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# LAURELWOOD LINE

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With the rain that occurred over the past few months, most of us have had to mow our lawns more often. These heavy rains can also contribute to grass clippings ending up in storm water runoff. Grass clippings that are blown into the street eventually enter the street storm drain.

## What Happens to Grass in the Street?

When lawn clippings, fertilizers, soil, leaves, or animal wastes, are picked up by storm water runoff, they are carried directly to our lakes. All of these materials including grass clippings contain phosphorus. According to the U.S. EPA, phosphorus is one of the worst pollutants in storm water runoff and it is considered the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes.

Grass clippings contribute nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous, which cause unwanted and uncontrolled growth of algae. Increased algae growth is observed as algae blooms or “scums” on our lakes. Too much algae is harmful to any lake system. It blocks sunlight and prevents other plants from growing. When it dies and decays, it also takes much needed oxygen away from fish. You have seen what it did to our lakes, and costing you hundreds of dollars to have removed.

When mowing your yard, make certain that you do not blow grass clippings into the street. When mowing, make the first few passes with the lawnmower blowing the grass clippings into the lawn not the street. If there are grass clippings on the street or sidewalk, use a broom or leaf blower to blow them back into the lawn. Do not use your hose to wash them into the street or storm drains. Keeping your leaves and lawn clippings out of the streets will have significant benefits for our local lakes. *You* can reduce the amount of phosphorus entering Laurelwood lakes!

You should apply only the amount of fertilizer your lawn needs. A soil test will tell you how much-if any-fertilizer your lawn needs. Excess fertilizer may harm your lawn and pollute surface water. Fertilized grass in the street will cause grass to grow in the street. You should mow your lawn when the grass is dry, to avoid clumping. Set the mower cutting height up to 2 to 2½ inches to hide clippings better, and make a healthier lawn. Try to remove only one-third of grass length per mowing. If the grass is very overgrown, mow twice: first at a high setting, then wait a few days and mow lower. Mow every five to seven days until the growing season slows down, then you maybe able to reduce the frequency. You’ll still save time over bagging and dragging clippings to the curb, water and fertilize less. Don’t forget to edge the curb and side walks. Sharpen mower blades twice a year.

Keep your grass clippings on the lawn and not in the street. Remember, when you leave your grass clippings on the lawn, you add free fertilizer to your lawn. Grass clippings are about 90 percent water, so they decompose very quickly. Leaving your grass clippings on the lawn can reduce your lawn’s annual fertilizer needs, reduce your fertilizer costs and reduce water pollution.

## NOTE OF THANKS

*“It is with many thanks and appreciation to the homeowners and association for recognizing me for the duties I performed for some twenty years for our community. Most of the time it was an enjoyable task. I was pleased to serve as a member of the board and as your president a couple of terms. As you all know there are always a few problems that arise; as in every neighborhood and I served these to the best of my ability. Your thoughtfulness to reward me with a plaque was most appreciated. I want to thank all who attended the reception and for those who presented me with the plaque, cards, well wishes and the special plaque that was done for me by a young lady by the name of Julie Foster. Her talent as an artist is phenomenal? A special thanks to Gary & Linda Evans for the decorations and work they put into making it all happen. Thanks to all my friends and neighbors that took the time to come by to attend the reception. I will forever be grateful to all!”*  
 Charles Gilliland



May 16, 2016

## WHAT'S COMING.....

**August 6, 2016** - There will be a free Back to School health fair at the YMCA . Screenings are free, as well as activities and there will be many give a ways.



**August 8, 2016** - All Rankin County Schools will start for students. There will be increased traffic in the neighborhood and on our streets. Please be mindful of children waiting for and getting off the bus. Always stop behind the bus and wait for it to start up again. It is against the law to pass a stopped school bus and it puts our children at risk.

**September 5, 2016** - Is Labor Day and both pools will be open for your enjoyment. Please always follow the rules posted on the gates and walls at both pools. Be respectful to others as you use the pools, and remember it's your money that maintain these pools. Be watchful and if someone is breaking the rules say something, it's your right to do so. If they are drinking, smoking and generally out of order call the Flowood Police Department.

## Renting the Laurelwood Clubhouse

Renting the clubhouse is easier than ever! We now have an availability calendar on our web site click amenities, then clubhouse. If the date you need is open, call the Laurelwood Line to reserve the date, then print off the application and mail it with two checks. One check is a refundable deposit (\$100.00), and the other is for rental (\$75.00).

On the morning of your event the clubhouse manager will text you (or call) with a code that will unlock the front and back door of the clubhouse. Your code will be good until midnight that day. After the event, complete, and sign the check-list for cleaning and leave it on the counter. After inspection the manager will send back your deposit check (\$100.00) if it is undamaged and clean.

Rules for renting the clubhouse are: Must be a resident paid up on all dues and fees. Must be left clean and undamaged to receive deposit back. The swimming pool is not included when renting the clubhouse, (no pool parties are allowed at Laurelwood Pools)!



### LHOA Semi-Annual Dues:

You received an invoice in late July for the August 1st HOA dues of \$120.00. These dues become late on the 15th of August. If you have not yet paid them please do so ASAP!

#### Ways to Pay

- ~ You may mail your check to us at: P. O. Box 320428  
Flowood, MS 39232
- ~ Use the drop box located to the right of the front door at the Laurelwood clubhouse.

### What happens when you do not pay?

Unfortunately we have a few residents who have chosen not to pay the HOA dues. This is the process that the board has adopted to handle these offenders. There is a late fee of \$10.00 applied to the balance each month that it remains unpaid. In the event it remains delinquent a lien will be filed in the Rankin County Chancery Clerks office and a legal fee of \$275.00 will be added to the balance. When the house is sold, or refinancing is applied for, we will be able to collect our money before a loan can be secured on that property. Closing attorneys check for liens and outstanding HOA fees before proceeding with a closing of a sale on properties. We have been very successful in collecting from people who think they can get away with not paying their HOA dues. We are fortunate also that the majority of our residents are responsible people who gladly pay their dues.



## **Call if You Have a Problem, Comment, or Question !**



(601) 919-2005 - Laurelwood Line

Option 1: Covenant Concerns

Option 2: Billing Inquiries

Option 3: Clubhouse Rental, Pool Cards, and other concerns

Someone will call you back within 24 hours or less. Remember to leave your name, address, and call back number. If you need an immediate response you have an option to mark your message urgent.

## **Frequently Ask Questions:**

- What do I need to do if I want to remodel the outside of my house?
- **Answer:** Any changes to exterior appearance, including additions, alterations, and paint color must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Architectural Review Board prior to the commencement of work.
- Can I park my boat trailer in my driveway overnight? OR, Can I keep my trailer in my driveway?
- **Answer:** Campers, trailers, Rv's, boats, etc. Shall be stored within the confines of the carport, garage, or privacy fencing.
- Do I have to have a fence around my back yard, and can I build a chain link fence?
- **Answer:** All fencing must be of treated wood and conform to height and design as specified by the Architectural Review Board. No chain-link, wire or iron fencing is allowed.
- Why did I get a letter when I didn't mow my yard as soon as it was needed?
- **Answer:** Each owner shall maintain the appearance of his/her lot in high quality condition. The grass, flowers, and shrubbery must be mowed or trimmed at regular intervals so as to maintain them in a neat and attractive manner. Dead shrubs should be removed or replaced.
- Can I pay my HOA dues in advance?
- **Answer:** Yes, some members pay \$240.00 on February 01.