

**OFFUTT RIDGE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION**  
www.offuttridgehoa.org  
Woodstock, Maryland

# New Directors and Officers

Selected for 2002

## Volunteer Needed to serve as HOA Secretary

### Election Results

The HOA membership selected a new Board of Directors during the January 31<sup>st</sup> General Meeting. The new board met for the first time in February. During that meeting, as required by



the by-laws, the new board selected the Officers for 2002. Below are the names of the new HOA management staff.

Make a note of them for future reference. Remember, the board and officers are in place to serve the community. Please contact them to express any community matter. Also keep in mind that they need YOUR support to be effective.

### Board of Directors

**Rodney Butler**

rhbutler@comcast.net

**Sheila Abrams-Jones**

royce\_jon@msn.com

**John Mackey Jr.**

jhmacke@msn.com

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### Officers

**President - Willis Williams**

wwilli3300@aol.com

**Vice President - Sydney White**

sw777@aol.com

**Treasurer - Angela Brunner**

abrunner@comcasr.net

**Secretary - vacant**

The board is still seeking a candidate to serve as Secretary. If you feel the need to get involved in your community, please volunteer to be

considered for this important position. Contact one of the Directors or an Officer. You can also volunteer through the HOA web site (www.offuttridgehoa.org).



### Your Web Site

**www.offuttridgehoa.org**

By Rich Jackson

It's hard to believe, but your web site will be two years old in May. Have you taken full advantage of your site? For starters, you can keep current with what the Board of Directors is up to. They meet once a month and the minutes of those meetings are posted on our web site. Need to get in touch with an officer or a director?

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 Send them an e-mail. You can do it from our web site. Want to volunteer to help the HOA? There is a convenient volunteer form located on the web site. Just fill it out and press the submit button and your request will be forwarded to the board. Need information on Baltimore County schools, local restaurants, who's playing at the Morris Mechanic downtown. All of that and more can be found under the useful links section on the web site. Did you miss the last newsletter? It's on the web sit also. Do yourself a favor... visit your web site often.  
 Coming late spring or early summer! Our web site will be remodeled. The webmaster promises to make your site even more exciting. So keep an eye out for the big change. One final note. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Our goal is to make www.offuttridge.org the best site on the web.

**Meet the New Officers & Directors**

**Director - Rodney Butler**

Prior to being elected to the Board of Directors, I served as HOA Treasurer for two years (2000 - 2001)I have lived in this community for almost 3 years now. My wife Melody and I have 2 children and one on the way. I'm employed as the Director of Finance and Administration, for Adams and Associates

**Treasurer - Angela Brunner**

My husband Matt and I have lived in Offutt Ridge since 1995. We've loved living here, as it allows us to feel we are "getting away from it all" -every day. We have a son, Patrick, who is almost 3. I've worked in the accounting field for many years, am a CPA and currently work (very) part-time at Villa Julie College, teaching accounting. I volunteered to be the Secretary in 2001, when there was a vacancy. I'm very glad I did, as I have been able to get to know so many nice people in the neighborhood. "Thank you" to all those who have helped out in the neighborhood and on the HOA in any capacity in the past

**Director - Sheila Abrams-Jones**

I have a degree in Communications and currently work as a senior public relations specialist for the Social Security Administration.

In Oct 2001 I was selected to participate in my agency's Advanced Leadership Program.

My husband Royce and I have lived in the community for 8 yrs. We love the tranquil, pastoral setting of our homes and the friendliness of our neighbors. I am very much interested in preserving our neighborhood and further in fostering community spirit.

In my spare time, I love to garden. If I am at home, that is where you will likely find me. We also love to travel. Our most recent trip was in January when we spent 3 weeks in South Africa.

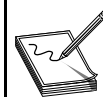
**President - Willis Williams**

My wife Doris and I have lived in the Offutt Ridge Community since 1994. We have four daughters, Sparkle 18,

Bethani 12, Holle 8, and Kelcy 5. Prior to being selected President of the HOA, I served as chairperson of the Architectural Committee and as a Director on the HOA board of directors. My other interest include sports and church. I work for the Dept. of the Navy as an Engineer.

**From the Desk of the Secretary**

By Angela Brunner



Listed are some of the items that the HOA Directors and Officers have been working on since being elected and appointed in January and February 2002...

- Meeting the second Monday of each month.
- Collecting 2002 HOA dues, and mailing late notices. As of 4/8/02, 62 of 77 homes have paid their 2002 dues. Thank you to all those homeowners who have paid their dues.
- Locating and working with a landscaping company for replacement of the entrance monument. Our goal is to start this work by June.
- Locating a contractor to repair the fence and net at the tennis court. Our goal is to accomplish this in May.
- Managing the work at the tot lot at Amanda Court.
- Planning for tree replacement in Fall 2002 with expertise provided by a homeowner.
- Determining the social events that the HOA will sponsor in 2002. We plan to have a Neighborhood Picnic and the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Halloween Bash at the Barn, however, at this point, nothing is set in stone (or granite), so any ideas are welcome and if anyone would like to chair

an event, just let us know.

- Preparing a big-picture, ten year financial plan to assess the HOA's financial condition.
- Please let us know if you have any questions about any of these items or if you have items that you would like to see the HOA address.

## Parking on the Street

By The HOA Board

As we all know our streets are narrow, with lots of curves, fairly dark at night, and are used by people, pets and kids.



Parking on the street is sometimes necessary, when snowy, icy weather, makes some of our driveways treacherous, or when we have guests at our home. This is just a note to request that we continue to be considerate of our neighbors, and park on the street only when necessary. Thank you.

## Mailbox Replacements

By The HOA Board

As the neighborhood ages, many of the initial mailboxes have been replaced. Many lot owners have replaced mailboxes in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Covenants. Unfortunately, we do have a few infractions that are in need of correction. As a reminder the requirement is as follows; Declaration of Covenants - Exhibit C "Each owner shall install his own mailbox and post where his driveway intersects with the public road. The mailbox installation shall

be in accordance with the standards established by the United States Postal Service. **All mailboxes shall be Black, #2, Rural design** as manufactured by the Fulton Mailbox Company. Each mailbox shall be mounted on a four inch by four inch post of pressure treated pine, with a horizontal mount for the mailbox with a diagonal brace for support." Thank you.

## Wanted! Newsletter Articles

By Rich Jackson

Contributions to the newsletter are encouraged. We want to publish those things that are of interest to you. If you know of something news worthy, a special event, a human interest story, or any topic you feel the community would like to know about, contact one of the officers and let them know you want to contribute an article to the newsletter.

**A Friendly Reminder!!**

If you have not paid your  
**2002 HOA DUES,**  
please do so as soon as possible.  
Contact the Treasurer, Angela Brunner,  
for additional information.

## Tot Lot Update

By Angela Brunner



The Amanda Court tot lot will soon have some new play activities - a fire pole, a climbing ladder, and a spring animal. The Amanda Court tot lot was selected for a "facelift", at this time, as

there were fewer activities on it than the tot lot on Peddicoat Court, and a "clear" plastic panel on the structure had become very unattractive. The goals were to add some play activities, and utilize the space efficiently, within the budget. We consulted with a few "playground specialists" to give us some ideas. This was helpful and informative. There are guidelines for the amount of space that should be around each piece of equipment. So, while we found out that there is room for additional equipment on both tot lots, there is not as much as originally thought. All of the existing play structures were determined to be in good shape, so it made sense to add on to the existing structure rather than buy new equipment. This also allows for additions in the future. The work will be done by Rockland Woodworks.

## Still Speeding?

What is it going to take to get people to slow down... a tragic accident? I certainly hope not. The following article appeared in the last newsletter. We've chosen to print it again in hopes that the message will finally get through.

For some unknown reason, Peddicoat CT. has turned



into a speedway. So has Amanda CT. We all need to **OBEY THE LAW** when driving in the community. It doesn't matter if the streets are clear of traffic or crowded with children at play, **DRIVE SLOW** and with **CAUTION** in the community. The speed limit in Offutt Ridge is **25 MPH**. **Are YOU obeying the law?**

The HOA has notified the Police of this problem. We want our neighbors to obey the law before someone gets hurt. If you are concerned about this problem, report the tag numbers of speeders to the Police. This has got to stop.

### Summer Fun Anyone?

Each year, the HOA sponsors a community picnic. That will continue, but the Board would like to know if the community has any suggestions of other fun things we could do this summer. We want to bring the community closer together, and this may be a way to do it. Perhaps we could sponsor a tennis tournament or a golf outing. How about a neighborhood softball game or maybe we could all go bowling? We could even give an evening dance for the adults... as in rent a hall and party! 😊 It's your call, so put your thinking caps on and pass those suggestions on to a Board member or an officer. Here's your chance to get involved.



### HOME REPAIRS

#### Replacing Polybutylene Pipes

By John Mackey

We are considering finishing our basement and felt it was a good time to change out the polybutylene pipe (poly) to make it a cleaner job. I spoke with my neighbor Joe

Jefferson who had his house re-piped three years ago and he recommended Plumbing Express. I made an appointment for a Plumbing Express representative to come out to talk to us and he made the process seem simple and straightforward. He noted that Plumbing Express's only business is poly pipe removal and house re-piping. They operate in several states on the East Coast. The Plumbing Express representative noted that they do a so-called turn-key operation. This means they remove the old poly, re-pipe the entire house, replace and repair sheet rock to include stippling of ceilings, replace ceramic tile and finally match and paint any exposed surfaces. He indicated that the entire job would take one week to complete. We signed a contract, with the entire job costing around \$5000 to complete. The representative also indicated that they do not replace poly with copper if you are on a well, due to acidity issues with well water (this was verified by a different plumber). They re-pipe the house with a CPVC pipe called flowguard gold). A two-man crew showed up on a Monday at 10am. They encase every room they will be working on in plastic sheeting to keep down dust, dirt and debris. They finished removing the old poly and completely re-piped the house by 4:30pm. Tuesday, a crew of three different guys showed up to replace and repair the sheetrock, and ceramic tile. They completed their work at 5pm with the entire job being finished. I was amazed it only took two days to complete. It was done professionally

and with a minimum off mess and disruption. I have a complete brochure to lend anyone who is interested. It shows exactly what they do and how they do it. I will be glad to answer any questions people have regarding the process. Again, the job is not cheap by any measure but it is a much more simple process then I initially believed, and all work is guaranteed in writing.



### What you should know about Fever

Source: James Richardson, MD, associate professor of family medicine, University of Maryland Medical system

- A fever is simply a symptom of illness - not necessarily something to get rid of.
- A fever is a useful part of your body's defense system. Taking anti-fever medications can actually prolong the viral illness by several days.
- But if your fever is over 101 and you're uncomfortable, don't hesitate to take aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen. Fever is a friend - but not one you want to spend a lot of time with.
- A fever can be as high as 106 and not cause brain damage.
- A fever below 101 often doesn't require treatment. Even higher temperatures typically are not harmful.
- Do not give aspirin to child. It's been linked to Reye's syndrome, a potentially deadly illness. Acetaminophen and ibuprofen are okay - as long as you follow your doctor's dosage instructions.
- If your child has a fever, its seriousness may depend on his or her age:

- Under three months, call your doctor for any fever.
- A toddler, call your doctor if the fever reaches 102 or 103.
- Over three years, go by your instincts i.e., how your child feels.
- A fever can cause convulsions (febrile seizures) in a few children. As frightening as these seem, they are self-limiting and not medically dangerous.
- Call your doctor if: 1) Your child has a cold or flu, is doing well, then suddenly has a high fever (possibly a sign of another infection). 2) Your child has a fever with a stiff neck. 3) The fever (in either a child or adult) does not improve after 72 hours, or other unusual symptoms are present.
- Drink plenty of liquids to replace lost fluids.

**Best Thermometer?**

Source: Contemporary Pediatrics, Vol. 5, Pg. 42.

If you still have a mercury thermometer, take it to a hazardous waste collection center. Were it to break, you, your child, and/or the environment would be exposed to the toxic metal. Replace it with a digital thermometer. They come in oral, rectal, and axillary (armpit) versions. Which one you use may depend on if you have a child, and which one he or she is most comfortable with. Pacifier thermometers take up to four minutes for a reading, so may not be practical, and ear

thermometers tend not to be consistently reliable.

**FEATURED ARTICLE**  
**Historic Granite**  
Source: Granite Historical Society  
P.O. Box 43  
Granite, MD 21163-0043

The Granite National Historic District is a rural quarrying community located in the Patapsco Valley of Western Baltimore County, Maryland. In 1994, Granite was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The District includes properties along Old Court Road and several side streets, between Granite Road on the east and Hernwood Road on the west.

**Architecture**

Some 62 properties within the District contribute to its National status, including two churches, a school, a social hall, and over fifty houses and outbuildings. To this day, the buildings of early Granite appear remarkably the same as they did at the heyday of the quarrying era. The village has experienced few modern intrusions. The homes are typically two-story cross-gabled types, characteristic of rural communities throughout the region in the post-Civil War era.

**Quarrying Industry**

These structures represent the period from the initial settlement of the area around 1750 through the early 20th century, when the village achieved its current form. The quarries were at their peak during the last quarter of the 19th century and the first quarter of the 20th century. Two significant quarries during

the peak mining time were Waltersville and Fox Rock. Granite was originally named Waltersville, after one of the quarries. The granite was used in the construction of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in the 1830s. The most important early project was the B&O's Thomas Viaduct between Relay and Elkridge, completed on July 4, 1835. Later these quarries provided the granite for such projects as the Library of Congress, old Treasury Building, and parts of the inner walls of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. Locally, stones from the Granite quarries can be seen in the Baltimore City Courthouse and Post Office, the old Baltimore County Courthouse in Towson, the Randallstown Elementary School on Liberty Road, and the public and residential buildings within Granite. Granite also appears throughout the district in gateposts, garden walls, and cemetery monuments.

**Granite's Origins**

The area around the village of Granite was effectively settled in the mid-18th century when Samuel Walters built his residence, "Mt. Welcome." This 1-1/2-story frame hall-parlor house, is reminiscent of a structure called the Chesapeake Tidewater house, seen on Walters' native Eastern Shore.

**Quarry Workers**

Many of the quarrymen (1870 - 1900s) were immigrants from Scotland, Wales, England, France and Italy. A significant African-American community developed in Granite during this time. This mix of humanity worked together in various occupations connected with the quarry industry. St.. Paul's Methodist Church (now the Granite Missionary Baptist



Church), located on the north side of St. Paul Avenue, was built in 1878 of granite. A round-arched entrance holds double-leaf doors, sheltered by a peaked hood. On the south side of Old Court Road stands the **Granite Presbyterian Church**, established in 1844. The present Gothic-style building was erected in 1924 of granite and features a crenelated entrance tower. The original belltower was hit by lightning and burned in 1926, and not replaced. The Odd Fellows constructed the Shiloh Lodge No. 3 at the southwest corner of Old Court Road and Bunker Hill in 1888. This two-story, gable-front frame meeting hall has a raised granite foundation. The Granite Public School #3 was built in 1878 and designed by Thomas C. Kennedy, a prominent Baltimore architect. It stands on the south side of Old Court Road, across from Bunker Hill Road. The school house, which is now a private residence, is eight bays wide by two bays deep and features large 12 by 12 windows and a steeply-pitched, hipped roof with multiple gabled dormers.

**Granite Historical Society**

The Society was established in 1989 for the purposes of preserving, promoting, and researching the rich heritage of the Granite area and communicating that knowledge to others in an effort to enhance historical appreciation. The Society worked to nominate the Granite community as a National Historic

District. New members are welcome.

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**Randallstown Library**

Source: The Baltimore Sun(3/27/02)

The Baltimore County Public Library plans to open its Randallstown branch April 29, nearly a year after the building was damaged by fire. "It's going to be a better, safer building then it was before the disaster," says James H. Fish, the county library system's director.



The building, at 8604 Liberty Road, has been closed since May 5, 2001, when a fire caused extensive structural, smoke and water damage. The \$1.2 million restoration project involved 5 contractors, who repaired a portion of the roof and electrical, climate control, computer and telephone systems. The library will also have new ceiling tiles, carpeting, light fixtures and some new shelving and furniture. In addition the fire alarm and sprinkler systems have been replaced. Library officials had hoped the damage could be repaired in a few months. But the project proved to be complex, requiring that the building be stripped to its concrete walls.

**Tips for Purchasing a Cell Phone**

A cell phone purchase can be almost as complex as buying a car. There are dozens of wireless price plans, features and services. The trick is finding the package that is right for you. Here are

some things to consider:

- ⇒ Determine what you will be using the phone for. (emergencies, etc. )
- ⇒ Research service providers, and decide which company will give you more for your money.
- ⇒ After choosing a provider, choose a service plan. Take into consideration price, features, extras, length of contract, price per-minute, and cancellation fees.
- ⇒ Choose a phone. Make sure that the phone you choose is easy to operate, the push buttons are easy to use and visible, and that the phone is the right size for you.
- ⇒ Monitor the monthly statement from your service provider to assure that you are being charged for the correct plan.

**Quote of the Day**

Whenever you are asked if you can do a job, tell 'em, "Certainly, I can!" Then get busy and find out how to do it.

-- Theodore Roosevelt

