

BC Bits April 2009

New Board Elected at 2009 BCHA Homeowners Association Meeting

Mark Sillay-President

Gene Davis-Vice President

Vickie Marler-Treasurer

Anita Metcalf –Secretary

Terry Block-Member at Large

James Taylor-Member at Large

Committee Chairpersons:

Architectural & Landscape-Carol Hoefs

Neighborhood Watch-Ruth Fruit

Welcome Committee-Beverlyn Cooper & Marilyn Brown

Letter from our new President

To all BCHA Homeowners,

As the new president of the Browning Chase Homeowners Association, I would like to remind all of the homeowners that the two most important things that we have to consider on a daily basis **are** the security and appearance of our neighborhood. Everybody benefits when we watch out for unknown people and unfamiliar vehicles in the neighborhood. If you see something that gives you the "wrong vibe," please take time to notice as many descriptive details as possible (tag numbers, clothing, colors and types of vehicles, names on the sides of work vans, etc.). If a neighbors alarm is going off, call 911 immediately and watch for anything out of the ordinary. If you feel that you are witnessing a crime in progress or there is a strange vehicle in a neighbors driveway without the homeowner there, call 911. Police presence in the neighborhood is a good thing and having the police confront someone is better than taking too much personal risk. The young thugs of today are usually armed and not afraid to pull a trigger.

I have been impressed with the appearance of the neighborhood since Barbara and I moved here. In fact, one of the motivating factors for our purchase was how nice the Browning Chase subdivision looked. Keep up the good work. It is nice to be proud of where you live and it translates into more dollars when you decide to sell your property. Keeping up the value of your home asset is even more important in these slumping economic times.

My cell phone number is 404-556-1736. Please feel free to call me or leave me a voice mail any time you feel a need to call me directly. The BCHA Board of Directors and I want to resolve your issues quickly.

Sincerely,

Mark H. Sillay

BC BITS GOES ONLINE



Most of you will notice that the Board is trying to save money by supporting green efforts. If you provided your email address for the BCHA directory, you're receiving this via email. This is also posted to our community website: <http://www.browningchase.org/>. If not, you are receiving this via US Mail. With the costs of postage and paper going up, we are trying to be more efficient. As well, we want to try to eliminate paper in our landfills. If you would like to not receive the paper copy, please let one of the board members know and we'll be happy to accommodate your request.

RECYCLING



Why is recycling important? Did you know for \$30.00 a year, you can get a recycling bin for paper, as well as bags for cans and bottles? Please go visit this website to learn more visit:

http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/sanitation/Getting%20Started/Residential_Curbside_Recycle_Prog.htm. If you don't choose to do curb side recycling, you can take your recycling to one of Dekalb County's recycling centers, found at this website: http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/sanitation/Getting%20Started/Citizen_Recycling_Drop.htm

COMMENTS FROM THE GROUND UP (AKA THE ARCHITECTURAL/LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE)



There is situation that has been brought to my attention and I want to make all home owners aware of it. We have some dog walkers who live in Browning Chase (there are some who do not live here but come here and walk their dogs), who even though the dogs are on leashes, the owner let their dogs roam in other peoples' yards and do not clean up after them. I have a couple comments about this situation. First of all, dogs should be walked near the sidewalk or on the street not up in peoples' yards. Second of all, there are some dog walkers who do not clean up after their dogs while walking them. It is not the responsibility of someone else to clean up after your dog. It is your responsibility as that dog's owner to clean up the mess. So, please start carrying items which help you clean up after your dog. Also, dog feces carry a lot of germs and attract bugs.

If you see someone who is walking their dog in here but do not live here in Browning Chase, please remind them that we want to keep our neighborhood clean, so please clean up after your dog.

One other item to mention, it was brought to my attention that some people with the portable basketball hoops in their driveway need to do some maintenance on them, such as, a new net and washing the hoop. If you have not used it in awhile consider maybe moving it to the back yard.

If you have any questions or comments about this matter, please feel free to call me Carol Hoefs - 770-908-9149.

No one likes them, but they are there. Fire ant season is coming! Treat your yard for fire ants! Yard maintenance is what keeps our neighborhood attractive to new homeowners. Grass growing over the curb, tall grass in need of cutting and weeds are not attractive to anyone, new or existing homeowners!

NEWS FROM NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



It's that time of the year when we will all enjoy getting out and walking or working in our yard. As great as that may sound, it calls for some special precautions to insure our safety.

When walking, try to observe a few rules for your own safety and the convenience of others. Walk facing the traffic so you can see oncoming cars. If you are walking several abreast, shift to a single file so that cars may pass you without having to go too far to the other side of the street. If your dog is walking with you, keep it on a close leash and out of the way of vehicles. When working in your yard, be careful not to leave the front of your house too exposed. As long as your garage door is open or your front door is unlocked, stay in the front of the yard. Close the garage and lock the front door if you are working in the back. Two of the highest crimes in the spring and summer are theft of yard equipment and entering homes while residents are doing yard work.

Most safety just boils down to common sense. Take good care of yourself and your neighbor too. If we all watch out for each other, we can maintain our wonderful neighborhood and have a super summer!

You can subscribe at no cost and it sends you emails about crime within your area.

They recommend that you select 2 mile radius. This is for DeKalb County.

<http://www.crimemapping.com/subscriptions/Subscribe.aspx>

Ruth Fruit
Neighborhood Watch Committee

Let's Go Green!



Lawn chemicals come at a high price—especially when it comes to your health. These chemicals, which are associated with many diseases, are especially dangerous for children and people with allergies or asthma.

Cancer is another danger. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 95 percent of the pesticides used on residential lawns are possible or probable carcinogens (products that cause cancers).

But these chemicals aren't particularly good for grass either. Lawns that depend on chemicals are highly susceptible to pests and diseases, whereas lawns without chemicals can survive several weeks in a dormant state. In addition, natural lawns are less likely to be damaged by pests and affected by drought, temperature extremes, and general wear and tear.

Because so many chemicals used on lawns are dangerous to people, on April 22—Earth Day-- the Canadian province of Ontario will institute a ban on 250 lawn and garden chemicals that are simply used for cosmetic reasons.

"I'm proud to say that, when the ban takes effect on Earth Day, we will have eliminated this unnecessary risk to our environment, our families, and especially our children," said John Gerretsen, Ontario's minister of the environment.

Can you imagine how wonderful Browning Chase could be if all 100 homes agreed to kick the chemical habit and truly go green?

Imagine a place where

- Children and pets could play safely outside.
- Dangerous chemicals would not be tracked into homes, cars, and garages.
- People and pets could take truly healthy walks, without being exposed to toxic chemicals from newly sprayed lawns or trucks in the act of spraying these lawns.
- Residents could safely eat fruits or vegetables grown in their own yards.
- Windows could be left open, without breezes bringing toxic pesticides into our homes.

Going green may take a bit more planning, but it's worth the effort. Here are some suggestions for healthy, chemical-free lawns:

Aerate: This means removing plugs of dirt out of the lawn so that air, water and nutrients can reach the roots. Soil can become hard and compacted over time and by aerating regularly (spring and fall) you will loosen up the soil and feed the roots. You can rent an aerator from a rental company or hire someone to do it.

Overseed: Keep your lawn thick and healthy by regularly adding grass seed in the early spring and late fall. You can mix the seed with compost to help improve the soil and add nutrients at the same time. If you need to pluck weeds, add some grass seed to any bare areas.

Mow smarter: Cutting lawns too short stresses the grass. Let grass grow to about 2 to 3 inches in height. The grass will be healthier and will help shade the soil to prevent weed seeds from receiving light.

Feed it naturally: Leave your lawn clippings on the lawn after you mow — they make an ideal and free fertilizer. As the clippings break down, they release nitrogen into the soil. Use compost or all organic fertilizer in the fall to feed the roots of your lawn.

Water wisely: Water deeply and infrequently to promote deep roots. Early morning is best, because more water will be absorbed than during the heat of day. Too much water starves the soil of oxygen and invites disease.

Pluck weeds by hand: Spring is a good time to hand-pull weeds like dandelions while the soil is damp and their roots are not so long and tough. Get a weeding tool—fork or claw designs work well—and the job will be faster and easier. Then add some compost and grass seed on the spots you've weeded.

Note from the Editor: Please share your suggestions for going green with other members of our community. Send your suggestions to: ajmetcalf@msn.com.
Submitted by Linda Klein.

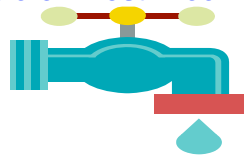
BUS STOP KIDS



It's the cutest thing I see on my way to work every morning, our neighborhood children waiting for the school bus. Please remember, obey school bus laws. And always obey the speed limit in our subdivision as our children are future!

Special thanks to Rob Pawli for providing the "Slow Down! Children Playing" signs for our subdivision!

Beware of Frost Free Faucets



Many of us have "Frost Free Faucets" installed on the outside of our homes. There is a warning printed on the inner rim of the faucet handle that states "disconnect hose in cold weather." If you don't disconnect the hose, you have the possibility of the copper faucet casing bursting inside your wall. How do I know this? I left the hose attached to the faucet that went to the hose reel. When it got down to 17 degrees this winter, the water left in the inner casing froze and split the copper. The construction of the frost free faucet is such that the actual valve with the rubber washer is about 10 inches away from the outside faucet handle and this valve is inside the wall. After it froze and split, no water would leak as long as the faucet valve was shut off. When the outside faucet is turned on, the water not only comes out of the faucet, but also leaks out of the split on the inside of the wall. The sheetrock got wet and the carpet and padding got soaked from the mini-flood. To repair this problem the plumber had to cut into the wall and install the new device. The plumber gave me a great education. There was, located

under the bathroom sink, an extra shut off valve that controlled the flow to the outside faucet. It could have been shut off when winter approached, but in all cases, the outside hose must be disconnected to allow the water to drain out of the frost free casing. The shut off valve for the other outside faucet was located under the hot water heater in the garage. Check your outside faucets and take the time to check out where your inside shut off valves are located in your house. It just may save you some water damage, repair bills and much hassle.

Mark Sillay

HAPPENINGS



Annual BCHA Yard Sale-Saturday, May 2, 2009

This is your opportunity to sell your stuff and keep your money. The BCHA pays for the ad in the paper and places signage on Idlewood Rd and in the subdivision. This year, we are also placing an article on "Craigslis.com" which is FREE! If you participate, or are just shopping for yourself, please remind your buyers to go to other homes in the subdivision. Yard Sale advertised hours are from 8-3. There will **not** be a bake sale this year.

Tucker Day- Saturday, May 9, 2009.

A one-day community festival that includes a Parade, Arts, Crafts Food, Information, and live music. Tucker Day is held on Tucker's Main Street, has approximately 10,000 attendees and runs from 9am to 5pm. Tucker Day is a fund-raiser for a variety of nonprofits. Hosted by the Main Street Tucker Alliance, the game vendors are coordinated by the Northlake Kiwanis, the road race is coordinated by the Tucker High School Band Booster Club, the pancake breakfast is coordinated by the Tucker High School Football Club and Main Street Market is coordinated by the Main Street Tucker Alliance.

The Main Street Tucker Alliance uses the proceeds from Tucker Day for the continued revitalization of the business core area of Tucker. Visit the Main Street Tucker Alliance Website to see the developments in Tucker: <http://www.tuckergeorgia.org/index.html>

NEW TUCKER RESTAURANTS



Marlow's Tavern in the Doubletree Hotel on LaVista and Parklake Drive. Tavern food and more...lots of fabulous entrees and appetizers. I recommend the shrimp with grit cakes, tilapia taco's and their wonderful burgers.

Not new, but a change worth mentioning. Rotagilla on Main St. Even though they have been around for awhile they have recently updated their menu. They have entertainment Friday and Saturday evenings and a Sunday Brunch. There is NO cover charge for any of the entertainment. The Sunday Brunch entertainment is real nice.

Have a restaurant recommendation? Please email Anita @ ajmetcalf@msn.com.

Support all of our Tucker merchants!

REMINDERS



- You'll notice the DeKalb Neighbor is arriving on Wednesdays. Please remember to pick up your paper.
- Garbage pick up is Monday and Thursday. Please remember to bring your cans in those nights. Recycling day is Wednesday and Yard Pickup is Friday.

SERVICES



Some of the home owners may have noticed how clean the brick walls at the entrance to the subdivision look. We recently had them pressure washed and this was the first time in over 13 years. So you can imagine how dirty they were. If you are looking for someone to pressure wash your house may we suggest the following company: Hi-Tech Pressure Washing Phone number # 678-344-1749 OR 678-360-9615.

They supply their own water, so you won't have to use yours.

Submitted by Carol Hoefs.

If you want to recommend a service provider, please email Anita @ ajmetcalf@msn.com.

IDEAS FOR NEWSLETTER



Do you have any ideas for the newsletter? What would you like to see in the newsletter? Would you like to contribute to the newsletter? Please email Anita at ajmetcalf@msn.com with your thoughts or comments about this newsletter.