

Drones in the Skies Over Dawson Landing

Look, up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's ...a *drone*? What is that thing doing up there? Chances are it's your friendly neighborhood hobbyist enjoying a perspective of the neighborhood few get to see. The view is awe-inspiring at an altitude of 400'.

Drone sightings were a topic of discussion at Dawson Landings October BOD meeting during the Open Forum. One question, "Are drones being used by the BOD?". No, the BOD has not used drones to conduct the business of the BOD. One observation, substantiated by another homeowner, "A drone was seen flying low over neighbors' properties at close proximity to homes, operating between car and second story window levels." There are federal guidelines that dictate whether or not this operation was appropriate. For example: Was the drone within 50' of a home; If considered on the property, had the owner provided consent; Was operation near people or moving automobiles; etc.

You may not realize that drones are regulated by the FAA, and Virginia has laws governing their use. As hobbyists, we must be familiar with governing regulations, respect the rights of our neighbors and not fly in a manner which could be considered trespassing or invasion of privacy. Observers, too, will benefit from awareness of these rules, and artistic nature of the hobby. The higher you go, the more there is to see. Ask to look over the shoulder of an operator. It may change your latitude.

Be a thoughtful hobbyist and follow the guidelines when flying the friendly skies over Dawson Landing.

Dawson Landing Aerial Photos.

<https://www.dawsonlanding.com/our-community>

Share your community photos by sending to dawsonlandingbod@gmail.com.

Virginia Law (includes link to FAA)

<https://drone-laws.com/drone-laws-in-virginia/#:~:text=for%20unmanned%20aircraft-,Are%20drones%20allowed%20in%20Virginia%3F,in%20place%20by%20local%20governments>

For more photos, videos, and insight on the hobby, check into the DJI site.

<https://mavicpilots.com/forums/-/list>

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