

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

HOA Annual Block Party

Sept. 8, 2002 • 3pm to 6pm • Amanda Ct. Tot Lot

Have a Safe Summer!

HOA BLOCK PARTY

By Sidney White III

Its coming close to that time of year again where we all get together and share an afternoon of fun and food. This years Block Party will be held at the...

Amanda Court Tot Lot
Sunday September 8, 2002
3pm - 6pm

The HOA will be providing the main course and refreshments. We are asking for community residents to bring side items, i.e.. Tossed Salad, Potato Salad, Deserts, Dips, etc. Please call me to let me know which item(s) you would like to bring, so as to minimize repetition. I would suggest that you bring chairs and/or blankets for your comfort, as well. Look forward to seeing everyone there. Call me at (410) 496-6823, with any questions or if you would like to volunteer to assist. Thank you. - *Sidney White III.*

ENTRY MONUMENT

By John Mackey

After several fits and starts, it looks as though we are getting closer to building the new Offutt Ridge Monument everybody has been patiently waiting for. Your HOA has signed a contract with the Payne Landscaping Company to remove the existing monument, and replace it with a lovely new brick monument. The architectural drawing is complete and we have applied to the county for the necessary permits to begin construction. That's the good

news. Unfortunately, the permit process has become bogged down and we are awaiting our paperwork to be returned from the County, who has advised us that it needs modification. To date, it has not arrived. Once we receive our permits, we will contact Payne and schedule construction to begin.

The process of building the new monument will take approximately one week (so we are told). We are working diligently to bring this project to a close and we are confident everyone will be pleased with the final result. Please feel free to contact me if you would like more specific information - *John Mackey, (410) 496-2687.*

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Willis Williams, HOA Pres.

Well, we are midway through the year. Your Homeowners' Association (HOA) is making significant progress on the many goals that we set early in the year. As your HOA President, I have set a few personal goals for the community as well. First, I would like to get to know each and every one of you. In the process, I would like to get your informal feedback on how you think we are doing. So if you get a call and I say, 'how are we doing so far, just let me know your thoughts. Second, if you don't already know our Board Members and other Officers, I would like for you to meet them. They are doing an excellent job!!! Finally, I would like for each of us to think about maybe slowing our busy schedules down a little bit during the rest of this summer, so that we can take the time to make our neighborhood a more friendly one. For example, are your immediate neighbors still practically strangers? Well, talk to them and get to know them. (Note: I didn't say you had to like them, just know them - ha, ha). You know, it is easy to be so busy that we don't take the time to enjoy our wonderful surroundings. Let's change that.



process, we will schedule a local nursery to replace the dead and/or damaged trees early in the fall. We are all keenly aware of the drought situation that we are in and have been in over the last few years but we feel that by replacing trees in the fall, we will give them additional time to establish themselves.

2nd ANNUAL BASH @ THE BARN

By Sidney White III

We are currently in the planning stages for our second Halloween Bash at the Barn. Started last year as an attempt to bring community children together for some fun, food, and entertainment, this event drew almost 100 community residents and family. We are looking for volunteers to help with event planning. Any residents that have talents in Halloween decoration, storytelling, games, etc. are asked to join in on the fun. The preliminary date is Saturday October 26, 2002. More news will follow. Call me for more information and to volunteer. - Sidney White III, (410) 496-6823.

WINDSOR MILL ROAD EXTENSION

By Rodney Butler

The HOA was recently invited to and participated in a multi-community meeting concerning the County's long-range plan of extending Windsor Mill Road to connect to Offutt Road and then through to Marriottsville Road then crossing Liberty Road to eventually join up with Owings Mills Boulevard. This plan calls for several major puzzle pieces

to take place including the acquisition of current homeowner properties and the acquisition of rights-of-way in new developments. Community action was mobilized at this time due to the newly planned Offutt Village development near the 90-degree bend on Offutt Road. Part of the development plans for this community includes a 70-foot road right-of-way (4 traffic lanes) for the county, which would place the county within "a stones throw" of connecting to Windsor Mill Road. This would also mean that the long-established community currently at the end of Windsor-Mill Road (referred to as Inwood) would lose their isolation as the roads are connected.

There are several other issues with this that would take too long to put in print here, but the essence of this issue is that it appears that the County is seeking to construct an alternate route connecting traffic from Carroll County and Owings Mills to the Woodlawn, HCFA, and Social Security. This multi-community meeting was called to make everyone aware of the issues and attempt to define what we, as affected communities, would like to do. We all understood the county's desire to address traffic concerns, however, we are greatly concerned how these decisions will affect our current quality of life, property values, increased area traffic, pedestrian traffic, commercial business expansion, etc. We decided that the combined community associations, representing over 2000 households, would send a petition noting our collective

TREE REPLACEMENT

By John Mackey

In August, your HOA representatives along with resident tree expert, Tom Young, plan to tour the Offutt Ridge community to assess the condition of the area trees located along the streets. Our goal is to identify the trees that need replacing. After the evaluation

concern with the County's current plan and seeking to develop alternative options. The communities associations represented included:

- Mardella Run Estates Homeowners Association
- Offutt Ridge HOA
- Windsor/Inwood Community Association
- Fieldstone Community Group
- Edrich Manor Association
- Birchwood Association
- Liberty Manor Community Association
- Fields Of Harvest Community Association
- Brice Run Neighborhood Association
- Stevenswood Improvement Community Association
- Greater Patapsco Community Association (GPCA)
- Hernwood Heights Community Association
- King's Park Community Association

If you would like more details on these planned roads or would like to share your specific viewpoint, please feel free to contact me. - *Rodney Butler, (410) 496-8107.*

IN THE GARDEN

By Sheila Abrams-Jones

Prolonged drought conditions, combined with this summers excessive heat, are presenting many special gardening challenges. The biggest challenge comes in trying to maintain something that we all have a lot of here at Offutt Ridge - lawns. Remember, if we have a prolonged period without water, the cool-season grasses, such as the fescues, that most commonly are planted in this part of Maryland, will go semi-dormant. This is a natural response of plants through which they try to limit growth and conserve their

resources. However, when plants are cut, there is another natural response that tells them to start growing again. That is why cutting lawns during droughts is not good because it encourages growth during a stressful period. While the lawn is semi-dormant and resting, the best thing that you can do for it is let it rest. You will not need to cut it as often and you should cut it a bit higher to help protect it. As much as we hate to see brown, nature knows best. When rainfall returns, your lawn will quickly "green up" again. As your grass begins to grow again, you can crank up the mowers more often and follow these basis lawn care practices to help maintain a healthier lawn.

Lawn Care:

Mowing

Everyone loves to see a healthy stand of green turfgrass, but most of us hate the chore of mowing it on a regular basis. Yet proper mowing is one of the simplest and least expensive preventative maintenance practices. And, any mowing management practice that increases the density and vigor of desirable turfgrass tends to discourage weeds.

Among the factors that should be considered when evaluating a mowing program:

1. Height of cut.
2. Frequency of cut.
3. Maintenance of mowing equipment.
4. Whether to return or collect grass clippings

Low and infrequent mowing can be a major cause of lawn deterioration. Remove no more than 1/3 of the grass blade each

time you mow. For example, to maintain a 2-inch height, mow before the grass gets taller than 3 inches. Mowing to the proper height can reduce weeds and diseases by 50% to 80% in tall fescue. Removing larger amounts of leaf surface may result in physiological shock to the plant, cause excessive graying or browning of leaf tips, and greatly curtail photosynthesis. In addition, the accumulation of clippings may smother the grass, and provide an environment conducive to disease and insect damage. The rate of growth will depend on weather, season, soil fertility, moisture conditions, and species.

To pick up grass clippings or not to pick up grass clippings - that is the question? Currently, grass clippings and other yard debris represent around 20% of the solid waste deposited in landfills. Recycling by returning the clippings to the lawn is an excellent way to do something positive for the environmental effort and do something beneficial for you and your lawn.

If performed correctly, returning grass clippings will not detract from the appearance of the lawn or cause accumulation of thatch. In fact, this practice will reduce the labor involved in bagging and return essential nutrients to the soil. When clippings are returned, a substantial amount of nitrogen and other nutrients can be used by the turf, thus reducing fertilizer requirements by 25% or more.

Mulching mowers are rotary mowers designed to keep clippings circulating under the

mower deck so that leaf blades will be chopped into finer pieces. This will hasten clipping decomposition and reduce the amount of residue on the lawn. If you do not already have a mulching mower, most manufacturers are offering mulching "kits."

Repairing Bare Spots

In the fall, when regular rainfall returns (hopefully) and the lawns are awake again, you might see some localized bare spots. These can be quickly and easily prepared by using the following steps:

Step 1: Remove the dead grass, weeds, etc. with a shovel and/or rake.

Step 2: Sprinkle grass seed on the soil. Then apply a pre-plant type of fertilizer, not a standard formulation for established lawns, over it.

Step 3: Lightly cover the seed with soil, Slightly mound the soil because it will compact with time.

Step 4: Apply a light layer of organic mulch, such as hay or straw.

Step 5: Firm the surface with gentle foot pressure.

Step 6: Keep the soil surface moist until the new seedlings are well established. Then maintain the lawn in a normal manner.

Care for Other Plants During Drought :

Mulching will help to hold precious moisture around most plants during drought. And, remember for your future landscaping choices that there are many plant varieties that are drought-tolerant once established. Ask at your local nursery.

If you have any gardening or pest questions really bugging you, call the University of Maryland

Cooperative Extension Service's Home and Garden Information Center at 1-800-342-2507 or access their website at www.agnr.umd.edu/users/hg-ic.

Remember think rain and happy gardening.

TOT LOT NEWS

By Angela Brunner

A new piece of equipment - a teeter-totter - was added to the Peddicot Court tot lot in June. In April, a spring toy (Freddie the Frog.), a climbing ladder and fire pole were added to the Amanda Court tot lot. This completes the work planned for the tot lots this year. Rockland Woodworks, located on Liberty Road, did all of the work. In 2003, the expected needs for the tot lots will include mulching and equipment maintenance.

FRIENDS OF THE RANDALLSTOWN LIBRARY

By Paulette Jackson

First organized in October 1998 as a chapter of the Baltimore County Public Library (BCPL) Friends, Inc., the Friends of the Randallstown Library became an independent 501(c)(3) organization in December, 2001.

The Friends of the Randallstown Library use your tax-deductible contributions to:

- ▶ Promote the Randallstown Library and the BCPL.
- ▶ Stimulate public use and support of the Randallstown Library.
- ▶ Supplement the Library's budget with specialized books,

equipment, materials, and programs.

Accomplishments

- In the brief period of its existence the Friends of the Randallstown Library has:
- ▶ Donated \$1,000 in 1999, \$1,500 in 2000, and \$3,500 in 2001 to upgrade the Library.
 - ▶ Co-sponsored Community events.
 - ▶ Participated in reading programs such as Drop-in Story Time for preschoolers, and onsite reading to elementary school students.
 - ▶ Provided awards for Randallstown participants in BCPL's 2001 Summer Reading Program.
 - ▶ Raised \$2,000 with our 2001 Used Book Sale.

Goals and Activities

The Friends of the Randallstown Library is a non-profit organization that provides funds, assistance and materials to supplement the Randallstown Library's budget. Contributions to the Randallstown Friends of the Library are tax-deductible. Current plans and programs include:

- ▶ A campaign to raise a \$5000 gift for the Randallstown Library.
- ▶ Greater engagement with the business sector, community organizations, and local schools.
- ▶ Increasing community outreach and advocacy for the Library.
- ▶ Developing entertainment and speakers programs oriented to our diverse community.
- ▶ Start a local history collection covering the Liberty Road area.

If you want activities like these, then consider joining the Friends of the Randallstown Library. For additional information write to:
 Friends of the Randallstown Library
 8604 Liberty Road
 Randallstown, Md. 21133
 or contact Paulette Jackson, (410) 922-7028.

COMMUNITY CONGRATULATIONS!!!

By Willis Williams

Your hard work and determination have paid off. Keep it up!

Recent College Graduates

Katherine Creighton

Graduate of University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)
 Degree: B.A. in Modern Linguistics
 Future Plans: Will teach at least 1 year in China starting in August 2002.
 Daughter of John and Brenda Creighton.

Tony Patlaba

Graduate of Towson University
 Degree: B.S. in Mass Communication
 Future Plans: Undecided
 Son of Charles and Roseanne Connelly.

Recent High School Graduates

Lydia Creighton

Graduate of Home School
 Degree: Diploma
 Future Plans: Will attend Catonsville Community College
 Daughter of John and Brenda

Creighton

Sparkle Williams

Graduate of Notre Dame Preparatory School for Girls
 Degree: Diploma
 Future Plans: Will attend Stanford University
 Daughter of Willis and Doris Williams.

Special Recognition

Houston Madison Curtis, age 5
 Accepted into the Carnegie Mellon School of Arts in Pittsburgh
 Granddaughter of Charles and Maureen Vanneman

WHAT IS LYME DISEASE?

Source: (Instructions for Pediatric Patients, 2nd Edition, 1999, WB Saunders Co., Barton D. Schm, MD

Lyme disease is the most common disease spread by a tick bite. About 7000 cases are reported each year in the United States. Complications, however, are rare. Giving up picnics, hikes and camping because of this pest is an overreaction to the small risk. Lyme disease has been divided into three stages. If treated with antibiotics, it does not progress from one stage to the next.

Stage 1 occurs 3 to 30 days after the tick bite. A unique rash develops in 70% to 80% of people. The rash (called erythema migrans) consists of a red ring or bull's eye that starts where the person was bitten and expands in size. The rash at the bite becomes larger than 2 inches across. The rash is neither painful nor itchy. It lasts 2 weeks to 2 months.

Stage 2 occurs 2 to 12 weeks after the tick bite. It only affects 15% of untreated patients. The main symptoms are neurological ones such as stiff

neck, weak facial muscles, and weakness or numbness of the extremities.

Stage 3 occurs 6 weeks to 2 years after the tick bite. It affects about 50% of untreated patients, often without any stage 2 symptoms. The main symptom is recurrent attacks of painful, swollen joints (arthritis), usually of the knees.

What causes Lyme disease? Lyme disease is caused by a corkscrew-shaped bacterium called spirochete. It is transmitted by deer ticks that are the size of a pinhead, dark brown, and hard to see. Lyme disease is not carried by the more common wood tick, which is 1/4 to 1/2 inch in size. In most states only 2% of deer ticks carry Lyme disease. In Wisconsin, Minnesota, and the New England states, however, 50% of ticks are infected. If left undisturbed, a tick will remain attached and feed for 3 to 6 days. How long a tick is attached determines the likelihood of passing on the infection. For Lyme disease to be transmitted, the tick needs to be attached for 18 to 24 hours.

Prevention of Tick Bites

Ticks like to hide in underbrush and shrubbery. Children and adults who are hiking in tick-infested areas should wear long clothing and tuck the ends of the pants into the socks. Apply an insect repellent to shoes and socks. During the hike perform tick checks using a buddy system every 2 to 3 hours to remove ticks on the clothing or exposed skin. Immediately after the hike or at least once each day, do a bare skin check. A brisk shower at the end of a hike will also remove any tick that is not firmly attached.

Removing ticks promptly may prevent infection because transmission of Lyme disease requires 18 to 24 hours of feeding. Call your doctor if you think you might have Lyme disease, if you can't remove the tick, or fever or widespread rash occurs within 2 weeks following a tick bite.

HOA OFF-ICER-



AND DIRECTORS

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Save this column as a reference for contacting your HOA Representatives.

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Vacant: We need a volunteer!

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QUOTE OF THE TODAY



A chuckle a day may not keep the doctor away, but it sure does make those times in life's waiting room a little more bearable.

-- Anne Wilson Schaeff

YOUR SUGGESTIONS

The HOA is always eager to hear the suggestions and opinions of our residents.



Send Your Comments to

Board of Directors
Offutt Ridge Homeowners
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 512
Randallstown Md. 21133
or
Contact a HOA Representative



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