



Kensington Downs Newsletter

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815

January 2008

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to 2008!

There are several items to mention. First, our police representative is reminding us to keep garage doors closed unless you are going to be in the garage or in your front yard. We had an incident of theft from an unattended garage towards the end of last year.

Additionally, the police advise that you keep service doors on the garage locked when not in use. An unlocked door can be used by someone seeking to avoid capture by the police. (Just good advice. This hasn't been reported in our neighborhood.) Locks serve to keep honest people honest. And be sure to report suspicious activity at a neighbor's house. If you aren't looking out for your neighbor, then who is looking out for you?

Next, the salt barrels have been distributed on specific corners. The city fills those barrels for use on those streets. The salt is not for personal use and is not to be taken from the barrel except to use on the streets. There was a report of a large black SUV parked next to the barrel on Bent Willow and a woman filling a bucket with salt. Hopefully, that salt was used a little further down the street. The city will not refill the barrels if the salt is used inappropriately.

Third, we did not have electricity for the Christmas lights at the entrance. Work performed by the city left us without power to the circuits until after Christmas. The good news: the entrance lights are back on!

Finally, please make every effort to park cars in the driveway or garage. After the last snow fall requiring plowing, the trucks were having a terrible time clearing the streets around parked cars. There were incidents where the trucks were stuck in cul-de-sacs. The association pays for snow removal because the city won't get to us for at least a couple days. Clear streets make it better for all of us!

Meet your Neighbors

Picture this: a neighbor in KD who does photography! Meet Carol Griffin at 7933 Red Clover Ln. Carol moved here last May from a big two-story with full basement near Huntertown. She is a retired music teacher from Southwest Allen County schools. You'll also want to meet Michael and Gabriel – her two cockatiels! Phone number: 749-5308.

I had the pleasure of meeting Sharon O'Keefe of 7917 Welshire Boulevard at the annual meeting. Sharon and her husband Tom are the parents of two sons – one living in Fort Wayne and one in Waukegan, Illinois – and grandparents of 3-1/2 (!). Tom is retired from Navistar and Sharon from Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. Ask them about their trip to Ireland and how beautiful the countryside is. Also, while they were there, they did some research on their family tree.

Last, but not least, stop by 7418 Derby Lane and say "Hi" to Don and Mary Haaser. Don is retired from United Technologies in purchasing, and Mary keeps Don out of trouble. She's used to doing things like that ... they are the parents of five boys! To say Don is into woodcarving is an understatement. Ducks and birds to be precise. Doing it for over 25 years. And they are for sale. Even consignment if you have a business you would like to include them in. He takes a break from his carving by fishing and playing golf.

It's great to have each of you as a neighbor. To everyone, stay safe and warm this winter!

Architectural Control

If you're like me, my mind starts wandering to outside projects this time of year – like what to do with my flower beds. If you, however, are thinking about your summer building project, please note the following. According to the Association By-Laws (Article VII), no dwelling, fence or wall shall be constructed, placed or altered upon any lot until the plans and specifications have been approved by the Architectural Control Committee. This includes decks and room additions. Some guidelines are:

- No wire or chain link fences are allowed.
- No outbuildings are allowed.
- There is a maximum fence height of six feet.
- Fences cannot pass the front foundation of the house.

A drawing of your lot that contains the following points will need to be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee prior to construction:

- * dimensions and any easements
- * location of the house on the lot
- * location of the planned fence, deck, or room addition
- * name and phone number of the company contacted for the construction

While fences appear to be gaining in popularity in our community, trees and shrubs are a good alternative since it is not so easy for them to have that "neglected" look over time. Call any committee member with questions: Bill Blue (748-4725), Lyman Lewis (749-4917), Pat Johnstone (749-6978), or Pat Manning (749-9225).