



April 20, 2011

Fencing Update

A brief history of how the present fencing policy came to be in our community may clarify certain issues.

The Company that developed Governors Club and then, in turn, Governors Village, Governors Park, Governors Forest, and now Governors Lake had specific aims in mind for each of these housing sections. Leaving aside Governors Club, which is a special case community, the Developers proposed to provide a set of communities built on a village concept. An earlier classic example of this idea is Southern Village.

The Governors Village was the first of our set of communities to be created and each house was to have a front porch from which residents could greet neighbors and passers by. A facet of the image for Governors Village was the mandate to have picket fences in front of each house. These picket fences were to be made by the same selected manufacturer so that they would all be of uniform color, design, appearance, and quality. The same was also true of larger pickets and back yard privacy fences. These requirements were mandated before the existence of the present Architectural Review Board (ARB) and have remained in force up to the present.

When the next stages of development were begun in Governors Park, the same rules and specifications for fencing were maintained, except for the front yard picket fences, which were no longer mandated.

About three years ago, the company that manufactured the original fences in Governors Village went out of business. The ARB did an extensive search for a manufacturer that made a comparable product in color, appearance, design, and quality. Many candidates were rejected, including those on sale at places like Lowes Home Improvement and Home Depot, because they did not meet the standards of the original fencing. The one manufacturer that met the requirements was Digger Specialties, Inc. of Breman, IN. It is the only type of manufactured fencing permitted for use in the Governors Village and Governors Park and the only one approved by the ARB. Its website displays a catalogue with specific photographs of its products: <http://www.diggerspecialties.com/products>. It should be noted that Digger Specialties manufactures its products, but does not install them in this area.

There were two local installers that were authorized to erect Digger Specialties fencing products in this area, and one of those (Exterior Design) has gone out of business. The ARB feels it is important to have more than one installer to keep costs competitive. They evaluated and approved another fence company to supply white vinyl fencing of the same quality.

Currently, the 2 approved installers for approved fencing are:

1. Ace Fence Builders, 240 Cross Street, Burlington, NC- 919-929-2719
2. Seegars Fence Company in Durham, NC- 919-489-5303.

Those who seek to bargain with installers and perhaps obtain a better price should contact each of these approved installers for competitive bids. However, all those interested in installing vinyl fencing should be aware that it is an expensive product not only here but also in other parts of the country. Vinyl is a product that is made principally out of petroleum — and some chlorine — so it should not be surprising that it is expensive.

Those contemplating erecting a vinyl fence should also be aware that substandard or shoddy installation couldn't be tolerated in the community. The concept was and is to keep a uniform standard in color, appearance, style, and quality within each of the sections of the whole development where vinyl fencing is required (Governors Village and Governors Park).

As time went on and further development began in the Governors Forest section, the nature of that section and the different style of its houses demanded a different type of fencing. In the Forest the fencing type was changed to permit a black anodized aluminum fence product available from several manufacturers instead of vinyl fencing. Each of these manufacturers offers an acceptable version of this type of fence in keeping with the style and quality required. Recently, the ARB decided to permit this black anodized aluminum fence style for Governors Lake instead of white vinyl fencing.



Governors Village
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The first in a series of e-mails — sent on 16 October — by one of our neighbors triggered a slew of community e-mails. This first e-mail stated, “The best fencing company to use is Exterior Design and Fence. You can contact Brad Brown at (919) 422-2128. This company has the exclusive rights to the type of fencing that our ARB allows in our neighborhood. I’ve worked with Brad quite often and have found him to be very responsible and responsive to his clients needs.” Some of these assertions are simply not true. When the e-mail states that Exterior Design is the “best fencing company” (even if that is the opinion of the writer) or that it has the “exclusive right to this type of fencing,” these statements are simply a matter of opinion or are not correct as the above description should have made clear.