

Walnut Ridge

Community Newsletter

Third Edition — Fall 2008

Walnut Ridge Community Association

Newsletters are also available online at www.walnutridgeonline.org

Back To School !

Anne Arundel County Schools have reopened for the 2008-2009 school year. It is again time to remind our residents to drive carefully and watch for children going to and from school .



Maryland law requires that when a school vehicle is stopping or has stopped on the roadway, and is operating the alternating flashing red lights, all vehicles must stop **at least 20 feet** from the front or rear of the school vehicle.

No one can proceed until the alternating flashing red lights have been turned off. Drivers should continue to exercise caution once the flashing lights have been turned off.

Drivers of other vehicles are not required to stop **when they are on a divided highway** and the **school vehicle is on the other side** of the divided highway.

GET OUT AND VOTE!!

General Election day is Tuesday, November 4th. The voting location for all of Walnut Ridge is St. Andrews By The Bay Catholic Church, 701 College Parkway. For more information about voting in Anne Arundel County, please visit <http://www.aacounty.org/Elections>

BGE Rep and AA County Traffic Engineer to Attend Next Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2008, at 6:30 pm in the Meeting Room of Champion Realty, 814 East College Parkway, Annapolis, 21409. A representative from BGE has been invited and will address questions and concerns. Mr. Ed Horkey, Traffic Engineer for Anne Arundel County, will also be in attendance to discuss recent school bus issues on Walnut Ridge Drive.

New Holiday Trash and Recycling Schedule

If a holiday falls on **MONDAY** or **TUESDAY**, collection will occur on **WEDNESDAY**. If a holiday falls on **THURSDAY** or **FRIDAY**, collection will occur on **SATURDAY**.

Recently Revised

Our Community Welcome Letter and Parking Space Guidelines have recently been revised. Check them out at www.walnutridgeonline.org and click on Documents.

DID YOU KNOW....

That our **Community Documents** are available on our website? Visit www.walnutridgeonline.org and click on Documents.

Walnut Ridge Recycles!

At the recent General Meeting of the Walnut Ridge Community Association, Kristen Lagana from the Anne Arundel County Recycling Program gave a presentation on recycling in Anne Arundel County. Kristen explained the recycling process in Anne Arundel County and their goal to increase the amount of recycling.



Most of us are already recycling items such as cardboard, newspapers, junk mail, bottles, plastics and glass, but did you know that these items can also be recycled: empty paper towel and toilet tissue holders, shoe boxes, food/cereal boxes, pizza boxes, beverage cases, six pack holders, hard and soft cover books, magazines, telephone books, catalogs, gift wrapping, tissue paper, shredded paper, file folders, empty aerosol cans, detergent bottles and jugs—no need to rinse, include the lid!

There are a few items which cannot be recycled in Anne Arundel County. Those items are Styrofoam, aluminum foil, and waxed containers (such as orange juice cartons).

Kristen says that there is no need to look for the recycling symbol any more. Just put it in your bin if you're unsure.

Hazardous household waste may **not** be put out for curbside collection. These items should be dropped off between the hours of 8:00 am and 2:00 pm on these dates and locations: September 13th or November 15th at the Glen Burnie location (100 Dover Road) or on October 18th at the Millersville location (389 Burns Crossing Road). Hazardous items include oil-based paint, staining agents, gas and kerosene, solvents, pesticides, chemicals, propane tanks, asbestos/asbestos shingles, oil, antifreeze and many others. Check out the Recycle More Often website at (<http://www.recyclemoreoften.com>) for more information and future drop off dates.

Below are some curbside collection tips from Anne Arundel County:

- ♦ Paper, cans, bottles and jars can all be placed in the same container for collection. Cans, bottles and jars don't have to be rinsed or cleaned! And you can include lids, caps and labels!
- ♦ Use the yellow recycling container or any other container of your choice marked with a large "X". You may put out an unlimited amount of recycling. Yellow recycling containers can be picked up at the Recycling Office at 2662 Riva Road, Annapolis between the hours of 8-5 Monday-Friday, or at any one of the Convenience Centers in Millersville, Glen Burnie or Deale.
- ♦ Yard waste should be bundled, bagged or put in containers and marked with an "X".
- ♦ To ensure your recyclables are collected, place them at the curb by 6:00 a.m. on Tuesdays. Note that if a holiday falls on a Monday or Tuesday, collection will occur on Wednesday. If a holiday falls on Thursday or Friday, collection will occur on Saturday.
- ♦ Keep recycling containers to 40 pounds or less.

There are several recycling Convenience Centers which are located throughout the County. Visit <http://www.recyclemoreoften.com> or call 410-222-6100 for more information.



Pesky Raccoons?

There have been reports of raccoons roaming at night invading residents' back yards, decks, trash and recycle containers looking for food. If you have been bothered by raccoons (or other pesky varmints), please call Animal Control (410-222-8900). They can provide a humane trap for its safe capture.

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. The Editor reserves the right to print and/or edit all text.



Daylight Saving Time Ends

Reminder! Daylight Saving Time ends and Standard Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 2nd.

Remember to set your clocks *back* one hour .

Don't forget to change the batteries in your smoke detectors too!

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Walnut Ridge Community Association consists of homeowners who volunteer their time to serve Walnut Ridge. Contact the Board by email at:

board@walnutridgeonline.org

Officers

President: Ed Rose

Vice President: Laura Richardson

Treasurer: Anita Ramundo

Secretary: Gloria Petit Clair

Members at Large

Michelle Henderson

Paul Losh

Bryan Moores

Community Coordinator

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 Ext. 11

Jsheehy@dhbader.com

www.DHBbader.com

Who Do You Contact About.....

- Loud music? Call Anne Arundel County Police (non-emergency) at 410-222-8050
- Barking dogs? Call Animal Control at 410-222-8900
- Dogs running loose? Call Animal Control at 410-222-8900
- Suspicious Activity? Call Anne Arundel County Police (non-emergency) at 410-222-8050
- Mutt Mitts empty at Pet Stations? Call D.H. Bader Management at 301-953-1955, Ext. 11
- Fireworks being set off? Call Anne Arundel County Police (non-emergency) at 410-222-8050
- Visitor's Parking abuse? Call D.H. Bader Management at 301-953-1955, Ext. 11

See Page 4 for additional contacts.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

AA County—Main Number	410-222-7000
AA County Fire —Emergency Calls	911
AA County Fire —Non-Emergency	410-222-8300
AA County Police -Emergency	911
AA County Police —Non-Emergency	410-222-8050
AA County Health Nuisance Complaints	410-222-7364
AA County Department of Public Works	410-222-7940
AA County Department of Public Works/Waste Management	410-222-6100
Animal Control	410-222-8900
Annapolis City Police	410-268-9000
Anne Arundel Medical Center	443-481-1000
BGE—All Calls	800-685-0123
BGE—Report Power Outage	877-778-2222
Broadneck Library	410-222-1905
Broadstripe Cable (formerly Millennium)	410-987-9300
Bulk Item/Waste Removal	410-222-6104
Cable—Broadstripe (formerly Millennium)	410-987-9300
Cable—Comcast Cable	800-266-2278
Cape St. Claire Volunteer Fire Department	410-757-3434
Comcast Cable	800-266-2278
D.H. Bader Management Services	301-953-1955 Ext. 11
Department of Public Works	410-222-7940
Department of Public Works/Waste Management	410-222-6100
Environmental Health	410-222-7364
Health Nuisance Complaints	410-222-7364
Maryland State Police Headquarters	410-653-4200
North County Towing	410-760-3332
Post Office—Legion Avenue	410-573-0953
Poison Control	800-492-2414
Recycling & Yard Waste	410-222-6100
Salvation Army (Donated Items Pickup)	410-263-4019
Towing—North County Towing	410-760-3332
Trash Pickup Problems	410-222-6104
Water and Sewer Bills	410-222-1144
Water & Sewer Emergencies	410-222-8400

LETTERS: WE GET LETTERS – Maybe other people's letters?

Contributed by Bill Bevans

Are you receiving all the mail that you're supposed to get? There seems to be an alarming increase in the amount of misdirected or misdelivered mail over the past 6-months. At least twice a month, we find that the Mail Carrier has placed mail that's addressed to someone else in our mailbox. Sometimes the address is close (same number, different street) other times there is no similarity at all to our name or address. This is the fault of the Mail Carrier – who is supposed to be matching the full address and recipient's name with a given mailbox. It's really a big part of a Mail Carrier's job to do exactly that.



What happens if your mail is delivered to someone outside our Community – say, in Cape St. Claire or Broadneck - who may have an address that is similar to yours and who might not be inclined to make the trip to Walnut Ridge to deliver your mail? Then, you have to rely on the judgment of the person who actually receives your mail. Will they write a note on your mail and place it back in their mailbox for the Mail Carrier to see? Will they return it to the Post Office? Will they phone the Post Office to have it picked up? Will they accidentally open it? Will they just decide that it's probably 'junk' mail and just throw it away? Maybe you'll never know!!

If you receive someone else's mail, only you can decide what you'll do with it. Make the wrong decision and you could deprive the intended recipient of – say – a letter from Grandma, an employment opportunity, a refund check they've been waiting for, a credit card offer they actually want to respond to or something as mundane as a coupon they would have really liked to use. Remember, one person's junk might be another person's 'treasure'.

I suggest that we always treat misdirected mail as "Important" documents – and handle the item as you would want someone else to treat your own mis-directed mail. The easiest way to handle mail that isn't yours is to circle the address, write the word "re-deliver" next to it and place it in the outbound mail slot located in every Walnut Ridge Community mailbox. You may also phone the post office and they will advise you what to do with the mail. Generally they will send the Mail Carrier to your house to pick up the mail. Make certain that you ask for the name of whomever you talk to at the post office.

If the misdirected mail is too big for the outbound mail slot, again you can call the post office and they'll send the mailman back to pick it up. You can also give it to any Mail Carrier you happen to see (I recommend making a note of their name). You might want to take it down to the Post Office branch in Cape St. Claire shopping center (inside The Artist Flat store – not a full service USPS facility). If the weather is good, you might leave it on top of the Community mailbox (and, hope no one accidentally takes it). But, please don't throw away the misdirected mail.

Postal officials stress that it is important to report misdirected mail even if you bring misdirected mail to a neighbor yourself. This allows the managers to take steps to make sure mail gets to the right address. So, I encourage you to report every incident of misdirected mail. And, please encourage others to do the same whenever possible.

Here are some numbers to call to report misdirected/misdelivered mail:

USPS
210 Legion Avenue
Annapolis MD 21401
410-573-0953

USPS Distribution Center / Carrier Supervisor
195 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis MD 21401
410-573-0953
410-573-1889

Walnut Ridge Real Estate

Recent Home Sales:

- 1380 Hazel Nut Court - \$265,000
- 1375 Hazel Nut Court - \$270,000



Active Listings:

- 1334 Hazel Nut Court
- 1386 Almond Drive
- 1363 Almond Drive
- 1358 Almond Drive

Statistics courtesy of

Ziggi Nickel, Champion Realty
410-974-4200

Board of Directors' Meetings

Board meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of the month beginning at 6:30 pm. **Homeowners** are welcome to attend the public portion of the monthly Board Meetings to share suggestions and concerns. If you plan to attend a meeting, **please call D.H. Bader Management Services (301-953-1955) to verify meeting dates, times and locations.**

Dogs and Cats – if they're loose, they will be reported to Animal Control!

Elected Officials

County Executive	John Leopold	410-222-1821 exleop00@aacounty.org
County Council	Cathleen M. Vitale	410-222-1401 cvitale@aacounty.org
State Senator	John C. Astle	410-841-3578 john.astle@senate.state.md.us
State Delegates	Michael E. Busch	410-841-3800 michael.busch@house.state.md.us
	Virginia P. Claggett	410-841-3211 virginia.claggett@house.state.md.us
	Ronald A. George	410-841-3439 ron.george@house.state.md.us
U.S. Congressman	John P. Sarbanes	202-225-4016 http://sarbanes.house.gov/
U.S. Senators	Barbara A. Mikulski	202-224-4654 http://www.mikulski.senate.gov/
	Benjamin L. Cardin	202-224-4524 http://www.cardin.senate.gov/

A Word From The Walnut Ridge Wanderer

The Walnut Ridge Wanderer reports 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.)

When I step out my door to get my morning newspaper I'm starting to feel a little nip in the air. Fall is coming. I see the kids, moms and dads heading toward the school bus stops. As the adults chat, some of the kids are enjoying their last chance to run and play until they come home from school. Summer play clothes are giving way to school clothes. Those barefoot kids are wearing shoes. Those backpacks seem to get bigger every year!

What a joy to see the little ones playing on the playground after school. Such energy. It's like they've been set free after school and homework. Little wild ones, go and enjoy the warmth of the afternoon. Darkness will start coming earlier in the next few weeks.

Living in Walnut Ridge is special. We have such a nice mixture of all ages and stages. Watching the young ones with all their energy and enthusiasm is a joy. Come out of your houses, leave the TV, Game Boys, computers inside. Those activities will always be available to you. Make precious memories of days outdoors with friends, playing games, swinging, making baskets, chasing each other. Seeing parents outside with their kids enjoying each other and the beautiful days brings a smile to face. Healthy and strong bodies come from all the outside activity.

When the buses and cars depart for the day it is time to enjoy the beauty of our community. We are blessed with a gorgeous location. We are surrounded by woods that insulate us from the noise and hectic pace of the Broadneck Peninsula.

The pictures of Walnut Ridge from 1997 show a community that was just "growing". I am amazed at how much our forest buffer has grown. But with all that beauty comes a concern about overgrowth. Have you noticed that your backyard seems to be shrinking?

The distance between our houses and the woods is being reduced by the overgrowth of the forest and the overgrowth of our own backyards. Time for a trim? Communities seem to age without grace when they become overgrown.

I notice that residents on Almond Drive have gotten together to reclaim the community property behind their homes that has been taken over by the trees and underbrush. What a great idea!

In previous newsletters I spoke about planting natural grasses around my house and decreasing the amount of lawn. After reading a recent article about lawns I changed my mind.

People studying habitats around the world recognize that lawns form a buffer and open space that allow us to be separate from the animal kingdom. When we allow our yards and lawns to be overgrown we provide attractive habitats for snakes, spiders, rodents, deer (the latter two spread Lyme disease), deer flies, mosquitoes and other undesirable organisms. Lawns represent freedom from parasites, disease, and other unpleasant neighbors.

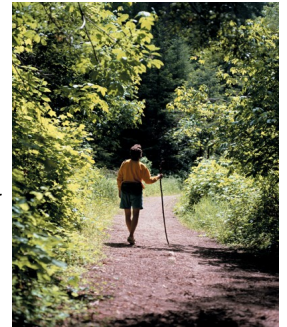
I'm telling you this because the Board has received reports of animals on decks and patios that have overturned large planters.

We are having a "raging raccoon" problem.....not to mention possum and incredibly aggressive squirrels that like to chew on the wiring of cars.

Let's maintain the buffer between the animals of the woods and our homes and families. The animals have a safe habitat in the woods. They find nourishment in the woods. Let's not invite them into our yards by leaving out food scraps that we actively spread out for them or by leaving food scraps and calling it "composting".

The passing of summer into autumn is a glorious time bringing with it Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. I call it the best time of year.

By the way, remember to exercise your right to vote. I hope to meet my neighbors at the polling place on Election Day.



Remembering Back.....
Scenes of Peach Court
1997

