



RIEDLONN NEWSLETTER

March, 2009

UPCOMING RIEDLONN NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING – BOARD ELECTIONS

The next meeting of the Riedlonn Neighborhood Association will be **TUESDAY APRIL 7TH AT 7PM** **AT THE HOME OF GREG ROBERSTON (415 UNIVERSITY AVENUE)**. All are welcome & encouraged to attend.

A Note from Andy Barrick:

I would first like to recognize and thank our previous president, Noel Rueff, for serving as wonderful president for our neighborhood for so many years. Her leadership, dedication, and true love for this neighborhood have served us all in more ways than I can list. Noel will continue to serve as a governor, as well as leading our efforts to beautify our island flower beds throughout the neighborhood. Please join me in thanking Noel for all of her great years of service as president.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our neighborhood, and know that I have some big shoes to fill following Noel in this capacity.

Some of the ideas that I have already introduced to the board and governors was to create a number of committees to try and encourage and welcome any Riedlonn resident to participate in and play an active role in neighborhood activities.

I have also introduced a neighborhood internet site. Please visit www.riedlonn.com, to find out more information on some of the ideas that we would like to provide you as another means to find out what's going on in our neighborhood.

Again, I look forward to this opportunity to serve you and our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Andy Barrick

Riedlonn Board Elects New Officers and Governors

During the December 1st, 2008 neighborhood board meeting, the board approved the election of the following new officers and governor assignments.

Neighborhood Leadership Team

- President – Andrew Barrick
- Vice-president – James McMillin
- Treasurer – Anne-Britton Arnett
- Secretary – Laura Parrott

Governor Assignments

- District A – *Open* (if interested contact Andy Barrick)
- District B – N. Rueff
- District C – F. O'Connor
- District D – H. Walthal
- District E – N. Presnell
- District F – A. Arnett
- District G – T. Williams
- District H – L. Jolly
- District I – Sermersheim's
- District J – B. Miller
- District K – G. Robertson
- District L – G. Robertson

If you have any questions as to who your governor is, please reference your neighborhood directory for the neighborhood district map. Please feel free to contact your respective governor for any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have.

Introduction of New Neighborhood Committees

The neighborhood board has recently approved the creation of the following neighborhood committees, and would like to encourage your participation and involvement in any of these committees that you may have an interest in.

If you have an interest in learning more about any of these committees or joining a team, please feel free to contact the committee chairperson or Andy Barrick (a.barrick@insightbb.com).

Please reference our website for more information and the committee chairperson contact at:
www.riedlonn.com/committees.htm.

Green Committee

- Spring / Fall island trimming, pruning and planting
- Coordinate recruitment and organization of Spring & Fall island treatment crews
- Tree Replanting Program

Safety Committee

- Neighborhood Watch Program
- Address any and all neighborhood safety concerns
- Alert local police department, and communicate any neighborhood crime and safety concerns
- Alert the neighborhood governors of any criminal or suspicious activity

Finance Committee

- Treasurer reporting
- Budget management
- Annual dues collection and reporting
- Fundraising projects and identification of new fundraising opportunities
- Allocation of funds to appropriate projects

Annual Yard Sale & Picnic

- Coordinate and plan all activities related to the annual yard sale and annual picnic event
- Determine and procure entertainment
- Organize and run Bingo event, and other event activities.

(Continued) Neighborhood Committees

Political Committee

- Participate with other neighborhood committee events and meetings
- Attend local political meetings that could affect the Riedlonn Neighborhood's interests
- Maintain communications with local political representatives to keep abreast of issues impacting the Riedlonn Neighborhood, and be an active voice within the local political arena

Special Events Committee

- Coordinate 4th of July Parade and Social
- Coordinate Annual Fall Chili Cook-off competition (*potential fundraising event*)
- Coordinate Annual Corn-Hole & Horse Shoe Competition event (*potential fundraising & or neighborhood gathering event*)

Communications Committee

- Coordinate quarterly newsletter
 - Collect content from neighbors and governors for quarterly newsletter
 - Produce quarterly newsletter
 - Distribute newsletter output to each of the respective governors for distribution to neighborhood residents
- Coordinate / Lead Neighborhood Website
 - Assist with the development and maintenance of the neighborhood website
- Communicate Junk Pick-up Dates (as listed in the Courier Journal)

A Note from the Safety Committee

Submitted by Tony Williams

The arrival of spring may include an increase in criminal activity. To stay safe and to reduce the opportunity for theft, The National Crime Prevention Council recommends the following:

- Organize neighborhood cleanup days to send the message that your community is closed to thieves, vandals, and loiterers.
- Ask the police to increase patrols of your neighborhood.
- Be sure the outside doors of your home or business have strong deadbolt locks.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor or nearby shopkeeper, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge, or in the mailbox.
- Lock gates, garage doors, and shed doors after every use.
- Illuminate or eliminate places an intruder might hide: the spaces between trees or shrubbery, stairwells, alleys, hallways, and entryways.
- Set timers on lights when you're away from home or your business is closed so it appears to be occupied.
- Keep your bike and sports equipment inside the house when they're not in use.
- Avoid confrontations with burglars.
 - Make sure you have sturdy metal or solid wood doors at all entries into your home and that sliding glass and similar doors are properly secured.
 - Trim the shrubbery around your doors and windows so crooks don't have a place to hide.
 - Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing.
 - If you're a senior, use direct deposit for your Social Security check and other regular payments.
 - If you notice someone following you when you're driving, head for the nearest busy, brightly lighted area. Write down the license number and make and model of the car. Call 911 or your local emergency number.
 - Always lock car doors and take the keys when you leave your car, even if you'll be gone "just for a minute."
 - Don't leave valuables in view in the car. Leave them in the trunk or, better yet, take them home immediately.
 - As you walk down the street or through the parking garage, walk alertly and assertively. Don't weigh yourself down with too many parcels. Take several loads to the car if necessary.
 - If you carry a purse, hold it close to your body; if a wallet, keep it in a front pocket.
 - Don't display your cash or any other inviting targets such as pagers, cell phones, hand-held electronic games, or expensive jewelry and clothing.
 - When traveling, carry only the credit and ATM cards you absolutely need. Leave the others at home, safely stored.
 - Make sure your home is secure when you are traveling—all deadbolts locked, lights left on timers, newspapers stopped, and mail held at the post office or collected by a trusted neighbor who has your travel schedule.

Riedlonn Neighborhood Website

We hope that our new website will be of some interest, value, and enjoyment to you and your family. Our intent in creating a neighborhood website is to help bring us closer as a community by providing you with some useful and fun information about our neighborhood.

Our website will include Riedlonn event information and dates, on-line newsletters, real-time safety data and updates, links to local business and government services, on-line discussion groups (such as gardening tips, safety tips, recipe sharing, etc.), neighborhood announcements, but more importantly a new medium for us as neighbors to come together and be a part of the Riedlonn community.

Please note that our current site is still in under construction and we will routinely update our website as new ideas and suggestions are forwarded to the Communications committee. So please stop by and check up on what is going on at www.riedlonn.com, and we look forward to hearing from you about any ideas and creative suggestions you may have.

Sincerely,

Andy Barrick & Keith Mayo (website developer)

Installing a Permanent Generator

Submitted by anonymously

In light of our recent power outages, several neighbors have asked about my generator. I bought a 7-kilowatt generator in 2006 after my basement flooded (again), primarily to assure I didn't lose power to the sump pumps.

The generator is a permanent fixture about the size of a central air unit, fueled by natural gas, with a sub-panel connected to the main panel box.

A 7K generator will not power an entire house, so if you go with a smaller one like I did you'll need to choose which circuits to connect and figure up the wattage. Your licensed electrician can help you do that.

Start-up takes four times the amount of wattage used to run the equipment, and you need to figure in all the start-ups in your total wattage.

My generator powers quite a bit, including the fan to the gas furnace (so I have heat), but it doesn't have enough power to run the stovetop, oven, microwave, washer, dryer, or central air unit.

I chose a small electric company and I have a service contract. One drawback: No after-hours emergency service, something you may want to consider. Another complication: Replacing the gas line out to the meter as a condition of LG & E approval. The generator runs once a week for ten minutes to keep the engine tooled. It is noisy, and it does need oil added every 24-36 hours or it will shut itself down.

Tree Update

Submitted anonymously

Several of us had scheduled visits from two arborists to give us some bids on tree trimming, but that went out the window with the ice storm. I have since learned that you'll get faster service from a tree service if you are a prior customer.

Most of us have mature trees, and mature trees can always use some assistance, so be thinking about developing a relationship with a tree service (preferably one with a certified arborist) in the months to come.

Now is also a good time to look up into your trees. Be aware of hanging limbs that need to be removed, and stumps of limbs that should be taken back to the trunk or to a supporting limb. Failure to remove stumps will cause disease to work its way back to the trunk, endangering the entire tree.

In the months to come, local arborists will surely get caught up, and will be able to get to all of us who need service.

In the meantime, early spring is a great time to put in new trees. Our silver maples are old, and nearing the end of their useful lives. Trees planted now to replace those we will be losing will assure that Riedlonn retains the beautiful tree canopy that so distinguishes our neighborhood. We have several master gardeners in the neighborhood who will be happy to talk trees!

Please reach out to the Green Committee, chaired by Noel Rueff (mnr Brownsboro@yahoo.com) if you would like more information on this subject.

More About Trees

Submitted by Noel Rueff

As we continue cleaning up & pruning back after the latest ice storm, it's a good idea to be smart about where & what to re-plant. And yes, hopefully you will re-plant – don't give up on trees! First & foremost we should all realize where NOT to plant – anywhere near utility lines (both overhead & underground) and away from house foundations. Some experts recommend staying at least 30 feet away from houses to avoid damage in the future. And it only makes sense to stay FAR away from overhead utility lines. As far as what to re-plant, the Jefferson County Extension Service can provide a list of recommended trees that have good tolerances of wind & ice. Examples of these trees include serviceberry, redbud, grey dogwood, American hornbeam, eastern red cedar, crabapple, ginkgo, golden rain tree, blackgum, sycamore, and sourwood. Trees that are NOT recommended for replanting are river birch, silver maple, ornamental pear & willows. For more information call the Extension Service at 569-2344.

Importance of Neighborhood Vigilance and Action

Submitted by David White

Some of you may remember the horrific winter thunderstorm we had early last year (2008) on Tuesday, January 28th. But then maybe not since we seem to have so many and certainly like and the recent ice and wind storm have made storms in the past pale in comparison. But, what made this evening storm stand out for me is that my car plus a number of others in the area were burglarized during the storm. They strategically took advantage of the fact that I was hunkered down somewhere in my house riding out the storm which conveniently for them disguised the breaking of my car window and extracting my beloved GPS unit and my favorite iPod!

To help dispel my anger over the theft event plus to assuage my feeling of stupidity for leaving my electronic gadgets in the car in plain view as burglar bait, I filed a police report. Even though I only had the serial number of the GPS, I still wanted the police to know the details in case they were seeing other reports of similar ilk and could perhaps track this culprit or culprits down. At least that's the way it works on TV! Seriously, police reports like this are easy to do and they can be provided right over the phone; you don't have to schedule time to meet with anyone plus you just feel better when you are done! Or, at least, that was my rationalization at the time. (Sometimes, I can be a legend in my own mind.)

But, alas, in late November I received a subpoena to appear in court relative to these break-ins. I got to experience albeit brief that moment of elation that justice was somehow being served! At that time, I really did not know what the subpoena meant but at least it did make me feel like the theft actions had not go off in some black bureaucratic hole! Also, it reinforces why you really should file a police report! (Do you hear a moral coming?!)

I did go to court for this case on Dec. 17th but it was re-scheduled for Jan. 12th and I was excused from appearing. After the actual trial date, I received a call and a visit from the Metro Detective who was working the case and informed me they did catch the person who did the break-ins by finding the stolen items at a pawn shop and then working backwards. (Do I hear moral #2 coming?) The person who was doing the pawning was a female with a reported drug habit who was having her boyfriend perform the break-ins. The Detective also mentioned that the boyfriend did work with tree trimming crews and that's when and how he would canvas potential target areas. They were going after quick hit items out of cars like the GPS and iPod units they took from mine. The good news in addition to the culprits being caught is that I got my GPS back!

So, I learned a couple things from this experience - this is the moral(s) of the story part. It pays to record your serial numbers of electronic devices and/or place PINs on them, etc. I did not do that for my iPod; hence, I did not get it back since there was not really a way to prove it was mine. It also pays to file a police report since I would not have gotten anything back nor received the satisfaction that someone paid for committing the crime unless I had made the effort. Finally, it helped to justify our continual vigilance and concerns about seeing and reporting situations in our neighborhood that warrant suspicion. And, it reinforces the importance and commitment to the Block Watch program.