



THE PARK BENCH

Ransom Park Periodical



Volume 1 Issue 6 June 1, 2009

2009 ALREADY OFF TO A RUNNING START! BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED!

We are pleased to announce that Ransom Park Homeowners Association, Inc has appointed the 2009 Board of Directors! At our last Association Meeting March 26th, the new Board of Directors was elected. All members have families, businesses, jobs, and other responsibilities. However, they have graciously volunteered to help all of us protect our investments in Ransom Park Subdivision.

Tiffany Saizon-President, a Kansas native, owns a successful Home Staging business called Nu Beginnings Home Staging, LLC, works outside the home, has two grown children living in Louisiana, and is involved with various associations and community organizations in the Nashville Area.

Amy Riddle-Vice President an Illinois native, has lived in TN for 10 yrs and RP for 2 years w/her wonderful family. She is the owner of an Electronic Retailing business through TN Business Enterprises, a fundraiser for various groups, a member of the National Federation for the Blind and other important community groups.

Roxanne Connor-Secretary, moved to Nashville from N.Y. 7 years ago. Roxanne's boyfriend Shane, her teenage son, and her 2 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs have lived in RP for 3 years. Roxanne has one other teenage son, who visits regularly. She currently works as a Program Director for TestAmerica.

Marlon Saizon-Treasurer, a Louisiana native, has lived in RP for 3 years and married to his wife of 10 years. They have a 22 year old son in the Air Force and a beautiful and talented daughter 18 living in Louisiana. Marlon works for a heavy equipment company and has seen many parts of the world while in his employment.

What's Inside:

- RPHOA Financial News
 - District 28 News
 - Metro Police-Happening/Precinct Activity
- And much more...*

Tresa Williams-Officer and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, has lived in RP for 2 year. She works at Fisher Scientific and is an avid Bid Whist player.

Keturah Duncanson- moved to Nashville and into Ransom Park in 2007. She works at St. John A.M.E. Church while she pursues her Masters Degree in Special Education.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION HAS FINISHED MOST OF THEIR WORK

General Construction has finished work in all sections except Section Six of our subdivision. (Section on the tail end of Evergreen Ridge) From what we understand they have to lay the final pavement on that section of Evergreen Ridge in order for the city to release that section. Now that the city has released those sections, we have been in contact with the city to install street lights. We've been told that we will have them installed by the beginning of next year if not sooner.

NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLATIONS

The neighborhood is looking better and better in many regards. This past quarter we only had to send out 13 violation letters. We appreciate all your phone calls regarding this issue. Please understand that we are doing all that we can, inside the law, to get these homeowners to respect our investments in this community. But also remember that some who live in our neighborhood are not homeowners and don't seem to care about the well-being of this neighborhood. All who are on the Board live in this community too and are just as frustrated (if not more) with those who continue to make our neighborhood look bad. They are effecting all our investments and cause the Board (who is working voluntarily) to work harder than necessary. We have asked the Police for more patrol to help with parking violations and speeding. We are hoping they will start giving tickets for repeat violators.

The following are just a few of the violations cited this past month:

- **PARKING IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF**



TRAFFIC

- **PARKING NEXT TO FIRE HYDRANTS**
- **PARKING ON THE LAWN**
- Indoor furnishings, exercise equipment, and office furniture on porches, lawns and decks

Please be considerate of your neighbors and keep the front AND BACK of your homes presentable. Please do not bring shopping carts in our neighborhood and leave them. Please do not park on the No Parking side of any street. Please do not park in the opposite direction on any street. Please use your garages for parking whenever possible. Please do not park on both sides of any street. Emergency vehicles cannot get through. Please do not park in front of mailboxes during the day. Please do not park in front of vehicles on the street.



Please do not take it *personal* if you receive a letter from us. Our intention is ONLY to protect all our investments and make it much easier to sell our homes should any of us decide to *move on*.

Please see the RPHOA Declaration and Bylaws, and Metro Codes.

PROBLEM WITH LITTER AND EXCESSIVE PARTIES ON GRAFTON

Many of us have seen the litter leading from Ransom Park to Grafton Street. Many of us have seen and stopped the children who live in that area from littering our subdivision. Many of us have picked up the trash in that area. We are asking for your eyes and ears to help us send violation notices/fines to these neighbors who continue to make our neighbourhood look bad. Another issue we continually have on that street are excessive parties. Continue to call the police for noise disturbances and if you can get a specific address of those who consistently disturb neighbors with no regard, please call us with that address. We can send out violations notices and go as far as put a lien on the home of those who continue to bring our neighborhood down with their inconsiderate behavior. If you are one of the perpetrators, do us all a favor and take your trash and excessive, inconsiderate partying elsewhere. You are bringing down the entire neighborhood!!!!!!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is our intention to communicate with you and address neighborhood concerns by mail. It is important that you take some time to read the information that we are spending time and money to try to share with you. As the President of the Ransom Park Home Owners Association, it is my mission to encourage all of us to keep high basic standards so that Ransom Park remains a safe and attractive place to live. We hope that you find value in this information.

RPHOA FINANCIAL NEWS

In 2007.....

50% of Homeowners paid dues. \$6,271.56 Collected (including a few large real estate transaction fees). Total expenses last year \$7,601.46

So far in 2008

72% of Homeowners have paid dues. \$9,743.11 Collected. Estimated expenses for this year so far is 7701.61

Thank you to all those who are doing their part and contributing to Ransom Park's *bare minimum expenses*. The board is aggressively pursuing 46 homeowners who are delinquent (most over two years delinquent) and unfortunately liens are being processed. Interest, late fees, and fees associated with processing the liens have been added to the delinquent dues.

Please understand that when you bought your home you joined the Association. *Membership* is not optional. This is a legal obligation entered into when you purchased your home. We get all homeowners to pay their dues so we can begin making many improvements to the neighbourhood that could potentially raise the value of our homes.



We'd like to hear your suggestions on ways to improve our subdivision. Please email the Secretary with those ideas by going to our website at www.ransompark.com. For a copy of the detailed Treasurer's Report please attend the Neighborhood Association Meetings.

Local Youth Achieves His Dream

A High School Senior has big plans for the future and appears to be moving in the right direction.

When you look at his life achievements in only 18 years, it starts to become apparent that he is on course for something great. A member at Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, the DJ and owner of HammerheadProductions.org, an Eagle Scout with Five Palms in Troop 54 at the American Legion Donelson Post 88, member of the Sons of the American Legion at Post 88, a Cadet First Lieutenant and the Cadet Executive Officer in the Civil Air Patrol TN185 St. Edwards Squadron, he has been busy over the last 12 years. He has raised money for Vanderbilt Children's Hospital by participating in fundraisers and even founded his own program, Kicks For Children, that raised thousands of dollars for the children. While participating in tennis, ice hockey, martial arts, baseball, and bowling, he has still managed to be an honors student throughout his 13 years in Ezell-Harding Christian School demonstrating the knowledge gained from his education with a score of 35 on his ACT test. And, somewhere in there he found time to work as an intern for the State of Tennessee, in public relations for the Nashville Sounds, and as the Administrative Assistant to the C.E.O. / President of the Miss Teen America Scholarship Program.

On Saturday, February 07, 2009, a dream started becoming reality to Jeremy Sledge when he received a package in the mail that he had wanted to see for some time. He received his appointment letter and certificate naming him as a new cadet in the Class of 2013 in The United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. He will graduate from Ezell-Harding Christian School on May 23, 2009 and reports to West Point on June 29, 2009.

Jeremy became a member of Civil Air Patrol in November 2006 after attending a Boy Scout Explorer group information session on the Civil Air Patrol with the St. Edwards Squadron. This was a natural fit given his interest in a military career. Since joining the squadron, Jeremy says that National Honor Guard Academy in Maryland and Winter Encampment in Florida have been two of the highlights. The St. Edwards Cadet Squadron is one of the largest squadrons in the Nashville area. Jeremy was able to share this experience with the other cadets in his squadron at a recent meeting. He signed the West Point acceptance card with his squadron surrounding him.

So what sparked his interest in the military? The simple answer is September 11, 2001. A day that changed many Americans was extremely personal to Jeremy. *My uncle is a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force and worked in the Pentagon at the time. When we heard that the first tower was hit that day, my teacher immediately turned the television onto the news. About an hour later, we saw that the Pentagon had been hit. My first thought, and the only thing I thought about for the rest of the day, was *Is Uncle Reagan okay?* and I decided that I wasn't going to just sit around and let another kid go through what I had gone through that day. It was after this that he began to consider a military career. "September 11 was a scary day for everyone, especially those who knew someone directly involved. That day I transformed from a fifth grader who happened to be an American and became an American who happened to be a fifth grader."

Jeremy set his sights on West Point while in the 7th Grade. After much investigation, he decided that it was more than just a college; it was an experience which he had been preparing for his whole life. So what is he most concerned about as he starts this new chapter in his life? "The mental challenge of adjusting to military life and losing some of the comforts of home." Top on the list for him are his video games, playstation, and his cell phone which will be taken on day one. "Even with all of this, you have to consider the benefits of attending West Point over the small discomforts. Ask me again in four if I think it was worth it."

For Jeremy, the requirements to be considered were straight forward except for the Physical Fitness test. Preparing for the test had been the most challenging part of pursuing this dream. "There isn't a minimum requirement, you simply have to give it your best and then wait to see if it was good enough." says Jeremy. He has been and continues to work with his trainer at the Urban Active on Murfreesboro Road to make sure that he is physically prepared for West Point and Beast (West Point's 8 week basic training). He credits them with his passing the physical fitness test for admission.

How did the Civil Air Patrol help to prepare him? Through the Civil Air Patrol cadet program he was able to strengthen and demonstrate his leadership ability. It helped to solidify his decision to pursue a



military path. It also helped him to be more confident, especially with interview and review board situations. "West Point will offer me challenges that are beyond normal college classes, my living needs will be met, and I will even get paid to go to school so that I can focus on studying and becoming the best that I can be."

Jeremy's parents, David and Ryn Sledge, said that he appeared to have no signs of stress through the intense process. They are preparing themselves for the challenge of sending their only child away to the academy. "This is his dream and we understand and totally support him in this decision. I don't think anyone could be more proud of a child than we are of Jeremy and the man that he has become."

Congratulations Cadet First Lieutenant Jeremy Sledge on your appointment to The United States Military Academy at West Point. Continue to dream and enjoy the rewards of realizing those dreams as they become reality.

Nu Beginnings Home Staging

Dedicated to helping you start your new beginning by selling your home faster and for top dollar!

Give your home the best chance it has to sell!
If you are tired of your home sitting on the market contact us at www.nubeginningshomestaging.com and start your new beginning today!



FEW REMINDERS

- Because some of our streets are narrow we are asking that you do not park on both sides of the street. It would be ideal if everyone would park in their garages and or in their own driveways.

However, if you have to park on the street, please try to **leave room for emergency vehicles to get through and park in the direction of traffic.** We had an incident where a woman was having her baby and the ambulance couldn't get to her home.

- The speed limit in Ransom Park is 30 miles per hour.
- If you are having a gathering at your residence, please be considerate of your neighbors. Excessive noise and parking rule restrictions will be enforced.
- Please make sure that you submit plans for any and all structural additions to the exterior of your home for Board approval. See RP Bylaws, page 11, Article VIII- Architectural Control.
- Backyards and decks should be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition as well. Clothes and rugs should not be hung out for extended periods of time; office furniture, mattresses, exercise equipment etc. should be stored elsewhere inside the home or crawl space.
- We encourage all homeowners to get house alarms. Alarms do not stop burglaries. However, they are a deterrent. According to statistics, many break-ins are committed by families with your home. Alarms can increase the value of your home and decrease your insurance cost.
- To cut down on administrative costs, we are building an email database of all homeowners. If you would like to get your newsletter and other RPHOA news via email, please contact our Secretary, by going to our website at www.ransompark.com. We will not use your email for any purpose other than to send RPHOA news and updates.



SHARE COMMUNITY NEWS! SHARE GOOD NEWS!

There is so much bad news on the television today. We've decided to make The Park Bench a forum to share good news and dates for community events! If you have news, please contact us at www.ransompark.com

HELPFUL NUMBERS

- Animal Control 862-7930
- Dead Animal Removal 880-1000
- Metro Police Non Emergency 862-8600
- Fire Department 327-1300
- Gang Hotline 862-4264
- Domestic Violence Division Hotline 800-356-6767
- Drug Helpline 800-662-4357
- Recycle Drop off is at 1019 Omohundro Place.

880-1955. No Household Hazardous Waste Collection.

Recycling

Metro Nashville offers curbside recycling. All items must be placed at the curb of the street. To place a Bulk Item pick up request, please contact Public Works Customer Service by calling 862-8750. The Sheriff's Office will schedule your pick-up within 1-5 business days after your request is made. If your household recycling needs are not met by their schedule; here is a brief listing of the nearby recycling drop off stations:

For complete listing please visit:

www.Nashville.gov/recycle/centers/drop_off

www.nashville.gov/recycle

DATES TO REMEMBER

- ☀ Jan 1- 09 Assessments due w/o late penalty.
- ☀ Jan 12- 09 2007-2008 Assessments due w/o Lien.
- ☀ Jan 22- 09 Neighborhood Association Meeting, 5101 Harding Place-Metro Police Dept 7pm

Freedom is a choice you have to make.

Your choices bring you freedom.

Choose forgiveness instead of anger.

Choose hope instead of despair.

Choose love instead of fear.

Choose peace instead of anxiety.

Choose generosity instead of selfishness.

Choose joy instead of sadness.

It's all about the choices you make.

Choose to make it a great year in 2009!

"Attitude Affects Altitude."

I wonder what the subdivision would be like without a Homeowners Association?



Check Out Kilowatt Ours

A local non-profit organization who is trying to make Nashville the most energy efficient city in the Southeast. www.KilowattOurs.org. Hopefully we can bring energy conservation resources into our community and help our residents cut energy costs as well. Look for more on this in 2009!

Recycle at Pepper Ridge!

And save our tax money for other things we need in Nashville! Recycle with "Curby"-your big, green recycling cart.

Here's what you can put in your Curby Car:

Paper-Newspaper, Magazines, Junk mail

Boxes & Paper Containers (clean boxes only)-

Food boxes (cereal boxes, macaroni & cheese boxes, spaghetti boxes), milk & juice cartons (the wax cartons)

Plastic Containers (ok to leave the caps on)-Drink Bottles, Soap & Detergent Bottles, Butter & Margarine Tubs, Whipped Cream, Tubs, Cottage Cheese & Yogurt tubs

Metal Cans(empty cans, please)-Aluminum drink cans, Steel food cans

Recycling with Curby is easy!

1. Place everything on the list above in the big, green Curby cart.
2. Take your Curby cart to the curb (or alley-wherever your trash cart is normally picked up).
3. You are done! Thank you for recycling and saving our tax money for other things!

Your Curby Recycling Cart is picked up once a month (The second Friday of the month in Ransom Park Sudvision). Recycling Pick Up at Pepper Ridge is the 4th Friday of each month.

Questions? Need a second recycling cart? Want to receive a monthly email reminder? Call Curby at 880-1000 or www.nashville.gov/recycle

WISHING YOU THE VERY BEST...

Today...I wish you a day of ordinary miracles, a fresh pot of coffee you didn't have to make yourself, an unexpected phone call from an old friend, green spotlights on your

**It's your community!
Get involved!
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