

THE VILLAGE VOICE

Official Newsletter of: *The Village of the Four Seasons*
133 Cherokee Road, Four Seasons, MO 65049

Spring 2015



Hello, yes we're still here! It's been a while since the last publication and apologies are being sent from the Board of Trustees. With this issue we'll try to get back on the regular bi-annual publication schedule. The newsletter will consist of articles pertaining to happenings in the Village as well as surrounding areas. If anyone has suggestions for future article topics, please contact Ranita Jones via the Town Hall.

Board of Trustees

Arnold Sandbothe....Chairperson & Finance Officer
Gordon Ellison Vice Chairperson
Ranita Jones Trustee
Carolyn Loraine Trustee
Dave Purdue Trustee

"We, the Village Trustees, believe it is important for all property owners in the Village of Four Seasons to be kept informed. Our goal is to offer you clear and accurate information so that you have all of the facts regarding new ordinances, amenities and improvements as well as studies and plans for the future that may affect you and your property."

Board Meetings are open to all residents

Come and learn what's happening in your community. Resident input is always welcomed,
WE REPRESENT YOU.

Village Board Elections

In 2014 there were three open Board of Trustee seats on the ballot. The three individuals who held those seats and filed for re-election were: Gordon Ellison, Arnold Sandbothe and Ranita Jones (who filled the unexpired term of Cindy Lonergan in the Fall of 2013 due to a move). With no other individuals filing the unchallenged incumbents won the seats for a new 2-year term.

For the current year, there are two seats open, Carolyn Loraine's and Dave Purdue's. Election is on Tuesday, April 7th.

If you would like to learn more about each Trustee you can access the Village website at www.villageoffourseasons.com, then click on the heading labeled 'Trustees'.

New Chairperson Elected

Last year due to an unforeseen occurrence, a new Chairperson was elected at the April 14th Board of Trustees meeting. The new Chairperson is Arnold Sandbothe, with new Vice Chairperson being Gordon Ellison.

New Village Attorney Elected

As of January 1st the Village has a new attorney as a result of former Attorney Jon Kaltenbronn being elected as 26th Judicial Circuit Court Judge of Miller County. The Villages' new attorney is Todd Miller who has owned a home on Horseshoe Bend for several years.

New Village Municipality Limit Signs

You may notice some new Village of Four Seasons signs. These signs were installed the later part of last year in an effort to get a 'Village of Four Seasons sign' added to the road signage along the Expressway 54 to help visitors to the lake know which exit to take to reach our community. The new municipality limit signs are located at several locations with one being just past the Black Hawk Estates entrance because of the recent annexation of Lodge of Four Seasons Property.

COMMUNITY UPDATES**Board Okays New Septic System**

Due to some sewer problems at the Village Hall during the latter part of 2013, an inspection of the existing system was done. Findings of the inspection were that the system was undersized for the current load (both Village Hall and Park restrooms) and was also riddled with aging problems.

At the January 2014 Board Meeting approval was made to have a new type of septic system installed. The new system is a FAST (Fixed Activated Sludge Treatment) septic system. It's a new system to the area and after review by the contract engineer for the Village it was felt to be a good choice. The POA also added the FAST system to its approved septic systems list. To learn more about this system, please contact the Village Building Inspector.

Additional Dock Safety Measures

To help protect lake swimmers from electrocution a subsection was added to the 2011 National Electrical Code with several requirements for docks within the Village of Four Seasons. Anyone seeking a permit from Ameren Missouri for any of several docks must first pass and obtain an electrical inspection performed by the Village Building Inspector. Please help keep our waters safe, have your docks checked. For further info contact the Village Building Inspector.

New Mile Markers on Hiking Trail

As a request from numerous Village residents, and after repaving of the trail last year, mile markers were installed along the trail beginning at Carl's Village Hardware Store and going westward to Thrush Road. A marker has been placed every 1/4 mile, for a total of 2 miles. Now trail users can keep track of how far they've traveled.

Changes to Carl's Grocery / Hardware Store

For those who haven't heard, last summer Carl's did some revamping of their business presence. Their main focus is now on the hardware business which has moved to the main level, with the secondary focus on groceries. Though they no longer have the large grocery inventory, they do still have some basic grocery items such as eggs, milk, bread, beer, etc. Stop in and check it out.

Recent Annexation

A voluntary annexation request from the Lodge of the Four Seasons for some additional property to be annexed into the Village boundaries was reviewed and granted this past December. The additional property involves property roughly east of the main entrance including Avila Condominiums as well as the Seasons Bay lodging and several rental units along the waterfront.

REMINDERS**Utility Sales/Franchise Tax**

You may be paying unnecessary sales/ franchise taxes. Many utilities charge 'local or city' sales/ franchise tax based solely on your zip code. The Village of Four Seasons has no utility sales/franchise tax on phones, cell phones or electric service so none should be charged to Village residents or residents who live outside Four Seasons in 'unincorporated Camden County' (off roads such as Carol, Susan and Duckhead).

Check your bills. If you are getting a charge for a 'local or city' sales/franchise tax on any utility except natural gas, you should contact that utility and demand they stop the sales/franchise tax charge; otherwise, they will continue to collect the tax and it will be sent to the city with the same zip code; it won't come to the Village.

Before calling in regards to being charged unnecessarily, make sure the city in your address is Four Seasons; if it's not, get that changed first then call in regards to removing the unnecessary charges. It may be a struggle to get the change made but keep at it and, if need be, contact the Village Administrator.

Help Support Our Community - Buy Local

The Village of Four Seasons has no real estate taxes to support the operations of the Village, such as the costs of maintaining the parks, the hiking & biking trails, law enforcement and other benefits of local government. The costs are paid for by a small sales tax collected by business located in the Village such as Ruthie D's, JJ Lafata's, The Lodge of Four Seasons, Carl's Hardware/Convenience Store, HB Brewery and soon to be The Office & The Green Onion (former location of Joe Momma's).

Please support the above mentioned businesses, not only for the convenience they provide but also for the taxes received by the Village to keep it operational which allows us to have the Community we have.

Why leave the Bend and fight traffic for items you can purchase at JJ LaFata's, Carl's, etc. Remember, your support of these businesses is returned to you.

Litter

Litter continues to be a problem, especially during the summer season. Though there are many residents who voluntarily pick up trash during their walks along the hiking/biking trail, (which the Board of Trustees would like to extend a big 'thank you' to) there is always a need for others to help out. We should all help in keeping our community clean.

With the above being said, there are several ways one can help in this area: 1) do it on your own by taking a trash bag with you on your walk, 2) contact the Horseshoe Bend Special Road District regarding the 'Adopt a Road Program', and 3) contact the Village Administrator to see if there are any openings in their litter pickup program .

American Flag Project

The flying of the American Flag on special holidays along HH and on Bagnell Dam Strip continues. However, the mission is being threatened by theft of a large volume of flags during last year. Every year at least two flags have been stolen, but last year a total of 7 were stolen, and with few new donations coming the stolen flags aren't being replaced. With this being said the organizers of this project, Ranita and Bill

Jones, ask for your help by 1) reporting to the Sheriff's Dept (573-365-5466) the license plate number of any one removing a flag that's not authorized to do so (currently only authorized vehicle is a maroon Murano with decals on each side with the wording 'American Pride Project', and a window flag on the driver's side) and 2) making a donation to replace some of the stolen flags.

Donations can be of any monetary amount, however, the cost to replace a flag and flagpole is \$22. Or, if you would like to donate enough for an entire flag assembly (flag, flagpole and bracket) to help grow the project, the cost would be \$35. Please contact Ranita via her cell at 618-973-1647. Let's show our pride for our country by flying the flag!

Dog Park (Horseshoe Bend Bark Park)



If you need your four-legged friend to have some time to run free and feel the wind through their hair,

take them to the dog park! It's located on Cherokee Road, just a block from the Village Hall. Though the park is within the Village boundaries it isn't an amenity solely for Village residents, anyone can use the park as long as they follow the park rules which are posted inside the park. Due to the lack of proper parking space in front of the park, and for safety purposes, we ask that you please park in either the Village Hall parking lot or the Village Park parking lot.

The park has solely been created with donations from some local community businesses and individuals who donated their time, resources and money. With the park continuing to be maintained by a non-profit organization and some devote volunteers to keep it in good shape, any donation of time or money would be greatly appreciated so the park can stay in existence. If you wish to donate, please contact Alisa Duba at 573-434-2025. Thank you.

Emergency Preparedness

Whether you're a full-time resident, a part-time resident or an occasional visitor it's important to be prepared for a disaster or emergency situation by having some supplies on hand such as: water, canned food (be sure to have a *manual* can opener), flashlight and batteries, weather radio and extra batteries, toilet paper, paper plates, plastic utensils, extra medication, etc. The supply should cover at least a 4 day time frame which may be how long it takes for first responders to reach you. You should also have a plan where in your house is the safest place to go in case of a bad storm.

Also, if you can establish a 'Map Your Neighborhood' connection it would be very helpful. For more information on this topic you can either 'google' emergency preparedness or contact resident Ranita Jones at 618-973-1647 for more information.

The Village of Four Seasons is concerned about your safety so over the years they have invested in the installation of a few storm sirens which (other than when they're being tested), *are only activated when a funnel cloud has been sighted in the area.*

Testing of sirens is always done on the first Tuesday of each month at 11:00 am (weather permitting) and on dates of statewide tests (usually on a Thursday at 1:30 pm). *The sirens are not tested when storms are imminent.*

VILLAGE OF FOUR SEASONS **INFORMATIONAL CORNER**

Town Hall Hours

Monday – Friday: 8 am – 4 pm

Phone: 573-365-3833

Village Administrator: Tom Laird

Email: info@villageoffourseasons.com

Website: www.VillageofFourSeasons.com

Building/Dock Inspections Held

Mon., Wed., Thurs.: 7 am – 3:30 pm

Tues. & Friday: 7 am – 12 Noon

Phone: 573-216-1689

Building Inspector: Robert Davis