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TouchStone

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CREEKSTONE ESTATES | NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023



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BOARD MEMBERS

- Russ Anthony
- Lora Brandonisio
- Clay Collins
- Ken Ellis
- Linda Hatfield
- Kevin Kantz
- Jim McGinness
- Rob Schlimme
- Don Voyles

CONTACTS

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TENNIS BATHROOM CODE
 2260

Creekstone POA Support Matrix

Issue or Need	Website	Kristi	Yana	Cortney	Jennifer
Access Cards			✓		
Clubhouse Reservations	✓				
Clubhouse Reservation Support			✓		
Emergency After Hours Support : 770-667-0595 (Dial 3-3-3 to leave a page and your call will be answered within 15 minutes.) To be used for issues such as an alarm sounding, access issues, or Clubhouse Rental issues.					
General Neighborhood Info	✓				
HOA Board Communications					✓
HOA Fee Billing Questions				✓	
Neighborhood Questions					✓
Real Estate Closing Support				✓	
Report a Broken Streetlight	✓				
Report a Covenants Violation		✓			
Report an Amenities Security Issue		✓			
Social Event Registrations	✓				
Social Event Sponsorship Questions					✓
Swim Program Information	✓				
Social Event Questions					✓
Tennis Program Information	✓				
Touchstone Newsletter Archive	✓				
Touchstone Newsletter Editor					✓
Website Registration Issues					✓

Contact Person	Email / Website	Phone
Kristi DeNoya-HMS	kristi.denoya@hms-inc.net	770-609-1630
Yana Mazur-HMS	yana.mazur@hms-inc.net	770-609-1638
Cortney Utech-HMS	cortney.utech@hms-inc.net	770-609-1611
Jennifer Goodin-Creekstone POA	creekstonehelp@gmail.com	678-480-4121
Community Website	www.creekstoneonline.com	
HMS Website	HMS-INC.net	

Monthly Board Meeting

2nd Tuesday of every month!

All residents are welcome to observe the beginning of the meeting from 6:30-7pm before the Board enters into Executive Session where homeowner matters may be discussed. Only Board members are authorized to attend the Executive Session.

If you wish to address an issue with the Board, we ask that you notify creekstonehelp@gmail.com one week prior to be added to the agenda.

***Dates may be subject to change**



CONTACT US TODAY - 770-623-6220 - info@frontporchatlanta.com

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Please keep holiday dates in mind. During holiday weeks you may expect a one day delay for pick up.

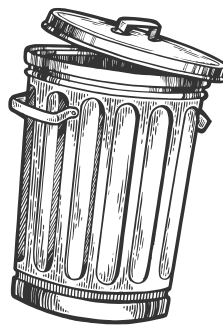
Trash

Please visit the QR code to review the full details of our trash and recycling services.



Trash service is every Monday. Please have your cans curbside on Sunday evening.

There will be NO ITEMS picked up outside of the trash cans. This includes broken down boxes and yard waste. Due to their automated trucks, drivers will not get out of the truck for any reason.



If you need an additional trash or recycling can, you can contact Red Oak directly as there is a small fee.

Please be aware that cameras have now been installed at the Tennis courts and Clubhouse dumpster enclosure. We continue to see items being dumped inside and outside of the cans. This has made it very difficult for those who have rented the Clubhouse to dispose of their trash. The Board has had to hire 3rd party services to clean out the enclosure several times this past year at the cost of our community. Now that the cameras have been installed, they will be highly monitored. Any resident who is caught dumping anything into the enclosure or cans will be fined \$1,000 on your association account.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to creekstonehelp@gmail.com.

Welcome New Neighbors

The Buramshetty Family

2450 Flat Stone Drive

The Chauhan Family

2520 Creek Tree Lane

The Dubey Family

2510 Flint Creek Drive

The Riley Family

2595 Hermitage Drive



HAVE YOU JOINED THE COMMUNITY FACEBOOK PAGE?



Search CREEKSTONE ESTATES POA to send your request to join the private group!

Creekstone Estates Community Facebook Page- we would like to post a reminder that the purpose of this group is to share POA related content such as community news, reminders, and social events. Our page is private to only Creekstone residents. Residents may share posts related to POA topics as well including lost pets and community outreach.

We ask that you do not share posts regarding fundraisers, suspicious



activity, vendor referrals or traffic related issues on this page. Instead, we ask that you please post these topics on the nextdoor app. If you have

any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to creekstonehelp@gmail.com

Creekstone Classifieds Facebook page

We have created a new page where our residents can buy and sell items without having to go through facebook marketplace. Please be aware that this page is for RESIDENTS ONLY. This page is specifically for items for sale and ISO items.



COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Please take the time to log in to our community website, www.creekstoneonline.com to make sure your contact information is up to date.



We won't clog your inbox with multiple email blasts a week, but we do like to keep you informed on important information! Email is the preferred distribution method for key POA issues and Social Events, as well as individual resident communication should the POA need to reach you on a pressing matter. If you have any trouble with your log in please reach out to creekstonehelp@gmail.com.



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PAST EVENTS AT CREEKSTONE ESTATES

Men's Bourbon Tasting

We want to once again thank ROX Fine Wine & Spirits for hosting the complimentary Bourbon Tasting for the men of Creekstone in September! We hope everyone who attended enjoyed the complimentary tasting, pizza from Alessios and the kick off to the NFL season!

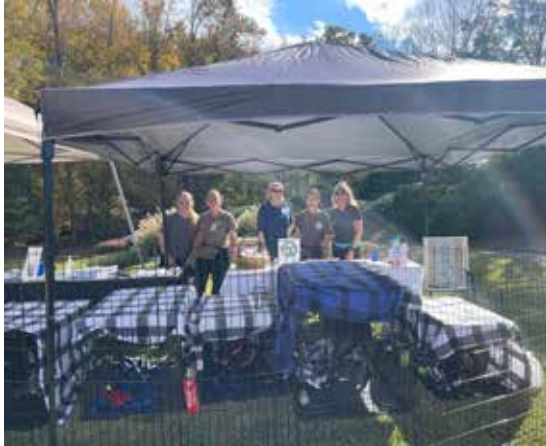


Humane Society Event

We had such a wonderful and informative presentation by HSUS GA State Director, Debra Berger, and such valuable inputs from Rep. Todd Jones, on how best to interact with lawmakers when shepherding Humane Legislation at the State and local levels. Rep. Jones has co-sponsored Humane bills for us in the past and is an animal lover as well.

Thank you to resident, Susan Bova, for coordinating this great event!





Family Halloween Party

Thank you to the families who attended our Family Halloween event! Jack Skellington was a HIT with the kids! All of the kids looked great in their costumes! Congratulations to our 3 winners in our first dance party costume contest!

We hope everyone had a wonderful Halloween!



You Are Invited To

CREEKSTONE
ESTATES ANNUAL

holiday party

DECEMBER

FRIDAY

1

7PM

Enjoy an evening out mingling with your friends and neighbors! Private Chefs of Atlanta is back to cater a delicious heavy hors d'oeuvres menu! BYOB.

The cost is \$30 per person to attend.
RSVP's are due by November 20th.



COOKIES WITH SANTA

*SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
11AM-2PM*



Complimentary
Photos with Santa!
Holiday Fun &
Activities for the
whole family!



Stringing

Is it time to restring your racket? Feel free to drop off your racket at the Tennis pro-shop to be restrung. Wilson, Babolat and Luxilon strings are all available. String types vary from very durable for chronic string breakers, to very soft strings that provide a lot of feel and touch. Turn around time is usually 24 hours. Don't hesitate to contact Danie if you have any restringing questions.

Private, Semi-Private, & Group Tennis Lessons

Struggling with your technique? Now might be the perfect time to take a lesson and work out some of those kinks. Private lessons are great to really focus on something specific, such as using the right grip for certain shots, correcting your swing, learning how to hit spin or even spending some time improving your serve.

Call Danie at (770) 888-8454, or email creekstonedanie@bellsouth.net to setup a private, semi-private, or group lesson today.

Cost :: \$65/Hour

\$32⁵⁰/Half-hour

Fast Paced Drills

Creekstone Estates Tennis offers weekly drills for men and women interested in sharpening their tennis skills and getting a good workout at the same time. These drills feature constant fast-paced action where players hit a lot of balls. Players are divided into groups based on ability level and receive a balanced rotation of dead and live ball drills.

Mon 7-8:30 pm Ladies' Drills

Tues 7-8:30 pm Men's Drills

Wed 9-10:30 am All levels

Fri 9-10:30 am All levels

Cost: \$20/Residents • \$25/Non-Residents

Please sign up at least one day in advance by calling 770-888-8454 or email creekstonedanie@bellsouth.net.

Register via email:
creekstonedanie@bellsouth.net

Kids Tennis Clinics, Still Some Spots Available

A new session of the QuickStart kids tennis clinics kicked off on October 24th. There are still some spots available if anyone would still like to register their child. Please email Danie at creekstonedanie@bellsouth.net

QuickStart - Munchkins (4 and 5yrs)

Monday	36' court	3:00 - 4:00 pm
Wednesday	36' court	4:00 - 5:00 pm
Friday	36' court	4:00 - 5:00 pm

QuickStart - Beginners

Monday	36' court	4:00 - 5:00 pm (6-8yrs)
Wednesday	36' court	4:00 - 5:00 pm (6-8yrs)
Friday	36' court	4:00 - 5:00 pm (6-8yrs)
Friday	60' court	5:00 - 6:00 pm (8-11yrs)

QuickStart - Advanced Beginners

Friday	60' court	5:00 - 6:00 pm (8-11yrs)
--------	-----------	--------------------------

Advanced Beginner

Monday	5:00 - 6:00 pm (12-16yrs)
--------	---------------------------



Sign up online www.creekstoneonline.com
E-mail creekstonedanie@bellsouth.net
Cost: Residents \$190/ Non-residents \$220

Beginning Tennis For Adults

Are you interested in learning how to play the great game of tennis? No matter if you are young or old, male or female and what your ability level is - our goal is to teach you a sport of a lifetime. It's never too late to start! Please contact Danie at creekstonedanie@bellsouth.net if you are interested in learning how to play tennis.



Creekstone's ALTA Teams Advance to the Playoffs

Congratulations to the following teams on a stellar season this past Fall and for advancing to the play-offs

- › Thursday Ladies A7 team captained by Kelly Ditmar/Val Frederick
- › Thursday Ladies B2 team captained by Sherry Juergens
- › Boys 15/u team captained by Sonia Quattlebaum
- › Boys 12/u team captained by Rahul Rana

TENNIS COURT RESERVATIONS

Please be reminded that court reservations are required. If you do not reserve a court you run the risk of being asked to leave.

Please also note that the resident reserving the court must be present for the court they have reserved.

<https://www.creekstoneonline.com/page/23487-707633/to-reserve-a-court>



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As reminder notices are sent out to the community about covenant compliance, we frequently receive repeat follow up questions. This month's covenants corner is dedicated to those Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and Frequently Made Statements (FMS) with answers from the Board. Maybe you've been wondering some of the same things?

I own my home; therefore the POA cannot tell me what I can or cannot do with my property, correct?

When you purchased your home, you signed documents stating that you agree to the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&R's), the By-Laws and other Governing Documents set forth by the POA. Within these documents are rules and restrictions that can have restrictions on what you can do with your own property.

If I want to place a political (or any) sign in my front yard, isn't that my first amendment right?

The CE CC&R's expressly restricts the placement of any sign on your property other than the few exceptions listed in the CC&R's. Political signs, Contractor Signs, non-approved "FOR SALE" signs are all prohibited within Creekstone and can be removed by the POA if a resident fails to comply.

Why do I need to pay the POA a fee and gain permission from a Committee before doing certain work to my home?

Due to the amount of time and complexity of some ACC requests, the Creekstone Board has chosen to outsource certain ACC modification requests to our Property Management Company (HMS) to obtain all necessary documents/signatures and to ensure that the project does not deviate from the original plans during the construction phase. This service was not part of our original contract with HMS, therefore, the cost associated is passed back to the homeowner through the fee.

Why am I receiving a letter to paint my mailbox when we have other residents with much worse violations seeming to go unnoticed?

Your violation has no relation to other violations in the POA. Each resident receives notices from HMS regarding Code/Covenant violations and the Board is then notified when the violations are not corrected within a suitable time frame.

I don't use the amenities, I don't swim or play tennis. Why do I have to pay my POA fees?

Use or non-use of the amenities has no bearing on your quarterly dues. The dues for the association cover much more than swim/tennis/clubhouse expenses, including landscaping, insurance, property management, legal, utilities, taxes, accounting, etc. Failure to pay POA fees can result in collections, reporting to credit agencies, potential wage garnishment and even foreclosure.

Why does the Board seem so concerned with minor Covenant violations when we have much bigger issues such as habitual speeders and stop sign violators in the neighborhood?

The Board does not prioritize Covenant violations over other issues. It is the responsibility of the Board to enforce the CC&R's of the POA; where it is the responsibility of the Local, State and Federal government to enforce traffic laws. The Board of Directors has no jurisdiction or authority to address vehicle moving violations.

Is it against the POA rules to use a garage as storage and therefore park all vehicles in the open/driveway?

YES! The CC&R's clearly state that all residents must use a minimum of two garages for the parking of vehicles and that utilizing all three garages for storage is strictly prohibited. It is STRONGLY encouraged for all residents to utilize all three garages to park vehicles/golf carts.

Can the POA fine me for a code violation?

Yes. Each violation carries a different fine and the POA has every right to enforce these fines. Failure to pay fines can lead to collections and even wage garnishment.

Kids in the neighborhood keep ringing my doorbell late at night and waking me up. Why isn't the POA doing anything about this?

Unfortunately the POA cannot prevent teenagers or strangers from coming on your property. This is a trespassing incident that would need to be reported to the Forsyth County Sheriff's Dept."

Modifications Requests

If you have not already done so, you will need to register for your HMS Community Website (www.HMS-inc.net). Once registered, please sign in to the HMS Community Website, then navigate to the Downloads page under the The Association drop-down menu. On that Downloads page, select the Architectural folder. Then, click on the name of the Application for Modification link to download the PDF form.

Once you've completed that Application for Modification form, you can submit your request to HMS using the Modification Requests webpage, found under the My Account drop-down menu. On that page, you can upload the completed form and any other relevant files and submit your request to be reviewed. HMS will ensure that your Board and/or architectural committee are able to review your request.

Please note that you do not need to email the completed form to HMS. By submitting your modification request online, the appropriate staff at HMS are automatically notified, and your request is automatically added into our records.

For any questions, please reach out to Yana Mazur at yana.mazur@hms-inc.net

COVENANT FOCUS ITEMS

Signage

The Creekstone Estates covenants do not permit yard signage (other than approved For Sale signs) in homeowner's yards. This includes political, contractor, graduation, sports, etc.



Trash Cans

Remember to store them out of view. They are not to be stored on the side of your home or in front of your garage. Only place them at the curb on trash removal day.



Sports Equipment

All sports equipment must be stored out of view when not in use.



Pine Straw

Refresh at least twice per year or as needed. Especially if it has turned white or gray or if there is bare dirt showing.

Weeds

Lawn and plant beds should be free of weeds. Remember to treat or pull them on a regular basis.



Lawn

Your lawn should be mowed at least once a week to every 10 days during the growing season.

Thank you for your attention to these matters!

Creekstone Estates Application Review Fees

Note: If you are simply replacing parts of existing structures or performing regular preventative maintenance, it is not necessary to submit an application. If you are unsure please contact Yana.Mazur@hms-inc.net

Tier 1
Basic modifications

Tier 3
Significant modifications

Tier 2
Moderate modifications

Tier 4
Complex modifications

Need an ACC Application?
Scan this



The POA has noticed many unapproved exterior projects during the past few months. We would like to remind everyone to review the community guidelines (www.creekstoneonline.com/page/23487-493964/modifications-information) and submit an application for modification as you tackle your spring projects! If a project begins without ACC approval and the project does not meet the community guidelines, it is at the expense of the homeowner to correct/modify any unapproved issue related to the project. If you are planning a project, please keep in mind that the application requires a signature from neighbors sharing a common boundary line. Awareness of the neighboring homeowners will be considered by the ACC Committee, but will not be binding. No application will be considered unless this section is complete.

We encourage the residents who sign off on their neighbors ACC application to review the complete plans and all modifications being submitted.

Please Note: ACC Approved Sign For Projects Required In Tier Levels 2, 3, or 4

Approved modifications that fall into Tier Levels 2, 3 or 4, will be required to post a temporary sign in the front yard, which provides information that the project has received proper approval from the ACC. Details on how to obtain the sign will be included in your approval letter and also require a fully refundable sign deposit of \$50, remitted by check. Once the project is complete, you will notify HMS by emailing Yana Mazur at Yana.Mazur@hms-inc.net, who will coordinate the pickup of the sign and refund of the \$50 sign deposit. Sign deposits will be remitted when sign is issued, following the official approval of the modification request.



PLEASE KEEP YOUR STREET TREES TRIMMED!

We have been receiving complaints from the school bus drivers that there are several areas where trees branches are low enough that they are hitting the bus and could possibly injury a child with their window open. They cannot by law drive in the middle of the road around these trees.

We also ask you to please check your street trees for branches that are hanging too low over the sidewalks. Many residents enjoy walking down the sidewalks and many are being blocked by street tree branches.

Please check your street trees and trim if necessary. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Important information to share with your contractors and landscapers:

Please remind landscapers to not blow grass clippings and debris into our lakes or in the storm drains. If you see this happening, please report the issue to the county.

Please make your contractors and landscapers aware that they should be parking on the sidewalk side of the road only. When cars are parked on both sides of street it makes it difficult for school buses and emergency vehicles to pass through. If you see that the road is blocked, you can contact the non emergency sheriff's at 770-781-3087.

Ground Covering- now that fall is in the air, it's a great time to freshen up pine straw and mulch! Please note that if you are having bulk mulch or dirty being delivered, it must be delivered in your driveway and not the street/sidewalk. Recently there have been instances where these items were delivered in the street and blocking traffic. If you see this, please contact Forsyth County Sherriff's department at 770-781-2222. Please note that homeowners may be subject to a fine.

Creekstone Stone Columns

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is almost upon us! We are already planning and preparing for the holiday decorating throughout the community! Some of our residents have Creekstone stone columns in their yard. If you have one of these columns in your yard, we ask that you please make sure your trees and bushes are trimmed so the holiday wreaths can be added! Our community inspector will be looking for this on the next drive through. Thank you for your attention to this matter!



Don't forget to submit an Application for Modification for Holiday Gifts!

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO GIVE BASKETBALL GOALS, TRAMPOLINES, OR PLAY SETS AS A GIFT FOR THE HOLIDAYS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO INSTALLATION.



The Application for Modification can be found on the Creekstone Estates website, www.creekstoneonline.com or on pages 18-19

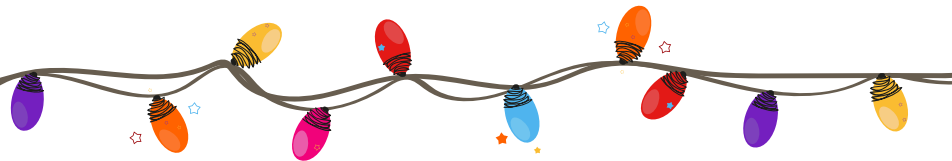
All homeowners who wish to make any modifications to their property are required to submit an Application for Modification. Applications can be submitted at any time and you will receive a decision letter in approximately 15 business days. Please plan ahead for all projects, including Holiday gifts.

THE LAST DAY TO TURN IN YOUR APPLICATION TO BE REVIEWED FOR DECEMBER 25TH APPROVAL IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 4th!

If you need to add a rush to your application, the deadline for rush applications is Monday, December 11th. *Rush fees apply.

NOTE: The use of moveable goals is discouraged. If a moveable goal is placed on a lot the base is required to be black and the blackboard clear as required by the permanent goals. Further, the goal must be used only on the driveway or sodded area by the house and is never allowed by or in the street. The goal MUST be moved into a garage or storage area and out of view when not in use. A moveable goal that is abandoned outside when not in use is in violation of these guidelines and subject to appropriate fines.

Please note that the HMS Office will be closed from Monday, December 18th- Monday, January 1st.



REMINDER ON HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

With the upcoming holidays, we would also like to remind everyone what the guidelines say regarding decorations. Holiday decorations for holidays recognized in the United States are both permitted and encouraged and will not require approval by the ARC. The sound level associated with holiday decorations shall not exceed 80 decibels measured from the front door of any adjoining dwelling, and all sound shall be turned off between the hours of 11:00 pm and 8:00 am.

Due to the increased popularity of using professional vendors for setting up Christmas decorations within the community and their increasing lag times needed for set up and take down, the Board has decided to update the guidelines for holiday decorations. You will now be able to install your holiday decorations 45 days before the intended holiday and will have 15 days after to remove. We hope you have a wonderful Holiday season!



Per County Ordinance, DO NOT DUMP LEAVES INTO STORM DRAINS! If you see a landscape company or anyone doing this, please take a photo and email it to creekstonehelp@gmail.com Thank you for helping us keep our lakes clean!

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- Stump Grinding
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CASH

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CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSET

EARN CASH FOR CLOTHES

10 LOCATIONS IN ATLANTA

SCAN HERE!



UPTOWN CHEAPSKATE®

CREEKSTONE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOC., INC. APPLICATION FOR MODIFICATION

Note: This form must be completed and submitted. Architectural Control Committee (ACC) approval must be received prior to commencing any work. Documentation submitted for review becomes the property of Creekstone Estates Homeowners Assoc., Inc. Incomplete Forms will be returned without review, including but not limited to applications without homeowner signature or with missing information.

Name:		Date:	
Address:		Home Phone:	
City, State, Zip:		Office Phone:	
Email address:		Cell Phone:	

EXTERIOR MODIFICATION TYPE

<input type="checkbox"/> Deck	<input type="checkbox"/> Gazebo / Arbor	<input type="checkbox"/> Screened Porch	<input type="checkbox"/> Fence
<input type="checkbox"/> Retaining Wall	<input type="checkbox"/> Exterior Addition	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping
<input type="checkbox"/> Storm Door	<input type="checkbox"/> Painting	<input type="checkbox"/> Roof Change	<input type="checkbox"/> House Addition
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			

Please provide the ACC with all the information necessary to evaluate your request thoroughly and as quickly as possible. Requests must include, without limitation, the following information: site plan (including all dimensions), color chips (if applicable), detailed description of the request, list of materials, pictures, brochures (if applicable), and any other information as specifically required below or as required by the *Community Design Guidelines* for Creekstone Estates Homeowners Assoc., Inc.

Description of Improvement or Modification Requested (attach separate sheets if necessary):	
<div style="text-align: center; font-size: 48px; opacity: 0.1; pointer-events: none;">HMS</div>	
Estimated Start Date:	Completion Date:

Adjacent Homeowners (i.e., all homeowners sharing a common boundary line) must be made aware of your application. Awareness of the neighboring homeowners will be considered by the ACC, but will not be binding. No application will be considered unless this section is complete, including signatures.

Name	Neighbor's Signature	Address	Aware of Proposed Modification
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>

I understand and agree that no work on this request shall commence until written approval of the Creekstone Estates Homeowners Assoc., Inc. ACC has been received by the homeowner. I represent and warrant that the requested improvements and/or modifications strictly conform to the *Community Design Guidelines* and that these changes shall be made in strict conformance to the Amended and Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Creekstone Estates. I understand that I am responsible for complying with all city, county, and state regulations.

Permission is hereby granted for members of the ACC and appropriate Creekstone Estates Homeowners Assoc., Inc. representatives to enter the property to make reasonable observation and inspection of the requested modification and completed project.

Neither Creekstone Estates Homeowners Assoc., Inc., the Association Board of Directors, the ACC nor their respective members, officers, successors, assigns, agents, representatives or employees shall be liable for damages or otherwise to anyone requesting approval of an architectural alteration by reason of mistake in judgment, negligence or misfeasance, arising out of any action with respect to any submission. The architectural review is directed toward review and approval of site planning, appearance and aesthetics. None of the foregoing assumes any responsibility regarding design or construction, including, without limitation, the structural integrity, mechanical or electrical design, methods of construction, or technical suitability of materials. I hereby release and covenant not to sue all of the foregoing from/for any claims or damages regarding this request or the approval or denial thereof.

As in accordance with the Declaration, please allow a maximum of **30 days from the date of final submission of all information requested by the ACC** for a modification review. The volunteer members of the ACC will make an effort to approve requests in a reasonable time, though some requests may take as long as 30 days as allowed for in the Declaration. The 30-day timeframe will commence upon receipt of all additional information requested and/or required to consider the application complete. If modification is started prior to approval, fines may be assessed.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to monitor construction and enforce the items of this approval. Alterations in the approval plan are not allowed unless a revised plan has been submitted and received ACC approval. Failure to follow the items of this approval will result in an unapproved exterior modification. The homeowner then accepts full responsibility for, at their expense, removing the unapproved structure or altering the structure in order to bring it into compliance with the approval plan.

Homeowner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Homeowner's Signature: _____ Date: _____
(All owners must sign.)

Upon completion of this form, please send the completed form to your Association Administrator at HMS, Yana Mazur, either by using the Modification Requests page after logging in at www.HMS-inc.net, or by scan and email to Yana.Mazur@hms-inc.net, by fax to 770-667-6315, or by mail to:

Creekstone Estates HOA, Inc.
 c/o HMS Inc.
 P.O. Box 2458
 Alpharetta, GA 30023-2458



Did you know that leaks through small cracks around your windows and doors are responsible for 30-40% of the heat that leaks out of your house?



Grab your hammer and join the show! In Atlanta, 404.872.0750 or 1.800.972.8255. Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Dave Baker is WSB's resident household repair and home improvement expert! He provides a multitude of tips and advice on planning, building and fixing up around the house. Follow Dave on his Facebook page: [Facebook.com/thehomefixitpage](https://www.facebook.com/thehomefixitpage)

It's time to give your house that once over for cracks and areas where the cooler air will seep in and more importantly, your heat will leak out.

Begin outside by looking at places where two different building materials meet and around every opening in your siding i.e. around water spigots, dryer vents, and places where telephone and TV cables enter the house.

Fill all openings and cracks with caulk or expanding insulating foam.

Once inside your home, look at the following:

- Check around electrical outlets. You can get inexpensive foam gaskets to seal every outlet. Make sure your pull down attic stairs are sealed as well.
- Measure the temperature in different parts of the house. Differences of a couple of degrees or more indicate that the room is poorly sealed or that air movement inside the house is poor. If some rooms are cooler than others, your favorite HVAC company can help you zone your house properly to even out the air flow.
- It's time to weather strip windows, doors, and garage doors. It's simple and inexpensive.
- Get your caulk gun back out and seal between baseboards and floors. Remove the base molding and fill in the gap between baseboards and floor. This will not only stop air leaks, but will help seal out insects as well.

One last thing to check – if you have windows in unused parts of the house, think about sealing them for the window with a shrink wrap. Once installed, shrink wrap is virtually invisible and easy to remove.

The best part of all of this work is that when it gets warm out again, all of these steps will help keep your cool air in (and insects out).



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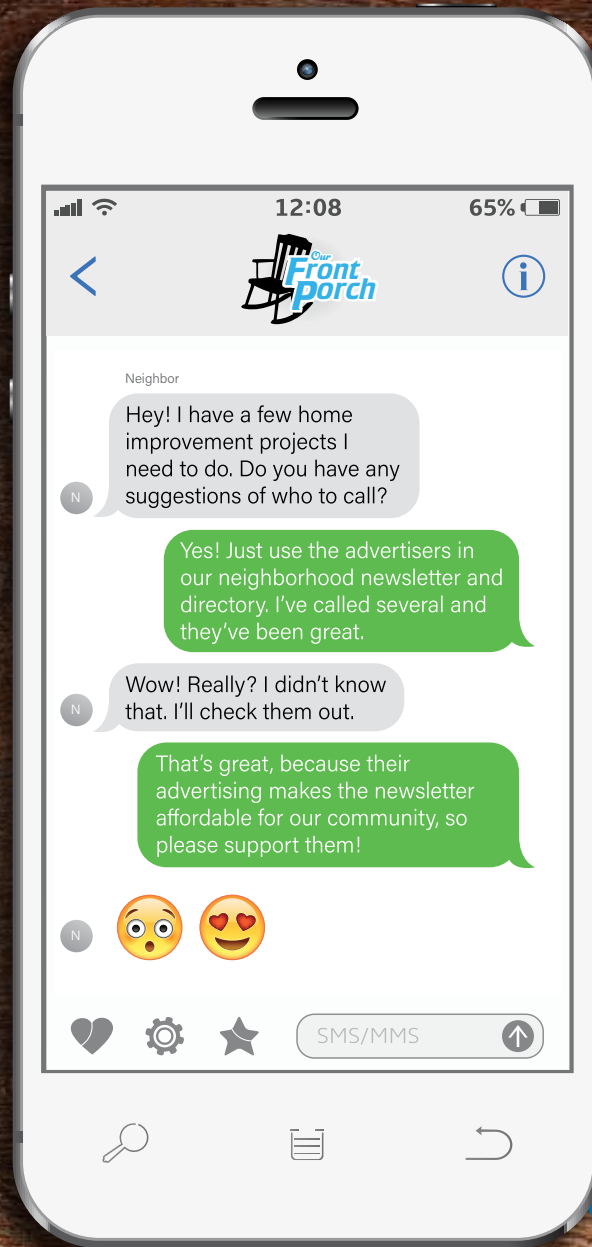
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