

SUMMER 2009

# HAWTHORNE HAPPENINGS

*A Newsletter from your Hawthorne Valley Homes Association*



## Greetings from the Association President

Good Day to everyone at Hawthorne. Let me introduce myself.

I am Darryl Lynn, 4700 W. 122nd Street. My wife Paula and I have been residents of Hawthorne for the last seven years. We have truly enjoyed living in this wonderful community. During the annual board meeting I heard from a number of Hawthorne residents about issues our community is facing. Please understand the Board will take action within our control to address each situation. Each of the Board Members are committed to addressing the needs of our community.

The Board has identified a number of activities that will be taking place in the next several weeks; the Neighborhood Garage Sale and Annual Picnic to name a couple.

The community looks great! Thanks to all that have worked so hard to keep our community beautiful. It is in the best interest of every home owner.

Warmest regards,  
Darryl Lynn

## Open Garage Doors and Crime

Residents should be aware that there have been some problems in our subdivision relating to open garage doors. Garage doors should be kept closed as much as possible and homeowners should never leave keys,

purses or other entry items that can aid potential criminals. Homes bordering Roe, Nall and Tomahawk Creek are more vulnerable to this type of crime. Any crimes, break-ins or other criminal poten-

tial activity should be reported immediately to the Overland Park Police, and residents are also asked to advise a member of the board of such activity.

## Trees on Your Property

Residents should be aware that trees planted on your property that hang out over the sidewalks are the homeowners responsibility. These trees must be trimmed eight feet from the ground so they are out of the way of walkers and bikers. This is a city code enforced by the City of Overland Park. The Board of Directors appreciate all the neighbors who work to make this neighborhood the best in the city.

## Annual Garage Sale

The annual Hawthorne Valley neighborhood garage sale will be held on September 17, 18 and 19 this year. Signs will be posted at our entrances and the sale will be advertised in the Kansas City Star. This is your opportunity to get some cash for those items you have been thinking of selling!

## Masonry Work to Begin on Hawthorne Valley Walls

A mason by the name of Will Stonecipher has begun work on H.Valley walls (home side of walls), starting at Linden & Tomahawk Creek Parkway and moving east to Roe. Soon he should begin working from the bell tower south along Roe focusing on the home side of walls, but occasionally repairing the street side of walls. He will continue south along Roe (except for any yards where large or nuisance pets prohibit his access) until he gets to the south most home along Roe adjacent to the OP park. Over the summer the mason will be working on walls

within several of the subsidiaries focusing on the worst walls first, but this is an annual project ranging between \$5-10 K and any wall repairs not completed this year can be schedule over the next few years, but if you have some high priority concerns not addressed from Linden along Roe please advise and we will try to get them addresses as soon as possible.

The residents from Linden to Roe and all along Roe should be aware that Mr. Stonecipher will be needing access to yards over the next few weeks. You can help spread

the word so residents are not surprised by his presence. We understand that the residents at Linden and TCP were pleased with his work, and we would appreciate positive or negative feedback so we can keep a pulse on his work quality in addition to our inspections. This is a welcome and long awaited masonry repair to resume and we hope Mr. Stonecipher will be able to more routinely address wall concerns over the next few years to keep the walls sealed and looking good.

## Yard of the Month

The board recognizes how much work you have done in making your home beautiful this spring and summer. Your lawn and flower beds reflect a very positive attitude for the entire neighborhood. A gift certificate is our way of saying "Thank You" for a job well done in our community. Keep up the good work.

Congratulations to the Yard of the Month winner for July 2009!

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Peek, 12205 Cedar St.



## Web Site

Did you know we have a web site? It is located at <http://www.hawthornevalley.org>. This is the place to keep up-to-date on all the important news and activities of our neighborhood.

Please spread the word to your neighbors about this important web site. Your Board of Directors will make all announcements here so you don't have to wait for the newsletter to find out what's happening in the neighborhood!



## “Warning!”

Do you drive dangerously within this neighborhood? There are an estimated 6 million car accidents each year in the US. Although the number of accidents has decreased over the years, there are still numerous car crashes and fatalities caused by drivers choosing careless in their driving. The factors that usually cause drivers to be so careless are drinking under the influence of alcohol excessively, driving faster than the speed limit, and attempting to multitask while driving. All three are risky behaviors that cause serious accidents that could have been otherwise avoided.

Statistics show that more than 17,000 people are victims of drunk drivers every year. The cause of this high number of victims is because driving under the influence of alcohol disables a driver's vision and mental functions and causes drivers' reflexes to be slow, their judgment limited,

and a loss of focus. Therefore the chance of a driver injuring themselves and others is high. Driving and drinking alcohol excessively is illegal and the ability to drive will be taken away. Although speeding does not cause drivers to lose their focus or coordination, it does give drivers less time to react to certain situations and the speed on impact is high. The results are brutal. Vehicles are either seriously or completely damaged and the victims will likely sustain severe injuries or may even die. Speeding is also illegal and cost drivers hefty fines.

Multitasking in the car is not completely illegal in the US, but it is wise to avoid the habit. Drivers can multitask by talking on the phone, answering a text message, applying makeup, or fidgeting with the radio while driving. In doing so, their eyes are not on the road, their hands are being used to do something

*Article contributed by:  
Adam Haug - Youth Editor  
Grace Haug - Journalist*

other than steer the wheel, or their attention is partly given to the conversations on the phones. A recent article in the New York Times reports about a research project that shows that a person who texts while driving has the reflexes equal to that of a person who is driving drunk. They take the risk of injuring or killing themselves or others.

In order for everybody to enjoy a safe environment in this neighborhood, please avoid these risky behaviors when driving. Abide by the laws and do not be the reason Kelly down the street got killed on Sunday. \*

\*Not a real case, but numerous lives have been lost due to many drivers making the wrong choices.

***All neighborhood youths are invited to submit an article for review and publication!***

## Neighborhood Directory

The neighborhood homes association directory will be distributed in a few months. The directory is advertiser supported and is supplied at no cost to the association. If you would like information about half or full page advertising please call the publisher at 913-397-8800. More information is available at [www.dapkc.com](http://www.dapkc.com). Homeowners may advertise in their subdivision with a business card ad. If interested, mail your business card

and payment of \$50.00 to Directory Assistance Publications, P.O. Box 2755, Olathe, KS 66063. Please specify which subdivision it applies to. The publisher will scan the business card and include it with others from the neighborhood in a special section in the back of the directory.

Please review your 2009 directory and e-mail Ken Jones at [kjones1970@kc.rr.com](mailto:kjones1970@kc.rr.com) with any changes in your directory information.

## Annual Picnic

The Annual Hawthorne Valley Homeowner's Association picnic will be held on October 18 this year!! Watch the web site for details.



## Treasurer's Report

We were forced to raise homeowner's dues last year due to the increase in the cost of refuse collection by Deffenbaugh. The costs of collection and disposal will likely continue to increase. New rules are also being contemplated concerning the amount of yard waste that will be col-

lected. We will keep you informed of changes.

Other costs have remained under control and we are staying within our budget. Our biggest payment to the Master's Association for upkeep has thankfully remained the same for several years.

Even with the down turn in the economy, only four homeowner's dues remain unpaid. We have filed liens on these properties and should eventually recover these dues.

- Ken Jones

### Cul-de-sac Maintenance

Your association provides \$300 annually for the maintenance of cul-de-sac. This money is available to residents willing to commit to maintaining their cul-de-sac island. If you are willing to commit to that, please contact your board President to apply for the funds and advice on what seems to grow the best.

### Do We Have Your E-mail Address?

To receive your Hawthorne Happenings Newsletters electronically, send us your e-mail address and you will be placed on our neighborhood distribution list. Don't worry, this list will ONLY be used to keep you in the know for events concerning our neighborhood.

### Selling Your Home?

If you are putting your property on the market, or know of a neighbor who is, your Board of Directors would appreciate this information. If new neighbors move in, please contact one of the board members so that they may be welcomed into the neighborhood.

*Questions, comments or suggestions  
about the newsletter or the web site?  
Please contact Dennis  
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## Board of Directors

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*Picnic October 18*

