



## HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION Spring 2020 Newsletter

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### WELCOME

Have you recently moved into Gates Mill, or have you met a neighbor who has recently moved in? Please contact Sabrina Nettinger so we can get a welcome packet to you (or them). Her contact information is on the back page.

Also, if you did not get an email version of this newsletter, update your email address at:

[admin@Associationmgt.com](mailto:admin@Associationmgt.com)

### COVID-19 INFORMATION

Charlotte Nash, Gwinnett County Council Chairman has imposed a ban on public gathering. Consequently, no public areas are open for gathering (i.e. clubhouse, pool, tennis courts, etc.) until further notice. Gates Mill will obviously comply with any federal, state, and local ordinances concerning COVID-19.

### POOL SEASON

The Gates Mill pool opening had been scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. New electronic keycards were provided via mail on or about May 4<sup>th</sup> of last year. If you have not received one, or your keycard does not work, contact Bob Pickle. Note: Your keycard will only be active if your GMHOA account is currently paid in full.

### POOL CLOSURE VOLUNTEERS

We will need several volunteers to help with pool closing once the ban is lifted. It's not hard, and it's a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and make new friends. Please contact Bob Pickle for more info. His contact information is on the back page.

### WATER ISSUES

If you experience any of the following problems, please call the Gwinnett Water Resources Dispatch Department at (678)376-7000.

- Interruption of Water Service
- Loss of Pressure
- Sewer Overflows or Back Ups
- Storm Drainage Problems
- Storm Water Erosion
- Water Line Leaks or Breaks
- Running or Leaking Fire Hydrants
- Concern Regarding Water Taste, Color, or Odor

### OUTDOOR BURNING

**There is currently a burning ban in effect.** Please check the Gwinnett County burn rules at:

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/web/gwinnett/splashes/pages/burn> and the outdoor burning schedule at:

<https://www.gwinnettcountry.com/web/gwinnett/departments/fireandemergencyservices/outdoorburninginformation> before attempting any outdoor burning.

### HELPING OUR GATES MILL NEIGHBORS

At a time when we're all being forced to social distance, stay at home, and avoid groups or crowds, take a few minutes to check up on your neighbors. If you're in a position to help someone else, please do so. You could just make a lifelong friend in the process.

If you need help, assistance, or guidance with anything, you can contact **Rev. Lamar Holly at (770)605-1583**, or one of our board members, and we'll see what we can do.



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### **CLUBHOUSE AND SWIM AREA**

Cameras have been put up to protect the clubhouse and pool areas, along with additional lighting around the clubhouse and parking area. If you see any suspicious activity, call the Gwinnett County Police on their non-emergency number (770)513-5830. If you see a crime being committed, **call 911**.

### **COVENANTS/ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW**

With spring in full bloom, it is time (or past time) to do spring cleanup. For all residents that means applying weed control to lawns to avert a weed infestation in the neighborhood, cleaning up mailboxes, edging lawns and curbs, cleaning street gutters, and trimming bushes. Dead and dying trees, especially pines, are a problem. If you have either, please get them removed so pine beetles do not spread. Note, approval is required for removal of live trees.

NOTE: if you are doing any remodeling or repairs to the outside of your house, or are painting it, you must submit an architectural review form, which can be done at [www.gatesmill.org](http://www.gatesmill.org).

### **CLUBHOUSE RENTAL**

If you would like to reserve the clubhouse for an event please use our on-line form or contact the Clubhouse Chairperson. The clubhouse can be rented for a fee of \$50, provided your dues are up-to-date. A refundable deposit of \$200 is also required. The deposit will be refunded once you have cleaned the clubhouse and no damage has been verified. For more information, or to schedule an event, see our webpage at [www.gatesmill.org](http://www.gatesmill.org)

### **COMMON AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

Important repairs have been done to the common areas of Gates Mill since the last newsletter:

- Wooden Fence behind Club House replaced.
- Pool Deck repairs in time for 2020 Season.
- 10 Dead Trees removed that could have fallen on fence or building.
- "Gates Mill" signage painted on entry gate.
- Roof Repairs to Clubhouse
- Pest Exclusion done in Club House
- Tennis Courts Cleaned
- Tennis Gazebo Power Washed and Painted
- Clubhouse Power Washed.
- Upgrades to Landscaping ( covered in separate Letter).
- New Legal Team to aggressively go after past due accounts.
- New Insurance Broker saving \$3,000.00 per year
- New Electrical box and Low Voltage Controller for irrigation at front entrance.
- White Fence along Gates Mill Drive Cleaned and Painted.
- Fence Post Protectors added to all Wooden Posts thru out Subdivision.
- Halogen Lights replaced with LED Lights.
- Wooden Light Poles replaced with Metal Poles.
- Storm Water Drainage System 50% replaced with the balance due to be done when County goes back to work.
- New flowers and foliage at the entrance planned



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### GWINNETT COUNTY POLICE

We have a special program with Gwinnett County Police Department Corp. Wilbert Rundles CPO, from the new Bay Creek Precinct. He has been assigned to assist us with any traffic or nuisance problems. The phone number is 770.513.5830.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Drowning accounts for a third of all fatal accidents for children 4 or younger. SafeKids Gwinnett and Gwinnett Fire and Emergency Services suggest the following pool safety rules to keep everyone safe during summer:

Never take your eyes off children in around water  
Tag-team responsibility for watching kids in water  
Replace missing or broken drain covers.

Learn to swim or wear an approved flotation device

Learn CPR and basic water rescue skills

Designate a "Water Watcher" – a responsible adult who is in charge of watching children while they are in or near water. To learn more, visit

<https://www.safekids.org/>.

### TAX COMMISSIONER

You don't have to wait for the mail to get your property tax bill. You can sign up to have it emailed to you. Please visit:

[www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com](http://www.GwinnettTaxCommissioner.com) and click the "Go Paperless" button, then follow the instructions on the bottom of the page to sign up.

### 2020 HOA FEES

The 2020 HOA fees were raised at the January meeting from \$450 to \$500. This marked the first raise in several years.

### REGISTER FOR SCHOOL

For those who have just moved in, you can register early at your child's new school. Our friends at Gwinnett County Public Schools asked us to share a reminder that if you're new to Gwinnett and need to register your child for school or if your child is changing schools due to a move, summer is the best time to register.

All Gwinnett County Public Schools locations will register students from 9am to 4pm on July 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, and 25. Use the School lookup at:

<https://apps.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/locator/Eligibility.aspx?Page=School>

Once you know what school to register for, you can start the registration process online at:

<http://publish.gwinnett.k12.ga.us/gcps/home/public/about/school-improvement/registration>

Then go to the school to submit the required records and information to complete registration on the dates listed above. The school year begins August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

### LAWNCARE COMPANIES

If you utilize a lawn care company, **please instruct workers to NOT blow clippings and/or debris into the street** or onto your neighbor's property.

They should also clean up any clippings or debris. If you do your lawn care yourself, please do the same.

Also, after the warning period for weed or pest control companies has expired, please remove the warning signs from your lawn. Let's keep Gates Mill looking awesome!



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### Tennis Club News

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Reflections From a Former Neighbor:

My wife and I lived in Gates Mill for 22 years, and just downsized last August to the square in Lawrenceville. I asked if I could submit this for your next newsletter just to share some thoughts I have about spending these years in a wonderful neighborhood like Gates Mill. These words are simply food for thought for those of you still living there, nothing more, nothing less, and while this awful pandemic is among us, it just might make these words a bit more meaningful.

We moved into Gates Mill in June of 1997 with our three year old son. We didn't know a whole lot about the area, much less Gates Mill. I attended a homeowners meeting the next month and, to say the least, it dissuaded me from attending another one! But, in time, we met some neighbors, usually at the pool, and we started to notice that some of them were volunteering in the neighborhood in various ways. My wife and I also simply wanted to help better the place in which we lived, so we became involved in doing various things that helped to keep Gates Mill looking, and operating, great. The benefit of doing so has been paid back to us tenfold. We not only took pride, and a sense of ownership, in driving in Gates Mill, but the friendships we established, and still maintain today, are indeed wonderful. It's your neighbors that make a place a home, it's not vice versa. Volunteering to help out in any way is not hard and it is very rewarding. I'm willing to bet that a lot of you don't know how to volunteer, or what to volunteer for, but there is something for everyone. Whether it's helping out at a workday (painting fences, signs at the clubhouse, cleaning inside and outside the clubhouse, pressure washing the sidewalks, handing out keycards for the pool, volunteering to open/close the pool for one week of the summer, or something that you might be very good at...decorating, maybe a service that you can provide to your Gates Mill neighbors, etc.) Ask your neighbor how to help or go to the next meeting. There's nothing like driving in and out of your neighborhood knowing that you had a small part in making Gates Mill look great.

The friendships we made in Gates Mill are lifelong friendships, and as we age, we find that those friendships are incredibly important. Especially now, with the pandemic, our travel is limited, so we need to rely on those close friendships of our neighbors. I found that over the years that the first step is always, always the hardest. So for someone to volunteer the first time is hard, but once you take that step it becomes easier and ultimately very rewarding.

I will close with a short story about one of your neighbors, TJ Scott. He has lived in Gates Mill for over 20 years, and is retired. He volunteered to be on the board, reluctantly(!), and served with distinction for a two-year term. Now, he helps out the neighborhood by taking care of random odd jobs that need to be done. And for the last couple of weeks, has spent an inordinate amount of time making the tennis courts look great by pressure washing the courts and pavilion/seating area, and will be putting a fresh coat of paint on the pavilion and seating area in the next couple of weeks. My hope is that you notice how nice the tennis courts shine as you drive into and out of GM. I tell this story because it affects every one of you. Yes, TJ has discovered the game of tennis and loves it, but he literally has saved you, the homeowners, well over \$2000—the cost that you would've paid a contractor to do this work. This example is one of many that happens almost daily. Bob Pickle, your president of GMHOA, has done multiple small jobs on his own time, all the while maintaining a smile with a painful degenerative back problem. But there's no doubt in my mind that when TJ or Bob drive into Gates Mill, they won't think about how much money they have saved the neighborhood, but rather they'll take a heck of a lot of pride in how good your neighborhood looks!

Lend a hand, beautify your land

- Steve Twombly

*Editors note: TJ wanted to say that Carlos Ramia and Steve also helped with the pressure washing, as did Arne Paulsen and his son, Agassi, who also dug the ditch at the rear of court 1 to allow for proper drainage, and hopefully keep it from getting dirty again.*



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## 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Clubhouse Chair:**

Raul and Cynthia Rivera  
170 Millennial Court  
Lawrenceville, Ga. 30045

## FROM THE EDITOR

Congratulations Graduates of 2020. Although it hasn't been like years past, (i.e. proms, parties graduation ceremonies), know that your accomplishment is made all the more impressive by the difficulties you've encountered your senior year.

In the future, the difficulties and challenges you've endured, and conquered this year will give you confidence when difficult times come in the future, which I'm sure will be bright for you all.

I, and all of the board salute you.

Michael Mathias

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