



Walnut Ridge

Community Newsletter

Fourth Edition — Winter 2007

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Walnut Ridge Community Association Newsletter. We hope that you will find the information contained in this newsletter both informative and helpful. Residents are encouraged to share their suggestions and concerns. If you should have any thoughts or questions about our Community, please contact the Board of Directors at its **new email address:** board@walnutridgeonline.org or the Association's property manager, John Sheehy at jsheehy@dhbader.com. Please visit us on the web at www.walnutridgeonline.org.

President's Message

Recently, our entrance sign and bench at Cape St. Claire Road was vandalized. This type of activity will not be tolerated. Using elements of the "broken glass theory," Walnut Ridge will immediately rectify any vandalism or destruction of community property. By not ignoring vandalism, we help to suppress the perpetrators' instinct for and the proliferation of criminal behavior.

The Police department promotes the participation of community residents to help keep our neighborhood secure and free from crime and vandalism. Be vigilant when traveling through Walnut Ridge by car and on foot. If you observe a crime-in-progress...or, anything of a suspicious nature...please, immediately report your observations to the proper authorities. If you're not sure who to notify...call 911. Don't attempt to intervene on your own. Remember, even the Police call for a "back-up" before taking action.

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We have solicited bids and estimates from area landscaping firms for planting and beautification improvements in our common areas. The Board will be reviewing the resulting proposals at upcoming meetings. When a landscaping firm has been selected, work will begin in the spring.

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I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Ed Rose, President

Walnut Ridge Community Association

New Website & E-Mail Address!

Please visit our new website at www.walnutridgeonline.org . The Board's new email address is: board@walnutridgeonline.org.

New Year's Eve and Fireworks



The discharging of most Fireworks are not allowed in our Community nor are they allowed in the State of Maryland without a permit.

Residents are encouraged to notify the police if they observe any of the above illegal behavior.

Post Holidays: Those Unwanted

Christmas Trees and Wreaths

Christmas Trees and Wreaths will be collected for recycling on Tuesdays. Christmas Trees must be free of all ornaments, lights and tree bags. Only natural trees will be collected and trees over 4 feet tall must be cut in half.

Ongoing Problem...

Are you placing trash or recycling containers out for pickup on the weekends? If so, that's too early! Please be reminded that trash and recycling containers are not to be placed out for collection any earlier than 6:00 p.m. on the evening prior to pickup !

Wanted: Previous Newsletters

We are looking for previous editions (older than 2006) of the Walnut Ridge Community Association Newsletter. If you happen to have any of these editions, please contact Laura Richardson, at editor@walnutridgeonline.org.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Walnut Ridge Community Association consists of homeowners who volunteer their time to serve Wanut Ridge. Contact the Board by e-mail at: board@walnutridgeonline.org

Officers

President: Ed Rose
Vice President: Laura Richardson
Treasurer: Anita Ramundo
Secretary: Gloria Petit Clair

Members at Large

Michelle Henderson
Bryan Moores
Ziggi Nickel

Property Management

John Sheehy, Property Manager
D.H. Bader Management Services
14435 Cherry Lane Court, Suite 210
Laurel, MD 20707
301-953-1955

Newsletter

The Walnut Ridge Community Newsletter is published quarterly and is a volunteer effort by residents of Walnut Ridge. If you would like to submit an idea for an article, please send an email to the Editor, Laura Richardson, at editor@walnutridgeonline.org.

Association Assessment Increase

Homeowners' Association assessments will be increased to \$133 per quarter beginning January 1, 2008 and will be reflected on your next statement. There has not been an increase in assessments since January, 2005. This increase is necessary in order to boost our reserve funds and to keep up with rising costs.

Assessments are due on the 1st day of each quarter and are considered late if received after the 15th of the month it is due. If payment is made by check or automatic bill pay, please be sure that your payment is sent to Payment Processing Center, c/o Walnut Ridge HOA, PO Box 105007, Atlanta, GA 30348-5007. Payment may also be made by direct debit or online by visiting www.dhbader.com and clicking on Payments.

Important Numbers

- To report power outage or downed wire, call BGE at 1-877-778-2222 (don't assume that BGE already knows!)
- To report water and sewage emergencies, call 410-222-8400
- To report problems within the Walnut Ridge Community, call D.H Bader Management Services—301-953-1955
- Trash Removal—410-222-6100
- Bulk Waste Removal—410-222-6104
- Animal Control—410-222-8900
- North County Towing—410-760-3332

Snow Removal

Snow accumulating 3" or more on our private roads (Almond, Hazel Nut, Peach and Tanook) will be removed and salt applied to the roads by the Association's contracted snow removal company. The County Public Works Department is responsible for removing snow on Walnut Ridge Drive, which is a County-owned road.



Snow removal on sidewalks in the front of homes is the responsibility of the homeowner and should be addressed immediately.

Visitor Parking Spaces

Visitor parking spaces are just that—**For Visitors**. Residents should not regularly park in visitor spaces. Vehicles parked longer than 72 hours (3 days) in a visitor parking space will be towed at the owner's risk and expense.

Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, January 17, 2008, at 6:30 PM**. Location: TBA.

Board meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. **Please call D.H. Bader Management Services (301-953-1955) to verify all meeting dates, times and locations.**

You are invited to attend monthly Board Meetings to share your suggestions and concerns.

A Word From The Walnut Ridge Wanderer

This is a new feature of the newsletter. The Walnut Ridge Wanderer will report on various observations around the community. To preserve anonymity, the identity and gender of the Wanderer will not be revealed. (However, I will say that this Editor is not the Wanderer).

The Wanderer checked out the Halloween decorations and activities. As usual, there were shrieks and screams from one of the houses at the end of Peach Court. Who will admit to doing that? It certainly added drama to the evening. I think it was probably the same folks who have a large inflatable Christmas decoration up and running. I am happy to report that Halloween Trick or Treating was much fun for everyone. The costumes were much less violent and revealing this year.. All of the children had been coached to say their "pleases and thank-yous" and to answer questions about their costumes. I love the teenagers who came in costume and engaged in conversation. Parents really followed the safety suggestions. Looking forward to next year.



Two homeowners on Hazel Nut Court who back up to Walnut Ridge Drive have put some major effort into reclaiming their backyards. They are greener than green. It is definitely a noticeable change.

By the way, has anyone noticed the renovation of the end unit lawn on Tanook? I didn't want to be nosy and stare, but it looks like someone is "thinking green" and replacing a lawn to water and fertilize with groundcover and plantings. Can't wait to see what this will look like in the spring. Now that the fall lawn chores are over, I'm going to think about ways to keep the front of the house attractive using drought resistant plantings. Reduce need for water and fertilizer. Maybe we should make this a topic for community meetings.

We need to think "green" as a community. Just a reminder for New Year's....fireworks are not allowed and can increase the risk of fire in the community. Those fireworks on July 4th sent sparks close to houses downwind of the playground. Let's all set up a cheer and bang pots, blow whistles/sirens, etc. Meet you on the green to scream!!!!

Walnut Ridge Wanderer

Holiday Shopping Crime Prevention Tips

From the Anne Arundel County Police Department

Don't let your holidays be ruined by becoming the victim of a crime. The holiday season is filled with happiness and celebration, but it can also be a time of danger. Unfortunately, there are criminals who use the holidays to target victims who may be distracted by the busy season. During the upcoming holiday shopping season remember to always be aware of your surroundings, and review the following crime prevention tips to help keep safe during the holiday shopping season:

Street Robbery - Do's and Don'ts

- Obey the robber's instructions.
- Don't carry your purse loosely around your shoulder.
- Keeping cash in a separate money clip or pouch will allow you to hand it over without sacrificing your credit cards, identification, and personal papers.
- Avoid carrying a purse and keep a wallet in your pocket instead.
- Never wrap a purse strap around your wrist; forcible removal could result in serious personal injury.
- Don't overburden yourself with packages or groceries. Make several trips to your vehicle in necessary, and remember to store packages and valuables out of plain sight.
- Park in well lit areas, and request a security escort if you feel uneasy.
- Be wary of accepting assistance from strangers while loading packages or groceries in your vehicle.
- GIVE UP YOU PROPERTY NOT YOUR LIFE. Do not risk personal injury for the sake of valuables or cash.
- Make a mental note of the robber's appearance, i.e. height, weight, hair color/style, clothing, etc.
- If possible, take down the vehicle license plate number, a description of the vehicle, and the direction the robber is fleeing.
- Call 9-1-1 and report all crime immediately!