in downtown Raleigh and Lindsey is a Pharmaceutical Sales Rep for Alcon.

Sam is 18 months old, very cute and looking for some play dates! So please stop by to introduce yourselves.



**Woodlanders Bottlebrush**



### **Holiday in the Village!**

Mark your calendars for the evening of Friday, December 16.

The Social Committee is pleased to announce a Holiday Open House tour of neighborhood homes.

If you would like to open your home to others to share the beauty of the season, please contact Margaret Henderson at 906-8461 or [margarethenderson@nc.rr.com](mailto:margarethenderson@nc.rr.com).

It will be a nice opportunity to share the holiday spirit within our generous community.

### **On-going Social Activities**

**Dutch Treat Dinner** on the 3rd Friday of each month at 6:30 PM. Just RSVP to Gail McDonald at [gailcmc@aol.com](mailto:gailcmc@aol.com) or 755-7939 so we can reserve enough places.

**Wine Tasting** at Seaboard Wine Shop – September 21, 6pm. Contact Stephan Kiefer, the host, at 919.418.9152 to reserve your spot, \$16 per person.

### **Landscape Corner**

Fall is for planting! The garden centers tell us this – and it's true! If some of your shrubs have succumbed to this summer's heat, here are some replacement suggestions. (Remember, shrubs around your house are your responsibility, not that of the HOA.) Some of the more common shrubs that you will see in Pilot Mill are Indian hawthorns, boxwoods and azaleas. All do well as foundation plants and are relatively trouble free. If you want to be a bit more adventuresome, a sun-loving hardy Woodlanders bottlebrush will provide gorgeous, fluffy red blooms in the spring. The blooms mimic those bottle brushes in your kitchen drawer. If you have some shade, try daphne odora aureomarginata. It's a bit more temperamental. (Hates wet roots.) However, the scent of its flowers in late winter/early, early spring makes it worthwhile!

Please note that the grass will be re-seeded in September which will take care of the dead spots. You will also see improvement as cooler weather approaches. Trees and shrubs still need water until the first frost to prepare roots for dormancy; if it doesn't rain they will appreciate some water.

Lastly, please refrain from placing food for pets or wild animals on the neighborhood berms. There have been numerous sightings of foxes, wild cats and raccoons – all of whom may carry rabies, FIV viruses and infect house pets that they encounter.

### **Hot Topics!**

#### **Community Watch**

Hope Ethington has provided the HOA Board with the needed information to order Community Watch signs for Pilot Mill and an order is being processed. Robert Winchester has volunteered his time to install them when they arrive. Thanks to both!

#### **House Numbers**

A proposal has been made to install house numbers on all garages to facilitate identifying homes from the alley in case of emergency – or simply for deliveries. This proposal will be presented to the HOA membership at the annual November meeting. The proposal includes an option for homeowners to opt out. An existing example is shown here.



### **Building a Stronger Community**

A community's strength is typically rooted in its Board governance and strong, active community committees. We have the following committees operating in VAPM:

- Architectural Committee
- Communications Committee
- Landscape Committee
- Social Committee

The current member's leadership and service is much appreciated! However, each committee would be well served to have new members joining them! Please consider getting involved and donating a couple of hours per month to your community.