

Bluffton Park Newsletter



President's Message

Kevin Emery

Good day neighbors,

I'm Kevin Emery and currently I'm serving as your Board President for Bluffton Park for the 2020 year. I know each of our worlds has been turned upside-down and we are starting, like we say in our household, "a new normal". The other board members and myself are working hard to streamline communication, enhance community reputation, and represent the interests of the community at large and resolve issues to better serve Bluffton Park. I don't know about you, but I love calling Bluffton Park home and will serve in this leadership role to the best of my ability. With that being said, I wanted to give you an update on a few things:

- We are excited to announce that an Entertainment committee was formed at the beginning of the year and had multiple events & ideas planned for this spring. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances with the COVID-19, their hard work had to be postponed. We appreciate the neighbors who volunteered their time & efforts on the committee and I am excited to see what they will plan in the future. Some events that had to be postponed were a Spring kick-off party, another community yard sale, pot-lucks, karaoke, and so much more! For now, check-out the Food Truck schedule on the Bluffton Park Facebook Page.
- Some other areas that the board has been working on are ensuring that our Architecture Review Board process is as painless as possible. In years past the ARB process was very time consuming and painful. The board is working on streamlining the process and getting very clear documentation to you. This will help shorten the approval process as well as make it a quicker process from the planning to completion phases. We appreciate all the work that Joe DePauw has done as the ARB Chair & Board Member. While we are stuck at home and inside it could be the perfect time to get out into your yards to cut the grass, trim the hedges, or even power wash your house or fences. I know I'm taking this time to



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clean up my yard and get my landscaping up to snuff. During this time IMC will continue to go through our neighborhood to identify issues with both common areas and covenant compliance issues. If you do receive a notice for a covenant compliance issue, please reach out and speak with Dave at IMC. IMC has been directed by the board to work with you during this uncertain time, however it will only happen if you reach out and talk with them. The covenants can be found on our website: <https://www.imchhi.com/bluffton-park> or if you'd like a copy of the covenants, please contact me.

- ✚ As a board member for five years, I have seen a history of thievery. Most recently, with the multiple golf carts that have been reported stolen. Our security company patrols our neighborhood on a part-time, limited, rotating basis and we have access to the Bluffton law enforcement, however, I'd love to create a neighborhood watch program. Due to my other commitments as President, I do not have the capacity to take this committee on myself. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering to assist, please reach out to me directly.
- ✚ Another hot topic in our neighborhood, as well as every other neighborhood in the area, has been how fast people travel up and down our streets. We know this is an issue within our community and the board is working on some possible solutions and hope to have those executed soon. In the meantime, I would encourage all of our residents to obey the 25 MPH speeding limit and control how fast you are driving through our neighborhood. Another action our community can take is to request more traffic stop signs in our neighborhood that are on public roads. The three main intersections that we need assistance in providing feedback are listed below. TAKE ACTION by visiting the Beaufort County Traffic Gram <https://apps.beaufortcountysc.gov/feedback/> and requesting to add another stop sign to make it a three or four way stop in both directions.
 - Pin Oak & Eight Ave
 - Red Cedar/Ninth/Red Cedar
 - Ninth & Sugar Maple

We know security & safety are the upmost important in our neighborhood so please contact the Bluffton Police Department if you see something. You can call the non-emergency number **843-524-2777**. You can also contact IMC for any neighborhood concerns at **843-785-4775**. I know we are experiencing this “new normal” together but I really encourage everyone to isolate ourselves as much as possible so we can help and do our part of flattening the curve. Please follow the governor’s and town’s directions to stop the spread of the virus. My wish is that everyone will remain safe & healthy and we will get to enjoy each other’s company again at our kickoff pool party when this is all over. If you have any questions or need anything, please do not hesitate to reach out.



**A Note from IMC
Manager of Bluffton Park
Dave Lewellen**

Dear Bluffton Park Residents:

Our entire staff at IMC Resort Services, Inc. is hoping that you are all doing as well as can be expected in these strange times and that you are healthy and ready for this situation to be behind us. We did want you to know that IMC is still functioning at full capacity and the Bluffton office is still being staffed during our normal business hours.

As we move through Spring and towards summer, we wanted to update you on several topics. By order of the South Carolina Governor, the swimming pool and the playgrounds have had to be temporarily closed. The pool is still being maintained so as soon as the closure is lifted, the pool will be ready to swim. Speaking of the pool, you will note that the pool deck has been painted, many of the chairs have been re-strapped and the chairs all have new bases to protect the pool deck.

You may have seen a new community landscaper on the property. May River Landscape began on January 1 and the Board and I agree we have already seen great improvements. The annual installation of pine straw will happen next month and all owners will receive advanced warning in case they wish to mulch their street tree.

Speaking of street trees, please remember that the trees in the strip between the street and the sidewalk are "common trees". If the association tree in front of your home dies or is dying, please contact IMC. If it has to be replaced, it will be and you may be asked to water it until it is growing and healthy on its own.

Never remove a tree in the common area. Each year we will work with the board and will



designated certain areas and certain streets to be trimmed by an arborist so the street trees meet State DOT requirements. In fact, tree work was recently done on 5th Avenue and Pin Oak is slated for the week of April 20. Estate Management is still maintaining the lagoon system, the pet waste stations are being serviced and Coastal Security is still providing the same patrol and inspection services.

While many of you are home, please take the time to fully inspect your properties and complete any needed maintenance. Items that appear to need attention on some properties around Bluffton Park, include; mowing (especially back yards and around garages), landscaping needs, including trimming and beds needing to be weeded and an installation of new mulch or pine straw, pressure washing of homes, garages and fences, mailboxes that need to be cleaned and either replaced or repaired and the mailbox posts straightened, trash cans and other items stored out of sight, unregistered vehicles moved either off-site or into garages, trailers and boats must be out of sight or in garages or removed from the property. Even though we are all going through this a "Shelter in Place" time, the requirement for all owners to maintain their properties has not changed. Also, the townhomes will be pressure washed, including the vinyl fences in mid-May, after all of the pollen is done. Communications will be sent prior to those owners.

The Board and IMC does wish to thank the hundreds of owners and tenants that do a great job caring for their properties. Please stay safe!

Dave Lewellen, PCAM

IMC Resort Services, Inc. – Manager, Bluffton Park CA

Friendly Reminders

Alligator leap?

- Did you know can that alligators can jump up to six feet out of the water? Don't walk close to the ponds, especially during these months when its mating season. They are more aggressive now.

Pick up after your pets

- Did you know that dog poop is actually toxic to your lawn. It causes grass to burn and discolor. Beyond your grass, it has been estimated that a single gram of dog waste can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which are known to cause cramps, diarrhea, intestinal illness, and serious kidney disorders in humans.

Hush

- Did you know that our community protects the rights of residents to enjoy peace and quiet on their property. If you hear any unreasonable annoyance due to loud music or any other sound device, please contact IMC and we may be able to help.

Pause the burn

- Burning of trash and other materials are not allowed in our community, with a few exceptions. It is always good ask before you burn.

Protect our environment

- Did you know that we love ponds and trees and the wildlife in our community. To protect these precious gifts nature has given the Bluffton Park HOA does not permit dumping grass clippings, leaves or other debris, petroleum products, fertilizers, or other potentially hazardous or toxic substances in any drainage ditch, stream, pond, lake or elsewhere within the Residential Properties.

Golf Carts

- SCDMV requires that drivers must be at least 16 years old and possess a valid drivers license. Golf carts require a permit. Register by completing a GC-2 form, providing proof of your insurance for the golf cart and valid driving license. Golf carts must display a permit decal and drivers must remain within 4 miles of the vehicle registration address. Breaking a golf cart law is now considered a misdemeanor, punishable with a fine of up to \$1,000 or up to 30 days in jail.

Advice on Working Remotely

Amy Moffatt

BOD

As I sit here and reflect on the five years I have worked remotely, I can't help but think that I have been on a rollercoaster ride of emotions. At first, I hated working from home. I had a serious case of FOMO; it felt like I was missing all the important conversations taking place on campus, missing out on human interaction, office drama, water cooler chats, basic "do you have a moment?" interruptions with staff members, etc. Once I settled down with a routine, accepting my fear of missing out, I soon realized that working from home had its perks. I was productive-- *really* productive. I could flex my hours to take an 8:30 AM workout class or take my dogs for a walk in the middle of the day. I still participated in meetings via webcam, and I still felt like a valued member of the staff.

I say all of this because transitioning to working from home will take its toll. You will laugh when your husband walks in on a conference call not knowing the webcam is on; you will cry because you are missing your in-person interactions; you will yell at your computer when there's yet another technical glitch; you will talk to yourself (more than you thought was possible); and you will feel accomplished when you finish the multiple/competing priorities that you are presented with in your job.

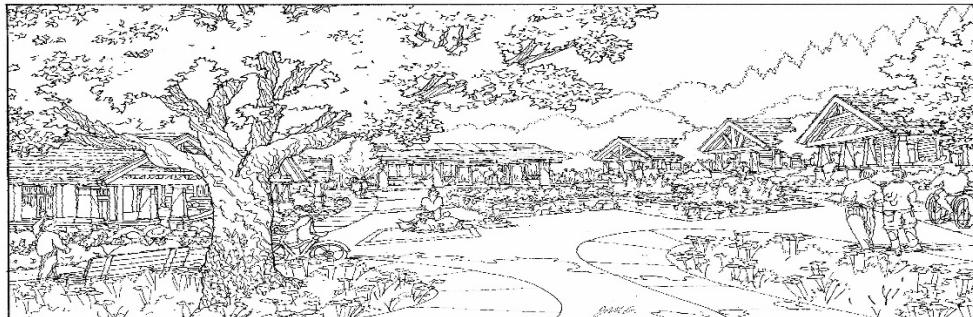
For a lot of you, this is your first experience working remotely, and I wanted to offer a few tricks that I have learned over the years in helping me stay sane, focused, and thankful.

- ⊕ **Office Space:** Not the movie (although a classic), but the area in your house where you can designate an office space. Wherever this may be (bedroom, living room, kitchen, etc.) make sure you can easily shut off work and turn the space back into whatever function it was made for. For example, ideally the perfect space would be a spare bedroom or bonus room, with a door, separated from your everyday living spaces. This will allow you to arrive at work and leave every day, and it keeps you really focused on "turning it off" during non-work hours. However, I realize not all of us have that luxury, so if you have to get creative and use your kitchen bar, dining room table, or living room space, I would encourage you to establish some sort of boundaries to allow you not to think about work 24/7.

- **Work/Life Balance or Harmony:** “Oh I’ll keep working on this project or check my emails at 9 PM.” It will happen, and this is the most important key to being successful at working remotely. You need to know when to flip the switch or shut it down. It’s not easy; in fact, I am still at fault on occasion, but as long as you recognize it, and do your best, it will help your physical and mental well-being. For those of you with children, working a unique work schedule before or after teaching lessons, during screen time, after bedtime, etc., I applaud you. This hectic schedule is not what you signed up for you. If you can, try to advocate for meeting times or work calls that better accommodate the demands of these new responsibilities. Do what you can; give yourself grace; and stay positive & strong. You got this!
- **Flex Your Time:** If your employer allows, discuss a flexible schedule option for this interim time at home. Find your productive sweet spot. I work best from 7 AM - 10 AM. After 10 AM, I’ll have meetings, questions from the team, or random tasks that will pop-up and need my attention. Take some time to figure out when that time might be for you, and capitalize on it!
- **Take Lunch:** It is so easy to work right through lunch and before you know it, it is 2 PM and you haven’t eaten yet. You need this break. Get up, move away from the computer, and decompress. Take a walk; watch a tv show; recharge and refuel. Schedule out your lunch in your calendar to assist you; it may sound simple, but it does help.
- **Shower & Get Dressed Every Morning:** Yes, you now work from home and you can wear yoga pants and “dress down” for your work day. This is definitely a perk, but take it from an expert, you will start your day off right if you stay in or establish a morning work routine. Also, remember you will be on webcam, and you still want to maintain that professional appearance.
- **Virtual Gatherings:** As I mentioned earlier, this transition may be hard on some of you (I’m looking at my extroverts), and you need that space to see your co-workers and talk about non-work related things. Our office has been great at setting up virtual social lunches, meditation, coffee chats, yoga, etc. just to have an opportunity to see each other. This has been very successful, and we will continue to explore other options! On a similar note, a lot of companies are promoting virtual opportunities daily, both live and recordings, so take advantage of these offerings to learn HTML code or design a website, watch some how-to videos from your CRM, or brush up on another language. You can rent e-books from the NY city library or take a virtual tour of many of the most famous museums in the world

- **Managing Remote Employees:** For those supervisors out there, welcome to a new way to manage employees! The biggest advice I can give is to set clear expectations and deadlines; provide clear and consistent communication; establish weekly team meetings and 1:1 check-ins as needed. Some of your staff will thrive in this environment, and some will struggle. Not only is working from home new to them but also their work responsibilities have completely shifted. Show empathy; listen to their frustrations; and be available. Set up Slack, Microsoft Teams, or another IM platform to communicate quickly.
- **Flexibility is Key:** Welcome interruptions: doorbells will ring; dogs will bark; cats will climb on your keyboard; kids will shake their booties on a conference call; and the list goes on. Be kind to yourself; give grace when needed; laugh out loud; and appreciate the experience.

This is a time of uncertainty, and we hope that you will lean in with one another, connect with your family, engage with community, recharge and refuel your mental health, and stay strong as we get through this together.



Welcome to the Neighborhood

Bluffton Park has seen seven new neighbors join our homes this year. We encourage everyone to give a big Bluffton Park welcome to the following members to our community!

Able Street	Samuel Claxton
Fourth Avenue	Andrew Randazzo
Fourth Avenue	Ashley Elmer
Nineth Avenue	Matthe Suckow/ Lisa Ann William-Chang
Sassafras Street	Roger Daly
Sugar Maple Lane	Tatiana Barrientos
Water Tupelo Lane	Addie DeLauren White