

# *the* Deerfield Resort CONNECTION

September 29, 2019

Summer has come and gone and hopefully you enjoyed the very hot weather! Now we are looking forward to a beautiful fall season! Unfortunately, summer didn't get the word yet and the hot temperatures are still with us. The National Weather Service has designated our entire region as a moderate drought area due to the high temperatures and lack of rain.

By now you should have received your copy of the "Attorney Letter" regarding the formation of the POA. The response has been very strong and we are very pleased with the support for this effort! THANK YOU!! The encouragement and enthusiasm in the feedback lets us know we are moving in the right direction. It is also recognized that some owners do not want to change anything and we respect their choice. Some owners with this opinion may not fully understand what this effort is trying to do as shown by the "issues" they mention. We want to reiterate that it is our intent to assure the property owners are aware of what is happening in Deerfield, be much more involved in what happens, know future plans and provide a forum for property owners to express their opinions.

A few owners have asked "Who is the Committee". The committee members are all volunteers (not officers or board members) and the volunteers were listed in the first "Connection" newsletter in May. However, since some owners may not have seen the list, it is repeated below:

Steering Committee: Georgia Sergent, Dan Valle  
Communication: Tom Peck, Doug Hoover, Steve Wentzel  
Finance: Fran Painter, Georgia Sergent, Bob Hilty  
Legal interface: Dan Valle, Loel Crawford, Tom Painter  
Secretary: Liz Burton, Maryanne Rykalski  
Airport, Runways, Taxiways, Mowing/Maintenance: Bob Lau

When the POA is officially formed, nominations and elections for filling positions will have to be held. The above list of committees is only tentative as the POA membership will have to decide what committees are warranted or needed. Another reminder – all of the previous Connections, committee meeting minutes and other pertinent informational documents can be found at: [www.deerfieldtnpoa.org](http://www.deerfieldtnpoa.org).

There have been a number of residents who support the POA that have indicated they would like "to help". Some have indicated they are/have been members of a HOA and have knowledge and experiences that might be of assistance. We welcome the help... there is a lot of work to be done! Please log into: [www.deerfieldtnpoa.org](http://www.deerfieldtnpoa.org) and send a contact note indicating the areas where you have expertise and can assist or would like to help with.

## FIRE DANGER

The severe dry weather mentioned above, has raised the potential of grass and woodland fires. Campbell County is requiring a permit for anyone that wants to open burn materials. At our last committee meeting we

discussed and noted there have been 9 fires within Deerfield. Only a few years ago, a property owner was simply mowing their lot in Deerfield during a severe dry spell, when the heat from the mower's muffler caught the long grass on fire. Within moments, the fire had spread to nearby trees and completely consumed the mower. It was a very dangerous situation, and thank goodness no house was on the property. Efforts were made to put the fire out with garden hoses while waiting for the Fire Department to arrive. Just this past week, tree trimmings were being burned in the burn pit and somehow the fire jumped (or extended) about 20 feet into a huge pile of old wood logs. VERY dangerous but fortunately, this fire was noted and there was an unsuccessful attempt to put it out with the fire-retardant equipment. The fire department was called, they responded and were successful in destroying both the log pile and burn pit fires. Deerfield Resort Management closed the burn pit area following this fire since it was unauthorized. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is recommending that there be no open burning of any type due to the dry weather. Please be mindful of the dry conditions.

True story shared by Maryanne Rykulski:

“About 5 years ago my brother, his wife and the family dog were all killed in a house fire. By the time the neighbors noticed the smoke, the fire had consumed the back side of their house. The Fire Department arrived within 3 minutes. It took them about 15 minutes to get the fire under control enough to enter the house, but it was too late. They were gone. Fire prevention and protection is of the utmost priority to me, and should be to every resident in Deerfield Resort. We need to take a lesson from the residents who lost everything in Gatlinburg. I would not wish the devastation and sorrow this kind of tragedy brings on any family.”

#### DID YOU KNOW

A structural fire can double in size every 30 seconds; woodland fires can spread as fast as 7 mph and up, grass land fires can spread at speeds of 14 mph and up depending on wind speed, temperature and dryness. The Campbell County Rural Fire Service does an outstanding job fighting fires but they are volunteers and the closest fire station to Deerfield is on Victory Rd (near Cedar Creek & Alder Springs) which is approximately 5 miles or 12 minutes (average driving speed) away from the center of Deerfield. Add another 10 minutes for the firefighters to respond to the fire station and you can see that under ideal conditions help is at least 20 to 25 minutes away. The recent burn pit fire wait was over an hour.

One of the big concerns that has been raised pertains to the fire hydrants within the Deerfield Resort. The questions concern operability, testing and maintenance, all of which are necessary to assure the fire department has a dependable water supply if it is needed.

REMINDER: PLEASE make sure we have your correct email address. Communication with all property owners will only be made through emails in the future. Mailing letters through the post office is expensive and time consuming. Using your email account allows faster communication with the POA membership. If you have not registered or need to change an email address you can do so at: [www.deerfieldtnpoa.org](http://www.deerfieldtnpoa.org) .

Please stay in touch and be watching for the next update.

Good, effective, polite and timely communication is the key to understanding and the elimination of confusion and rage over unknowns or misconceptions. This is what we want the Deerfield Property Owners Association to be known for!