

OFFUTT RIDGE HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Woodstock, Maryland

The Offutt Ridge Newsletter

Winter 2005

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The President's Corner

By Sheila Abrams-Jones

Greetings and Happy New Year!

I am very proud to have been selected to serve as your HOA President for 2005 and I am looking forward to a great year. This is the first newsletter since our General Meeting and you will find that it contains important information concerning our HOA. To learn more about the other men and women who will represent you on this year's Board, see the article " **On Board.**" I hope that from the duties and responsibilities listed for each, you can appreciate how hard the Board works on your behalf. Currently, the Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month. These meetings are open to any HOA member who wishes to attend. We alternately meet in each other's homes so please contact me to learn where the Board is meeting if you plan to attend and/or wish to add an agenda item.

When we met in November for our General Meeting, we had a fantastic turnout and had a great meeting. It was wonderful to welcome new residents and say hello to neighbors that we had not seen in a while. The 2004 Board reported on 2004 projects, the state of our HOA and the surrounding community and based on your input, we made some decisions about 2005. You will find the minutes from that meeting on page 6 of this newsletter. The minutes are also published on our website at www.offuttridgehoa.org.

Since our General Meeting, the new Board has met and finalized the Offutt Ridge HOA 2005 Budget, a summary of which is enclosed in this newsletter. You will notice that the new budget reflects no increase in HOA dues assessments. We began this year with no dues outstanding. We are hoping that everyone does his/her part to see that it remains that way. In order to proceed to carry out the projects and activities planned for this year; we need to have monies from the dues at hand. If you have not already done so, we ask that you submit your dues right away.

And, finally, the Board is still soliciting for volunteers to work on our various committees, such as the Newsletter and Website

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Committee and the Bylaws Review. (In 2005, the Board will submit to the community proposed revisions to the current Bylaws.) Also, consider volunteering to plan hospitality activities. We are looking for suggestions for low cost, fun community activities for all age groups this year. Your community needs your help and your ideas. If you can give even a little of your time, contact the committee chair listed in this newsletter.

In the meantime, think Spring! For your information, our next General Meeting will be in April. Let's hope that we have an even better turnout than we had in November. Look forward to seeing you there.

Calendar of Events

February 2005

- Board Meeting

March 2005

- Board Meeting

April 2005

- GPCA Clean-up Come out and volunteer for an hour or two to help keep your community roads clean.

- Board Meeting
- General Meeting

May 2005

- Community Yard Sale - Get ready to clean out that attic, garage, or shed and participate in our Community- Wide Yard Sale. Organizing volunteers needed.

- Board Meeting

November 2005

- Board Meeting
- General Meeting

Additional events will be included during the year.

HOA Dues

Marge Mackey

Every time I stop by our HOA Post Office Box, it's always a good time. First, we don't get any junk mail in our box. Can you imagine how neat it is not to have to sift through all the mass mailings to get to the good stuff? Second, there are always lots of checks in it. So far, 26 homeowners have paid their annual dues, and to those we say "thank you". To those who are still waiting to send their check in, just a reminder that it's **due by February 19th**.

Monument Lighting

John Mackey

I'd like to take a moment to bring everyone up to date on the monument lighting. At the November General meeting a vote was taken to replace the existing solar lights with a hard-wired lighting system. We sent the application to BGE to cost out the job of hard-wiring the lights. This is a multi-phase process. It involves providing an electric service application and a site plan to BGE, gathering load information to design the job, planning for the meter location and finally the installation of the meter box and trenching under Offutt Road. A private electrician will make the final wiring connections to the BGE box. I anticipate it will be late spring before all is completed. Your HOA has budgeted \$5000 to complete this project. When finished, the lights will be on a sensor so they will come on at dusk and go off at dawn similar to the monument lighting at Edrich Manor. If you have questions contact me at johnhmackey@comcast.net or **410-496-2687**.

2005 HOA Representatives

Mailing Address

Offutt Ridge HOA
P.O. Box 512
Randallstown, Md. 21133

Board of Directors

John Mackey
William (Bill) Heit
Roseanne Connelly

Officers

President
Sheila Abrams-Jones

Vice President
Pat Traylor

Treasurer
Marge Mackey

Recording Secretary
Jackie Brown

Correspondence Secretary
Rodney Butler

Committee Chairs

Architectural Review

Charles Thomas

Maintenance

vacant

Hospitality

Joan Heit

Teresa St. Laurent

Newsletter/Web Site

Rich Jackson

Community Liaisons

Bill Heit

Joan Heit

By-Laws Review

Jackie Brown

Rodney Butler

On Board

This article contains introductory comments by the new HOA representatives for 2005.

Sheila Abrams-Jones President

I served on the Newsletter Committee for about 2 years, then as a Board Director in 2002 and VP in 2004. What we have here is so unique and special. I work in Public Relations. I have lived in the community for 10 years.

Roseanne Connelly Director

I've lived in Offutt Ridge with my husband and son since November of 1992. I love my home and have enjoyed being a part of this community. This is my first year as a member of the HOA Board of Directors and I look forward to serving my neighbors as one of their representatives.

My business background is with the Social Security Administration. I've held many positions with the Agency in my 30 plus years of employment but my last 10 years have been working as a financial management analyst. If I can ever be of any assistance to you, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

John Mackey Director

I have been a resident in Offutt Ridge since 1999 and served on the HOA Board of Directors for the last 2 years. I enjoy the spirit of community and personal satisfaction I get from my participation in our HOA. Working with your neighbors is something I highly recommend.

Rodney Butler Correspondence Secretary

I've been a resident of Offutt Ridge since 1999. I have served in some capacity in the HOA since arriving in the community, including Treasurer, President, Committee Chair and Director. I appreciate the warmth, character and diversity of our community. It's truly a hidden treasure.

Marge Mackey Treasurer

As soon as I moved here in 1999, I realized that even though the houses are far apart, the neighbors are close together. It has been so much fun to get to know the people here and all their unique talents and interests, from flying airplanes to scuba diving, from delicate flute playing to zesty jazz, from planting zucchini to making wine. It's all here in Offutt Ridge. I'm hoping that my interest in spreadsheets adds something to the mix as I serve as treasurer this year.

William Heit Director

I have been living in the community since July 2002. I retired as a Master Sergeant from the Army after 22 years of service. I am presently employed as a Health System Specialist at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

I became the Treasurer of the HOA in March 2003. My tenure of Treasurer ended 31 December 2004. On 1 January 2005, I became a Director on the HOA Board.

Pat Traylor Vice President

My name is Pat Traylor and I am currently serving as the Vice President of the Offutt Ridge

HOA. I have previously served as a member of the Board of Directors, and Vice President. Also, I have served on several HOA Committees. I look forward to help make our community a safe and pleasant environment in which to reside.

Jackie Brown Recording Secretary

I have lived in the community for 14 years. Being the fourth house built, I have seen the community grow and change. It is truly a unique community where you feel like you are in the country with plenty of wildlife, yet 15 minutes to a mall or interstate highway! I served on the Board last year and I am currently serving as the Secretary. My goal is to provide timely minutes every month for posting to the website!

Shovel Snow Safely

Rich Jackson

Who doesn't love to gaze at beautiful, freshly fallen snow? But shoveling it is a whole different ball game. Done properly and safely, shoveling snow can be a great workout. But shoveling the wrong way can cause back strain or injury - even a heart attack.

Researchers have reported an increase in fatal heart attacks among snow shovelers after heavy snowfalls, according to Julie Garden-Robinson, assistant professor in the Health, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences Department at North Dakota State University. Like weight lifting, which also requires you to exert a lot of energy without much movement, "snow shoveling may cause a quick increase in heart rate and blood pressure," says Garden-

Robinson. One study found that after only two minutes of shoveling, the heart rates of physically inactive men rose higher than those normally recommended during aerobic exercise.

Of course, not everyone who shovels snow is at risk for having a heart attack. But people who smoke or have a history of heart trouble, pain, back problems, or other ongoing health concerns need to be really careful, says Nicholas DiNubile, MD, a spokesman for the American Academy Of Orthopaedic Surgeons and medical consultant for the Philadelphia 76ers. "Check with your doctor because it's [shoveling] a very vigorous, demanding activity on your muscular and cardiovascular system." As with any physical activity, it's also a good idea to warm up your muscles before exerting them. This will keep you from straining them and hurting yourself. Walk around a bit or march in place for a few minutes. Then stretch your back, arms and legs. Bending forward, backwards, and to each side will help loosen up your back. DiNubile suggests lying on your back and bringing your knees to your chest. Your back is especially vulnerable when you first wake up, DeNubile says. That's because your muscles stiffen after you've been lying in bed for six or more hours. The discs in your back also refill with fluid during the night, which makes them easier to pop when you exert yourself, much like an overfull water balloon. So if you're heading out to shovel the driveway to go to work, be

sure you warm up your lower back first. Taking a warm shower helps too.

Other rules also apply. For instance, drink enough water before, during, and after your shoveling. "Dehydration is just as big an issue in cold winter months as it is in summer," says Garden-Robinson. And avoid caffeine or nicotine, since these stimulants can increase your heart rate and cause your blood vessels to narrow, which puts extra stress on your heart. Also be sure to dress properly for the weather. Wearing layers that you can peel off once you work up a sweat will help you avoid getting overheated. Gloves, a hat, a scarf to protect your face, and waterproof boots that keep you from slipping, should be part of your shoveling wardrobe.

Here are some other tips to make shoveling easier and safer:

Get a good shovel. Look for a lighter-weight shovel that suits your size. A smaller shovel will allow you to scoop up less snow at a time and avoid getting hurt. DeNubile says shovels with a bend in them, as opposed to the straight, broomstick-type style, are better for your lower back. Pace yourself. Start shoveling soon after newly fallen snow since it is lighter than wet, heavily packed snow, and take small breaks (shovel an inch or two, rest, and repeat). Start out slowly to avoid putting too much stress on your heart all at once. Push, rather than lift. When you can, try pushing the snow away from you, rather than lifting it, to avoid straining or twisting your back. Look for a shovel with a blade that makes it easier to push snow. Use your legs. If

you must lift snow, fill your shovel no more than half full. Bend your knees and lift with your legs, rather than your back. Keep your back straight. Avoid throwing snow over your shoulder or to the side, which causes your back to twist and can injure your shoulders. Watch for ice. Look out for ice under the snow or on the ground that can cause you to slip and fall. Black ice, which looks like water but is actually thin ice, can be especially dangerous. Ask for help. Don't be afraid to ask someone to help you if it's a huge job, says DeNubile. "Clean some of it yourself but don't feel like you have to do it all." Listen to your body. If you feel tightness in your chest or have any pain, stop right away and call your doctor. If you're sore after shoveling, take a hot bath, get a massage, or take a pain reliever, says DiNubile. If you still don't feel well, see your doctor.

Finally, a good fitness program that builds strength and endurance can make shoveling snow a lot easier for you, according to DiNubile. "A year-round conditioning program really prevents injuries and problems."

Sources: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, National Safety Council, North Dakota State University Extension Service

Computer Bytes What's a Firewall?

Rich Jackson

Five or six years ago, the only people who used firewalls were banks, businesses, and government facilities. Times have certainly changed. Today having a good firewall is almost as important as having

anti-virus protection. Lets talk a little about what a firewall is and why you need one. A firewall is a security measure that protects a computer or a computer network from unauthorized access. Unfortunately in today's computer world, there are a lot of devious hackers working diligently to access computer information. Where previously, the targets were large institutions, today hackers seek out all sorts of personal information including information from everyday home computer users. A firewall can be software, hardware, or a combination of both.

A good firewall will prevent hackers from accessing a computer. It will also keep information from being sent out from your computer without your knowledge. It will keep personal information safe. Firewalls don't prevent virus attacks but in some circumstances they can stop viruses from sending information from an infected computer.

If you use a broadband connection to the Internet, like DSL or cable, you should definitely get a firewall. Such broadband connections are always on, shared connections. It is easier for an intruder to break into your computer if you are using one of these connections. So it is essential to have a firewall on a computer that uses DSL or cable to connect to the Internet.

Even if your computer uses a dial-up Internet connection to get to the Internet, a firewall can be useful. (If you use a regular telephone line and you

click on an icon on your computer desktop to initiate your Internet connection, you have a dial-up connection.) This is because there are programs like spyware and adware that are privacy-invading programs that piggy-back on other software that you download from the Internet. These spy-grams can gather personal information and send it back to the scheming people who developed the programs. A good firewall will alert you when a transfer of information that you have not initiated tries to take place, preventing spyware and adware from completing their devious tasks.

Hate spam? Well, some spammers are currently hijacking individual computers and using them to send out some of that aggravating spam. This can be done completely without your knowledge. This little ploy covers the tracks of the spammer and makes it easier for him to get his message out. A good firewall will alert you when something like this happens so you can keep your computer protected.

The easiest way to get a firewall for your computer is to use a software program that you install just like any other program. Most software firewalls prevent unauthorized information from going out of your computer as well as from coming in. You will, however, have to check before you obtain the firewall software to make sure that it is this type of two-directional firewall. Some firewalls only alert you when some unauthorized person is trying to enter your computer to access information. These one-directional firewalls do not check for unauthorized information

that may be leaving your computer. There is a firewall built into Windows XP, but unfortunately, it is a one-directional firewall. It will only check for information coming into your computer. If you use Windows XP, it is better than nothing, but a two-directional firewall is still needed for complete protection.

Source: Washington Post

Budget Summary

Marge Mackey

On page 10 of this newsletter, you'll find a spreadsheet showing a summary of the HOA budget. The expenses are broken into three categories: Community Maintenance, Community Activities, and Business Costs. Each of those categories is further broken down into the individual line items, for example, the Community Maintenance category contains line items for the Monument Lights, Tennis Court Net, etc. The three columns show how much was budgeted for each line item, how much the HOA has spent so far this year, and what the balance is for the line item. At the very bottom of the spreadsheet you'll find the balances in the HOA checking account, savings account, Certificate of Deposit, and dues we will be adding to our balance.

Each newsletter will contain an updated spreadsheet to show the HOA's progress in meeting the community's needs. If you have any questions or comments about the HOA budget, please address them to the HOA Treasurer, Marge Mackey, 1 Lemuels Court, (410) 496-2687, or margemackey@comcast.net.

HOA General Meeting Minutes

Held on November 18, 2004 at Granite Presbyterian Church - Respectfully submitted by Jackie Brown

1) Welcome

Sheila Abrams-Jones, Vice President and Acting President, opened the meeting at 7:10 pm.

A brief statement was made by Sheila regarding the resignation of the current President, J.D. Westmoreland and her role as acting President. She mentioned the many accomplishments by J.D. with the HOA.

Sheila asked that each person in the room introduce themselves by stating their name, house address and how long they have lived in the community. Each person at the meeting introduced themselves.

Mums were presented to the new homeowners in the community as a "Welcome to the Neighborhood gift."

2) State of HOA Reports

a) Financial Report: The financial report for the current year, 2004, was given by Bill Heit. A copy of the 2004 report was handed out and reviewed by Bill.

b) A handout on the Legal Services performed on behalf of the HOA in 2004 was reviewed by Bill. These charges were incurred in order to collect past due assessments from Homeowners.

c) The 2005 budget will be worked on by the current Board and presented to the community in January.

d) By-Laws/Covenants Review: Jackie Brown gave a brief report regarding the By-Laws/Covenants Review committee findings. Out of eight Articles, there are 9 recommendations for changes and 3 areas that the committee suggests could be updated but need further discussion and review. All items will be presented to the Community once the Board of Directors has reviewed them and voted to move forward with them.

e) Architectural Review Committee: Sheila Abrams-Jones gave the Architectural Review report since Charles Thomas, current committee chair was not able to attend. There was 1 request for a shed and it was approved.

f) Update on Other Projects:

i) Monument maintenance: John Mackey outlined the maintenance that was done on the Monument, the two Tot Lots and the Tennis Court. On one occasion several Board members

and their family weeded the first tot lot. It took all day and resulted in about 40 bags of weed and branches. As a result, the Board decided to contract with a company to do the weeding on both tot lots, the monument, and around the fence of the tennis court.

ii) Dumpster Day: John Mackey reported that Dumpster day, held on September 25th, was an overwhelming success. He also followed up with the trash that was taken out of the dumpsters by the Company and left in the road. The company stated that they were going to come back and clean it up the next day. All agreed to continue Dumpster Day. The homeowners expressed an interest in having the event at least twice a year. It was discussed that someone would have to monitor the amount being put in each dumpster so they are not filled past the full line again.

iii) Monument Lighting: Andy Grosko gave the following report:

(1) The Board of 2004 learned that an estimate for the electric hook up for monument lights from BG&E was about \$4200. In addition to this cost, an electrician would need to do the actual connection once BG&E finished their installation of the hard wire. The lights had already been purchased and installed when the monument was done (at a cost of about \$350). At the 2004 Spring Community meeting, the Board noted they were seeking other alternatives and sought the opinion of those who attended. It was decided to move forward with pursuing a lighting option but to first conduct a "test" with temporary spotlights to get the opinion of the affected homeowners on the brightness of the lights. The current homeowner agreed to allow the temporary lights to be plugged into their outside outlet for 2 weeks. The owner was told we were experimenting and would seek a solar power source if the test was ok.

(2) Both neighbors agreed the brightness was not negatively impacting them. Solar powered lights were purchased for \$100 and installed.

(3) After the completion of the report, the floor was opened. Some homeowners stated they thought the hard wire option was approved at the last general meeting and was disappointed that the current Board did not follow through with installing that option. This started much discussion in the room. After approximately 10 minutes of discussion, the

Acting President, Sheila Abrams-Jones, called for a formal vote on how to proceed with the lights.

(4) There were 4 options given for the vote (each household had 1 vote):

(a) Option 1: Pay BG&E and the cost of the electrician (approx \$4700) to hard wire the monument for lighting. This will also incur a monthly bill for the cost to run the lights. This amount is unknown at this time, but estimated to be about \$20 or \$30 per month. This option received 14 votes in the room.

(b) Option 2: Stay with the current solar lights. This option did not receive any votes.

(c) Option 3: Upgrade the solar lights to stronger white lights (similar to the ones at the "The Preserves" subdivision on Rt. 99). This option received 4 votes.

(d) Option 4: Take away the current lights and do not have any lights. This option received no votes.

(e) One family abstained from the vote.

(5) Tree Pruning Workshop: Sheila Abrams-Jones gave a report on the success of this workshop which was held on September 25th and lead by Amanda Cunningham a Master Gardener and Certified Arborist. About 20 homeowners attended and were given the opportunity for "hands on" pruning to learn about the different pruning instruments and techniques available. Handouts were distributed.

(6) Current Issues: Sheila Abrams-Jones opened the floor up for new issues and the following were given by the homeowners:

(a) Extend the Dumpster day to twice per year since it is very successful.

(b) Replace the net on the tennis courts.

(c) Continue having a Community Block party.

(d) Attempt another community yard sale again (previous attempts were rained out).

(e) The issue of residents waiting for the school bus parking too close to the intersection was raised. Some feel it is causing a dangerous situation when trying to drive around the parked car. Can a "No Parking" sign be installed by the county? Bill Heit will check with the GPCA about getting a legal street sign installed.

(f) The GPCA Spring clean up was mentioned as an annual clean up of the nearby roads. It only takes about 1 or 2 hours when there are a lot of people so the HOA will notify the community of the dates in the Newsletter.

(g) The community would like to be kept up to date on the legal matters regarding the mega church.

(h) It was mentioned that GPCA Citizens on Patrol is still going on in the Neighborhoods.

(i) John Creighton shared the plans for a 2005 Offutt Ridge Farm Calendar which would be sold for \$15.00 (which is the cost to print it). It had pictures of the farm taken by resident, Terry St. Laurent. A sign up sheet was available for those interested.

3) Newsletter/Website: Richard Jackson talked about the newsletter and website. He is looking for more articles to be submitted to keep the Newsletter going. Willis Williams, Gary Williams, and Rodney Butler volunteered to write articles. If you have an idea or something to share with the community, please submit to Willis, Gary or Rodney and they will help write the article. Joe Jefferson will review the state police website to see if there are any tips on the law for the community. Marge Mackey and Pat Traylor will be working on getting the HOA covenants typed up so it can be published on the website.

4) Election of 2005 Board

a) Sheila Abrams-Jones presented the candidates and asked each person to talk about why they wanted to volunteer for the Board. The candidates were Jackie Brown, Roseanne Connelly, Bill Heit, John Mackey and Clayton (Bill) St. Laurent. Each person stood up and said why they wanted to volunteer (except for Bill St. Laurent who was not present due to a car accident that evening.)

b) Acting President asked for two volunteers to count ballots. The ballots were collected and counted by Mary Jo Young and Rodney Butler. Sheila read the results of the vote and the following members were voted in as the 2005 Board:

i) John Mackey

ii) Bill Heit

iii) Roseanne Connelly

c) Sheila asked for volunteers for the Officer positions, which would be selected by the new Board at the next meeting.

i) Pat Traylor volunteered for the Vice President position.

ii) Marge Mackey volunteered for the Treasury position.

iii) Sheila Abrams-Jones volunteered for the President position.

5) Adjournment: Sheila thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:00 pm.

School Bus Pickup
HOA Board

The kids are back in school and again we want to caution the parents about parking too close to the intersection of Offutt Rd and Peddiccoat CT. while waiting for the school bus to drop off your kids. If you must park there, you should be at least 100 feet from the intersection. The further back the better. When you park closer than that, you present a safety hazard to traffic coming into the development. The parked cars make it impossible to see traffic coming out of the development which causes the potential for a head on collision. This is not an over statement. Please think safety first when you go out to pick up your kids. Your neighbors thank you for doing so.

Role of The Architectural Committee

You must notify the architectural committee before making a change or addition to the exterior of your home. The Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions that each of you should have received when you settled on your house has the purpose of protecting the value and desirability, and enhancing the attractiveness of our community. In trying to fulfill its role, the architectural committee over the years has generated guidelines for certain types of common projects that

are not well defined in the Declaration. An additional role that the committee could play is in leveraging the experiences of Offutt Ridge Homeowners to help other residents. For example, if you've used a builder for your deck who did an outstanding job -- or a terrible job -- other people in the community may benefit from that information, please inform the architectural committee. We will provide that input to other people planning on similar projects.

Guidelines for Storm Doors

Officially, architectural committee approval should be obtained before any modification is made that will affect the exterior of your house. This includes installing storm doors. Our major concern with these doors is to ensure that homeowners buy a good quality door that will not rust or otherwise become an eyesore in a few years. We have done a little bit of research into storm doors and have developed a few suggested guidelines. The following characteristics seem to be a good indication of a high quality door that should hold up well:

- at least 1 1/2 inch thick
- vinyl clad aluminum or polypropylene frame
- a 15 year warranty
- dual closures

We request that if you're planning on installing a storm or screen door, that you please inform the architectural committee for approval. Also, if you have any additional input regarding storm door quality and selection, please contact one of the committee members.

Documentation Requirements for Decks

The following is a list of general guidelines and documentation requirements to be used by the architectural committee in evaluating proposed decks:

1. Drawings - The homeowner

should submit drawings which shall include a top and side view of the project as well as any other angle which may be appropriate under the circumstances. Drawings should include a description of the railings and any overhead structure such as a gazebo, location of steps and any enclosure to be used on the underside (i.e., lattice work).

2. Location Survey - A drawing of the deck situated on the location survey should also be provided showing the location of the deck relative to the house and the property boundaries.

3. Dimensions - The homeowner shall provide accurate dimensions of the project including width, depth and height for each level.

4. Materials Listing - The homeowner shall provide a complete listing of building materials to be used (i.e., pressure treated lumbar, composite decking) which shall include any finish to be used. Deck should be natural wood (i.e., pressure treated with a water sealant), a natural wood stain or color which matches the existing color scheme of the home.

5. Start and Complete Date - The homeowner shall provide estimated starting and completion dates for the project. Duration of the project shall not exceed six months.

6. Building Permit -- Although not needed prior to submission to the committee, the homeowner shall forward a copy of the building permit to the committee for its files prior to the start of the project.

Shed Guidelines

1. Sheds may be no larger than 12' x 12' in floor area.
2. Sheds may be located only within the building restriction lines and must be to the rear of the house. Every effort should be made to "hide" the shed from view of neighbors and from the road as much as possible.
3. Landscaping in the form of trees, shrubs, flowers or a combination thereof is required, The more the shed is in public view, the more landscaping you must have.
4. No items may be stored outside of or attached to the shed; they must all be inside, out of view.
5. Exterior lighting on the shed may not exceed one 75 Watt bulb. No interior plumbing or heating systems that would render the shed habitable are allowed.
6. No one may have more than one freestanding shed, playhouse, gazebo, or other such structure in their yard.
7. Sheds must have asphalt shingle roofs and be mounted on poured concrete pads. Walls should be of wood, vinyl or aluminum siding over wood frame. No all-metal sheds are permitted. Siding, trim, and shingles must match the same colors of the homeowners house. Architectural style elements, such as trim, doors, and windows are desirable.
8. All sheds must be properly maintained.
9. In addition to Architectural Committee approval, homeowner may need to secure building permits. To apply for permission to erect a shed, a homeowner should submit a picture of the shed, a listing of the materials and

colors, a plot plan showing the location of the shed relative to the property lines and the house, and a landscaping plan for the shed.

All requests to the committee should be delivered to the chairman Charles Thomas, at 4 Noah Court.

The HOA Web Site

Rich Jackson

The HOA web site internet address is:

www.offuttridgehoa.org

Give it a try... There's lots of useful information included on the site. The **LINKS** page can connect you to a wide range of information on Government, Schools in the area (public and private), local libraries and research tools, news media sites(broadcast and newsprint), and many more interesting subjects. New links are added frequently.

A recent addition to the Links page is a link to the **Sexual Offender Registry(SOR)**. Your HOA receives notices of sex offenders that may be in a our area from the Baltimore County Police. To view the Sex Offender Registry, go to the Links page and scroll down the US & State Government/Agencies category. Once there, you can search the SOR using a variety of methods. This important link can keep you informed. Visit it often.

Winter Snow Removal

HOA Board

The Department of Public Works needs your help. Every winter, Baltimore County faces the formidable task of keeping over 2,600 miles of road clear and passable. The County Department of Public Works again reminds residents that they can clear the roads faster and better with our help. They ask that you avoid parking on the street unless absolutely necessary. Park in your

driveway to allow plows to get through the street. If you park at the end of the drive, you won't have to shovel as much snow to get out. Plus, your vehicle is less likely to be plowed in, splashed by salt spray or damaged in a collision.

Wine, Women, and Horses

Brenda K. Creighton

Wine, Women, and Horses, March 17th, 7 to 9p.m. at the Farm. That adorable pony, Langley, has contracted Lyme's disease and is undergoing an aggressive antibiotic treatment, which is also costly. So I am hosting a get together for horse owners, riders, or horse moms in a "real time chat room" moderated by my friend Pegi Longen. The cost is \$20.00. Call 410 922-1302 to 'log on'.

Quote of the Day

Prejudice comes from being in the dark; sunlight disinfects it.
- **Muhammad Ali**



Together We Succeed

Desktop Publishing by Rich Jackson
rkjacks@verizon.net

Expense Summary for 2005 as of 1/23/2005

Item	Projected Cost	Spent to Date	Balance Remaining In Line Item For 2005
Community Maintenance			
Monument Lights	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Tennis Court (new net)	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Tree Replacement	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Weeding/mulch (Tot lots, tennis, monument)	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Subtotal	\$8,500.00	\$0.00	\$8,500.00
Community Activities			
Dumpster	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Summer block party	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Fall activity	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Plants for new homeowners	\$125.00	\$9.44	\$115.56
Yard sale advertisting	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Subtotal	\$1,525.00	\$9.44	\$1,515.56
Business costs			
Accountant	\$150.00	\$0.00	\$150.00
Taxes	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$70.00
Web Site	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$250.00
Insurance	\$220.00	\$0.00	\$220.00
Lawyer	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
General Meeting Room & Food	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Checking account fees	\$12.00	\$0.00	\$12.00
PO Box	\$76.00	\$76.00	\$0.00
Office Supplies	\$250.00	\$18.78	\$231.22
Subtotal	\$1,228.00	\$94.78	\$1,133.22
Grand Total	\$11,253.00	\$104.22	\$11,148.78
Checking account balance	\$5,580.92		
Savings account balance	\$1,640.33		
Total available now	\$7,221.25		
CD balance available in July	\$11,680.69		
Dues outstanding	\$4,896.00		
Grand Total	\$23,797.94		