



Dutch Island Wave

DUTCH ISLAND HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

JULY 2020



Summer has hit Dutch Island with hot, humid weather, plenty of bugs and frequent afternoon thundershowers! Life is good. Chilling at the pool, boat rides and sprinklers are a great way to stay cool. Please keep your fur babies in mind during these hot summer days. Plenty of water, walking during cooler parts of the day and staying inside are key to healthy pets.

July 2020 Board Update

Dear Dutch Island Community,

Starting off this post with some updates about unfortunate events that happened in June. As seen in Facebook posts, we continue to have a few select problem juveniles riding golf carts and damaging property. If anyone has firm evidence of these incidents (a video would be great), please email info@dutchisland.net. A Board member will visit with the parent to hopefully rectify the situation.

The front gate arm was destroyed by a resident drive through. The resident has agreed to pay for the \$700 repair. We will be ordering a spare arm and attempting to use a heavy-duty spring hinge to allow the arm to swing open and retract to the closed position.

The electrical pole damage is being repaired. The crew that hit the pole paid for the repairs.

We have not made any progress on

finding the person who damaged our residents' yard with a vehicle.

The "free" food delivery pass time period ended on June 30. Residents can pay an annual fee for food delivery by companies without a pass. Please see the Dutch Island website for more details.

The Pool is back to full capacity but continues state mandated Covid controls. Thank you for abiding by these new guidelines.

To provide a fresher and consistent look to our island signage, we will be reviewing all signs, consolidating when possible and repainting them for a cleaner appearance.

The Dog Park planning continues and prospective funding from corporate sponsors is still being considered. There are no timeframe updates.

During this Covid time period, ARC applications have doubled. Tree cutting is the top request and we've seen a major increase for this. Our community guide-

lines call for the preservation of trees. The ARC guidelines approve tree removal if trees are damaged, diseased, currently or are poised to damage your house. During hurricane season, trees "might" strike our homes but this "what if" situation is not justification for removal.

We have contracted with Plantation Services to treat all seven of our lagoons. The Blue Crab lagoon outfall (the drainage point to the wetlands) is also being changed to see if we can improve it. We do have some dredging funds if we need to dredge.

The Dock Ramp cam has been installed but internet problems prevent viewing. Repairs are in progress.

Terrapin Trail paving has been completed. Thank you, Mike, for your hard work.

Until August, stay safe, keep social distancing and wear your mask in public.

— Nick

Dutch Island's Annual 4th of July Parade

Residents lined up at Two Palm Circle on Saturday morning for the Annual Dutch Island Golf Cart Parade. New this year was the addition of a 1.5 mile long fun run, that ended at the pool, complete with a water gun finish line! Thank you to board member and neighbor Alyssa Harvey for bringing this idea to light and organizing this fun new addition to our Island!



Road Rangers

Hard-hat wearing crews descended upon Terrapin Trail in mid June with heavy-duty equipment, shovels and a big job to do. These ‘road rangers’ were tasked with ‘milling’ – or grinding down – and then repaving about half of mile of Terrapin Trail.

Ongoing flooding and constant traffic on this roadway created cracks, breaking and dips in the roadway. To fix the road, the crew needed to mill the road to find a firm lower layer upon which they could repave. The crew finished the work in four days at a cost of \$95,000. The funds were part of the road reserve fund.

The next major project is repairing the culvert area at the causeway. Severe erosion threatens this area. Maintenance board liaison, Mike Weathers, is obtaining bids for this project that includes repairing the sharp drop off outbound on the first big curve.



Beth on the ‘flattener’ machine!

Heron Heroes

According to a 2015 National Geographic article, plastic is found in 90 percent of seabirds. That means the number may be near 100 percent by now. Our tale isn’t about consuming plastic, it’s about wearing plastic.

June 5, Facebook post by Dutch Island resident, **Lauren Maleki**:

f *By Blue Crab Point, anyone experienced/able to catch/help him? There is a Plastic Tupperware stuck around his neck...*

Sadly, calls to DNR were never returned and the poor bird continued to have its unconventional ‘necklace’ around its long neck.

Fast forward to June 22, Facebook post by DI resident, **Lori Paulk Magness**:

f *Settlers Point to the rescue!! I’m giving a big shout out to my husband **Charlie Magness** and **Julio DeCastro** and family for freeing our Heron friend of his Tupperware necklace! I know many have been concerned over the last few weeks, but Mr. Heron is ‘free as a bird’ now!*

The rescue team tracked this beautiful bird into a yard and very gently freed the bird of its unwanted necklace. What a great team effort.

Kudos!



The DeCastro boys, Noah (L) and Gabriel (R), proudly hold up the herons unwanted accessory.

Win a front porch family photoshoot!

New Newsletter feature! Every month we will include a photo taken somewhere on Dutch Island! If you can identify the location of the image, with proof (got to include a selfie in the mystery location), you win a free front porch family photoshoot!

This month, nestled quietly inside a shady nook, we found this sweet bird house! Where-oh-where could it be?? This can be easily seen from the street by foot, by bike or by car!

Send your reply to me, Vanessa Deshpande, via text photo or email! 912.346.9409 or vgdesh@me.com!

Hint:

These sweet birds are not the only settlers on this point...



Spotted!

This past June, a Dutch Island neighbor, Allison Richardson Lynes, posted this sweet baby to our community Facebook page. A perfect opportunity to share what to do, if you come upon one in your own yard!

Every springtime, local Animal Control gets numerous emails and phone calls from concerned people asking the following question:

"I found an abandoned fawn! Where can I take it?"

The answer is almost always the same: The fawn isn't abandoned and you should leave it right where it is.

There is a strong probability that you did not find an abandoned fawn. Female deer hide their newborn fawns in tall grass or brush and move some distance away to feed to avoid drawing predators to their offspring. With the proliferation of deer in suburban areas, sometimes this happens right in our own yards. The fawn simply waits in hiding until its mother returns. Soon, the fawns will be strong enough to follow the does and run from predators, and they no longer need to spend hours alone in hiding.

Though it seems that they are vulnerable, these young fawns are not totally helpless. Their spotted pelts look like dappled sunlight on the forest floor and offer great camouflage. They do not have strong scent that would attract predators. Fawns are also programmed to keep totally still and quiet when hiding while their mother forages. The combination of the physical attributes and the behavior of both does and fawns are remarkably successful at limiting depredation at such a



vulnerable time.

There are cases where it is okay to help lone fawns. If you notice that a fawn is clearly injured or that it is near a dead adult doe, then it is acceptable to seek help. Start by calling your local animal control department or nature center, who can either take the animal or help locate a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who can. If a hidden fawn is discovered on your prop-

erty, it's up to you to keep your pet dogs and your children away from it.

For questions, advice or help, the Savannah Wildlife Rescue Center can be reached at (912) 596-1237. Please note they do not rehabilitate birds or reptiles.

**Resource: National Wildlife Federation - <https://blog.nwf.org/2015/04/finding-a-fawn-what-to-do/>*