

Did you mean to call the Hampton House?

The Hampton Cove Owners Association and the Hampton House are separate entities that operate in separate offices. All properties in Hampton Cove are part of the HCOA. Membership in the Hampton House — which includes the pool, tennis courts, fitness center and other amenities — is optional. For information about Hampton House membership or facilities, contact the Hampton House directly at 256-533-3040.

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mailing list, have access to the website, receive newsletters and obtain confirmation of actions pertaining to your individual property.

The team has estimated the benefits of joining in this effort over going alone. We estimate the cost of an independent protest to be between \$350 and \$1,500. Your insurance costs can rise from \$355 to \$1,600 per year if your property is added to the flood plain or flood zone. We estimate a loss in property values of about 5 percent.

Points of contact have been established for each subdivision and can be contacted to obtain information and explain your individual

situation. Their email addresses can be found on the team website.

Many of you have already received emails and letters informing you of events and the status of actions taken. Several presentations have been made in this transparent process.

The team has developed a website to provide more information as well as reference materials and links to other relevant websites. The following website and email address will put you in direct contact with our Information Committee: www.hcfrt.org and info@hcfrt.org

We hope you can see the value of contributing and joining in this effort, and we wish to thank all of you for your input and support.

The HCOA Board of Directors meets the fourth Monday of each month. Please notify the office if you plan to attend.

HCOA Office

is located in Suite F of the Hampton Town Centre at 180 Old Highway 431. This is the complex behind Publix. Look for HCOA in large green letters.

Phone: 256-533-6005

For email addresses, resident forms, community-wide standards, the covenant and other documents, log on to www.hamptoncove.com

What's all the fuss about the new flood plain maps?

The following is a letter from the Hampton Cove Flood Insurance Rate Map Team.

As part of a nationwide map modernization program, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is in the process of updating its Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), which defines the "100-year flood plain."

FEMA will use this map to determine who is required to carry flood insurance. The new preliminary map includes 571 Hampton Cove homes in the flood zone. Once promulgated, the public has 90 days to protest and appeal.

The Hampton Cove FIRM Response Team, a non-profit community organization, was formed by a concerned group of homeowners who have volunteered to work on the flood plain issues. The concerns of the team are the imposition of high cost mandatory flood insurance, negative impact on property values and costs of individual protests of flood plain status.

The team's objectives are to iden-

tify map errors and coordinate corrections and to gain a better understanding of what engineering solutions are available to protect our homes.

To achieve these objectives the team has contracted a professional engineering firm to review the preliminary map, perform needed surveys, and prepare protest/appeal packages. The team will pursue the revalidation of existing exemptions, prepare paperwork for homes remaining in the flood plain and perform engineering analyses to recommend flood hazard improvements to governmental agencies.

This issue ultimately affects our entire community and affiliated businesses. The team is offering a united approach, which will have a greater chance of success, to the governmental actions.

We are asking affected parties to make a one-time contribution of \$300 to fund the work. We encourage all homeowners, realtors, builders, banks, insurance companies and area businesses to join the effort. By contributing you will be on the



Spring yard sale

Mark your calendars for Hampton Cove's annual spring yard sale on April 16. The sale is a rain-or-shine event lasting from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Residential need-to-know list



Airboats and ATVs: Don't be surprised this spring and summer to see a motorized boat skimming across the lakes of Hampton Cove.

In general, motorized boats are not allowed on our lakes, but we're making an exception in the case of Aqua Services, a professional lake management company that provides aquatic nuisance management.

Beginning in March, Aqua Services will test the water in our neighborhood lakes and treat on an as-needed basis. Treatment delivery will include the presence of an airboat on the larger lakes — particularly Lake Hampton and Hauns Lake — and the use of spray equipment mounted on all-terrain vehicles for the smaller lakes.

Twice a month through October, Aqua Services will check water clarity and assess aquatic vegetation on our lakes. We want residents to be aware of Aqua Services' presence and to know the boat and ATVs are helping to perform a much-needed ser-

vice. They are here to keep our lakes beautiful so we can all continue to enjoy them.

Door-to-door solicitation: We've had many reports of young adults or teenagers going door to door in the neighborhood to sell magazines.

We have no proof this most recent solicitation was a scam, but we hope residents will be especially cautious when dealing with door-to-door solicitations.

At the very least, ask to see a solicitor's identification. If you suspect a scam, report the incident by calling the Huntsville Police Department's non-emergency number: 256-722-7100.

Vandalism: Residents continue to experience vandalism with reports ranging from the simply annoying to the somewhat disturbing, along with actual property damage.

Please take the necessary steps to discourage vandalism on your property. Keep your garage door closed, use your porch lights, lock your house and car doors, and keep nothing of value in cars that are parked outside garages.

Parents of children old enough to walk alone in the neighborhood, please advise them not to cut through other people's yards as that action may be mistaken for criminal mischief.

Check out the new and the noteworthy in our area

Hampton Cove residents Nick and Sherry Mikus are the owners of one of southeast Huntsville's newest fine dining experiences.

Nick's Ristorante is located in the Creekside Corners shopping center just south of Weatherly Road.

The dining room serves dinners of Certified Angus Beef, premium seafood and Northern Italian fare. In an adjacent cigar bar and lounge, patrons can choose from a wide selection of cigars, Scotches and wines.

Take a look at the menu, and get more information at the Nick's Ristorante website: www.nicksristorante.com.

Tranquility Organic Spa just moved into the Hampton Cove area at 6674 U.S. 431 S., across from Publix Super Market.

The facility offers organic facials and massages and includes a hair salon, The Parlour. Mention you're a Hampton Cove resident and receive 15 percent off all services.

Dates to remember

Blood drive: Hampton Cove Elementary School is hosting a blood drive with LifeSouth Community Blood Centers from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 8.

LifeSouth Community Blood Centers are the primary blood providers for local hospitals, and all blood given stays in the community.

Calling all kindergartners: Registration for the 2011-2012 kindergarten class at Hampton Cove Elementary School will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 pm. March 23.

For information about the documents you'll need to register, see the school's website: www.hsv.k12.al.us/schools/elementary/hces/

Spring sports at Cove Park: 2011 spring registration for baseball, softball and T-ball continues through March 5 at Cove Park.

Registration is from 9 a.m. to noon for boys ages 4 to 13 and girls ages 5 to 17.

Getting clean for spring

The nation's largest spring cleaning effort, the Great American Cleanup, kicks off on March 1 each year with some 3 million volunteers helping to clean, beautify and improve more than 30,000 communities by May 31.

Residents of Hampton Cove can do their part by helping to restore the beauty of our community. Here are some ideas for keeping things clean: All year long, **carry a plastic bag** with you when you go for a walk. Pick up litter wherever you see it.

If you walk a dog, keep it on a leash and carry a plastic bag to dispose of waste. Please dispose of the bag at your own residence.

Don't overload your trash can. When you bring in your trash can, look around for loose trash, which often falls to the wayside as the garbage truck empties the cans. Remember, any grass clippings, cigarette butts and other debris on the street will eventually end up in a lake. Our lakes are filled by run-off from streets, lawns, driveways and construction sites.

If you **contract for lawn service,** it is the responsibility of the contractor to carry off the clippings and debris. Lawn contractors should not leave bags for the city to pick up.



Bag your plastic peanuts, packing materials and **other loose items** to keep them from blowing out of the trash can and into the street.

Bring your trash can in on the same day it is dumped. If you will be out of town, ask a neighbor to do this for you. Return the favor the next time your neighbor leaves town.

On recycling day, put a brick on top of your papers to keep them from blowing away. Again, if you will be away and you need your bin emptied, ask a neighbor for help.

Does your home have curb appeal? Prune overgrown shrubs, weed flower beds, limb up trees to 7 feet from the ground, power wash your sidewalk, mow and edge your grass regularly, add plants or trees if needed and apply a fresh coat of paint if needed. Some of these items may require HCOA approval. Please call 256-533-6005 before adding trees or painting.

March gardening

Shrubs: Fertilize shrubs (except azaleas and camellias) according to a soil test. Late plantings may be made, particularly if they are container-grown. Watch shrubs for harmful insects.

Lawns: Fertilize established lawns.

Roses: Watch new growth for aphids. Begin a spray or dust program. Begin fertilizing.

Annuals and perennials: Check garden centers for bedding plants.

Bulbs: Plant gladiolus every two or three weeks if a long blooming season is desired. Plant tuberous begonias in pots. Plant dahlias.

Miscellaneous: Check and repair sprayers, dusters and lawn mowers. Control lawn weeds with chemicals. Delay pruning of fruiting shrubs such as cotoneasters, pyracanthas and hollies until after flowering.

Source: www.aces.edu

From the Garden Club

The Hampton Cove Garden Club appreciates the community's support of Luminary Night in Hampton Cove.

This year, from the profits of the event, we are able to make donations to Hampton Cove Middle and Elementary schools for beautification efforts; to Veterans' Park, The Care Center, Girl and Boy Scouts and Hays Preserve; and to purchase plants and benches for the common areas of Hampton Cove.

We continue to receive checks from our residents for luminaries.

Thank you, Hampton Cove.