

McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Association Newsletter



Established 2000

A Deed Restricted Community

April 2011

Events and Announcements

April 23 (Saturday)

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, April 23, at 1 PM at the head of the trail on Long Branch Lane*

April 28 (Thursday)

Semi-Annual Meeting

**The next semi-annual meeting of the MTNA will be Thursday, April 28, 7 PM at the First Baptist Church of Bracktown*

June 18 (Saturday)

Annual Garage Sale

**The annual neighborhood garage sale will be held Saturday, June 18, from 8 AM until 2 PM*

July 16 (Saturday)

Annual Neighborhood Picnic

**The annual neighborhood picnic will be held Saturday, July 16, at 6 PM in Masterson Station Park*

**Articles elsewhere in newsletter*

DO YOU HAVE A TREE BEHIND YOU?

In the yard behind your house if your house is adjacent to the McConnell's Trace Greenway, that is. If so, you have been gifted with a costly and precious gift that will keep on getting better year after year. Each tree planted represents the purchase price, the time of the person who shopped for it, plus the time of the other person who loaded and transported it to the planting site. Add to that cost the gas and the vehicles used to do the same. Next, add the cost of labor to dig the hole, carry the tree to the hole, and fill around the newly planted tree. The labor of the people who applied for and processed the grant that paid for the trees made the trees cost more too. Tree protectors and mats were put around the trees to protect them from critters and mowers, making each tree even more expensive. GPS devices are scheduled to be installed on each valuable tree to help mowers identify them before it is too late!

The tree behind your house will grow about a foot each year so that in 10 years you will have a beautiful tree that produces shade in the heat of the summer. Your greenway tree will also add beauty, value and privacy to your home. Last but not least, the quality of our water system will be improved because of your tree.

What? Your tree died during the drought last summer? Are you sure? Did you water it? If you watered it, it should be okay, even if it seemed to die. If you did not water it, it may still be alive, having gone into premature hibernation to counteract the effects of the drought, and may spring back to life when the weather warms. Please, please, please water your greenway tree behind your house if there is another drought this year. Transplanted trees need consistent watering during the growing season until they get established. A trickle of the hose at the base of the trunk works best;

how often and how much water depends on your particular site's soil and sun. Too much water is not good, either. This web-site gives good instructions if you would like to know more: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/ag/drought/WaterNewTrees.pdf>. Your tree represents the time, labor and money of many people and will benefit you and the entire neighborhood as it grows!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello! I am your new MTNA president. I have lived in McConnell's Trace for six and a half years, and have been on the board for about three years. We are very grateful to Bob Russell-Tutty for his ten years of service as president of the association, but he felt he needed a change. We are fortunate that Bob has agreed to continue as chair of the Deed Restrictions committee.

Even working with Bob as a board member in the association, I had no idea of all the things he did. Please be patient with me as I learn the ropes. Feel free to contact me with concerns or suggestions for the neighborhood. All of us on the board volunteer our time to serve, and we all do it to better our neighborhood. There are several committees (see the list elsewhere in the newsletter) that can always use help if you would like to join us. We certainly welcome all participation.

Happily, we are beginning to see some warmer days, and by the time this newsletter goes to press we will already have changed to daylight savings time. That makes me feel like spring may get here yet, in spite of all the winter snow. When I think about spring, I want to get outside and dig in the dirt. Did you know that according to the Deed of Restrictions, every yard is supposed to have a yard tree planted? I know that some of the builders didn't include it, but there should be a tree of some sort in the front yard of each house. This would be an excellent excuse to go to the nursery and pick out a small tree to plant if you don't have one. There are so many beautiful trees that are small enough to plant even in a small front yard space. Either the nursery or the instructions on the tree can tell you now wide and how tall it will be so you can plan according to the size of your lot. Hopefully, we won't have such a dry summer that it will need watering, but it will take a little water and fertilizer at first.

If it does get dry enough that you need to water the tree, please remember your street tree needs water, too. If the street tree dies, you will have to replace it, and they can be costly. We have seen quite a few street trees that died, only because nobody bothered to water them. Please take good care of your street trees, too.

Spring and summer also bring more people outside, and more activity in general in the neighborhood. More activity also may include people without the best of motives, so we need to keep an eye out for each other and for each other's property. We have had a few problems with vandalism and petty theft in the neighborhood, and summer seems to bring this out. The last thing someone up to no good wants is to know they are being observed, so reporting any strange activity to the police when necessary could help keep crimes like vandalism out of our community. Leave lights on outside at night---this also discourages criminal behavior. And get to know your neighbors---it's one of the best ways to create a happy and safe neighborhood.

Our next association meeting is Thursday, April 28, at 7:00 PM at the First Baptist Church at Bracktown. I hope you will come and take the time to join us and see what's going on. Again, feel free to contact me with your suggestions.

Sincerely,
Barbara Stucker
MTNA President

MTNA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: Barbara Stucker 129 Ocoee Court 859-389-8331 bkstucker@gmail.com

Vice President: August (Nick) Oliveri 173 Blue Heron Place 859-309-3697 augustnoliverijr@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Ryan Guntle 168 Long Branch Lane 859-309-3788 rguntle@gmail.com

Secretary: Lisa Martin 129 Yamacraw Place 859-948-8365 isaquintet@insightbb.com

Board Members:

Bob Russell-Tutty 104 McConnell's Trace Blvd 859-233-2940 secureins@insightbb.com

Raymond Wells 233 White Oak Trace 859-381-8580 wellsr@insightbb.com

Kay Blues 3017 Town Branch Road 859-246-0664 kblues@insightbb.com

Social Club Chair: Lisa Martin **Newsletter Chair:** Barbara Stucker **Greenway Chair:** DG Gridley

Garden Club Chair: Will Hardin **Block Captain Chair:** Kay Blues

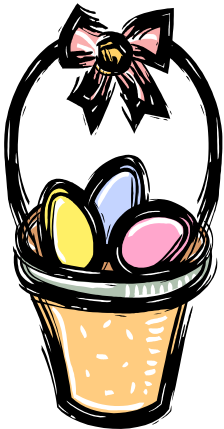
Deed Restriction and Enforcement Chair: Bob Russell-Tutty

ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE



Have a little too much clutter in your home and not enough “dough” in your pockets? If you answered yes, then mark your calendar for the Annual McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Garage Sale. This year's sale will be on Saturday, June 18, between 8 AM and 2 PM. Signs will be posted and an ad placed in the Lexington Herald Leader.

This will be the only garage sale sponsored by the Neighborhood Association in 2011.



McCONNELL'S TRACE EASTER EGG HUNT

It's time to mark your calendar for the annual McConnell's Trace Easter Egg Hunt! This McConnell's Trace tradition will be held on Saturday, April 23 at 1 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity for the kids to have some fun and the adults to meet their neighbors. The hunt will be in the grassy area at the end of Long Branch Lane (near the Trail entrance). Feel free to invite family and friends.

Be on time. Late arrivers may miss out on the fun and eggs!

TRADE UP



Don't just trade, trade up!

- ✓ Any home under \$200,000 qualifies for a trade
- ✓ Choose from four locations for your new home
- ✓ New homes starting from \$139,900
- ✓ Maintenance Free Living available
- ✓ 2, 3 & 4 bedroom floor-plans
- ✓ Energy efficient, all electric homes
- ✓ Hand-picked builder that guarantees their work
- ✓ Many options to choose from
- ✓ Permanent green space in all of our communities
- ✓ No hassles, No haggles - everyone gets our best price
- ✓ Peace of mind working with a financially stable company
- ✓ Closing cost assistance with our preferred lender

"An Anderson Community is a Better Place to Live!"

Move into a new Anderson Community home!

How does it work? It's simple. Anderson Communities will determine the fair market value of your current house. Once the value is determined, we will make you a CASH offer. Our no hassles, no haggles approach is the simplest way to sell your house.

This program qualifies for any home under \$200,000 and is a guaranteed 100% CASH OFFER. Find out why "An Anderson Community is a better place to live." Don't wait - call today or visit us at www.AndersonCommunities.com

859-271-HOME (4663) www.AndersonCommunities.com

DEED RESTRICTION CORNER

By Robert B. Russell-Tutty
Deed Restriction and Enforcement Chair

I hope by the time you have read this newsletter you will have noticed the newly installed signs at our entrances on McConnell's Trace Boulevard and White Oak Trace. Through the years, many of our residents have said they were unaware they were living in a Deed Restricted Community. It is our hope that these newly installed signs will alert everyone to the fact we are living in, or they will be moving into, a deed restricted community.

The McConnell's Trace Deed of Restrictions is in place to maintain the value of our homes and the quality of our home life. All homeowners are expected to know the Deed Restrictions and follow them accordingly. If you do not have a copy of the Deed of Restrictions, it is available on our website www.mctna.org, or you can request a copy by calling Maggard Property Management at 269-2222.

In December, the McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Association Board of Directors and the Developer amended the Bylaws and Deed of Restrictions. As required by the Bylaws, every member should have received a notice in December advising them of the changes. In my next few columns I will address some of those changes.

Basketball Goals - *No basketball goals shall be permanently erected, whether on the residential structure or otherwise, without the prior written approval of the respective Developer or the Board of Directors through its Managing Agent. Any basketball goal, whether permanent or movable, may only be located on the driveway no nearer to the street than halfway between the house and the sidewalk or at the rear of the lot. No basketball goal shall be placed on the street, sidewalk or utility strip in the front of the lot or in any common areas at any time. All permanent basketball goals must have a transparent or glass backboard. No lighting or illumination for the purposes of playing or furthering the play of basketball shall be attached or detached to the goal, backboard or support structure, and the respective Developer or the Board of Directors, through its Managing Agent, shall have the discretion to review any lighting or illumination for purposes of this restriction.*

- Property owners will be fined for each violation.

Portable Storage Units - *No portable storage units (temporary or permanent), including those storage units commonly referred to as "PODS", may be placed or kept on a driveway or any non-grass or landscaped surface portion of a lot for more than fourteen (14) consecutive days, and in no event on any one (1) lot more than two (2) times per calendar year. In no event may such a storage unit be placed in the street in front of a lot (or in the case of a corner lot, the side street adjacent to such lot). The fourteen (14) days may be extended with prior written approval of the respective developer or the Board of Directors through its managing agent.*

- Property owners will be fined for each violation

In the future newsletters I will be addressing other changes to the deed restrictions and bylaws including antennas and/or satellite dishes, use and storage of vehicles, radon pipes, gardens, drainage and rain barrels, and window air conditioning units, along with some changes to the bylaws, in Article IIIc, Powers and Duties.

Feel free to e-mail me or call me with any questions or concerns that you might have. Once again, you can get a copy of our Deed of Restrictions or Bylaws by going to our website, www.mctna.org, or calling Maggard Property Management at 269-2222.

Bob
secureins@insightbb.com
233-2940

YOUR McCONNELL'S TRACE STREET REPRESENTATIVES

The MTNA Board is still looking for "Street Captains: for some of the streets below. By establishing "Street Captains" we have increased your accessibility to reaching the board and making your voice heard. The Street Captain is your point person in the association. A Street Captain's responsibility is to hear/address your concerns and convey them to the board. If your street is not listed, we have not recruited anyone yet. If you are interested, please contact Bob at 859-233-2940 or secreins@insightbb.com.

Angel Falls Drive – Joyce Everly 105 Angel Falls 388-9890 joeverly9890@yahoo.com
Black Water Lane – Tony Lancaster 220 Blackwater Lane 608-7304 tonyblancaster@yahoo.com
Blue Heron Place – August (Nick) Oliveri 173 Blue Heron Place 556-0716 augustnoliverijr@yahoo.com
Bracktown Road – OPEN
Briggs Place – Nathan Lowe 2944 Briggs Place 309-3697 nate.lowe@yahoo.com
Burnt Mill Road – Bryan Schallner 2877 Burnt Mill Road 918-798-4606 bschallner@yahoo.com
Caddis Lane – Matt Hill 3008 Caddis Lane 312-2220 matthill@insightbb.com
Gauley Lane – Eddie Wesley 229 Gauley Lane 523-3069 edwes12@email.uky.edu
Leatherwood Lane - Bennie Pointer 177 Leatherwood Lane 252-1741 thepoynterfamily@gmail.com
Long Branch Lane – Keith Fitz-Gerald 212 Long Branch Lane (108-265) 327-7401 krfitz@windstream.com
Long Branch Lane – Herald Ikard 257 Long Branch Lane (268-496) 5552-8065 hikard4@insightbb.com
McConnell's Trace Blvd. – Pam Russell-Tutty 104 McConnell's Trace 233-2940 pamrusselltutty@insightbb.com
New River Place – Molly Pepper 3060 New River Place 351-5028 mcbutter2007@yahoo.com
New River Court – Melissa Grassle 216 New River Court 621-9500 missyg7@aol.com
Ocoee Court – OPEN
Old Woolen Mill Lane - Lauren Holman 257 Old Woolen Mill Lane 859-481-5770 laurenholman@gmail.com
Peaks Mill Drive – Nathan Koerber 2892 Peaks Mill Drive 859-552-9325 n.koerber@insightbb.com
Trailwood Lane – Chuck White 3052 Trailwood Lane 859-231-0007 chuckwhite57@insightbb.com
Town Branch Road – Kay Blues 3017 Town Branch Road 246-0664 kblues@insightbb.com
Town Branch Cove – Cheryl Goldfarb 105 Town Branch Cove 335-9357 sgcar54@oal.com
White Oak Trace (100 -188) – Tony Wolfe 145 White Oak Trace 621-1821 tonywolfe@dbm.com
White Oak Trace (200-312) – Trey McCallie 244 White Oak Trace 312-7599 tremccallie@yahoo.com
Yamacraw Place – Lisa Martin 129 Yamacraw Place 948-8365 lisaquintet@insightbb.com



AND THE WINNERS ARE....

This past holiday season marked the 3rd annual McConnell's Trace Holiday Lights Contest, and once again we had many beautiful displays. The winning residences were 165 and 469 McConnell's Trace Boulevard. Your homes truly were unique and festive. Congratulations!

Now let's all start planning our 2011 displays!





6th ANNUAL McCONNELL'S TRACE NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

What better way to celebrate summer than with a picnic! Join us on Saturday, July 16 at 6 PM in Masterson Station Park. Look for us at the shelter close to the dog park! The Neighborhood Association will be providing hot dogs, chips, barbeque sandwiches and drinks. Please bring a side dish or desert to complete the menu. If your house number is odd, bring a side dish; if it's even, bring a dessert. Hope you can make it to the fun and games!

IN RECOGNITION

As Robert Russell-Tutty, MTNA President, prepared to adjourn the October 21, 2010, semi-annual meeting, he surprised the neighborhood group by requesting that Dennis Anderson come the podium. Bob proceeded to help everyone remember numerous good acts Dennis had performed over the past ten years; not just as our community developer, but as a friend and partner in performing acts to help residents, even when he was not obligated to do so. Bob recalled the muddy holes at the mailboxes which were replaced by cement platforms, the numerous times he had met with residents to hear complaints and help residents understand situations, and how many times he replaced dead trees in front of houses when the owners failed to take proper care of the trees. There was the 2010 Spring Clean-Up at the Trailwood greenspace, when Dennis showed up with his Bobcat. Not only did he and his staff bulldoze out trash, dislodge old tires, and remnants of old appliances and machinery, but he worked far into the evening after we had all left. The following day he was back and finished clearing the wooded area of dead trees and made sure the ground was free from all of the invasive black honeysuckle. The photo below shows Bob Russell-Tutty presenting a plaque that expressed the community's appreciation.



This was the engraving on the plaque Bob Russell-Tutty presented to Dennis Anderson:

McConnell's Trace Community Association founded 2000 presents to Dennis Anderson and Anderson Communities in recognition of outstanding service and commitment to the neighborhood. Presented by Robert B. Russell-Tutty, MTNA President 2001 to 2010.



Main Street
free parking
354 East Main St.
Lexington, KY 40507
859-254-3878
behind Lexington Visitor Center

Richmond Road
2701 Richmond Rd.
Lexington, KY 40509
859-266-0422

South Point
199 Moore Dr.
Lexington, KY 40503
859-276-1447

- Free Color Matching
- Environmentally Safe Products
- Quality Paints and Stains

Exclusive discount for McConnell's Trace Homeowners

**\$20 off a
\$50 Purchase**



Coupon to be surrendered at time of purchase, not to be duplicated or used with any other offer. Excludes Permaizer®, spray equipment and GVED items. Valid at company-owned stores and participating dealers. Associate collect and staple to invoice. Expires 5/15/2011.

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GREAT DEAL FOR McCONNELL'S TRACE RESIDENTS

Porter Paint has an offer for McConnell's Trace residents! One of our residents is a representative for PPG/Porter Paint. The company has offered to open a cash account for the subdivision. This will allow everyone who lives in McConnell's Trace to purchase any product that Porter carries and receive a contractor's discount on those items. A cash account will allow the residents to purchase items at a discount, keep records of what they purchased by using their address as a job name, and pay with cash, check, or credit card. PPG/Porter Paint also has a designer on staff who is free to help pick colors. Residents can either bring in digital photos or schedule an appointment for her to come out and take a look at their homes.

The McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Association is not responsible in any way for any charges incurred, and no items may be charged to the Association. You must pay for your purchases yourself, but the contractor's discount will make it possible for you to save money as a McConnell's Trace resident.

TOUGH TIMES BRING CRIMES?

By DG Gridley

Perhaps, but we all know crime has been a problem since Cain and Abel. For whatever reason robbery in Fayette County has increased from 550 in 2007 to 578 in 2009 and burglary went from 2,114 in 2007 to 2,427 in 2009, the last year data is available on the Lexington Fayette County Government website. I don't have the numbers for robberies and burglaries in 2010 and the first few months of 2011, but I have a hunch they are higher than in 2009.

Those statistics do not reveal other crimes prevalent in neighborhoods like ours, including vandalism and auto break-ins.

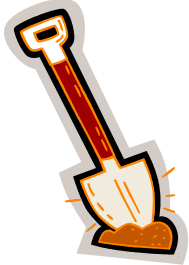
What are you seeing? I have seen empty hard liquor bottles tossed at the curb on the undeveloped section of White Oak Trace. I have also seen suspicious looking cars parked there at odd times. I have seen one of the stone benches knocked over a steep embankment by the Spicewood Pump Station on the Town Branch Trail. I have seen gouges knocked out of the bark of two of the biggest oak trees on the Trail. The bark contains the transport system for the water to travel from the roots to the tree tops, so if enough bark is destroyed the tree will die. I have seen a plethora of litter on Trailwood and other streets.

Some of my closest neighbors experienced break-in attempts last year, three of which I am aware. I also saw some youths destroying a neighbor's landscaping last summer and recently I met a young man who was looking for the Indian Ocean, where he said he lived. He asked me for directions with complete sincerity. Drugs have prompted many crimes that I have seen reported on the news.

So, what should we do when we see something suspicious or a crime in progress? For our public areas, Keith Lovan, engineer for the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, suggests we call 311 to report damage on the trail that we see that has already been done and to call the police (859-258-3600 or 911 if an emergency) if you see this activity in real time. He says that "Patrolling the trail and reporting any suspicious activity is the one way to stop it." Of course, call the police for ANY sort of mischief or crime to your personal property, no matter how inconsequential, so they can document it, which may help solve a larger crime in the future.

For certain incidents, The Citizen Online Police Reporting System is new in Fayette County and can be accessed using: <http://www.lexingtonky.gov/index.aspx?page=67> or going to the www.lexingtonky.gov website and then going to city government and then to the public safety page. Using the Lexington Division of Police - Citizen Online Reporting System, you can submit a report only for the following incidents: harassing communications, fraudulent use of a credit/debit card, theft by unlawful taking, criminal mischief, property lost or mislaid, and larceny from auto (less than \$500).

Every resident of McConnell's Trace should watch for and report any activity that does not seem quite "right". If we all do our part, this neighborhood will be spared the ravages of crime. Let's earn a reputation as a neighborhood that won't tolerate criminal activity!



Prior to digging that hole for your new shrubs, trees, fence post, etc., call to have all underground utilities in your yard marked. You must call at least two business days before you begin to dig. This is a free service. More information can found at: www.kentucky811.org.

HOMEWARD BOUND: MAKING YOUR NEW PET FEEL RIGHT AT HOME

Getting a new dog or cat is exciting for the whole family. A calm and happy homecoming is best for your family and for your new pet. Your pet will need your help to become acclimated to his new surrounding and to receive the care he needs during the transition period. These tips can help make it a special time for you and your newest family member.

Get Ready

Learn ahead of time what your new dog or cat will need. Have the proper food, bowls, brushes, a collar, and nail clippers. If a new dog is moving in with you, you will need a leash and a bed. A cat will need a litter box and litter.

Prepare the Kids

If you have small children, spend some time before your new pet comes home teaching them how to handle your new animal. Explain to them that your new dog or cat has feelings and needs to be treated gently and with love. They also should know that if your new pet needs time alone, it is best to give him some space and time to adjust to his new surroundings.

Get Some Toys

If you don't want your shoes chewed up, it is best to have some chew toys on hand to show your dog what is acceptable right from the beginning. Tuck electrical cords behind furniture and place your plants out of reach. A cat will love to have a scratching post instead of using your couch. If your new puppy is finding it hard to learn what to chew and what not to chew, you can set up a safe zone using a baby gate until he gets the hang of things. If you must leave your new dog alone during the day, consider crate training. This not only limits his capacity to damage your things, but also will give him a quiet place to retreat. Using a crate at night will also provide protection.

Feeding Fun

Newly weaned puppies need to eat three times a day. As your new puppy gets older, you can reduce feedings to twice a day. Once a dog is full grown, you can choose to feed him either once or twice a day. Consult your vet to find out the best feeding schedule for your pet. Both cats and dogs need to be fed food that is suited to their age, lifestyle, and specific needs.

Follow this few tips and you and your new pet will both be happy and enjoys many years together!

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

They say you can pick your friends, but you can't pick your neighbors. If you are lucky you have good neighbors. Neighbors can play an important role in our community and our lives, and remember you are a neighbor too.

What's a good neighbor? By definition a neighbor is someone who lives close by you, but close is a relative term. Being close is not always measured by distance but often how we interact with each other.

A good neighbor is friendly and considerate. Though good neighbors may live close, they respect your space and privacy. Good neighbors wave at you or perhaps stop to pet your dog and chat. They reach out to connect to you. Whatever your view is on being neighborly, it might be a good idea to match up with your neighbors' idea of the same, which can help avoid or downplay community irritations while building neighborly camaraderie.

Good neighbors help each other. If you see your neighbor in distress do you stop and offer to help? Are you willing to share not only things but a smile and friendly hello? Do you return a favor when one is given to you?

Good neighbors respect each other. They consider others who live around them. They avoid keeping others awake with loud parties or parking their cars in front their neighbor's homes. They mow their lawns and maintain their property. They try to keep their kids respectful too.

Good neighbors' actions support their community. A good neighbor looks out for others. They get involved in making their neighborhood a better place to live. They volunteer for neighborhood watches to deter crime and violence. They volunteer their time and talents to serve on one of the committees.

Ask yourself, "Am I a good neighbor?" What are you doing to make your neighborhood better? Remember you get what you give. Try to be a good neighbor.



REPORT GRAFFITI

The Office of Fayette County Sheriff's Department took the lead in offering a program to respond to the needs of our community and the nuisance of graffiti. If your building, home or property has been vandalized by graffiti, feel free to contact the office at **252-1771**. Please call for more information on how the Sheriff's Department may assist you.

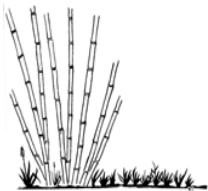


SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

The spring semi-annual meeting of the McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Association will be held on Thursday,

April 28, at 7 PM at the First Baptist Church of Bracktown. We will meet in the Community Room.

Please plan to attend to see what's going on in your neighborhood!



McConnell's Trace Neighborhood Assoc.
c/o Maggard Properties
133 Walton Avenue
Lexington, KY 40508