

Montibello News

The Newsletter of Montibello Homeowners Association

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President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

Summer is here and that means vacations swing into high gear. Please be mindful of safety as you pack and venture away from your home. And let's do our part as good neighbors and keep an eye out for unusual behavior. Be sure to report any suspicious activity to Chuck Richards, neighborhoodwatch@montibello.org.

Montibello is full of great neighbors. Since our last newsletter Jean Lawson volunteered to serve in the Newsletter/Communications Position. This is the first newsletter Jean has produced (with assistance from "fill-in editor" Hap Arnold and Jean's husband, Mike). We are pleased to have Jean join the Board of Directors and serve in this crucial role.

I'd also like to thank the Beautification Co-chairs Barbara Dickie and Carol Richards. Their hard work is evident in the beautifully replanted River Ridge cul-de-sac. They're also working diligently to improve the neighborhood entrances. I've received a couple of inquiries regarding that project and I must tell you it is the Board's highest priority. Barbara and Carol have invested much time researching the city's guidelines and getting cost estimates. To date no formal plans have been developed because we must have the permission of homeowners to erect any signs on their property. This is a frustrating situation for all of us. However, we are committed to getting owner input before drafting plans so that more time and money are not wasted. They are currently awaiting meetings with the homeowners and we'll continue to keep you apprised of the situation.

All MHA members should have received the new directory. A huge round of thanks to Sarah Bailey who compiled all the information from the membership forms and arranged for printing. An updated set of the MHA Bylaws was included along with the three sets of covenants that cover this neighborhood. Please refer to these covenants before you undertake any remodeling/addition projects to your home. The MHA Vice President Jim Curtis, vicepresident@montibello.org has offered to help homeowners that may be confused by the limits of the covenants.

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President's Letter (continued)

The production of the directory and the upkeep of the database are made easier thanks to the work of Montibello resident Brian Phillips. In 2003 he oversaw the development of the MHA Membership Management System. Brian, who was then a member of the MHA board in charge of communications, worked with Chris Meade and Norman Hennessey - all on a pro bono basis. Chris is a Montibello resident and Norm is a web developer who offers his talents to nonprofit organizations. These folks continue to provide system support as needed and we are grateful for their continuing generosity.

I continue to be amazed at the talents in this neighborhood. You have a smart, dedicated group of volunteer leaders on your Board of Directors and we're always looking for fresh ideas and helpers. So, continue to give us your thoughts and opinions and let us know if you have skills or talents that can help Montibello.

Have a safe and pleasant summer!

Thanks,

LuAnn Martinson
President

Vice President's Report

There is nothing like spring temperatures and evening daylight to bring folks outdoors to tend their yards and to walk and bike our beautiful neighborhood. Along with this pedestrian activity has come increased and warranted concern over excess vehicle speed and flagrant stop sign violations within Montibello.

The speed limit on our subdivision streets is 25 MPH, though it's posted at a half dozen locations at most. Many would agree that speed is a safety concern on almost all of our streets. Because it is straight, wide and carries a good deal of volume, Montibello Drive is particularly subject to speeding. Some neighbors on Montibello Drive are beginning to organize an effort to try to bring speed humps and/or multi-way stops in an effort to slow people down.

Who are these speeders? Culprits who come to mind initially are teenagers, tradespeople, sanitation workers and cut-through drivers. While each of these may contribute to the problem, I think the real speeders – the ones we can do something about – are us!

I suggest that if we want to slow vehicle traffic in Montibello, it needs to start with our own driving habits. As each of us becomes more aware of our speed and safety concern in the neighborhood others will begin to slow down too in response. I challenge everyone who reads this to begin today to drive the streets of our neighborhood the way that you would have others drive on your street when your kids or grandkids are present. Thanks for your part in making our neighborhood a better, safer place.

Jim Curtis

Treasurer's Report

2006 Financial reports appear in the newsletter on the following schedule:

April:	First quarter
August:	First and second quarters
October:	First, second and third quarters
February 2007:	End of year report

Hap Arnold

Beautification Report

We are happy to report the Montibello Yard of the Month recipients are as follows:

May - **Betty and Jim Sutton**, 4511 Montibello Drive. The Sutton's gardens are a year round pleasure. One of the garden's outstanding features is a large variety of hostas. Betty has taken the time to use small garden markers that identify each plant. Most days you will find Betty working in her garden. It is truly a labor of love.

June – **Karen and Scott Ernest**, 3011 Ingelow Lane. Karen's garden certainly shows her expertise and love of gardening! A wonderful mix of shrubs and perennials along with some annuals create a quiet and peaceful place.

Please make an effort to visit these two lovely gardens.

We continue to work on the entrance projects. We are trying to work with homeowners at the major entrances. As we stated in the last newsletter, any signage will be on private property, so our success is dependent on the agreement of those individual property owners. We hope to have more news to report in the next newsletter.

Barbara Dickie

Board Note

Friendly reminder for pet owners. Please be respectful of your neighbor's yards when walking pets. Cleaning up after your dog is not just common courtesy, it is the law.

Neighborhood Watch Report

Vacation time is here! When you are away from home, you need to prevent burglaries. A vacant house, or one that appears vacant, is an appealing target for a burglar. This is true during the work day, as well as when you may be away on a trip. You can reduce concerns regarding burglary and make your trip more carefree if you will take a few simple steps.

At least one day before you leave:

1. Arrange with a neighbor to pick up your mail and newspapers, or notify the USPS to hold your mail, and the newspaper to suspend deliveries.
2. Have someone check daily to remove circulars from your paper box or yard.
3. Arrange with a neighbor, relative or friend to check on your home and give them a key. Let them know where and how you can be reached in an emergency. Give them your vehicle description and license number. Be sure you have their phone number with you.
4. Make arrangements to have your trash can and recycle bin placed on the curb on pickup day, and put away in a timely manner.
5. Make arrangements to have grass cut and watered.
6. If you have valuables or weapons in the house, store them in your bank safety deposit box.
7. Make sure any broken windows, door or window locks are repaired, and all windows are locked.
8. Store all ladders, tools and lawn implements.

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Neighborhood Watch Report (Continued)

On the day you leave:

1. Unplug all electric appliances to prevent possible damage from electrical storms.
2. Set your thermostat so your home temperature will be maintained.
3. Make sure all gas appliances are in good order and pilot lights are working.
4. Turn off water to washing machine to prevent possible damage from a ruptured hose.
5. Turn down the volume on your telephones and answering machine, so they cannot be heard from outside.
6. Close and lock all windows and sliding doors. Make sure a "Charley Bar" is secured on sliding doors, and that all screens and storm windows are locked or fastened.
7. Put window shades or blinds in a normal daytime position and make sure all main floor drapes, shades and curtains are arranged so neighbors and police can see into your home.
8. Set electrical timers to turn interior lights on and off during the evening.
9. Lock your garage door, including your automatic garage door.
10. Make sure all exterior doors are locked. Check them to be positive.

There were numerous break-ins to vehicles, as well as two vehicles stolen on April 29, 2006. These occurred on Sentinel Post, River Ridge and Montibello Drive. These criminals gained access to locked vehicles without breaking windows and triggering alarms. The two vehicles have been recovered and CMPD arrested two subjects in one of the stolen vehicles. The investigation is continuing.

We can deter this type of crime by locking car doors, never leaving a key to the vehicle hidden inside, and taking everything of value out of the vehicle.

We also need to be concerned that criminals are stealing garage door openers. They ride around the neighborhood hitting the button until they find a garage with the same frequency. They then have entry to your home. If you park your car outside, please make sure you take your garage door opener in the house with you.

Finally, if you see anything suspicious, call 911 and be as descriptive as possible. A complete description of the vehicle, tag number, direction vehicle is traveling, was the subject White, Black, Asian, Hispanic, male or female along with their stature (tall, short, heavy, thin) and their type of clothing is also very important.

Remember to be a **"Nosey Neighbor!"**

Chuck Richards