



Colony Woods News

February, 2005

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President

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Vice-President

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Treasurer

Suzanne Sanders(322-2244)
Secretary

Directors-at-Large

Mary Baker (541-1706)
Kellie Dworkin (599-0544)
Christine Benedict (492-9125)

Committees

Architectural -
John Miller (894-5232)
Tim Devine (495-9546)
Bob Del Popolo (888-2617)

Beautification-
Linda Brisson (599-1658)
Marilyn Ewing (888-9816)

Hospitality-
Angeline Marshall (541-0055)

Mailing List—
Jennifer Marsh (888-3626)

Newsletter—
Dean Weishaar (894-0542)

Pool-
David/Joy Cooper (492-7358)

Social—
Jennifer Kuhn (894-4309)

Website-
Tom Howe (888-5723)

Message from the President **Bob Webber**

First Colony Woods Board Meeting of 2005 - On January 10, the first meeting of your new Board of Directors and Committee Chairs was held. We are looking forward to a productive year in 2005. The new Board presents a good cross-section of the neighborhood in terms of age, location in the neighborhood, and length of residency. We are currently evaluating the goals of this board. Hopefully, we will be prepared to discuss our plans during the March 7 Open Board Meeting. If you have any input to this plan, please email your thoughts at rlwebber@everestkc.net

Burglary in Colony Woods and a Vigilant Neighbor— On Saturday, January 15 in the mid-afternoon, one of our neighbor's homes was broken into and had several items stolen valued at hundreds of dollars. In addition, the repairs from the break-in will cost several hundred more dollars. No one was home at the time of the burglary. On the following Monday, also during mid-daylight hours, a home in Post Oak Farm was also entered by burglars. The family's young son happened to be home at the time and called 911.

The good news is that one of our vigilant neighbors played a major role in capturing these criminals. In scoping out possible targets, the burglars apparently noted that Becky and Mike Ferguson's home appeared unoccupied. The blinds were shut on every window. They came to the door and rang the doorbell to ensure that no one was home. However, Becky and her son were home. Their son answered the door and saw two strange looking men standing outside. Both were dressed in identical and odd attire. He immediately shut the door and called for his mother. When Becky came to the door the two were gone. However, she felt something was not right and got in the car to see if she could find them to see what they were up to. She drove down one of the cul-de-sacs and spotted the two looking into the back window of the house that was eventually burglarized. She called 911. By the time the police arrived, the burglars were gone. The burglary was discovered by the residents when they returned a short time later.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS – OPEN BOARD MEETING

The annual open board meeting for the residents of the Colony Woods Homes Association is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2005 at 7:00 PM. This is your opportunity to learn more about your community and the goals and projects planned for 2005. You are also encouraged to bring your questions and ideas. We are also attempting to have the Lenexa Police come and discuss what we can do to make our community safer. The location of the meeting will be announced in the next news letter and via signs at the subdivision entrances. See you there!

Beautification Committee

The Beautification committee had an informal meeting on Monday, January 17th. In view of the fact that this is our 'slow' time of year, we used this meeting to plan for our spring and summer designing season. We discussed our next phase of pool landscaping improvements, which we hope to have finished by mid-May, and our next stage in enhancing the appearance of our neighborhood islands. Keep watching in the newsletter for new events and some old favorites- like our 'Garden Tour' - as the weather gets warmer. The next Beautification meeting will be Wednesday, February 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Please call either Marilyn or Linda for more information.



We have had a recent occurrence of "yard farming" (individuals driving over our neighbors lawn) in our neighborhood and would like to remind our neighbors when this occurs, please file a police report. In order to help fight this nuisance, the Beautification committee would like to offer some tips for you to use in your landscaping plans to discourage the 'farming' of your yard. Raised areas along the perimeter of your yard, also known as 'berms' work well, whether they are part of a garden or just covered with lawn. Trees and bushes, strategically placed in your yard will also stop this problem, as well as the use of large boulder-type rocks in your landscaping. Nice, smooth, flat areas of landscaping are the easiest to drive across, and should be avoided if your yard is one that is routinely 'farmed'.

Message from the President *Continued from Page One*

On Monday, Becky and her son were driving into the neighborhood. Police had detained three young men near the 83rd Street entrance. Becky's son immediately noted that two of them were the ones that had come to their door on Saturday. Becky stopped the car and they were instrumental in identifying them and tying them to the Colony Woods burglary. In addition, the boy who was home in Post Oak Farm was able to identify them as the ones that broke into his home. The suspects were detained. Also, some of the stolen items have been recovered. At this writing, it could not be determined if they have been formally charged.

The two were 16 and 17 years old. One lives in Four Colonies and the other lives in North Overland Park. They are faced with a burglary and an aggravated burglary charge (because someone was home at time of the burglary in Post Oak).

A big thank you to Becky and her son who were not only watchful, but were also pro-active in taking this seemingly non event seriously (two strangers coming to the door) and acting on instinct to look into the matter further. Their actions were instrumental in bringing a potential crime spree to an early halt.

From the desk of the Hospitality Chairman

We have newlyweds in our neighborhood - John and Mary Passantino were married November 20th 2004. CONGRATULATIONS! 8127 Rosehill Rd is their address. They have 2 beautiful black Belgian Sheep dogs, Lancelot and Simeon. John is employed by Henderson Engineers Inc. and Mary is a school teacher. She teaches music for kindergarten thru fifth grade. Mary is also a soloist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. John likes everything, especially fishing and computer games. Mary enjoys making beaded jewelry. Welcome to Colony Woods.

VANDALISM IN COLONY WOODS

Yard farming is on the rise in Colony Woods. Some of our neighbors have been farmed as many as five times this year alone. This is a costly and aggravating form of vandalism. It is nothing less than destroying someone else's property that they have worked hard to create and maintain. Repairs can be costly and time consuming.

At the Board of Directors' meeting this month yard farming, mailbox destruction, and vandalism in general was discussed at some length. As part of this discussion we invited an officer from the Lenexa Police Department to come and discuss the issue and advise what we can do for ourselves. Admittedly, the culprits committing these crimes are hard to catch because they hit in the middle of the night and then run. However, the officer did make a few suggestions and observations.

First, we citizens are the front line. If we do not report happenings, the perception is that there is no problem. As more reports are filed, our neighborhood will receive more patrol attention late at night. Therefore, all happenings should be reported every time they occur, even what you might consider a minor event!

Second, if someone (anyone) in the neighborhood hears the squeal of tires in the middle of the night in our neighborhood, call 911 immediately. Also, if you see caravans of cars going through the neighborhood, you may want to call in a report. The 911 number that we dial goes directly to the Lenexa PD dispatcher so this is the fastest way to get someone out. The officer noted that late at night very few cars are on the street, other than police cruisers. Therefore, if a car is seen, the occupants may be an immediate suspect in any neighborhood crime. The likelihood of catching someone at the time of the crime is much better than waiting until the morning when there is little chance of catching the perpetrator.



There is a perception that we might be "overreacting or bothering" the police with such complaints, but we were encouraged to be proactive. Even if no crime was ultimately committed, the fact that the police were around and maybe questioned odd behavior is news that travels fast in the youth community.

The message is that we are the first line of defense. We must be proactive. Make the call. Our Lenexa Police Department is here to serve us. You will be surprised at how such action will bring an end to this problem.

COLONY WOODS WEBSITE

I was perusing the Colony Woods Website the other day and marveled at the amount of information that is available. In one location, you can find all of our newsletters, the Association Bylaws and Deed Restrictions, the names of current officers, directors, and committee chairpersons, and a wealth of other information.

A few areas in need of addition entries and information are under the tabs CW Businesses, Want Ads, and Referrals. Although there are entries in each area, why not advertise to your neighbors about your business offerings, things you have for sale, and referrals of competent contractors and other people providing good quality services to you. It is fast and easy. You can make your entries right on the website by going to the bottom of the page of the specific site and hitting the "add" button. What could be easier? Just go to www.ourcolonywoods.com.

Upcoming Social Events...

Ladies Night Out:

Ladies Night Out:

February 18th,
6pm.

At All Fired Up

February is the 18th at All Fired Up. Join your neighbors at this make it yourself ceramics studio. Cost for painting and firing ceramics is \$5.00. Ceramics range in price from \$3.00 to \$34.00.

They have Colony Woods booked for 6:00pm. We are allowed to bring our own refreshments (including wine). If everyone could bring an appetizer to share and your own beverage that would be great.

Let Jennifer know if you plan to attend, e-mail kuhndawg62@hotmail.com or call 894-4309.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming events.

March 19, 2005 - Easter Egg Hunt at Matt Taylor Park.

Pool Opening - June 4th.

We are looking into some ideas for a spring event or outing, let Jennifer know if you have any fun ideas that we could involve our neighbors in.

Next Social Committee meeting will be February 22, 2005 at the home of Kellie Dworkin 8015 Westgate.

Dog Walking:

My name is Sami Brisson. As you may have guessed, I have a Dog Walking Business. I am 10 years old have experience because I own two dogs at home. I will walk your dog or dogs for five dollars. Please call me at 599-1658.

Desperate Need for a babysitter

Mostly weekends & very few weekdays
4 YR old & 18 months

HUGE \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Call 888.8749. Ask for Beth

The Colony Woods Newsletter can be delivered straight to your computer. Signup now and enjoy the luxury of receiving every newsletter electrically. Full Color, faster deliver. And best of all, it saves the neighborhood money that can be used for those great social events or for neighborhood improvement.

Email me at deanweishaar@hotmail.com.

COLONY WOODS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Website:

T. Howe reported that website hits are down a little from the previous board meeting. The committee is looking at getting more advertisements and coupons downloaded for residents use. The board encouraged the website address to be noted in the newsletter.

Pool Committee:

D. Cooper informed the board that this will be his last year on the pool committee.

Newsletter:

D. Weishaar reported that everything is still going very smooth with the newsletter.

J. Gavin brought it to the board's attention that the bulk mailing permit may go to a different price category if more resident's switch over to receive the newsletter via e-mail. The board had a short discussion weighing the pros and cons of bulk mailing vs. e-mailing. D. Weishaar reported that in January, 57 residents received newsletter by e-mail and 215 by mail.

Hospitality:

A. Marshall reported that there currently 2 homes for sale in CW. All new residents have been welcomed and interviewed. Angeline noted that she is always looking for fillers for welcome bags if anyone is interested in donating any "goodies". She also reported that one of our new residents had taken advantage of an offer in the goody bag by buying services from one of Colony Wood's advertising residents.

Social Committee:

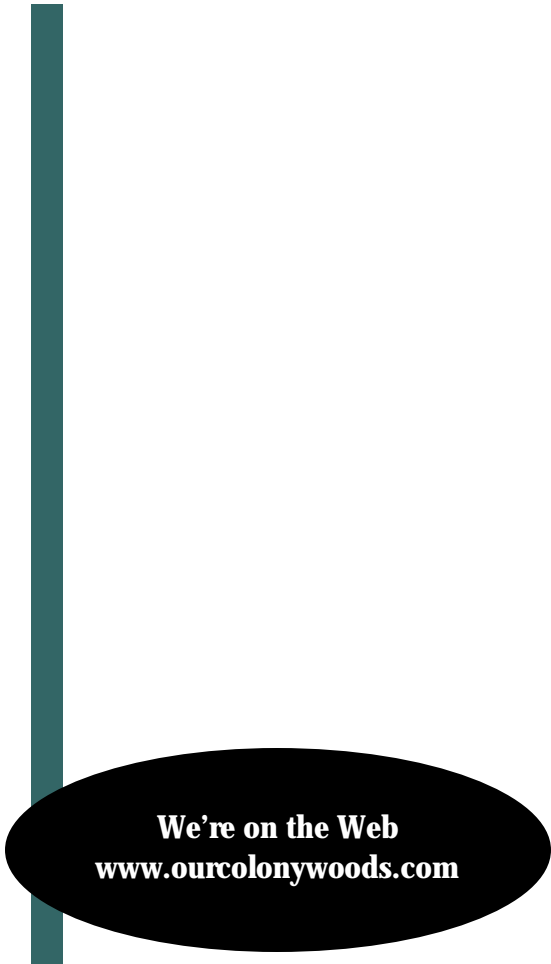
J. Kuhn reported that the next social committee meeting will be Jan. 17th at her house. The committee will be looking at new ideas for 2005 to continue to draw more neighborhood participation. It was noted that a couple of events in 2004 were money making events with the proceeds going to fund other parts of the social committees activities. Also, they are looking to save money in the future by purchasing permanent signs for annual CW events.

She also reported that attendance at this year's Holiday Social appeared lower than normal. She is recommending that the event be moved back to the first Saturday in December in 2005. In discussion it was noted that voting volume was inconsistent among the participating homes. More consistently applied procedures for voting needs to be addressed next year.

The newcomer's party will be the next upcoming event. The date and location will be decided at the social committee meeting in January. This party is for new resident's (moved in within the last year), Board and Committee members.

Beautification:

M. Ewing reported that D. Solenberger planted three blue spruce trees at the 83rd street entrance. The Committee agreed to pay for the cost of the trees out of their Committee's budget. The beautification committee will be meeting in February to start planning for spring landscaping ideas.



We're on the Web
www.ourcolonywoods.com

Colony Woods Calendar of Events

February 18th	Ladies Night Out. All Fired Up
February 22nd	Social Committee Meeting
February 23rd	Beautification Committee Meeting
March 7th	Colony Woods Board of Directors Open Meeting
March 19th	Easter Egg Hunt