

LETTER FROM THE BOARD

By John Francis

Bear with me on this one because it will seem strange.

Recently in the *New York Times* I read about a contest: The Greenest Block in Brooklyn. Being an ex-Brooklynite, I had to admit I was amused. For the most part homeowners have hardly any front yard at all (we are talking about 10 feet by 10 feet). In the photos which accompanied the article, it showed planters either on steps leading up to the front door or in the space between the sidewalk and the curb.

The lush greenery we take for granted is a rare commodity in Brooklyn and in Manhattan, the Bronx, and most of Queens (four of the city's five boroughs). Indeed, in many of the nation's older cities, this is also the case. For those of us who live a suburban setting, we are fortunate to have enough land to plant to our hearts content.

With this in mind enjoy this issue of our newsletter which celebrates our neighborhood's Garden Walk and our first ever Curb Appeal Award. Also remember that Horning's is having it usual sale for Crystal Pointe residents.

If you want to see more photos of the neighborhood, visit our website at www.crystalpointe.org.

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Realtor - F.C. Tucker

Donna Riddle, Realtor
Please call me for your real estate needs.

Cell: 407-6919

Voice Mail: 388-3420
riddle9964@hotmail.com

Place Your Ad Here

This section is a free service for the benefit of Crystal Pointe Homeowners. E-mail your ad to:

tim@crystalpointe.org

Please keep ads short and specific.

DISCLAIMER: The CPHOA provides this area of the newsletter for homeowners to offer services or sell items. The CPHOA does not guarantee, endorse, or wish to promote any business service or product listed.

Caveat Emptor!

(Let the buyer beware!)

GARDEN WALK 2007

By Lois A. Vining

The Capital Improvement Committee coordinated its 3rd Annual Garden Walk on Sunday, June 3, 2007. Five homeowners participated. We extend a big thank you to all for their willingness to open up their gardens for visitors:

Michelle and Spencer Scott, 8363 Bent Oak Drive
Margaret and John Francis, 8307 Crystal Pointe Lane
Melvin and Enanu Locke, 8343 Briarhill Way
Gerald Cunningham, 12712 Briarhill Drive
Tom & Sherry Priami, 8371 Bent Oak Drive

The committee is considering whether to continue the Garden Walk. This year it was difficult to obtain commitments from



8371 Bent Oak Drive

homeowners to participate in the event. In addition the number or visitors was disappointing. However, those who did tour especially enjoyed the outdoor fountain, the wide variety of flowers, the variation in patios, and the sharing of numerous garden tips.

One surprising highlight was the way two young children were enchanted by a large yellow rose bush. As a result they walked away with their own small bouquet.

One gardenserved guests

lemonade and cookies. Bob Wright, father of Holly Simon of Geist Cove Drive, won the raffle, a bright red crocosmia.

As you can see, the committee has a great deal to weigh in deciding whether to schedule a Garden Walk 2008.

If you feel strongly that this event should be ongoing, please contact Chris Jagoditz, the committee chairperson, at 823-3779 to voice your opinion.



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month. Classified ads are a free service for Crystal Pointe homeowners/residents only.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS IS A PUBLICATION OF THE CPHOA

Aug. 2007, Volume 9, Issue 3

Published and edited quarterly (Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.) by the CPHOA board members. Homeowners are encouraged to contribute articles, photos, ads, etc. and to help with the newsletter. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month before the publication

August 2007

Volume No. 9, Issue No 3

CAR AND GARAGE THEFTS

by John Francis

During June and July, as of this writing, several homeowners reported various items stolen from their cars and garages. An exchange of information and suggestions took place on the CPHOA discussion list, also known as "CPTalk" during late July and early August.

Reprinted below are excerpts from some of the exchanges. Should you wish to participate in the CPTalk discussion list, please notify Tim Biddle at tim@crystalpointe.org. You will be added to the list and begin receiving emails.

Hi everyone.

Last night, between midnight and 12:30, as I was up watching television, I heard the door that connects my laundry room to my garage open. This was strange as the rest of my family was asleep. My garage door was still open, because we had forgotten to close it when we came home from church last evening.

I got up to investigate and did not see anyone in the garage or outside. I immediately closed the garage door, and locked the inside door as well. It frightens me to think what might have been stolen from my house had I not been up to thwart the thieves.

This morning, I was taking my son to school and realized that an iPod charger had been stolen out of my Blazer that sits in my driveway at night. I don't usually lock the doors. Up until now, I have never had a problem. I live on Crystal Pointe Drive, at the dead end on the north side of the street.

My wife stopped at talked to two neighbors who live on the corner of Geist Cove and Crystal Pointe, and one of them reported that his wife was missing a radar detector.

This is a good time to mention as a reminder for all of us to keep an eye out for suspicious activity in our neighborhood, and to be aware and make a note of anyone you see that looks suspicious or like they do not belong in the neighborhood.

Tim Biddle

To do our part to help keep this neighborhood safe, my husband and I would like to offer all residents of Crystal Pointe our assistance. We own a security system company and would be willing to give our neighbors "Free" Home Security Systems which

include:

1 Control Panel
1 Key Pad
Up to 3 doors
1 Motion Detector
1 Keychain Remote
1 Interior Siren

We will lower the monthly monitoring rate to \$31.95 and keep the Maintenance included. All we ask is they sign the 36 month agreement for monitoring with Guardian. We will do our best to also help accommodate them with anything extra they may need. We can also put up camera's for those who are like me and want to see what is going on as well. Please let us know if you can pass this along and if anyone else is interested.

Sincerely,

Jennifer North
Owner/Vice President
Essential A/V, Inc.
www.essentialavgroup.com
Cell: 317-332-3365
email: essentialgroup@comcast.net

I'd like to suggest that all homeowners double check their front dusk to dawn lights to be sure the light bulbs come on and if not, replace the bulbs. I think it is also a great idea to be sure that any shrubbery that is a hiding place up close to their homes, be cut back or thinned. I'm very happy with a rope light I have tied to the top railing of my deck out back. It is plugged in at dusk and unplugged at dawn. The low level light enables me to see if anyone would be standing in the dark on my deck as their figure would block the soft light coming from the rope light. It is very comforting as the lake is very dark out back.

Jayne Granger

Group:

From my professional experience, I can tell you that hiring a security patrol is not cost effective as to the amount of funds that it costs. A neighborhood security patrol makes a couple of drive thru sweeps through the sub-division during an 8 hour period and that's about it. The chances of that patrol coming upon the teenage thieves that we have are slim to remote. And if there are thieves walking the streets, all they do is wait until the security vehicle is out of sight, then do their dirty deeds. The neighborhood watch is a better idea. Watch out for yourself and your neighbors. Each residence should take care of their own security upgrades for their houses and property and keep an eye-out for their neighbors.

A lot of thefts we've had are due to the carelessness of the property owner, leaving items unlocked or in plain sight. That is simple to rectify. Lock things up if you don't want them stolen. Engrave items with your drivers license number for recovery. Pawn shops as a rule won't

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BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

By Karin Bariteau

As I write this on vacation in Minnesota visiting family, I've seen a variety of ways people can be a Good Neighbor. Seeing how people have helped each other when the 35W bridge collapsed, too helping clean up after storms that passed through a suburb knocking down trees and taking out power lines and personally how my family and friends (here and in Indy) have helped me out in my time of need. It is amazing to see how the community comes together to help out their "neighbors".

There have been a lot of emails lately on CPTalk about crime and security and what we can do to prevent future problems. Get involved! I know it's hard, but there are many ways to participate, from going to the homeowners meetings (which are only four times a year) to being active in the neighborhood. We can make our community even better when we're involved with each other.

Here are some other ways we can be a Good Neighbor:

- **Maintain your easements and fences**—If your fence doesn't butt up directly to another fence, remember that your responsible for the grass on the outside of the fence too.

- **Pet Owners**—when walking your pet pick up after them. Keep track of your pets, don't let them wander the neighborhood. Make sure they have tags on, so if they do get lost someone can contact you.

- **Slow Down**—When driving through the neighborhood, slow down. The speed limit is 25 (I know that seems slow, but it is a fact and the safest for all). There are many children who live here and we wouldn't want anything to happen to any of them.

- **Keep a look out for your neighbor**—If they are on vacation, offer to help out with mail, newspapers, checking on their house. Get to know your neighbors.

- **Keep your Dusk to Dawn lights (that's your front yard light) lit.** The covenants of the Association require that everyone maintains their yard lights. This will also help prevent crime if we keep our neighborhood well lit.

- **Volunteer**—Get involved with community activities. There are many to choose from: tree planting, neighborhood activities, participating in homeowners meetings, and being on different committees.

CURB APPEAL AWARDS

By Lois A. Vining

On August 6, the Capital Improvement Committee announced the winners of the 2007 Curb Appeal Awards. An independent panel of judges included Scott Brett, Green Touch Nursery; Kaye Hirt Eggleston, Carpenter Realty; Dave Fuss, Sunblest Lawn Care Basics; and Kim Holden, Becker Landscape.

The selection process was not easy according to the judges. They recommended seven homes for the awards and they reported that there were many others who could have won. Therefore, the committee voted to give awards to ten homeowners (7 top winners, 2 honorable mentions, and 1 most improved).

The committee members visited each home and presented a garden basket filled with garden tools, a plant, a \$25 check from CPHOA, and various gift certificates donated



Robert & Mary Cooper, 12358 Geist Cove Drive

by local merchants and retailers to the top seven winners. The winners for honorable mention and most improved received donated gift certificates.

LEMONADE STAND-OFF

On July 14th, Colin McMonagle had a lemonade stand-off as a part of his Survivor-themed birthday party. Two teams of party attendees competed to see who could sell the most lemonade in a 15-20 minute window.

The two lemonade stands sold nearly \$50.00 worth of lemonade (at 50 cents per cup) All of the proceeds from the sales of the two lemonade stands went to benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. Colin's mom, Tabitha said, "It was so nice that everyone helped us turn a child's birthday, often a greed-filled event all about receiving gifts, into a lesson in charity."

Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation is a non-profit charity founded by Alexan-

dra (Alex) Scott, a four-year old childhood cancer patient. She wanted to help cure childhood cancer. The foundation funds childhood cancer research. For more information on Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, please visit:

Top 7 Winners:

Tom & Donna Riddle,
12718 Briarhill Drive
Darrin & Ronda Gullion,
12422 Crystal Pointe Circle
Scott & Tammy Schroeder,
12504 Bent Oak Lane

Tom & Sherry Priami, 8371 Bent Oak Drive

Jim & Kay Wallsmith, 12601 Tealwood

Mike & Jill Baker, 12520

Geist Cove Drive

Chad & Greta Kohler,
12634 Geist Cove

Honorable Mention

Winners:

Scott & Amy Lorch,
12437 Crystal Pointe Circle

Scott & Helene Koch,
12719 Geist Cove Drive

Most Improved Winner:

Robert & Mary Cooper,
12358 Geist Cove Drive

Many thanks to our generous sponsors who donated gift certificates for the winners. Their support in this first year effort is greatly

appreciated: The Fox Restaurant, Bella Vita Restaurant, Consigned by Design at Geist, Papa John's Pizza, Lincoln Square Restaurant, Cozumel Mexican Restaurant, Great Clips,

dra (Alex) Scott, a four-year old childhood cancer patient. She wanted to help cure childhood cancer. The foundation funds childhood cancer research. For more information on Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation, please visit:

www.alexslimonade.org



Colin McMonagle, 12318 Geist Cove Drive



Tammy and Scott Schroeder, 12504 Bent Oak Lane

CVS/pharmacy – McCordsville, White's Ace Hardware, Sandra Rice & Noodle Restaurant, Hornings Nursery, Sunblest Lawn Care Basics, Hair Dooz Salon, Geist Nursery, Allisonville Nursery, Becker Landscape Contractors, A Bloomin' Nursery, Applebee's Restaurant, and Eagle Creek Nursery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!

THIS AND THAT

• In June *The Indianapolis Star* published a profile of Crystal Pointe in its Saturday Business section (you can see a reproduction on our website, www.crystalpointe.org). Within ten days, someone moving from out of town saw the article in the paper, visited the area, found and bought a house. The house had been on the market since January 2006.

• Related to this was the listing in *The Indianapolis Star* about our 3rd annual Garden Walk which was held on June 3rd, 2007 (See separate article). With this good news, we decided to write a press release to all real estate agents in the area outlining the pros of living at Crystal Pointe. A copy of the press release is posted on our website and you are invited to make some suggestions. The press release was also discussed at our July 17 business meeting.

• Something really surprising happened during the last Garage Sale. A customer spoke with Karen Johnson, the co-ordinator of the Garage Sale. He mentioned that he came every year because he knew timing of the event. He added that he came all the way from Louisville!!

...continued from Page 1

take things that are engraved. If police recover them, they can trace the owners. It shouldn't have to be this way, but, as long as there are thieves out there, that is the way it is.

Re: Garage doors

You can get a small device that will tell you your garage door is open. They run around ten dollars. The transmitter attaches to the inside of your garage door and runs off of 2 AA batteries. The receiver is in the house and plugs into a wall socket. When the garage door is left open it sends out a beep, beep, beep, etc... One thing, you'll want to unplug it if you're working in the garage and you want the door open; or the beeping will drive you crazy.

It's also nice to use in the winter. It's no fun leaving your garage door open overnight only to find your garage filled up with snow in the morning.

If you want to leave your garage door open during the day for some reason while you're home, there is still a way to guard it from some unauthorized entry. I use a mailbox alarm, cost around 30 or 40 dollars. They are sold to let you know when your mail is delivered. I attached the transmitter to the side of my garage frame and pointed it down the length of my garage doors. The transmitter sends out an invisible laser beam covering the doors. I have the receiver that again, plugs into a wall socket in the house. If someone enters the open garage they break the beam setting off the alarm in the house. But, don't always think that when you hear the alarm go off some bad guy just entered your garage, it could be the UPS man too, so don't shoot first and ask questions later...

You can even go so far as installing your own alarm system. If you're doing it yourself, buy a wireless system (cheaper ones run around \$100-\$150.00.) All you do is attach the magnet door contacts to the doors/windows and plug in the monitor into a wall socket and you're ready to go. When the door/window is opened, it breaks the magnetic contact and sends the info to the monitor. No wires to install, it runs from a high pitched sound between the magnets and monitor that cannot be heard by either man nor pets. Easy to install.

You can even get a wireless close circuit TV system (\$200-\$300). Place the outdoor wireless mini cameras to watch the front and back of your house. Some kits comes with a monitor, or you can use your TV or computer as a monitor.

There are lots of things that you can do yourself to increase your security and harden the target (the target being you), but hiring a security guard patrol is not one of them. In my view, a neighborhood security patrol is a waste of money. It's better to guard yourself than depend on others do it for you, and then charge you a fee for doing it.

These recommendations are simple and anyone can set them up.

Be careful out there,

Thx, Drew

Security Consultant

Several homeowners wrote in suggestions, most of which appear obvious, but which, over time, we forget:

1. Never leave car unlocked, or keys in car,
2. Keep garage door closed,
3. Turn on all outdoor lights,
4. Bring garage door opener inside, use an auto installed garage door opener, or hide it in some unlikely place,
5. Keep an eye out for suspicious behavior in the neighborhood,
6. Don't keep valuables, such as iPods or CDs in your vehicle,

7. Report any attempted break-ins or thefts to the Lawrence Police Department (549-6404), or 911 in an emergency. The officer we spoke to when we called to report the theft reminded us that if you call during an attempted break-in or theft, they will send an officer over immediately, and will send other officers to patrol the neighborhood while that officer is taking a report, and

8. Make every effort to remember to close garage doors and lock entry doors when retiring for the night or leaving your home.

As of this writing a meeting is planned to deal with the issue. Be sure to attend the October business meeting for ideas to cope with the issue.

DOG MATTERS AND MANNERS

by Dan Cavallini

Per the discussion at the last CPHOA business meeting, I learned the following at Lawrence City Hall:

There are various items in City Code Article 3, Chapter 1, that pertain to some of the Crystal Pointe issues regarding animals.

3-3-1-5 relates to noisy animals and essentially says that noise that interferes with the reasonable use and enjoyment of another's property is considered a nuisance. This would probably cover those few dogs left outside to bark for hours. Lawrence has established a quiet time from 10 pm to 8 am. The following Chapter refers to noise from humans, radios, etc.

3-3-1-6 prohibits any animals at large (no leash) and includes cats. If the animal is off the leash and off the owners property it is considered a nuisance. (\$25 first time, \$50 every subsequent time)

3-3-1-7 discusses impounding the offending animal and the charges.

3-3-1-19 discusses the removal of animal waste and says in (a) that owners are not to permit their animal from relieving itself on public property or the private property of others, and (c) the immediate removal of such waste should it be deposited. The easy way to deal with this would be to allow the animal to relieve itself on your own property before your walk. I was told that cleaning up your own yard, so as not to be a health issue, would be covered by the Marion County Health Dept.

The 2007 Directory is available. E-mail John Francis at bigjohn565@comcast.net with your name and address and he will leave one in your mailbox.

CHILDREN IN CRYSTAL POINTE MAKE US PROUD

by Margaret Francis

Brother and sister, Aaron and Shavon Coleman, Geist Cove Drive, are ready to begin a new school year. Aaron a 2006 graduate of Lawrence High School will continue his college studies at IUPUI. and Shavon, who made the honor roll at Lawrence Central last year, will start her sophomore year there this year.

Kourtney Yamafuji, Bent Oak Court and Alexis Rivers, Crystal Pointe Lane were inducted into the Junior National Honor Society at Belzer Middle School.

Rachel Hilgendorf and Jill Weimer graduated from Lawrence Central this spring, class of 2007. Rachel will attend Depauw University in Greencastle, IN. this fall with studies in the health professions. She was a star gymnast at Lawrence Central. Jill has been accepted to Ivy Tech Community College in Indianapolis where she will study to become an x-ray technician.

Darci Weeks was home schooled and graduated from high school in 2006. Her acceptance at the Ohio Institute of Photography and Technology, near Dayton, gives her the opportunity to become a photographer. Her sister, Kaitlin graduated this year, 2007. She is finishing an art program out of Minnesota. Then she will decide on the next step. All four live on Crystal Pointe Circle.

Evan Appleman, Bent Oak Lane, graduated from Lawrence North High School, class of 2007. He will attend Indiana University, Bloomington, where he will major in both psychology and film studies (Read more about Evan in the next newsletter).

FALL FESTIVAL, OCTOBER 13, 2007

Chili and Chicken Wing Cook Off

Grand Prizes of dinner for two at a special restaurant.

Three judges will select winners. Judging will take place between 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. before all the usual Fall Festival activities begin.

To enter the contest, contact **Roz Lee**. 823-0897.

Sign up early as each category is limited to ten contestants.