

CAMBRIDGE GROVE NEWSLETTER

Volume No. 2 Issue No. 2 June 2000

Grounds committee gets off the Ground!

by Judy Walston

Are you sitting down? Yeah that's right, the grounds committee has finally gotten off their butts. We had our first meeting on Wednesday, May 24th and I thought I would share our notes. The four main areas of discussion were the Neighborhood Watch, Pool Patrol, pool maintenance and the roads.

Neighborhood Watch

Two years later, it has finally sparked enough interest! It takes at least one half of the community to sign up before the police will consider helping us. I understand that we have reached that number and should be notified by our local police force (Cobb County) when and where a meeting will take place to help get us started. When you receive this notification, please make sure that you or somebody from your family attends. If you have not signed up for Neighborhood Watch, please contact David Higdon at 770-928-1312 or Lydia Watts at 770-924-8882. Thanks to David for initiating that.

Pool Patrol

Guess what guys, that's everybody! If you notice that the pool is not looking its best, please contact **Michael McCreary at 770-427-5711**. That is why we pay him! (Well, all right, he does some other stuff too!) This includes the pool furniture, restrooms and the lawn maintenance in the common areas. We had a lot of complaints about the pool last year, but none were passed along to our management company. Michael is your contact for that sort of information, not your next door neighbor!

Pool Maintenance

I am sure by now that most of you have noticed that the ladder has been replaced, the lifeguard chair was removed and a nice storage bin has been provided for the pool cover. Thanks to the help of our great leaders Rich, Glen and Phil! The other areas of concern were the slippery restroom (continued on Page 3)



Presidents Corner

by Rich Russo

Since our last issue, this neighborhood has been busy! Every day I walk through our neighborhood, I am amazed at the improvements people are making to their yards and landscaping. Our committees and the board have been active too - let me bring you up to date in the progress we are making:

On May 20th, the Association held it's Second Annual Pool Party. Unfortunately I could not attend, but I have heard nothing but great feedback on the event. I'd like to thank Julie McCoy for her work in planning the event, and Glen Rothe and the members of the community affairs committee for staging such nice party.

One of our goals this year was to start a grounds committee focused on the pool, tennis courts, and our common areas. Thankfully Judy Walston stepped forward and agreed to get this committee formed. Judy and her team are watching over the services we receive from our contractors (pool cleaning, pest control, landscaping, etc.) and the team is also working on plans to improve these areas. On June 15th the board met with Judy and McCreary Management to review the committee's proposals. I am pleased to announce that we are in the final stages of approving a plan to build a very nice playscape next to the pool that includes swings, a slide, an observation deck, as well as picnic tables and landscaping. This improvement to our amenity area will definitely compliment our existing pool and tennis courts, and provide a safe place for our children to play. In the long term, it will also increase the resale value of our homes as few communities in our area offer all three amenities.

On Thursday July 27th, at 7pm, the Board of Directors will host the Association's first Poolside Chat. During this informal meeting, we will provide you with an update on the HOA's activities to date and then open the floor to discuss any questions or issues the group might have. As I said before, this is an informal meeting

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Notes from the ARC

Do a self-evaluation of your yard and ask the following questions:

Are there weeds and grass growing in landscaped areas? There shouldn't be, please remove the weeds and grass from these areas.

Is red dirt visible in the landscaped areas? It may be time to purchase some pine straw to replace what is no longer there.

Is grass growing into the street or over the sidewalk? Use an edger to make the edges of your lawn look good. If you don't have an edger or weedeater, borrow one from a neighbor.

Are you maintaining the property behind your fence? That's part of your yard and still needs to be maintained. Just because you can't see it doesn't mean it's not yours to maintain.

Is your grass being mowed on a regular basis? Bermuda needs to be kept at 1 to 1 1/2 inches. Weeds need to be cut to the ground.

Keeping pine straw or bark in the landscaped areas of your home is not only to beautify the subdivision but very beneficial to the trees and shrubs. It keeps water near the plants roots, prevents water run-off and keep weeds and grass down. It also insulates the soil, keeping the plants roots from the summer heat.

If you have a fence, please do not neglect to maintain your property outside the fenced-in area. You may not have to look at it, but your neighbors do! Please make sure this area is free of weeds and pine straw is replenished.

If you are a homeowner with a large landscaped area in the rear of your home, this is your responsibility to maintain. This area is very visible to other homeowners as well as visitors to the subdivision. Unfortunately, many lots in the neighborhood are not being maintained and are a poor reflection on the community as a whole.

The ARC performs walk-by inspections of the neighborhood and will be sending out friendly violation letters to homeowners that are not keeping their landscaping maintained.

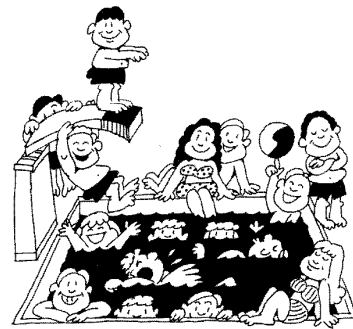
(President, continued from page one)

- we will not vote on any issues, make any amendments, or approve / disapprove any changes to the covenants, by-laws, or budget. The meetings sole purpose is to allow homeowners an opportunity to speak to the Board and help share in the direction of Cambridge Grove.

As always, if you would like to speak to me about HOA issues, please call me at home (770) 517-4891, or e-mail me at richnita@excite.com. I will do my best to address your concerns.

Rich Russo

President, Cambridge Grove HOA



Pool News

Our pool company is working hard to ensure our pool is properly maintained. To ensure our pool is available throughout the swimming season, please remember two things: Always use plastic cups and containers in the pool area. Glass around a pool area is very dangerous. If someone were to break a clear glass bottle in the pool area, there is no way to ensure that all the glass is out of the pool without completely draining it. This fix would cost the HOA a great deal of money and would make our pool off limits for about 2 weeks. Additionally, food items such as Fritos, Doritos, potato chips, cookies, etc., are finding their way into the pool. Please be careful with these items so our pool water remains crystal clear.

ATTENTION POOL USERS:

A pair of men's sunglasses was found by the pool on Friday, June 23. Contact Glen Rothe at 678-445-4047 to identify and claim.

The things I see... by The 'Grove'ing Reporter

Unfortunately I got shut out of the last newsletter and I am

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sure that everyone missed reading my extremely entertaining column. But behold, I was able to squeeze some space out of this one, so here I go...

In case you don't already know, there are plans to build a middle school across from Chalker Elementary. Word is, it's supposed to be ready for the 2001-2002 school year. Having two schools literally right down the street puts our subdivision in a favorable position. Hopefully having them there will kick up the property values a few notches.

I have noticed that there are quite a few homeowners in the neighborhood that have a problem keeping their lawns mowed. Are there any neighborhood kids looking to make a couple of bucks mowing lawns? This may be a decent summer job that could turn out to be quite lucrative to a budding entrepreneur. I know I was able to make pretty good money as a kid by mowing just a couple of lawns a week.

The Cambridge Grove Board of Directors is going to be having a Poolside Chat on Thursday, July 27th @ 7pm. All of the Directors, the Committee Chairs and Michael McCreary will be there for a friendly, open discussion with the homeowners. If you have something to say, or suggestions as to how the HOA is being run, come to the meeting and let these people know. You elected them to represent you and now you need to let them know how they are doing. I know I will be there.

I have heard more than one homeowner complain of noise pollution (barking dogs throughout the day and night, loud music, live and recorded) periodically in the neighborhood. I know that you may think that you are not bothering anyone else, but you are. There are 156 homes in relatively close confines and sound is easily carried through the neighborhood. Just a little common sense and courtesy will go a long way.

Did you notice the new Publix that they are building where A&P used to be? I thought they were just gutting the old store, but they tore it all down and (continued on page 4)

(Grounds Committee cont'd from page one)
floors and the replacement of defective safety equipment. Glen has reported these problems to McCreary Realty so we should see results soon.

We also discussed an unbreakable mirror in the restrooms and a clock, not important, but nice thoughts. (The life ring has been replaced and mirrors priced. I am also getting quotes on repainting the restroom floors - Glen)

Roads

Although we have no problem with our actual roads, we have a major problem with those using them. Speeding has been a big problem for quite some time! We are very serious about this and Jim

Walston (my hubby) has elected to contact our local police officers to see what can be done to help us correct it. Maybe if a few tickets are issued, people might get the hint. We also discussed the drains on the sides of the road. Some of those have extremely large openings that could swallow a small pet or child. Glen has volunteered his services (again) to see if there is anything we can do about those.

The Grounds Committee will be meeting again on Tuesday, June 27th at 7pm at the pool to review all of these issues. You are welcome to join us! Listed below are the names and numbers of volunteers for the Grounds Committee. If you cannot attend and have concerns, please feel free to contact any of the following so your issues can be addressed. Oh, by the way, I have submitted a proposal for a playground/picnic area! Our great leaders will be reviewing it at their next meeting and possibly voting on it. Keep your fingers crossed!

Members of the Grounds Committee

Lydia Watts/Ted Koch	770-924-8882
Mike Gilmore	770-592-3982
Robin Tubb	770-926-1484
Mike Montross	770-517-2486
Arlisa Bradshaw	770-517-1458
Ron Koger	770-528-3721
Jim and Judy Walston	770-592-6069

(Grove'ing cont'd from page 3)

are starting from scratch. Not that the drive is that long now, but having another literally right down the street will be nice. Speaking of grocery stores, I have noticed the Webvan.com truck driving around the neighborhood recently. I haven't had a chance to order my groceries online, but would like to hear from you if you have. Send a quick note to cambridgegrove@mindspring.com with your experiences.

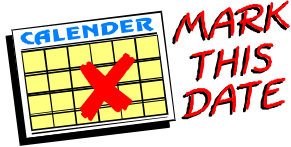
Well, that's all I have this month. Until next time, this is the 'Grove'ing Reporter with The Things I See...

NOTICE

Several homeowners have received notices from vendors and contractors stating that the Cambridge Grove Homeowners Association has endorsed their company as a preferred service provider to the community. The Board of Directors would like to make it clear that we have NOT made any such endorsements.

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In fact, none of us has ever been approached by these companies.



Tuesday, June 27th @ 7pm
Grounds Committee Meeting at the pool

Wednesday, June 28th @ 7pm
ARC Meeting at the pool

Wednesday, July 12th @ 7pm
ARC Meeting at the pool

Thursday, July 27th @ 7pm
Poolside Chat with Board of Directors

Get Your Documents

If you are a new resident of Cambridge Grove and have not received a copy of the Homeowner Associations governing documents, copies are available from McCreary Realty Management for a fee. Following these documents is your responsibility as a homeowner in the subdivision.

Important Names and Phone Numbers

Rich Russo - HOA President

770-517-4891 richnita@excite.com

Glen Rothe - HOA Vice-President

678-445-4047 grothe@mindspring.com

Phil Dupre - HOA Treasurer

678-445-0854 pdupre@ibm.net

Michael McCreary - Management Company

770-427-5711 Michael@McCrearyRealty.com

Velvet Lewis - ARC Chairperson

678-445-4047 vlewis@mindspring.com

Julie McCoy - Social Committee Chairperson

678-445-0958

Judy Walston - Grounds Committee Chairperson

770-592-6069 stormis@mindspring.com

HOA E-Mail address

cambridgegrove@mindspring.com

like to see!

Name _____ Phone _____

Story Idea/Suggestion _____

If we decide to publish your idea or suggestion, would you wish to remain anonymous? Yes ____ No ____

Mother's Helper

Looking for a 10+ year old girl who would like to earn some extra spending money by helping out with my 1 1/2 and 2 1/2 year old boys. No unsupervised baby-sitting. Please call Stephanie Durham at 770-517-1177.

Story Suggestions?

We would like to make this newsletter the best it can be for our residents. If you have a story idea or general suggestion, please fill this form out and leave in my mailbox at 480 Ethridge Drive, contact Glen Rothe at 678-445-4047, or send a note to

cambridgegrove@mindspring.com.

This is YOUR newsletter so let us know what you would