

OFFUTT RIDGE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

www.offuttridgehoa.org

Woodstock, Maryland

HOA FALL NEWSLETTER

Next General Meeting - January 16, 2003

The President's Corner
By Willis Williams

For those in our midst who love colder weather, shame on you. Most of us know that warm weather is 'in' and cold weather is 'out'. But, alas, Fall is here, and that means that Winter cannot be far behind. But, we will survive. ☺



This community continues to be the best-kept secret around the area. I have visited many communities and spoken to many people throughout Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Almost all acknowledge that this community is essentially one of a kind and provides good value. You should be very proud. Part of our job, as your representatives, is to preserve the uniqueness and serenity of this community. I hope that we can meet this challenge.

In a few short weeks you will receive a report from me, which I have entitled "President's Report". This report is being issued in lieu of having a Fall meeting. It is intended to lay out our accomplishments and present some of our short-term goals. I will also ask you to start focusing on our annual meeting in January. Although we will probably have inclement weather, this meeting is very important and your household will want to be represented. There are major issues pertaining to speed limits, street parking, etc. that we need to discuss. As many of you know, the community also elects a new Board of Directors in January. This new Board of Directors will then select the new Officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer). **We need**

volunteers!! Volunteers to assist with our web site management; volunteers to assist with community beautification and improvement projects; volunteers to liaison with neighboring communities. (The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.) As we begin to concentrate on broader issues (e.g., schools, area traffic, county plans, zoning, etc.) and seek to improve our quality of life, we will need to pool our energy and influence with that of our neighbors. Our liaison with these communities will be critical to that effort. But what do these folks do, you may ask? I will elaborate further on these and other issues in my report. Stay tuned. Until next time, have a

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General Meeting Notice

It will soon be that time of year again when we get together as a community to assess the previous year's business and plan for the next. On Thursday, January 16, 2003, the HOA will stage the Annual General Meeting at he Granite Presbyterian Church on Old Court Road. Light refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30 PM and the meeting is scheduled to start at 7:00 PM.

We will be actively seeking nominations for the three (3) Board of Director seats. Volunteers for the HOA Officers will also be sought. If you are interested in one of the available HOA positions, notify one of the Board members now. Please come out and support your community. The meeting will also feature a discussion of and vote on the proposed 2003 HOA Budget. Many other items of interest to all residents will be presented so please make plans now to attend this important community meeting.

Thanks Neighbors

A word of thanks, to the neighbors who...

1. tend to and beautify the areas around the tot lots
2. attended, set up and cleaned up at the Neighborhood Picnic in August
3. attended, decorated and cleaned up at the Halloween Bash at the Barn
4. weeded the Peddicoat Court Tot Lot this summer
5. design and update the website and newsletters
6. serve on the Architectural committee
7. drive 25 mph in the neighborhood
8. submit plans to the Architectural Committee

9. took time to weed or help maintain the monument area prior to its makeover
10. provide feedback, good and bad to the HOA team

You know who you are!

THANK YOU!

Let's Deck the Halls...

...And the doors, trees, lamp posts and mailboxes, etc. To help ring in this festive season and show pride in our community, the HOA is sponsoring a holiday decorating contest. All you need to do is "deck out" the outside of your home. The judging will take place on Saturday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m. when we will be looking for the best-dressed house. At least three prizes will be awarded. We are also looking for a few, good volunteers to serve as judges. No prior experience is required. If you are interested in helping or have questions about the contest, contact Sheila Abrams-Jones at (410) 922-8020.



In Search Of...


Do you have a green thumb and the spare time to help out? If so, you may be interested in keeping the area around the entrance monument beautiful. We're looking for someone to periodically mulch and weed the area, and to replace seasonal plants in the spring and summer. The Lunn family is kind enough to have the area mowed, so the task is a seasonal one, not a weekly one.

If you are interested, call John

(continued on page 3)

HOA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



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

President

Willis Willams
(410) 922-9428
wwilli3300@aol.com

Vice President

Sidney White III
(410) 496-6823
sw777@aol.com

Treasurer

Angela Brunner
(410) 521-6444
abrunner@comcast.net

Secretary

We need a volunteer!

Director

John Mackey
(410) 496-2687
jhmacke@msn.com

Director

Rodney Butler
(410) 496-8107
rhbutler@comcast.net

Director

Sheila Abrams-Jones
(410) 922-8020
royce_jon@msn.com



Mackey on (410) 496-2687 or send him an e-mail at jhmacke@msn.com.

Status of Tree Replacements

Even though money was budgeted this year to replace some of the street trees, we have decided to wait until we get some relief from the drought before going ahead. The new trees would have required water for survival, and we didn't feel that our household wells should be used, and of course, Mother Nature wasn't cooperating. We hope that next year will bring the much needed rain, and our new trees. Considering the current drought condition is in its 4th year we are due for some much needed relief.



Status of the Offutt Ridge Entrance Monument

We are sure you have noticed that the long awaited Offutt Ridge entrance monument is complete, and is one of the nicest ones around. Your yearly dues have provided a community sign to be proud of.

Next year, we'd like to get approval to use some of the budget to add lighting to it. We'll see how it gets prioritized along with all the other needs and wants of our neighborhood. If you have specific projects that you would like to see happen, please contact any of your HOA board members. Your input is important to improving our community.

In The Garden

Think Spring!

Even though it's fall and your gardening days are numbered, make no mistake- this is the time to think spring. And, there is no clearer sign of spring than a field of perky, yellow daffodils



or a bed of majestic, colorful tulips. If you want to enjoy your own spring bulbs, now is the time to buy them, plant them and transplant them. Actually the term "bulb" is often misapplied to a number of unrelated kinds of plants. A true bulb (such as a daffodil or a lily) is made up of fleshy underground leaves around a short piece of stem. Bulb-like plants with different underground parts are corms (crocuses), tubers (dahlias), rhizomes (irises), and tuberous roots (tuberous begonia). However, all of these plants share a common characteristic: they store food in swollen underground parts during a dormant season. When their growth season comes around, roots and leaves and best of all, flowers, sprout from this natural storehouse. Most bulbs should be planted at a depth equal to three times their diameter. Many bulbs look better when planted in clusters rather than straight lines, and odd-numbered groupings tend to look more attractive. When you plant several bulbs close together, it is easier to dig up the entire area to the proper depth, set the bulbs in the hole, and cover them. When planting smaller numbers, especially in crowded areas among other plants, dig individual holes with a bulb planter or a trowel. Place a bulb in each hole, cover it with soil, and firm the soil slightly with your hands. You can also grow bulbs successfully in containers

on your deck or patio.

Remember that you must give the plant time to store energy for the next year. After the bulb has flowered, pick off dead blooms, but wait to cut off the foliage. The bulb uses the nutrients from the leaves to make food for the following years growth and blooms.

Bulbs are actually annuals, but fortunately, they have the same happy characteristic as perennials: if you start with a few, in a few years you can have many. Most bulbs can stay in the ground undisturbed for several years. However, when the flowers begin to get smaller and fewer in number, it is a sign that the bulbs need to be dug up and divided. If you do need to divide your bulbs, the best time to dig up these bulbs is well past the bloom season when the foliage has dried and withered. You will find the mother bulb surrounded by several bulblets: separate only those that break away easily. Store in a cool, dry place and replant in the fall.

There are a number of sources where you can purchase bulbs. You can purchase them through mail-order catalogs and at your local nursery or gardening center. Next year, you might consider another good source, if you don't mind digging up the bulbs yourself. In the (continued on page 4) spring, some local gardens such as Cylburn and Sherwood Gardens sell the bulbs that they have planted for that season. Prices are usually very good and these bulbs are

usually superior quality. You can check the newspaper or call the gardens to find out when they will be conducting the sale.

So if you want to get a jump-start on next spring, plant some bulbs. As the leaves fall and the snow blankets the ground, you will probably forget that you planted them. But if you had done everything right, those bulbs will spring forth and greet you with a cheery hello and a visual delight.

HOA Web Site
www.offuttridgehoa.org

If you haven't visited the HOA web site lately, perhaps you should. Within the last thirty days, it has been completely redesigned. The hope is that it has a fresh and more appealing look. On going changes will continue through early 2003 so visit often to see what's new. A major enhancement to the web site is the addition of the HOA Covenants. Currently, two of the articles are on line. The remainder of the covenants is under construction. As pages are completed, they will be added to the site. This is a considerable effort, so please be patient.

If you have ideas for additions to the web site, pass them on to a board member.

Health Matters

HAND-WASHING

The right way to wash your hands: Thoroughly wash with soap and warm running water - rubbing your hands together for at least 10 seconds.

Hand-washing is the single most effective thing you can do to reduce the spread of colds and other infectious disease. It's not necessary to use antibacterial soaps when washing



up. Regular soap and water do the job just fine. Using germicidal soaps too often may produce antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

Source: US Center for Disease Control

FLU SHOT FACTS

The best time to get a flu shot is October through November. Most people have not side effects from a flu shot. When reactions occur, the typically include soreness at the injection site or mild flu-like symptoms, but it's not the flu - just a reaction to the vaccine. All viruses in the shot are killed and so cannot infect you. Get a flu shot every year because each year's flu vaccine is different. Flu shots are about 70% to 90% effective in preventing the flu.

Women who are pregnant and who will be in their second or third trimester during the flu season should get a flu shot.

If you are allergic to eggs or have had an allergic reaction from a previous flu shot, talk to your doctor before getting another shot.

Source: US Center for Disease Control

EXERCISE AND DIABETES

If you have type 2 diabetes and are exercising diligently per doctor's orders, don't be discouraged if you don't lose weight in the process. That's because exercise still helps stabilize diabetes - even if you don't lose any weight.

Exercise helps in tow ways:

- 1) It makes your body cells more sensitive to insulin, and
- 2) It helps get glucose (sugar) out of the blood and into the body's cells more efficiently.

Source: American Diabetes Association

CHOLESTEROL - HDL vs. LDL

A low fat diet can help lower LDL cholesterol levels that are too high. However, that same low fat diet can also lower HDL - the "good" cholesterol - in some people. And that's not what you want to do. The higher your HDL, the better.

What to do? Stay with a moderate fat diet, but cut back on saturated fats (meat, dairy) and include more mono and polyunsaturated fats (olive and canola oils, nuts and seeds, and fatty fish) instead. This will lower both LDL cholesterol, and maintain or boost HDL.

Other things you can do to boost HDL: exercise, lose weight, and take prescribed medication (e.g., statins, niacin).

Source: National Cholesterol Education Program

Speeders Beware

Ensuring safety in our community is always a top priority. Please observe the posted **25 mile per hour** speed limit on the roads within the development. You may have noticed the **Baltimore County Police** conducting speed traps within the community. The police are here to address concerns about this potentially deadly problem. They are issuing speeding tickets.



Proper (ty) Respect

Even though the HOA maintains the two community tot lots and tennis court, the properties on which they are

located do not belong to the community. In fact, there is no common community property within our development. All the lot space, even if it has been left naturally wooded, belongs to a resident. The proper way to access either the playgrounds or Tennis Court is via the paved walkways. And, in respect of other neighbor's property, please walk all dogs on the street and carry a "pooper scooper" with you



Calling All Wordsmiths

Our newsletter needs a name. Here is a chance to use your creativity and come up with one. Send all entries to Sheila Abrams-Jones by Friday, Dec. 20, at 6:00 p.m. The winner will be announced at our annual meeting in January and a prize will be awarded. Sheila can be reached via email at royce_jon@msn.com or via "snail mail" at 2615 Amanda Court. If you would like to fax your entry, you may do so at (410) 922-5352. Please include your name, address and telephone number with your entry.

**A Holiday Message
(neighbor to neighbor)**

The holiday season is upon us once again. As we celebrate this season in our individual way, take time to reflect on how fortunate we are to be a part of a community that's diverse, established, and beautiful. We've got a little piece of heaven right here in our midst. Enjoy your holiday with family and friends in a **safe** manner. Invite a neighbor over to share in your celebration. In the spirit of the season, lets devote ourselves to becoming closer as a community family. To the residents of Offutt Ridge, may the

Offutt Ridge HOA 2002 Budget

Income	2002 Budget	Actual thru 11/18
Dues	7392	6912
Outstanding Dues	716	143
Interest		99
Total Income	8108	7154
Expenses		
General Meetings	150	75
Operating Costs	1858	686
Insurance	1200	1194
Social Events	1300	852
Tot Lot	1000	573
Entrance Monument	400	201
Tennis Court	900	68
Legal Fees	300	0
Accounting Fees		
Total Expenses	8108	3649
Net	0	3505

Cash Reserves

	Budget	Actual at 11/18
Tot Lot	5304	4360
Entrance Monument	12000	124
Tennis Court	6000	6000
Tree Replacement	3550	3550
Legal Assistance	2000	2000
General Fund		
Total Reserves	28854	16034

New Year bring immense prosperity, happiness, and with your help and cooperation, a community that continues to flourish.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS NEIGHBOR

HOA MAILBAG

In a spirit of trying to serve our community better your HOA

reminds you that if you have ideas to improve our community you can contact any of your elected members at any time. Most recently we have received mail regarding on street parking in the community as well as trash being left on the trash pads. If you have concerns let us know. Some things are not

simple to remedy, but if we all work together in the spirit of community we can succeed. The e-mail addresses of all HOA board members are on page two of the newsletter or mail your comments to:

Board of Directors
Offutt Ridge Homeowners
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 512
Randallstown Md. 21133

Newsletter by E-mail

If you would rather receive your newsletter by E-mail let us know. It saves on postage and expedites the newsletter process. Anyone interested please send an E-mail to Rodney Butler at rhbutler@comcast.net.

Quote of the Day

"Humor is laughing at what you haven't got when you ought to have it."

- Langston Hughes

Desktop

Publisher:

Rich Jackson



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Happy New Year