

THE PARK BENCH

Ransom Park Periodical

2008 Volume 1 Issue 1

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We are pleased to announce that Ransom Park Homeowners Association, Inc has appointed the 2008 Board of Directors! 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.

Marlon Saizon-President, a Louisiana native, has lived in RP for 2 years and married to his wife of 10 years. They have a 21 year old son in the Air Force and a beautiful and talented daughter 17 living in Louisiana. Marlon works for a heavy equipment company and has seen many parts of the world while in his employment.

Amy Riddle-Vice President a Missouri native, has lived in TN for 10 yrs and RP for one year 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.

Robert McMurry-Treasurer has lived in RP for 2 1/2 years and married for 4 years to his lovely wife Joan Brooke McMurry, who is a very successful Realtor at Coldwell Banker. Robert is an employee of Nissan North America Manufacturing. They have beautiful 3 month old twin girls.

Tiffany Saizon-Secretary, a Kansas native, owns a successful Home Staging business called Nu Beginnings Home Staging, LLC and is involved with various associations and community organizations in the Nashville Area.

Roxanne Connor-Special Appointed Officer of the Board, moved to Nashville from N.Y. 6 years ago. Roxanne's boyfriend Shane, her teenage son, and her 2 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs have lived in RP for 2 years. Roxanne has one other teenage son, who visits regularly. She currently works as a Program Director for TestAmerica.

Sheronda Wilson-Officer, has lived in RP for 4 years and married to her husband Fred Wilson for 4 years. She is a Case Manager II for Mehary Medical College and currently pursuing a degree in nursing. They have a beautiful 3 year old daughter.

What's Inside:

- updates to the Neighborhood
 - Neighborhood Violations
 - Treasurer's News
 - Neighborhood Watch
 - Got Talent
 - Neighborhood Clean up Day
 - Metro Police News
 - Neighborhood Committee Mtg.
 - Free Business Advertising
- And much more...*

Tresa Williams-Officer, has lived in RP for 1 year. She works at Fisher Scientific and is an avid Bid Whist player.

Thomas Bulla-Officer, has lived in RP for 1 year. He works for Lowes Home Improvement Store.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm sure we all have different opinions on what a good neighbor is and have different expectations. For some of us a good neighbor knows our names, takes time to chat with us, and brings food to all our house parties. For others a good neighbor stays on their side of the fence and leaves us alone. Although we don't agree on the fine points, there are basic standards that allow residents to live side by side, in close proximity, enjoy their homes, help preserve property values, prevent neighbor disputes, and maintain peace and quiet. As the Board of Director 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.



"You get out of life what you put into it"

UPDATES TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

You will be happy to hear that the Board has received good news! General Construction has been given a date from the Metro Planning Department to have their work completed by May 29th.

As soon as their work is complete the board will begin trying to get more no parking signs and streetlights installed.

We are all keeping our fingers cross and wishing General Construction the best of luck in completing their long To-Do List.

Let us all just remember that General Construction are people just like us and we must have faith that they are doing the best they can do to complete these tasks. They too have an investment in this neighborhood and would like to finish their work as much as we all want them to be finished.

Be on the look out for more updates in upcoming newsletters.

We are also looking into installing speed bumps in the neighborhood. However, because not every homeowner pays their dues, there are few updates the HOA can pay for out of these funds. The Board is working diligently to correct the delinquent dues issue as well.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

We are in need of captains for every ten homes in our subdivision. If you are interested in getting involved and putting your *eyes and ears to the streets*, please contact the RPHOA Board President by going to our website at www.freewebtown.com/rphoa.



"If you could sum up your life over the last year, what would you say?"

NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLATIONS

The Board has been busy trying to do our part in keeping Ransom Park a safe and attractive place to live. In the past month we have sent out twenty-one violation letters. RP has 164 homes.

While it is not our intention to offend our homeowners, single anyone out or make our homeowners feel uncomfortable in their homes. It is our responsibility to help protect all of our investment in this community and try to enforce Metro Code. Although the Board is volunteering their time and efforts, they take this responsibility very seriously. With an exception of a few, none of us can keep the exterior of our homes perfect all the time. However, it is important that we try to keep the exterior of our property maintained in a clean, attractive, safe, and sanitary condition.

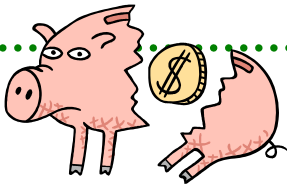
The following are just a few of the violations cited this past month:

- Trash, rubbish and debris in yard
- Dog not on leash
- Inoperable cars
- Multiple excessive noise disturbances
- Washing cars in the street
- Indoor furnishings, exercise equipment, and office furniture on porches, lawns and decks
- Trashcans not being stored properly
- Basketball goals, child's rocking horses and lawnmowers not being stored properly
- Vegetable gardens in the front lawn area
- Boats and trailers parked on grass
- Parking not to obstruct traffic
- Unauthorized structural additions

The board wishes to try to keep our community a safe and attractive place to live. We have volunteered for this responsibility and want to work both diligently and in a neighbour-friendly manner. We all have an investment in this neighborhood. It's important that we work together to protect it.

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.



TREASURER'S REPORT

In 2007.....

50% of Homeowners paid dues
 \$6,271.56 Collected (including large real estate transaction fees)
 \$2,328.75 Insurance Cost
 \$4,075.00 Cost to maintain Common Areas
 \$ 520.71 Administrative Cost
 \$ 216.00 USPS P.O. Box
 \$ 461.00 Block Party
 \$7,601.46 Total cost last year

So far in 2008

50% of Homeowners have paid dues
 \$5,105.00 Collected

Thank you to all those who are doing their part and contributing to Ransom Park's *bare minimum expenses*. The board is aggressively pursuing all delinquent dues. It is not fair for only some to pay. we would all like to see improvements and updates to our community. The board does not get paid one dime for their time, work, or efforts. Their work is all done voluntarily. We'd like to hear your ideas on ways to improve our subdivision. Please email the Secretary with those ideas by going to our website at www.freewebtown.com/rphoa. For a copy of the detailed Treasurer's Report contact Robert McMurry 615-512-0663. This information is also given out at the Neighborhood Association Meetings.



METRO POLICE NEWS

Nashvillians keenly interested in the inner workings of their police department are cordially invited to apply for the 21st session of the Citizen Police Academy , which begins its 12-week run on April 15.

Classes will be held on Tuesday nights from 6 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. through July 1, 2008, in the community room of the Hermitage Precinct, 3701 James Kay Lane . Because class size is limited, interested persons are urged to apply immediately. The deadline for applications is April 7.

Participants will learn about the intricacies of police work through the perspective of a variety of guest speakers, including members of the police

department's specialized components. Electives, including a ride along with a police officer and basic firearm instruction, will be offered.

Each applicant should commit to attending at least ten of the twelve sessions, be a Davidson County resident, at least 21 years old and have no arrest record, excluding minor traffic violations. While completion of the course gives citizens an understanding of the workings of the police department, it does not make a participant a certified law enforcement officer, nor is it designed to train citizens to perform law enforcement duties.

Applications can be completed and submitted on the Inter net by logging onto <http://police.nashville.org/citizen/apply.htm>.

Sgt. Chris Warner
 South Precinct
 Community Affairs Coordinator
 5101 Harding Place
 Nashville , TN 37211
 (615) 880-3182
chris.warner@nashville.gov

FREE ADVERTISING

If you live in Ransom Park, own a business, and are current on dues, we are offering free advertising in our quarterly newsletter. For more details, please contact our Secretary, by going to our website at www.freewebtown.com/rphoa. Space is limited. The ad should be small. First come, first serve.



"Life is a gift, so open it and let the journey begin."





LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN

We have decided to walk through the neighborhood on April 19th, cleaning up where ever trash and debris has been accumulating. If you would like to join RPHOA in this endeavour, come to the corner of Ransom Place and Olive Circle (the entrance to the subdivision), Saturday April 19th at 7am. Bring gloves, rakes or whatever you'd like to bring to help and work hard.

GOT GOOD NEWS?

If you have writer's talent, have inspirational poetry, or just down right good news, we are looking for you! There is so much bad news on the television today. We've decided to make The Park Bench a forum to share good news! So if your child received good grades on their report card; you have a new child born to your family; you want to wish someone a happy birthday or happy anniversary; congratulate someone on an accomplishment; or.....you get the point...we are asking for your good news.

For submissions, please contact our Secretary, by going to our website at www.freewebtown.com/rphoa. Please keep in mind the newsletter comes out quarterly.

GOT TALENT?

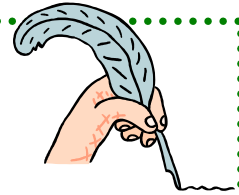
Are you a poet? Can you sing? What about dancing? Well show off your talent at our Community Block Party/Talent Show August 2nd. If you'd like to participate and/or help with this event, please contact our Secretary, by going to our website at www.freewebtown.com/rphoa.



"Excuses weaken the ability to change."

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 25 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 people familiar 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.freewebtown.com/rphoa. We will not use your email for any purpose other than to send RPHOA news and updates.



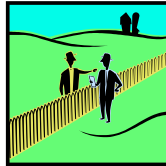
HELPFUL NUMBERS

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:

Wal Mart Neighborhood Market
 5531 Edmondson Pike
 Nashville, TN 37211
 Open 24 hrs



Accepts: newspaper, mixed paper, paper board, cardboard, aluminum, tin, glass containers, plastic bottles & containers

McGavock High School
 3150 McGavock Pike - Drop-off is located behind the school next to Two Rivers Park
 Nashville, TN 37214-Open 24 hrs.

Accepts: newspaper, mixed paper, paper board, cardboard, aluminum, tin, glass containers, plastic bottles & containers

Hermitage Hobby Lobby
 4101 Lebanon Road
 Hermitage, TN 37076- Open 24 hrs.

Accepts: newspaper, mixed paper, paper board, cardboard, aluminum, tin, glass containers, plastic bottles & containers

Elysian Fields Kroger
 3955 Nolensville Road
 Nashville, TN 37211- Open 24 hrs.

Accepts: newspaper, mixed paper, paper board, cardboard, aluminum, tin, glass containers, plastic bottles & containers

For complete listing please visit:

www.Nashville.gov/recycle/centers/drop_off
www.nashville.gov/recycle

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Delinquent Dues mailed in by April 13th
- Neighborhood Committee Meeting April 2th 7pm at 1845 Olive Circle (Tresa William's House)
- Neighborhood Clean Up Day April 19th 7am
- Neighborhood Association Meeting May 29th 5101 Harding Place-Metro Police Dept 7pm
- Community Garage Sale June 7th and 8th 7a-7p
- Block Party/Talent Show August 2nd-More detail to follow in the next newsletter.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE MEETING

So far the Board has come up with many events for 2008, which include giving out an award for the nicest yard, a RP Walking Club, Garage Sale, and a Block Party. If you would like to help with any of these events, please go to the meeting April 2nd, 7pm at 1845 Olive Circle. One of the Board's Officer's, Tresa Williams will be spear-heading the organization for these events.

QUOTATIONS ON NEIGHBORS

<http://www.entplaza.com/cgi-bin/create/quotes.pl?cat=Neighbors>

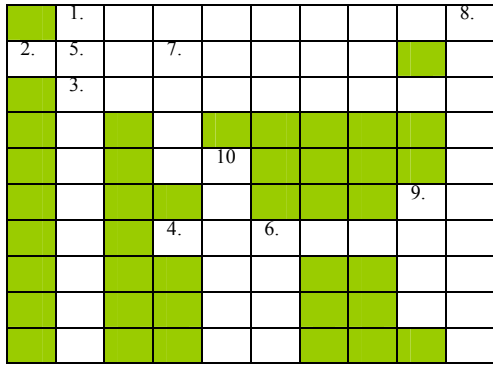
"A good neighbor is a fellow who smiles at you over the back fence, but doesn't climb over it." -- Arthur Baer

"If you fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, you do well. [James 2:8]"

"Keeping up with the Joneses was a full-time job with my mother and father. It was not until many years later when I lived alone that I realized how much cheaper it was to drag the Joneses down to my level." -- Quentín Crisp

"Don't throw stones at your neighbors, if your own windows are glass." -- Benjamín Franklin

"A bad neighbor is a misfortune, as much as a good one is a great blessing." -- Hesíod



Answers will be given in the next issue.

Across

1. The Board of Directors _____ their time to keep our community a safe and attractive place to live.
2. The family living beside you is your _____
3. Making an addition to your home without a permit is a Metro Code _____
4. We should all be at the Neighborhood _____ Day on April 19th at 7am.

Down

5. It is _____ responsibility to keep RP a safe and attractive place to live
6. Neighborhood Watch is about keeping your eyes and _____ to the streets.
7. We all should desire to be a _____ neighbor.
8. We live in the _____ Subdivision
9. Delinquent _____ should be mailed in by April 13th.
10. The Metro _____ help to keep our neighborhood safe.

Ransom Park HOA
 2479 Murfreesboro Rd #355
 Nashville, TN 37217-3554



RECIPIENT NAME
 STREET ADDRESS
 ADDRESS 2
 TOWN, COUNTY
 POSTCODE