

OFFUTT RIDGE HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Woodstock, Maryland

The Offutt Ridge Newsletter Spring 2006

For HOA News & Information visit www.offuttridgehoa.org

The President's Corner

David Wilcox

On behalf of the new Board of Directors and Officers of Offutt Ridge and for the entire community, I would like to extend a heart-felt "thank you" to the outgoing Board of Directors and Officers: Pat Traylor, Rosanne Connelly, John Mackey, Sheila Abrams-Jones, Bill Heit, Rosanne Connelly, and Marge Mackey. Thank you for all of the time and effort in making our neighborhood a better place to live.



Nancy Chris Terry

At the November Offutt Ridge Homeowner's Association meeting, the homeowners elected Chris Brown, Nancy Holt, and Terry St. Laurent as the new Board of Directors. Harry Holt, Nadine Brown, Jackie Brown, and I, David Wilcox, volunteered to support the new board. At their first meeting, the Board of Directors elected the following individuals to serve as officers:

- Dave Wilcox as President
- Harry Holt, Jr as Treasurer
- Nadine Brown as Vice President
- Jackie Brown as Recording Secretary

As President, it is my responsibility to preside at all meetings of the

Members and of the Board of Directors and to see that orders and resolutions of the Board are carried out. I serve at the will of the Board of Directors, in that the Board can remove any of the officers at any time with or without cause.

My family and I have lived in Offutt Ridge for nearly two years and have thoroughly enjoyed our new home and our neighborhood. This leads to the reason I volunteered to serve as an officer. I would like to give back to the neighborhood that has given so much to my family and I and as a thank you to those that have served in the past.

Things will happen, good things,

What's inside



Page 2

- Offutt Ridge Character
- How High to Mow Your Grass
- Architectural Review Committee
- Farm Report
- HOA Representatives

Page 3

- The Granite Historic Marker

Page 4

- Quote of the Day
- Word of the Day

bad things - challenges -- many, if not most, things are outside of our control. What we can control is our reaction to situations, especially to difficult situations. We should purpose to react wisely, to do what is right according to the highest standards in every situation. Offutt Ridge is a beautiful community, but beyond its physical beauty, let's all purpose to make it a community of character. Character - responding in patience, honesty, love, kindness, thankfulness, etc...to the pressure of a difficult situation.

**Offutt Ridge Character
Quality of the Season
Kindness**

Kindness - Being considerate courteous, helpful, and understanding of others; showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity, and treating others as you would like to be treated. Find opportunities to display random acts of kindness.

**How High to Mow Your
Grass**

Spring is right around the corner -- now is the time to consider how to best cut your grass - even if you have someone do it for you.

The simplest way to help your lawn grow up healthy and dense is to adjust your mower's cutting height to its highest setting. Cut your grass from within 3 to 4 inches tall. Why? Tall blades of grass have more surface area exposed to the sun, enabling

them to photosynthesize more sugars and starches for greater root growth. Greater root mass means that there will be better access to water and nutrients, so plants are more tolerant of drought and can recover more rapidly from dormancy. Cut long straight strips overlapping slightly.

For a truly professional cut, mow across the lawn in one direction. Make one or two passes around the outside of the area discharging the grass INTO the lawn to keep the cut grass off roads, fences, and walks. The remainder of the mowing should be done in the opposite direction so that the clippings are dispersed OUT onto the area of lawn previously cut.

**Architectural Review
Committee Members
Needed**

The Architectural Review Committee is in need of additional members. The purpose of the Committee, as stated in the Covenants, is to ensure that changes home owners wish to make are in "...harmony of external design, color, and conformity with the design concept for the community..." Please consider this opportunity to serve your community. If you are interested in serving on the committee please contact any Board Member.

Farm Report
Brenda Creighton

Offutt Ridge Road Kill
Why do chickens cross the road? I honestly don't know.
(Continued on Page 3, Col. 3)

**2006 HOA
Representatives**

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

Board of Directors

Nancy Brown Holt
Terry St. Laurent
Chris Brown

Officers

President
David Wilcox
Vice President
Nadine Brown
Treasurer
Harry Holt, Jr.
Recording Secretary
Jackie Brown

Committees

Architectural Review
Charles Thomas
John Creighton
Harry Holt

Hospitality
Joan Heit
Terry St. Laurent

Newsletter
Terry St. Laurent
Rich Jackson

Web Site
Rich Jackson
Community Liaisons

Bill Heit
Joan Heit

By-Laws Review
Jackie Brown
Rodney Butler

The Granite Historic Marker

Rich Jackson



Have you ever noticed, while driving along Old Court Road, that huge block of granite with a plaque on it at Sylvan Dell Lane? Well, it's a tribute to the historical significance of the Granite Community. What follows is an excerpt from the Granite Historical Society Website.

www.granitehistory.org

I urge you to visit the the website. It contains many historical facts about the local area. I found it extremely interesting and I'm certain you will to.



The Granite Historic Marker is located at the corner of Sylvan Dell Lane and MD 125-Old Court Road in the heart of Granite, Maryland. The site and plaque were erected by the Granite Historical Society in 1996 with extensive help from the community, including the following:

- Dick and Jackie Hall, donation of the land used for the site;
- Edrich Nurseries, donation of landscaping;
- Merkle Monuments, supplier

of the bronze plaque; and
 • Christmas in Granite, Inc., partial funding for the plaque.

The marker is attached to a large granite boulder, once used in the quarrying industry, and reads:

Some of the finest granite on the North American continent was quarried in this area for over a century. The village of Granite was first named Waltersville, after the Walters/Blunt family who founded the local quarrying industry circa 1820. The two largest quarries were Waltersville and Fox Rock. These and smaller quarries counted hundreds of stonecutters among their employees. One of the most important uses was for America's first railroad, the Baltimore and Ohio. This construction included the famous Thomas Viaduct, a vital link between Baltimore and Washington. The quality of this stone led to its use in such buildings as the Library of Congress, the inner walls of the Washington Monument, Old Patent Office, and the Baltimore Custom House. Local granite was the choice for foundations, gateposts, garden walls, cemetery monuments, churches, and schools. Many homes, still seen nearby, housed the hardy workmen and their families forming a community proudly named for its most famous natural resource, granite. Granite was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

ERECTED BY THE GRANITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY—1996

(From Page 2, Col. 2)

With 13 acres on this side of the road, why would these birds go anywhere else? Since chickens come home to roost, you would not expect them to travel far.

At least I didn't. So it was a continuing surprise to look out the window and see the bobbing and scratching across the street in Linda's yard, around the monument. I thought chickens didn't want to be out in the rain. I thought the wind would keep them inside. In each of these situations, the birds proved me wrong. If the wind blew the barn doors open, I would find my brave barred rocks out scratching around on their own. One day, a red hen and barred rock rooster jumped out through one of the windows that is missing a pane. Yes, they constantly amaze me.

But they do bring themselves back to their roost at night, with the occasional lost chicken in the wrong barn.

Since last September when we got our first batch of chickens, it has been a fascinating "learn to do" something new. I had a rooster when I was a kid. Then my grandfather brought us home six pullets for egg laying. I don't think that lasted long, but I vaguely remember the experience. With the encouragement of one of our barn helpers, Hannah, I ordered a batch from McMurray Hatchery. Hannah has done chicken projects for



4H and shown her chickens for years, and sells her eggs. With her love of chickens and experience in raising and keeping them, we got a lot of direction in just what we needed to start.

And the rest was up to us, to learn and grow, and discover just how to manage our little flock. We have also learned to harvest the extra roosters. I have had the experience of cooking a chicken I raised and cleaned. While it is time consuming work, there is something really rewarding in carrying the process through from beginning to end. Certainly something that takes that long to produce is a little harder to just throw away.

By the end of January, our hens started laying. The excitement of those first two eggs! Now, we get an average of five eggs a day. Every one is different, and we have two hens that lay blue eggs.

I waited for the peeps to grow up, to show me who was a boy and who was a girl. We slowly selected which roosters to harvest and kept watch on who would maintain the flock. Finally, we started giving out names. I personally don't want to eat something I have named. We have ended up with two too many roosters, but they have their place and Hannah plans to take Sam off to chicken showing. Our nine hens are slowly becoming pets. I sit out in the barn with them after I get the morning chores done and listen to them and watch their interactions. Some of them have chosen me, and come to get picked up and held. I scratch their feathers and imitate their

sounds. They have an amazing range of noises they make.

Chickens are amazing little protein factories. They gather food into their crop and then roost. You can imagine the grain and bugs they have collecting slowly feeding into the digestive system and then the next day, out comes an egg. For the roosters then, they sit and build meat. When the time comes, we have the most wonderful Cog au Vin Blanc.

Chickens have a lot of purposes. I have collected the feathers and wonder about crafts. Andy plans to use some hackle feathers for fly tying. Mary can envision the black/green tail feathers on a hat. Along with feather, meat and egg production, there is the entertainment value of the chickens scurrying and scratching in the yard at the end of the day. The soothing gurgling and chattering sounds they make as they come into roost.

And if they continue this crossing the road thing, we may not need speed bumps on Peddicoad, just "Chicken Crossing" signs.

Spring Riding Season

March 29th starts our lesson season this year. Not much has changed in our program. We focus on riding for pleasure, English or Western for Beginners and Novices. Regular weekly lessons are \$30. an hour.

Lydia and I are also offering a four week course three times this spring for the total beginner, child or adult. An introduction to horses and horse ownership. Eventually, if you want to ride, you need to own a horse. The course meets twice a week and costs \$160.00.

We have our summer schedule in print, offering both Horsemanship weeks for the 8 to 12 year olds and Barn Buddies for the 5 to 7 age group. Those of you enrolled in the past should have gotten the summer letter, but newcomers are welcome.

As always, if you are interested in riding, please call or email me here at the farm. Farmgirl57@email.com or 410 922 1302.



Quote of the Day

If you want your life to be more rewarding, you have to change the way you think.

-- Oprah Winfrey



Word of the Day

perennial
(puh-REN-ee-uhl)

- adjective
1. Lasting for a long time; perpetual.
 2. (of a plant) Living several years.
 3. Recurrent.

- noun
1. A perennial plant.
 2. Something that continues or is recurrent.

[From Latin perennis (through the year), from per- (throughout) + annus (year).

ENJOY SPRING