

## Have a great Lawn this year

- Cut grass weekly.
- Weed planting beds weekly.
- Blade edge and trim weekly.
- Place clipping bags out Monday morning for trash collection-do not leave them out during the week.
- Raise canapé of trees to 7 feet as the tree matures.
- Trim limbs above walkways so walkers can pass under limbs.
- Trim around utility meters to allow access by workers.
- Use weed treatment or a lawn service as needed to maintain a weed free lawn.



**Mailbox Installation ,  
Maintenance and Repair**  
*Mashburn and Company*

### **The Mission of the HCOA:**

*To serve as agents to the Association in the management of its finances, its common properties, and its member compliance with community covenants for the greater good of the community as prescribed by the by-laws of the Association. As volunteer elected officials of the Hampton Cove Community, we shall represent the Community by planning, executing, and monitoring Association activities to ensure that resources are used in the most effective means possible to improve property values, provide fair and consistent enforcement of covenants, mitigate risks to the Association members, and communicate important information with the residents. Our position is one that supports the maintenance of programs and policies that will make our community the community of choice within our market and price range.”*

**The HCOA Board typically meets the third Monday of each month. Due to space limitations, please notify the office if you will be attending. Call 533-6005.**

**Community Yard Sale**  
**Sat. Sept. 12th**  
**8am-1pm**

**The timing has changed because the size of our event now requires a city permit.**

*June 2009*

## *Snakes Are a Part of Nature*



copperhead

J. Wayne Fears

Certified Wildlife Biologist

Fall 2008, two youngsters play in the rocks in their backyard on Hampton Cove Way. They hear a buzzing in the rocks and go to investigate. It is a timber rattlesnake. The youngsters are not bitten and a neighbor dispatches the snake. It was a close encounter, but no one was hurt.

Spring 2009, a lady walks her dog around Hampton Cove Lake. The dog, on a long leash, begins barking and jumping at something in the grass on the edge of the lake. It is a large water snake. The snake defends its territory by aggressively striking at the dog. The lady pulls her dog away and leaves. No one was hurt.

These are two true encounters with snakes in our community. Hampton Cove was developed from rural land that was natural snake habitat. The snakes gave up their homes and moved into the surrounding mountains and river bottoms. It is a given that occasionally a few of them will venture back into their former territory - upland snakes in search of food, water snakes to take up residency in our lakes. Homes that back up to the mountain or open space are more likely visited by snakes.

Fortunately, due to our immaculate yards and grounds, there is little cover that favors snakes. However here are some common sense precautions we can observe when outdoors.

Always watch where you are putting your feet, hands, bottom, and face. Look before you reach, step, sit, or place your face near the ground, rocks, shrubbery, etc.

Always use a flashlight when walking at night. Remember that snakes prefer to travel at night.

If you come upon a snake, don't panic. Simply go around it and continue on your way. If it is a venomous snake it should be dispatched if around houses or where people play. Take the time to learn to identify venomous snakes.

Keep debris such as logs, loose rock piles, leaf piles, etc. out of your yard. Snakes love cover. Water snakes love to use boats and canoes pulled up on the bank as cover. Non-venomous water snakes and the venomous cotton mouth can be somewhat aggressive if you get too close.

When walking the lake banks, be watchful of where you are walking. Fortunately, all of the water snakes I have seen here are non-venomous but we are in the cotton mouth range and there is a possibility of encountering one.

Keep an eye out for snakes where pets are walking and keep them from engaging a snake in a "territory battle".

Teach children to respect snakes and to be mindful of their possible presence when playing outside.

Snakes are probably one of the most over-rated fears in the outdoors and the odds are great that you never see one in Hampton Cove or greater yet, get bitten. However, the potential does exist and some common sense precaution should be taken.

Remember snakes do not want any more contact with you, than you of them.



Timber rattlesnake

J. Wayne Fears is a published author in the field of wildlife.

# Great American Clean-Up

A big thank you for the cooperation that the Hampton Cove community showed in cleaning up our beautiful community during the All American Clean Up week in April. Residents were trimming trees and shrubs, power washing, edging, mowing, and picking up trash around our lakes. Hampton Cove Middle School also participated by picking up trash around the school and greenway.

Although the clean up was emphasized for a special week, the HCOA Board encourages all residents to continue to help keep our community clean all year round. Please take a plastic bag with you when you walk, carry a bag with you when you walk your dog in order to pick up the poop, and be aware that spilled items from your trash can or recycle bin, if left in the street, will be washed into the lake.

Our community is beautiful. Please help us keep it that way.

Kathy Jones, Clean Up Chair

HCOA Board Member



## Summer Get-a-Way? Or Vacation Nightmare?

Picture this: you and your family are returning from a fun filled vacation, ready to unpack and update the photo album. Only when you get home, you find the front door open, the back window broken, and valuables missing from all over the house, including your "clever" hiding places in the dresser and in the back of the freezer. You're not alone. Each year, nearly 5 million families become victims of household burglary, often while they've been away on vacation.

### Your Home Sends Signals

According to the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA), there are some simple steps you can take to make your home less attractive to would-be burglars. The best way is to combine the list of ideas below with a professionally installed and monitored electronic security alarm system in your home. Before you leave on your trip, pack your sun block and be sure to:

- Get a trusted friend or relative to "house sit." Or, make sure your neighbors know your plans.
- Have a neighbor pick up your newspapers and your mail for you daily, or cancel the paper and have the post office hold your mail.
- Lock all doors and windows, and secure the garage door.
- Leave a car parked in the driveway, or ask a neighbor to park in your driveway.
- Leave a house key— and number where you can be reached—with a trusted friend or neighbor.
- Use timers to turn lights on and off at certain times, altering lighting patterns, to create an occupied look.
- Leave drapes and shades open as normal. (Closed blinds during the day are a sure sign of an empty house, plus they allow a burglar to attend to his business unseen by neighbors.)
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed.
- Be sure your tree and hedges have been trimmed. This gives burglars fewer places to hide.
- Replace any burned-out lights in your yard. Consider upgrading outdoor light fixtures with devices that have built-in motion detectors, which turn on the lights whenever anyone walks past.

## School's Out!!

### Caution Children Playing

Now that school is out, please watch out for children playing. Also, please remember to teach your children safety around water if they are playing by the lakes. The golf course is NOT common property so please remind your children to stay off of it. The golf course is not liable for accidents to trespassers.



## Recycle Center



At the following locations you can recycle additional items that cannot be put in the recycling bins:

**Berkley Club at  
1617 Old 431 Highway,  
Owens Cross Roads  
(256-776-0108)**

*This facility is located just minutes from Hampton Cove, past the ball fields but before Christian Road.*

**Allied Waste Recyclery at  
1004 A Cleaner Way,  
Huntsville (256-830-2467)**

## Tired of getting letters about your cat?

A great idea was brought to us by a cat owner. She uses Invisible Fence for Cats. She just strung the wire along the top of her fence and put the collar on the cat. Prevents the cat from jumping over the fence. Check it out at

<http://www.invisiblefence.com/>

## Need a Hampton Cove Directory?

*Stop by our office and pick one up.*

## Pool Hours

Monday-Saturday

9AM-9PM

Sunday

Noon-9PM



Phone: 533-3040

## The green, green grass of home

