



The Official Newsletter of the Kensington Downs Community Association

April 2014

Kensington Downs Courier

P.O. Box 15431 • Fort Wayne, Indiana 46885-5431

www.kensingtondowns.com

President's Desk

By Carol A. Griffin, President

A HEARTFUL of THANKS goes out to all our KDCA Board Volunteers and residents who tirelessly work to keep our addition beautiful. There is still much to be done and I want to remind everyone that all who work for KDCA are unpaid volunteers. Any kind words of thanks and encouragement from residents is appreciated. My work with our Board is a pleasure due to the willingness to cooperate and share responsibilities. Again, THANKS TO EVERYONE.

The Neighborhood Pond

Contributed by Judi Phillips

Each season the Board of Directors of Kensington Downs receives questions and concerns from members of the neighborhood association, especially those homeowners bordering the neighborhood pond. I have read three articles and gleaned some pertinent information that will be beneficial to maintaining clean water in a more environmentally friendly fashion. Two of the articles were written by Ricky Kemery, The Plant Medic, who is the extension educator for horticulture at the Allen County branch of the Purdue Extension Service. Another article was offered by Pond Champs (the company employed by KDCA to handle our annual "clean water" contract needs at the KD retention pond).

The main purpose of retention ponds installed in this and other subdivisions is to mitigate water runoff – giving the water a place to go – instead of running directly into storm drains and sewers. Many retention ponds are shallow compared to small lakes or ponds designed for fishing and recreation. A natural pond has vegetation in and around the pond that will help keep the water clean. Many associations want a pond devoid of vegetation and also want fish. Healthy fish need cover to flourish.

Countless retention ponds are surrounded by acres of turf, "fed" each year from neighborhood lawns with quick-release high nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizer, which can contribute to weed and algae growth. The following are some suggestions for a more sustainable retention pond.

Use slow release fertilizers in the spring. Avoid applying fertilizer right before raging thunderstorms, and avoid applying fertilizers within 15-20 feet of the pond. Use a low or no-phosphorous fertilizer (Pond Champs recommends that the



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SAVE THE DATE

Board Meeting.....	05/21/2014
Board Meeting.....	08/06/2014
Board Meeting.....	09/08/2014
Board Meeting.....	10/01/2014
Annual Meeting.....	11/05/2014
Board Meeting.....	11/19/2014

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON

LR William Humphrey
2326 Kerrigan's Way

Nancy and Milo Osbun
7609 Preakness Cove

Dale and Georgia Hines
7426 Oxford Court

Jonathan and Amy Osborn
8021 Weeping Willow Court

Clarence & Linda Bush
2117 Brimfield Court

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middle number of the analysis should read 0, i.e. 30-0-15).

Pond Champs also says that you should mow clippings away from the pond and only mow to about 15 feet of the pond's edge.

Pond Champs states that around the pond grass be allowed to grow a little taller. This grass is considered common area and is maintained by our lawn service.

And, finally, Mr. Kemery suggests the KDCA might want to consider establishing some desired aquatic vegetation in and around the pond. This vegetation will help filter, capture, and clean the water entering the pond.

To maintain cleaner water in a more environmentally friendly fashion we need to consider these suggestions to improve our neighborhood pond. We have already taken steps to a better pond by placing riprap around the perimeter of the pond and have a fountain to increase air and add disruption to the surface of the water, making it harder for algae mats to form. Let's all be more aware of these easy fixes so our pond has cleaner water and requires fewer inputs, and less money, to maintain.

The City of Fort Wayne will be resurfacing Welshire Boulevard and Asher Drive this summer. Please be aware of this construction and plan accordingly.

SPRING GARAGE SALE

**Thursday, May 8
through**

Saturday, May 10

Please contact Barb Lepper at 438-9648 for more info.



**The Poop Fairy
does not live in
our neighborhood.
Please clean up
after your pets.**

**Otherwise you
might find it in
the middle of your
driveway.**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Important Numbers

Indiana Michigan Power (report power outage)	(800) 311-4634	Family Support Services	(800) 622-4932
Indiana Michigan Power (pay bill by phone)	(800) 611-0964	Federal Information Center	(800) 688-9889
NIPSCO - gas company (report gas leaks/odor of gas)	(800) 634-3524	State Information Center	(800) 457-8283
NIPSCO (customer service)	(800) 464-7726	Indiana Foreclosure Prevention	(877) 438-4673
City Utilities (customer service)	(260) 427-1234	Indiana House of Representatives	(800) 382-9841
City Utilities (pay bill by phone)	(877) 306-9265	Indiana Senate	(800) 382-9467
Allen County Public Library Main Library	(260) 421-1200	Indiana Attorney General (to sign up for "No-Call List")	(888) 834-9969
Georgetown	(260) 421-1320	Consumer Protection (Indiana)	(800) 382-5516
New Haven	(260) 421-1345	Bureau of Motor Vehicles	(888) 692-6841
Tecumseh	(260) 421-1360	Office of the Governor	(317) 232-4567
Family Help-Line	(800) 433-0746	Workforce Development	(800) 891-6499

Many thanks to all of the homeowners who completed and returned the 2014 Homeowner Survey. We received 108 surveys (a return rate of 46.2%). A very special "thank you" to those homeowners who volunteered to serve on various KDCA committees. The Board really appreciates your help!

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Homeowner/members of the Annual Audit Committee are Dick Shively, David Chen and Arlene Klapes. Once this committee completes the audit of the FY-2013 financial records, a summary of their findings will be published.

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The salt barrels placed throughout the subdivision this winter were distributed by homeowner Todd Kabisch. The Board is very grateful for his able assistance.

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Homeowners are encouraged to attend any meeting of the KDCA Board of Directors. We invite you to contact any Director with your comments, concerns and suggestions.

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The KD website contains lots of useful information. Homeowners must register as website members in order to access all of the postings.

Registration is easy -just go to www.kensingtondowns.com and follow the directions.

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Call 311 to report broken street lights, trees down in the park-strip, potholes that need filling, and cars parked on the street for extended periods of time.

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Warmer weather brings increased concerns of attempted theft, so be sure to remove valuables items and lock any cars parked in driveways or on streets. Please keep your garage doors closed and be aware of your surroundings. Good neighbors watch out for one another!

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Help prevent items from blowing all over the neighborhood on garbage collection days. Trash should be placed in secured plastic bags, and recycled papers can be bundled into paper grocery bags.

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Kensington Downs Spring Garage Sale is Thursday, May 8, thru Saturday, May 10, 2014. Kensington Downs East will be joining us for this annual event. The sale will be advertised in Fort Wayne newspapers and signs posted at entries.

To be helpful to shoppers, I would like to give them a list of garage sale locations; so if you are participating, please email me by Thursday, May 1, with address and dates you will be open. I appreciate your cooperation and let's hope for a pleasant-weather weekend.

Barb Lepper, Coordinator
barblepper1612@yahoo.com
Phone:438-9648

Are you planning a building project, such as a fence, deck, room addition or swimming pool?

Please remember to submit a lot improvement request form (available on the KDCA website) to the Architectural Control & Review Committee. Your project must receive approval BEFORE construction begins. Contact Lynne Ticen at 749-0128 or by email at knitter05@comcast.net.

Also ... please remember to call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig!