IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO HEATHERWOOD HOMEOWNERS RE DAMAGE TO LAWNS

At the request of Marksmen Landscaping, I recently walked some areas of Heatherwood where damage has occurred. The owner, his number one supervisor, and his on-site supervisor participated. While they acknowledged certain areas where Marksmen was at fault and have taken steps to correct them, there were two issues I observed that are the cause of the great majority of damage:

- (1) As noted in a recent letter from Target Management, many homeowners are overwatering to a significant degree. When I returned home, my shoes, socks, and lower pant legs were soaked. This was on a lawn cutting day, when homeowners have been requested not to water their lawns. It followed a dry, sunny weekend, yet in some areas lawns were so overwatered that there was standing water in the grass and even in the street.
- (2) Many Heatherwood homeowners have lawn services for fertilization and weed control that come the day following our regularly scheduled cutting day. The tracks left by their vehicles are different than those of Marksmen's and in the majority of the worst damage I observed, it had been caused by those lawn services, with evidence being not only the size of the tire tracks but also the chemicals used still being visible even to a layman such as myself.

I realize the issue of overwatering has been addressed many times in the past, but some homeowners must acknowledge that their overwatering and/or lawn services are creating significant issues that need to be addressed. Of course it would not be proper for me to name names, but there is one service used by approximately 55 homeowners that is seriously damaging many lawns. Unfortunately, in numerous instances I observed that significant damage had been done to adjacent properties that do not use the same service.

At a minimum, every homeowner is strongly urged to review watering times of each station with the company servicing their sprinkler system, coordinate with neighbors if necessary, evaluate the location of downspouts so they are not directing water toward low-lying areas, and discuss with their fertilization/weed control company the methods used by their employees when applying products.

Kathy Logan Outgoing President, Board of Trustees Heatherwood Homeowners' Association