

The Front Porch

Ridgefield's Community Newsletter

Durham, NC 27703

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Architectural Reminders

Making Changes to the Outside of Your House?

If you are planning on making any changes to the outside of your house chances are you will need approval by the Architectural Review Board (ARB) before doing any work. For those who have lived in Ridgefield for more than a year you may likely be very much aware of what they do and what the process may be, but for others here are some quick bullet points to remember:

- The ARB is a group of volunteer homeowners who review any Architectural Review Form that is delivered to them by our management company, Omega Association Management Inc.
- Changes requiring approval include: fences, decks, patios, storage sheds and even awnings.
- If you submit a form you will likely receive 1) approval, 2) denial, 3) conditional approval, or 4) a request for additional information.
- If you have any questions about our architectural guidelines, please, contact Omega (see back for contact information).

If you can not find your copy of the guidelines you can visit Omega's website for all the important documents relevant to our neighborhood.

President's Corner



By Heidi Giusto

Exciting things are taking place in Ridgefield! Since the annual meeting in March, the Board of Directors has been busy trying to improve the neighborhood and encouraging committees to become more active. We hope to continue to have a productive year.

The Board has ordered more signs, such as No Littering and Watch Children Playing signs, which will be placed in the neighborhood soon. A No Fishing sign has also been placed at each of Ridgefield's ponds. The Board also meets with our landscaper regularly, consults with the company which maintains our BMPs, and is trying to improve certain common ground areas.

Our committees have also been busy this year! The Social Committee put on a community-wide event that offered complimentary snow cones, popcorn, and an inflatable moonwalker for the children. Ridgefield vendors also came out and highlighted their businesses; like neighbor Tim Chappell (who provided the highlight of kid entertainment, the moonwalker) and Veronica Yoshida (owner of Southern Gold Leaf Cakes). The Grounds Committee has been conducting a summer-long best yard competition. One winner each month receives a \$25 Home Depot gift card. Please keep your yards looking nice—maybe you'll win in the future! The Communications Committee is in the midst of developing a survey, which will be distributed to the community in hopes of hearing from more of our residents. Please fill it out when you receive it! Last, but certainly not least, the Community Watch kicked off the summer by sponsoring a bike safety and registration day. Registering your bike with the city will aid in tracking it down should it, unfortunately, get stolen.

As always, Ridgefield needs more volunteers and people to pay their annual assessments. All of these projects have been done by a relatively small number of residents and on a very tight budget. Our community will continue to improve and have useful and fun events only if we have an adequate number of volunteers and funds. Please contact the relevant committee chair if you are willing to volunteer.

Ridgefield in Photos...



Ridgefield residents participate in Bike Safety and Registration Day which was held in May. Contact the Community Watch Committee if you still need your bike registered.



Adults enjoyed watching the children jumping and playing in the Moonwalker Castle at July's Summer Social.

Also at the Social, neighbors lined up for the Snow Cones, popcorn, drinks and snacks.



www.neighborhoodlink.com/durham/ridgefield (Check out our new website!)

Important Contacts

Board of Directors (Term 2009—2010)

Heidi Giusto (President) heidi.giusto@duke.edu

Timika Pollack (Vice President) 919-768-6175,
tpollack@phstaffers.com

Brian Sanner (Treasurer) 919-682-7915

Peter Zolas (Secretary) zolape01@yahoo.com

Chandra Bennett (Member at Large) 336-210-2191

Committees

Communications: David Pruitt, 919-455-0820

Social: Ovie Ruffin, 919-423-3695

Groundskeeping: New Chair needed (contact Peter Zolas for now)

Architectural : New Chair pending (contact Brian Sanner for now)

Community Watch : JB Bowman (Chairperson), 919-201-4069

Omega Management Association

Lara Barnes (Community Manager) 919-461-0102, ext. 108, lara@omegamgmt.com

Divida Johnson (Administrative Assistant) 919-461-0102, divida@omegamgmt.com

Change is a challenge to the adventurous, an opportunity to the alert, and a threat to the insecure." William Arthur Ward

Recycle News

On July 13, the new recycle bins and schedule began for Durham. Most of us have enjoyed the convenience of Durham's new and improved curbside recycling program. Since June, the new 95-gallon blue recycling roll-out cart started to arrive. Since your new cart is significantly larger than the old bin, recycling collection will occur **every other week** on the same day as your solid waste collection which began the week of July 13th.

Below is a link that will give you the weeks that your recycle bin is scheduled. Also visit site www.Durhamnc.gov for more information

http://www.durhamnc.gov/departments/solid/pdf/red_schedule052909.pdf

Upcoming community events

Families come out and enjoy a movie night with your neighbors. Bring your lawn chairs and your favorite popcorn. The location will be in the common area located in the front of the neighborhood. Date and time will be announced. Look forward to an awesome event!

Ridgefield's New Website

The Communications Committee is pleased to "debut" Ridgefield's first attempt at a website for our community. Neighborhood HomeLink, a free service for communities across the country, offers neighborhoods a chance to represent themselves online by sharing valuable information between neighbors and more. The website is considered a pilot test and will hopefully lead to a more custom designed web presence in the future. However, for now it's budget friendly and convenient. On the site, neighbors will be able to sign up for an account, send alerts and messages, find out who to contact and for what and even check out a calendar of events. So check it out and tell us what you think!

www.neighborhoodlink.com/durham/ridgefield

Committee & Meeting Announcements

BOARD OF DIRECTORS meet every 3rd Thursday of the month. Homeowners are allowed to attend these meeting with advanced notice. To attend a Board meeting by appointment, please contact our management company, Omega at 919-461-0102. *Note, due to confidentiality, Board meetings are not open from start to finish for non-Board homeowners and attendance by advanced appointment scheduling is mandatory.*

COMMUNITY WATCH is having monthly meetings at the Durham East Library. Meetings starts at 6:30pm. All are invited to attend.

SOCIAL committee is having their next meeting on 9/10/09 @ 6:30pm. If interested in attending contact the Chair, Ovie Ruffin.

GROUNDKEEPING committee is still looking for a new chair person. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Board member Peter Zolas. The next meeting is scheduled for 9/10/09 @ 6:30pm.

COMMUNICATIONS committee is still in need of volunteers for the newsletter and survey. If interested contact the Chair, David Pruitt.

ARCHITECTURAL committee needs a new Chair. If you're interested please contact Board member Brian Sanner.

Building Community Spirit One House at a Time! Share Your Voice

Our community survey is formatted and ready to go. We are excited about all the new things that we will be able to accomplish with the information that is received from the residents of Ridgefield. This information will make it simple and low cost to communicate with a large majority of the community. The committees will also gather valuable data about topics that are of interest to residents. But to make this survey successful we need volunteers to visit neighbors and fill out the survey. Please do your part to improve Ridgefield by contacting David Pruitt at 919 455-0820 or dpruitt55@nc.rr.com to offer your help with this project.

Do you want changes in Ridgefield? Join a Committee.