

Autumn Ridge Newsletter

Volume II, Issue 3

September 2003

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Association
Board of Directors**

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Traffic Safety in our Neighborhood

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, speeding is one of the most prevalent factors contributing to traffic accidents. In 1997, the NHTSA research determined that 86% of speeding-related fatalities occurred on roads that were not interstate highways. In addition, 23% of all traffic-related fatalities occur on local roadways, such as residential streets.

Several homeowners who attended the annual Autumn Ridge Homeowner's Association meeting on June 10th expressed concern for the safety of our residents, especially our children (and of course, our pets). What's the concern all about?

It was determined by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Traffic Engineering in a study made last fall that over 2,000 vehicles travel Autumn Ridge Drive every day. The speed limit is 25 miles per hour, but a huge majority of these drivers exceed the speed limit as they travel through our neighborhood. According to the Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 organization, most speeders in our neighborhood actually live in our



neighborhood. So I guess you could say that the concern is a valid one and that this article is a plea for us all to drive slower and more cautiously.

Through research, it's been determined that:

- ? Speeding extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle.
- ? At 20 mph the total stopping distance needed is 69 feet.
- ? At 30 mph, the distance needed is 123 feet.
- ? At 40 mph, the distance needed is 189 feet which may not be enough distance and time for you to avoid hitting an object or

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Walker Volunteers Wanted

Numerous residents have complained about the low hanging branches on the street trees. It is especially bad this year because the February ice storm weakened the branches, causing them to sag. In addition, we had a lot of rain causing rapid growth which further exacerbated the problem.

We are requesting a few volunteers to help us notify residents who need to attend to trimming their trees so they do not block the sidewalk and the street. We will ask these volunteers to walk the subdivision and place door hangers on the doors of residences that need

trees trimmed. If a resident wishes, we may be able to arrange for someone to trim their trees for a small fee, probably in the neighborhood of \$30 to \$50 per tree. The price would depend on how many want this service, and how much trimming is needed on each tree. All the work would be done during the same period, probably in the fall when the landscaping business slows down.

If you are interested in helping, contact Bob Hughes at 263-1514 or rhugh27@yahoo.com.



(Continued from Traffic Safety on page 1)

- person on the road.
- ? At night, when you can see only as far as your headlights allow (160 feet in front of your vehicle), the situation worsens.
 - ? The effectiveness of restraint devices like air bags and safety belts, and vehicular construction features, such as crumple zones and side member beams, decline as impact speed increases.

This article is also a plea for all residents who are concerned to speak up and let us know if you are interested in improving the safety of our neighborhood. It has been suggested that we petition for additional stop signs on Autumn

Ridge Drive in order to slow down the drivers – a 3 way stop at Pleasant Ridge and Autumn Ridge and a 4 way stop at Indian Summer and Autumn Ridge. It has also been suggested that the intersection of Ramblewood and Indian Summer needs to be examined for increased safety measures. Are you interested in helping get signatures on petitions? Or do you have other ideas on how we can increase traffic safety in our neighborhood? If you are interested in assisting the ARHA concerning this issue or just have ideas to share, please contact Jo Sutherland at 263-2769.



ANNUAL MEETING NEWS

The annual meeting of the Autumn Ridge Homeowners Association was held on June 10, 2003. There were 24 members at the meeting and 77 proxies to constitute a quorum for the meeting. There was discussion of budget, traffic, tree limbs blocking the sidewalk, trees needing replacement, mailboxes, barking dogs, and more. The budget was passed and Jo Sutherland and Logan Hillyard were elected to the Board of Directors.

Thanks for an excellent turnout and many good questions. There were numerous suggestions and lots of interest in the association voiced at the meeting.

We have had conflicting information from

the city concerning street trees that need replacement. Some members have been told that Aristocrat pear trees are unacceptable. The Bradford Pear is unacceptable. Tom Queary, the Urban Forester, replying to an email query said: "The Aristocrat pear is an acceptable species for street tree planting and a good replacement for the Bradford pear." There are no other spring flowering trees that bloom at the same time as the pear tree. We would ask that homeowners replace your damaged or missing street tree with an Aristocrat pear to maintain uniformity in the neighborhood. When all these trees bloom at the same time in the spring, it is truly a beautiful sight.

Autumn Ridge Crime Report

The map at right was printed from the <http://crimewatch.lfucg.com>. Homeowners, who are interested in learning more about this map and how to find it, can also go to the lfucg.com. Click the services tab and then click the Police Department tab.

Eight crimes were reported to Police over the last six months. The triangles represent the location of the homeowners reporting the crimes. The triangles are in different colors to represent the types of crimes. However, since our newsletter is not printed in color, I will describe the types of crimes reported.

There were four reports of theft, shoplifting, or larceny, which is defined as: "any type of theft other than an automobile." There were two reports of criminal mischief, also defined as "vandalism." Finally, there were two reports of noise disturbances.

Recently, a homeowner reported a break-in to an automobile on Willow Spring. That brings the today crimes to nine in the last six months.

Autumn Ridge homeowners are encouraged in the strongest



possible terms to report all crimes, no matter how insignificant, to the police. Their non-emergency number is 258-3600. The more they are called, the more resources they will allocate to the area. This sends a strong message to the criminal minded that this community will not tolerate crime.

Several neighborhoods in the vicinity of Autumn Ridge have organized a Neighborhood Watch program with the help of the Police. The Board would appreciate volunteers stepping forward to assist with the implementation of the program for Autumn Ridge. If interested, check out how to get started and what the program can do by visiting <http://www.lexingtonpolice.lfucg.com/ComServ/NeigWatch.asp>.

Dogs & Cats: The Sequel

The Association continues to hear complaints from members about neighbors not picking up after their pets.

For those members who may be new to the neighborhood and who may not be aware of city ordinances, please consider this article as a friendly reminder of your responsibility as a pet owner. These reminders are reprinted verbatim from the **How To Be A Better Neighbor** handbook, printed by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.

Barking Dogs: It is unlawful to have a dog whose barking or yelping creates a noise disturbance across the boundaries of your residence. Violators may be charged under the noise ordinance [Section 14-72] and fined \$25 to \$500. Violations of this ordinance are handled by the Division of Police, 258-3600.

Dog Litter: Owners should not allow dogs to deposit droppings in public places or on the property of others [Section 4-23.1]. When you walk your dog, make sure you take something with you to clean up after it. Make sure to clean up your dog's droppings in your own yard, too, so they don't accumulate and create a health hazard [Sections 4-23.2 and 11-6]. Be sure to double bag droppings and put them in a container before placing them in the Herbie [Section 16-8] and never dispose of dog litter in a creek or storm sewer.

Leash Laws: Dogs must be confined behind a fence or otherwise securely restrained while on the owner's property. A dog may be kept unleashed and unconfined on the owner's property only if the owner is

present with the animal and the dog is under the owner's direct control and supervision. Violators of this Ordinance [Section 4-19] can be fined \$10 to \$50 for each offence.

There are no ordinances, to the best of this writer's knowledge, that govern cats. However, members complain to the Association of cats leaving their droppings in children's sand boxes and stalking birds at feeders.

Cat droppings can cause Toxoplasmosis, an infectious disease that can be spread when cats eat rodents and birds carrying the organism.

House cats often kill birds feeding at neighbor's feeders for sport. This is both inhumane and immoral. Check with your vet. It is this writer's understanding that indoor cats are much better off indoors. It can't hurt neighbor relations, either.

Announcements

New Street Signs

The Association installed new street signs throughout the neighborhood. Special thanks to Bob Hughes for all his hard work and perseverance on this project. The signs are a welcome addition to the community. Thanks Bob!

Childcare Wanted

We are looking for someone in the Andover/Autumn Ridge area who would be interested in keeping a 3 month old infant in their home weekdays during the school year.

We will need someone beginning in August from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call Bryan and Sherri at 264-1441 if interested.

Looking for part time Day Care in Andover Area. We need day care one or two days a week for our two children: a two year old and a 5 month old. We would drop them off at your house. Usual hours would be 8:30 - 5:30. References and background check required. If interested please call 263-2552.

Replacement Board Member Needed

Mark Schmutte has moved from Autumn Ridge and, as a result, resigned from the Board. The Association wishes to thank Mark for his work.

Please contact Bob Hughes at 263-1514 or Edwin Gibson at 263-7681 if you have an interest in representing the community on the Board of Directors.

Management Report & News

Al Mitchell, District 6 Council Member and Edwin Gibson, Property Manager, met with the following homeowners to discuss traffic on Autumn Ridge Drive: Don and Carolyn Carden, Wayne Earlywine, Tia Barnett, Al Albert, Bob and Donna Hughes, Jan Potts, and Jo and Charles Sutherland. We inspected and discussed three intersections with Autumn Ridge: Pheasant Run, Indian Summer, and Pleasant Ridge Drive.

These homeowners are concerned with the volume and speed of traffic through these intersections. Mr. Mitchell suggested the best

way to slow down traffic is with stop signs. He also said he would have the police set up speed monitoring stations to ticket speeders. Unfortunately, this is only a short-term solution to a recurring problem.

Mr. Mitchell suggested starting a petition to have the city install stop signs at Indian Summer and Pleasant Ridge. The petition would need to include more than 50% of the homeowners in and around these intersections. The Association would need volunteers to help collect signatures and to attend meetings downtown to lobby for the signs.

The Association believes

that the additional signs will slow down traffic and make Autumn Ridge less attractive to non-residents who use this road as a cut through to Hamburg and I-75.

Homeowners who are interested in this important issue are asked to contact Bob Hughes at 263-1514 or Edwin Gibson at 263-7681.

The Homeowners Association is doing business in care of EMG Management Services, LLC, P.O. Box 54330, Lexington KY 40555-4330. Please be sure to open any mail with this return address. Please make note of this address for any mail addressed to your Association.

Autumn Ridge
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Autumn Ridge Lake is Private Property



Please remember that the property surrounding the lake is private property. While the Association is responsible for the care and maintenance of the lake, it belongs to the homeowners whose lots back up to it. Please respect the rights of these homeowners and do not trespass or fish on their property. Fishing is also prohibited from the common area owned by the Association.

Members who have questions about the lake are asked to contact the Property Manager, Edwin Gibson, at 263-7681. The Association thanks its members for their cooperation.

Mailbox Maintenance

Many of our mail boxes and posts are showing serious signs of wear and tear! Most boxes and posts can be restored to almost like-new condition. Every little bit can enhance the curb appeal and value of your home!

For most metal mailboxes and posts, remove all the rust spots with steel wool or sandpaper. Clean the box and post thoroughly and then apply a coat or two of high gloss "rustoleum" type spray paint. Be sure to tape over (or remove) your address numbers before you spray.

Your attention to the mailbox will brighten up the appearance of the property.

