



Walnut Ridge

Community Newsletter

Second Edition — Summer 2008

Walnut Ridge Community Association

Newsletters are also available online at www.walnutridgeonline.org

Letter From the President

Summer '08 has finally arrived! Coupled with the warmer weather have come noticeable landscape improvements at many of the street corners throughout our community. Your Board of Directors continues to monitor and improve the aesthetic appearance of the community's common grounds and assets. Please make this a joint effort by acknowledging receipt of Annual Inspection Reports and responding with relevant corrective action. We are all dependent upon each other to maintain and improve the market value of our homes.

The summer months also signal a period of greatly increased outdoor recreation and activity. Please continue to be respectful of our friends, neighbors, and visitors. Let us freely embrace a mindset of community when going about our daily routines. Together, with your help and active participation, Walnut Ridge will retain its position as one of the finest townhouse communities on the Broadneck Peninsula. Have a great summer!

Best regards,
Edward Rose, President
Walnut Ridge Community Association

GENERAL MEETING - EVERYONE INVITED!!

Save the Date!

When: Thursday, August 21, 2008, 6:30 pm

Where: Broadneck High School (look for the sign on the door)

What: Walnut Ridge Community Association General Meeting

Included on the Agenda are: All Things **GREEN!** County Recycling, Rain Barrels, Solar Panels, etc.

Special Guest Speaker: An Anne Arundel County Recycling Outreach Specialist has been invited.

PLUS — *Open floor for you to present your questions and concerns!*

School's Out! - Watch Out!

School's out for the summer! Please be extra cautious while driving through the Community. You should reduce your vehicle speed to well below posted limits. Where Children are at play, **even 10 MPH is too fast!!**



Trikes, Bikes, Scooters & Skaters

It seems that some young children have taken to playing in our streets—skating, riding small trikes, bicycles, scooters and skateboards and seem to be unaware of approaching vehicles. **Parents:** please, please discourage your children from playing in the street. **Motorists:** please, please **slow down** and be aware when driving through our community.

July 4th and Fireworks



The discharging of most Fireworks are not allowed in our Community nor are they allowed in the State of Maryland without a permit.

Residents are encouraged to notify the police if they observe the above illegal behavior. Remember, fireworks can cause injuries and house fires.

Attention Pet Owners !

Coco mulch, sold at most garden centers, contain a compound called Theobromine which is similar to caffeine. The mulch, which is made from dried coco beans, can be **fatal** when ingested by pets.

Reminder—There are four Pet Stations equipped with Mutt Mitts and disposal receptacles located throughout our Community. Please use them to deposit your pet's waste. If you notice that the Mutt Mitts need to be restocked or that the receptacles need to be emptied, please contact D.H. Bader Management.

Our Open Space / Common Areas

Walnut Ridge has several open space / common areas which are shared by and are available to all homeowners.

We have noticed recently that children are leaving toys, skateboards, skateboard ramps, bicycles, portable basketball hoops, hockey goals, etc. in our common areas.

This not only gives the appearance of an unsightly and unkempt neighborhood, but also poses a risk for these items to be damaged or stolen.

The Architectural and Environmental Standards specifically state that "Placing all permanent or temporary materials, structures, or personal items on common area(s) is prohibited."

Parents: Please help keep our neighborhood clean and neat and encourage your children to take their toys, bikes and sporting equipment home with them.

Landscaping Enhancements

You may have noticed that some of the common areas in Walnut Ridge recently received a beautification treatment of new trees, plants and decorative river cobble stones. If you notice that any of our new plantings are in need of water, *please* help them out and give them a big healthy dose of water!

Two issues have surfaced regarding the river cobble stones. First, the steel edging surrounding the river cobble stones may be sharp, especially on the corners. Please be aware in these areas. Second, we recently discovered that someone has been removing the river cobble stones and throwing them into the street, Walnut Ridge Drive in particular. If you should observe this action, please contact police as this action is considered to be destruction of property.

Looking for local events? Check out these websites!

www.hometownannapolis.com

www.aacc.edu/events

www.whatsupmag.com

www.insideannapolis.com

www.annapolischamber.com

Board of Directors Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 6:30 pm. **Homeowners** may attend the public portion of monthly Board Meetings to share suggestions and concerns. If you plan to attend a meeting, **please call D.H. Bader Management Services (301-953-1955) to verify meeting dates, times and locations.**

DID YOU KNOW....

That our *Community Documents* are available on our website? Visit www.walnutridgeonline.org and click on Documents.

Important Numbers

- To report power outage or downed wire, call BGE at 1-877-778-2222 (don't assume that BGE already knows or that your neighbor already reported it!!)
- To report water and sewage emergencies, call 410-222-8400
- To report problems within the Walnut Ridge Community, call D.H Bader Management Services — 301-953-1955
- Trash Removal — 410-222-6100
- Bulk Waste Removal — 410-222-6104
- Animal Control — 410-222-8900
- North County Towing — 410-760-3332

THINK GREEN

Community Recycle Resources

Contributed by Anita Ramundo



There are several good sources in the County that would welcome your donations of household furnishings or building supplies and materials that are in good condition. It's also an excellent way to keep materials from going into the landfill. If the items are large enough, assistance may be available to help with pick up and transportation.

- The Anne Arundel County Food Bank and Resource Center (410-923-4255) located in Crownsville will take household furnishings and appliances in good repair for distribution to financially challenged county families or victims of fires who need to furnish a new residence. Donated items are tax deductible.
- The Arundel Habitat for Humanity ReStore located at 8101 Fort Smallwood Road in Pasadena will also take building supplies and materials as well as a limited amount of home furnishings. Store hours are Wed- Sat from 10-5. Donated items are tax deductible. For more information, please call 410-437-7755.
- Annapolis Free cycle is a web based bulletin board where people post and swap all kinds of household goods, and materials. You must register and abide by the web site rules. Items are not to be bought or sold. It's a way to keep good serviceable items out of the landfills. Check it out at

www.freecycle.org/group/US/Maryland/Annapolis

Visit us on the Web!

www.walnutridgeonline.org

So, You Got a Violation Notice?

If you received a violation notice indicating that something needs to be corrected on your home, please don't consider it a personal attack. It surely isn't! The Association has the responsibility to enforce the covenants, restrictions and environmental standards as stated in our governing documents. No one has singled you out, and in fact, many other residents may have received similar notices. Some violations may require your immediate action, especially if the violation concerns health or safety. Other violations may require correction within a reasonable period of time (as stated in the notice). If you feel that you have been sent a violation notice in error, please contact D.H. Bader Management. The Association does not make unreasonable demands in the enforcement of the covenants, restrictions and environmental standards. We depend on your help. Please don't ignore the letter or violation notice. The rules apply to everyone!



Grilling Safety Tips

There are a few basic guidelines that you should follow to keep grilled foods safe.



First, if you plan to marinate meat, poultry or seafood, it should marinate in the refrigerator (not at room temperature). If a marinade is to be brushed on food while it cooks, for safety's sake, do not brush it on during the last five minutes of grilling. If it will be served as a dipping sauce, be sure to boil it for 1 or 2 minutes before serving.

When grilling poultry, meat or seafood, transfer the grilled food to a clean plate, not to the plate used for the raw food.

Hamburger patties should be grilled until they are no longer pink in the center or reach an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold when transporting or serving. Do not add fresh food to a serving bowl; replace the bowl instead. Throw away food that has been at room temperature for two hours or more. When in doubt, always throw it out.

Vacation Time?

Before you leave, remember to-

- ◆ Arrange for the care of your pets
- ◆ Stop your mail and daily newspaper
- ◆ Arrange to have your lawn cut
- ◆ Ask a friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your home and pick up any leaflets that may be left at your door
- ◆ Record your emergency numbers to leave with friends, relatives or pet boarding facility
- ◆ Record phone numbers for reporting lost or stolen credit cards or debit cards and put them in a location other than your purse or wallet
- ◆ Turn off the water to your washing machine (especially if your hoses are old).



Is There Something Disturbing YOUR Peace?

Loud music, barking dogs, howling cats (just to name a few) can certainly disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of your home. There **IS** something you can do:

- ◆ First, establish the facts - make a record of where the noise is coming from, at what time, and the reasons for it. Make an audio recording of the noise, if possible.
- ◆ Speak calmly with your neighbor about the problem. Exchange email addresses and phone numbers.
- ◆ If all else fails and you are unsuccessful in resolving the problem, then you may need to resort to requesting the assistance of the County.

For Loud Music: call the Anne Arundel County Police (410-222-8050). Anne Arundel County has an ordinance which addresses certain noise restrictions in residential areas with an emphasis on amplified music. The ordinance prohibits any person from operating a radio or similar sound device (such as a machine, tool or similar device) in a residential district where the sound generated by the device can be heard at a distance of 50 feet from the device. A person who is found in violation can be ordered by a police officer to cease the activity. If the person refuses or fails to comply with the order, he/she may be found guilty of a misdemeanor and may be subject to a fine not exceeding \$500 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both.

For Barking Dogs and Howling Cats: notify Animal Control (410-222-8900). Anne Arundel County Code § 12-4-904 provides that "A person who owns, keeps, or has possession of an animal may not permit the animal to disturb the quiet of a person or the neighborhood." Warnings will be sent to the homeowner. If the problem persists, the homeowner may be subject to civil fines.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Walnut Ridge Community Association consists of homeowners who volunteer their time to serve Walnut Ridge. Contact the Board by email at: board@walnutridgeonline.org

Officers

President: Ed Rose

Vice President: Laura Richardson

Treasurer: Anita Ramundo

Secretary: Gloria Petit Clair

Members at Large

Michelle Henderson

Paul Losh

Bryan Moores

Community Coordinator

Ziggi Nickel

Property Management

John Sheehy, Property Manager

D.H. Bader Management Services

14435 Cherry Lane Court, Suite 210

Laurel, MD 20707

301-953-1955 Ext. 11

Jsheehy@dhbader.com

www.DHBbader.com

Newsletter

The Walnut Ridge Community Newsletter is published quarterly and is a volunteer effort by residents of Walnut Ridge. If you would like to submit an idea for an article, please send an email to the Editor, Laura Richardson, at editor@walnutridgeonline.org.

Summer Safety Tips: Fact or Fiction?

From Baltimore Washington Medical Center's Healthline



School is out, and children everywhere will be celebrating the long, carefree days of summer. But parents beware: Not everything you've heard over the years about safety is accurate. Here's the truth behind a few familiar summer safety tips:

- **Sunscreen needs to be reapplied at least every two hours - FACT.** A waterproof sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher should be applied every two hours. According to the American Academy of Dermatology, sunscreen alone may not protect you, so cover up and don't forget a hat and sunglasses.
- **Poison ivy can spread from one person to another – FICTION.** Although it's believed poison ivy can be passed just by touching someone infected, the truth is that the rash is actually a reaction from sap in the plant. Remember to wash the skin right away to prevent passing the sap onto others.
- **Sparklers are a safe alternative to fireworks – FICTION.** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 8,000 people per year are treated in Emergency Departments for injuries associated with fireworks, including sparklers.
- **An allergic reaction from a bee sting can occur even if you've never before had a reaction – FACT.** To help keep bees and other insects at bay, keep food and drinks covered and don't wear perfume or cologne when you're outdoors. If you do get stung, scrape a credit card back and forth on your skin to remove the stinger. Don't use tweezers because they can push the stinger further into your skin.
- **Wait at least 30 minutes after eating to go swimming – FICTION.** "There's no scientific evidence that you should wait 30 minutes or 29 minutes or even five minutes," says Joel Klein, MD, assistant director of emergency medicine for Baltimore Washington Medical Center. "There's nothing inherently dangerous about going in the water after eating. But you might want to digest a bit if you're planning any real exercise after a meal."

Ask your primary care physician or pediatrician if you're questioning a particular summer safety myth. As you head to the pool, the park or even your own backyard, use your common sense, pack responsibly and remember to enjoy!

A Word From The Walnut Ridge Wanderer

The Walnut Ridge Wanderer reports on various observations around the community. To preserve anonymity, the identity and gender of the Wanderer will not be revealed. (However, I will say that this Editor is not the Wanderer.)

Where did this heat come from? Just when it was getting warm enough to go out and meet our neighbors, it became blazing hot and we are all indoors again.

I notice that everyone seems to be moving slower because of the heat. No one looks happy mowing their lawn, but you know... it has to be done. It's that same old idea of CURB APPEAL. Stand in front of your house and look at it critically. What does the appearance of your lawn and house say about you? Does your property look as good as your neighbor's? If your houses were for sale, which one would attract more buyers? It doesn't take much money, just some effort to keep your home in good shape.

Now back to the issue of the heat. One day I was out there, just strolling along and my dog started going under the trees that line Walnut Ridge Drive. Pretty soon he emerged with papers in his mouth. Back he went and he came out with drinking cups. Next trip he brought out a soda can. I thought, what's going on down there?

Much to my amazement, folks have been putting their snack trash under the trees. You can't believe the litter that's under there! Yuk!! Come on folks, it takes more effort to hide the trash under the trees than to find a trash can.

The landscaping is really looking good right now. Oh, speaking of the beautiful landscape and getting together on the playground.....it's time to plan for the Fourth of July. I know everyone is looking for a good time with family and friends. Let's make it a safe holiday for everyone and everything.

Please remember that fireworks are illegal. They also are a threat to our cedar-sided homes. The combination of explosives, a breeze and a wood house can be a raging fire in no time at all.

There will be those folks who will think "independently" on Independence Day and attempt to use fireworks anyway. We encourage you to set a good example and refrain from using all fireworks within the Walnut Ridge community. We all must take responsibility for protecting our homes and our children. Burn scars last forever!

Well, I'll just take my walking cane and continue to check out the 'hood!

Walnut Ridge Wanderer



Almond Drive Block Party
(All Walnut Ridge Residents were Invited)
June 7, 2008



The "First Ever" (as far as we know) Almond Drive Block Party was held on Saturday, June 7, 2008. The Party was organized by Bryan Mixon. Residents from Almond Drive, Hazel Nut Court and Peach Court attended. A fun time was had by all!

