



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR VOL 1 / ISSUE 3 SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2008

Neighborhood Watch...we've got our eyes open, what happens next?

First for those residents who were not able to attend the recent meeting, here are some highlights...Residents of Brandywine Farms met at Andrew Jackson School on August 4th at 6:30 P.M. to hear how to organize/revitalize our Neighborhood Watch Program.

Officer Troy Meadows of the Hermitage Precinct informed us there are 90 Neighborhood Groups in the 535 square miles of Davidson County. The Hermitage Precinct covers 112.6 square miles with eleven officers working during the day and fewer officers working the other two shifts.

He noted that only 38% of Metro Officers are on the force - the other percentages are covering other positions, i.e., desk, drug task force, SWAT unit, etc. He suggested that if someone is breaking into your home to call 9-1-1. If you see suspicious activity, call 862-8600 which could take a while for an officer to come - maybe even hours. He indicated that Block Captains are key "to a successful Neighborhood Watch".

In answer to questions from the audience, he advised us to go to www.nashville.gov, Police Dept. link to get stats on sex offenders, police calls to our neighborhood, etc.

Plans are for Neighborhood Watch and No Solicitation signs to be placed at the four entrances to Brandywine. In addition, residents are encouraged to take advantage of the website posting board to share information, and share crime reports etc. — More to follow in the next edition....

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

While distributing the newsletters a neighbor complained advising that the newsletters were falling and blowing off mail boxes resulting in clutter and litter in the neighborhood. The individual also suggested there were others who felt the same way. After giving the comment more thought it was agreed that many of us feel some dissatisfaction for unwanted solicitations left by sales people, politicians, and others on our mailboxes for that same reason. To any neighbor who has this same concern please rest assured that creating any controversy or clutter in our beautiful neighborhood was not the intent. The primary goal of the newsletter is to serve as a communication tool to share updates and unbiased information. This distribution method was being used to avoid postage expenses for households who either do not have internet access or who have not registered their email address on the site.

Fortunately, we are pleased to report that over 200 residences have registered, 174 provided emails! We also have over 40 additional former Brandywine Farms' neighbors & local businesses who have registered as well! **THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK IS AWESOME!** Not to mention, this helps us "save resources" by distributing newsletters to over 174 households via email!**Remember "Go Green and Read it on the Screen!"** We will now be distributing just over 100 physical hard copies of the newsletter to neighbors. Once our non-profit status becomes official, we will have access to special postage rates. In the interim, block captains will hand deliver the newsletters to neighbors doors wherever possible. For those blocks without captains, we will mail via US First Class Mail. Thanks for everyone's interest in keeping our neighborhood free from clutter & debris in the yards! **THIS OBSERVATION MADE A TON OF SENSE AND WE HAVE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY!** Thanks! - keep the positive and proactive suggestions coming!

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You have Questions? We have Answers!

Within the past 60 days there have been quite a few inquiries from residents suggesting the Brandywine Farms Association take steps to address a variety of neighborhood concerns. While the concerns are certainly valid, the BFA does not have authority to intervene or formally address these concerns. The BFA hopes that by sharing these concerns, voiced from neighbors, along with responses and suggestions, it will help us work together as "neighbors" to make our community a better place.

Q. What can be done about vehicles speeding through the neighborhood? - Submitted by multiple residents on both Montchanin and Willow Bough

A. Metro Police suggests that more often than not, the offenders are most commonly residents of the neighborhood where the concern exists. We should all be aware that the streets in our neighborhood have a 30mph speed limit. Homeowners must be cognizant and adhere to it. Speed limit signs are posted throughout the neighborhood. It is a matter of personal safety for our residents several of whom are young children. Ultimately, all streets within Brandywine Farms are under the jurisdiction of Metro. Residents are asked to contact Metro Police who can choose to issue warnings or citations. Residents observing their neighbors speeding may choose to alert the violator as to the safety risk. If you are confronted, understand that it is out of safety concern. For speeders who are part of home delivery/repair services, residents are asked to record license tags and report violators to the company. Most businesses have their company names advertised on their vehicles.

Q: "Can you (BFA) do anything about residents that allow their animals to urinate/defecate on another's property?" - Submitted by residents on Willow Bough, Rising Sun, Montchanin

A. The Brandywine Farms Association has no enforcement powers. We can suggest that residents who witness situations such as this to simply phone the owner or issue a letter asking that the violator respect his/her neighbors. Beyond that, we have not been able to find any codes specific to this concern, other than the leash law.

Q. "Is there a rule regarding garbage containers in our neighborhood, my neighbor regularly leaves their can at the street for days after their scheduled garbage pick up?" - Submitted by resident on Kennett

A. There is no Metro ordinances that provide a time limit for trash cans to be left at the street. However, we would like to encourage everyone that garbage containers be removed from the street as soon as possible after pick up. Additionally, whenever possible it will enhance the appearance of our neighborhood if garbage containers be stored out of sight of the street. Garbage containers left in the street pose safety risks and detract from the overall beauty of the neighborhood. Many prospective residents are driving through our neighborhood daily. It is unsightly to have garbage containers lying in the streets or sitting in full view of the front of one's home.

Q: Why did they leave all the dead vines on top of the entrance?...When can we anticipate more progress? Submitted by former resident of Brandywine Farms

A: Great question, we have received several inquiries both complimenting the efforts and questioning the purpose. The vines were cut and removed from the structure to allow various contractors access to prepare bids to repair and refurbish the structure. The team of volunteers who removed the majority of the vines plan to remove the remaining remnants as the weather cools this fall. The roof is the major project that needs to be completed, which is dependant on additional fund raising activities, and the likelihood of available grant money in 2009. In the interim, plans are underway to clean and paint the original gas lamps, and to repair and seal door frames and re-mount the iron gates. Contingent on funding, land-

scaping enhancements are also planned for all three main entrances. Again, if you know of a resource who will donate or provide lumber and cedar shakes necessary to re-roof the Brandywine drive structure, please email association@brandywinefarms.org

Q: Does the Brandywine Farms Association really have Non-Profit Status?

A: Not yet. Our application was reviewed prior to submission to the IRS by an accountant and former IRS employee who indicated there should be no reason the IRS would deny our application. We received an acknowledgement letter from the IRS in June 2008 suggesting the process could take up to an additional 60 days before receiving a response. The first week of September a call was placed to the IRS to find out the status of our application. The IRS representative advised that the IRS is running behind, and is currently processing applications submitted through March 2008. Truly the important deadline will be to have our ID number processed between now and the end of the year so we can attach that information to our funding applications.

Q: What is up with the independent company who solicited residents to allow them to paint house numbers on the curbs? Is this legit?

A: This is a great example of solicitation. This is certainly something a homeowner may choose to do, however the sales pitch is somewhat misleading by suggesting that the numbers on the curb would help emergency personnel find your property in the event of an emergency. The truth, based on information provided by Metro Code advises just the opposite, they advise the numbers are of no benefit nor are they encouraged.

Q: What about the neighborhood covenants, I hear they exist, but when I closed on my house 4 months ago they were not include?

A: Good Question!, After meeting with metro property we learned this is not a simple question. Look for a complete answer in the Nov/Dec edition.



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RECYCLE – REUSE – RENEW!

There has been so much interest in recycling expressed from our neighborhood. This is the TOP subject line by far from all the emails received! It is AWESOME so many folks are concerned about the impact we have on our environment and want to take steps to improve the health of our world for future generations. Based on the feedback and emails, many residents want to recycle yet do not want to take the time to sort their recycling and then take it to one of the area drop off locations. After a little home work we learned about a company called NashvilleOutdoors.net. After contacting the company we learned that there are currently 6 families in our neighborhood who have curbside recycling, now after learning about the service, they now have a 7th customer and the service has worked like clockwork. The service drops off a bin at your home which you then you fill with recyclable materials and place it at your curb every THURSDAY morning. They charge a nominal fee of \$15.00 per month which can be paid quarterly. For more information, give them a call at 884 9391, send them an email at: enviro@nashvilleoutdoors.net, or visit their website at <http://www.nashvilleoutdoors.net/conservation/customerservice.html>

What happens to your recyclables?:

NashvilleOutdoors.net pick up your recyclables mixed (plastic, paper, cans, cardboard, etc.) NashvilleOutdoors.net removes the glass, ink jet cartridges & books. The rest remains mixed and is delivered to a recycling center. This type of recycling is called "Single Stream" (mixed). The materials are then loaded into a conveyor system that uses arms to separate the paper, cans & plastic. This system is manned by people also, so it is very important for NashvilleOutdoors.net to remove the glass, so if you choose to subscribe to this service be considerate and separate your glass from the other items. Books and bikes are repaired and donated to those in need.

What Can Be Recycled? More than you would imagine! Email association@brandywinefarms.org for more a detailed listing.


MONTCHANIN...WHATS IN A NAME?

Montchanin Rd. is one of the original streets in Brandywine Farms! Montchanin is named for a village located in Northeastern DE. The town is situated amidst rolling hills of the Brandywine Valley approximately 5 miles from Wilmington, DE. Listed on the Historic Register, it was once part of the Winterthur Estate and was named for Alexandria de Montchanin, the emigrant grandmother of the founder of the Du Pont Gunpowder Company, Pierre Samuel DuPont de Nemours. The settlement was originally home to laborers who worked at the nearby DuPont powder mills.

HO HO HO!

Some of those who expressed interest in decorating the neighborhood, met on September 16th, 2008 to discuss feasible options available to decorate the three primary entrances of our neighborhood. The group has selected traditional red and green décor. Red Velvet Ribbons and Bows will accent natural pine garland draped in a tasteful manner at each entrance. If you are interested in helping with this effort, or have a resource for discounted ribbon or garland, please contact Judy Roberson as soon as possible (615)477-3920 or home (615)847-0038. The group plans to decorate the weekend following Thanksgiving. Look for more to follow in the November/December edition of Neighbor to Neighbor!

***Goblins are coming!
Many children, both residents and non-residents will be "trick or treating" in our neighborhood later this month. If you plan to give out goodies make sure to have your porch light on and your home well lit. Also, if you plan to drive on Halloween, please be cautious even as you come home from work! Remember many of the younger spooks get out early!***



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REMEMBER:

**ANYTIME YOU CAN, PLEASE
THANK THE BUSINESSES
WHO'S SUPPORT MAKES THIS
NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE!**

SEWERS.... "TO BE OR NOT TO BE"

"To be or not to be", that is the question on many residents minds. Whether you are personally against or in favor of this initiative, this is a very important issue and based on email inquiries everyone is eager for an update. Based on an update provided by Tom Cross with Metro Legal on August 27, 2008 *"The Court is still reviewing the consent decree. I remain hopeful that the Court will decide on it before much longer. Thanks for your patience."*

While many residents wish the issue would get resolved one way or another & sooner rather than later, the drawn out process continues to allow ample opportunity for residents to voice their opinions and views on the subject. On a small scale, this is a great example of what makes our country unique when compared to others in the world today.

It is unfortunate that the different views on this subject have created barriers between neighbors that did not exist in the past. It is this writer's hope (Brett Franklin, 103 Rolling Mill), that residents can learn to respect each other for their different views and opinions and find common ground and friendship on other issues. Brandywine Farms is a GREAT subdivision, whether you are new to the community or a "long timer" lets all do our part to rekindle the sense of neighborhood camaraderie that once existed!

As stated previously, the Brandywine Farms Association does not support or oppose the sewer effort. If you have an opinion or view relative to the sewer you would like to voice, you may choose to contact one of the following: Darren Jernigan, Councilmember District 11 – dsjernigan@comcast.net / Tom Cross, Metro Legal – tom.cross@nashville.gov

Neighborhood Posting Board now on Website

Thanks to similar suggestions from two Brandywine Farm's residents, Leslie Smotherman (Rising Sun) and Debbie Miller (Willow Bough) a "Neighborhood Posting Board has been added to the www.brandywinefarms.org site. The intent of this page is to provide a forum where neighbors can share information such as: missing pet reports, neighborhood vandalism & crime, etc. If you have something you wish to post, please forward to: association@brandywinefarms.org. We will act as quickly as possible to post appropriate content to the site, however it could take up to 48 hours as the site is maintained by volunteers.

DO YOU HAVE INPUT FOR THE
NOVEMBER /DECEMBER
"NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR"?

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS
TO: ASSOCIATION @BRANDYWINEFARMS.ORG
NOTE: AD DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 10TH

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