



# **The Colony Neighborhood Association**

## **Newsletter**

### **Summer 2021**

#### **Letter from the President**

Dear Neighbors,

It will come as no surprise to the neighborhood that since the Covid-19 pandemic all aspects of our lives have changed. This includes the Neighborhood Association. The Newsletter, elections, regular board meetings, and the annual meeting were all impacted. Throughout last year and continuing into 2021, the Board has conducted business through email and Zoom meetings, continued to host events such as the first annual Halloween Walk About, A Christmas Gathering, and facilitated a variety of other ways to bring the neighborhood together.

It has been a time of transition also. Long term residents Cathy and Fred O'Bryan moved to Florida. Fred holds the distinction of being the longest serving president of the Neighborhood Association. The Wades and Crocker's will be leaving the Colony soon. New neighbors have moved in and many with young children have rejuvenated some of the properties. We also must acknowledge the loss of Perry Bozarth, neighbor, and a past President of the Colony Neighborhood Association.

As we move into fall, I hope you will continue to appreciate the beauty and uniqueness of the Colony. Over the years as I tell people where I live, I frequently hear, "Oh, that's such a nice neighborhood," or "I love the fact that all the houses look different." So please, continue to take a few minutes to admire our neighborhood.

#### **Halloween Walk About**

Despite unusual circumstances, such as the need for social distancing, masks and treats served with CDC guidelines in mind, our neighborhood managed to make Halloween fun for kids and adults. The first and hopefully annual "Halloween Walk About" was held on October 31.

Creativity reigned. Candy, homemade treats, and popcorn balls were set out on decorated tables. Adults were offered up freshly roasted German sausages, cups of beer, other neighbors offered bourbon, savory Chex mix,

and many other tempting items. Bonfires were set out on lawns and created an appropriate autumn atmosphere. A few adults joined in with their own costumes. Kids got to parade with their families dressed as fairies, ghosts, ghouls and of course princesses. The pictures attest to much ingenuity.

The best part of the night, however, was the feeling of being a part of a neighborhood. COVID-19 kept most of us inside for months. Finally, an event with safety in mind, allowed families to gather, albeit at a safe distance. The Board heard many positive comments about the event and appreciates all the effort that went into making this a viable event.



### **Annual Tree Lighting**

The Colony Annual Tree Lighting presented the Board with more COVID-19 challenges. Gathering in groups was still not recommended, and social distancing and masks continued to be the norm. Due to the popularity of the Halloween Walk About, the Board opted to modify the tree lighting event in a similar fashion.

Tables were set out in front of participating homes, ornaments for placement on the tree were made available and families encouraged to gather (safely). Each family could hang an ornament on the tree and then continue to pick up individually wrapped treats. Resident's tables were decorated in holiday themes and added to the festive

feeling. From mulled cider to champagne, adults had a variety of drinks to choose from. Kids were offered hot chocolate and of course cookies, savory items were in abundance. This event proved to be very popular with about 80% participation from households. With regret, the Board was not able to have Santa on hand, but Christmas bags full of fun items were distributed.

Due to COVID-19 we know that 2020 prevented all the world from participating in cherished holiday traditions. With some creativity and committed neighbors the Colony was able to have a day of of cheer. After the event, food items were collected and a truck full of non-perishable food was generously donated to God's Pantry.





## Keeping Kids Engaged during the Pandemic

At the height of the pandemic, an effort was made to engage children as schools turned to Zoom and visiting with friends was curtailed. The first engagement included Spot a Bear. Participation was high and many households displayed stuffed bears. Pretty soon bears began to appear in windows, cars, mailboxes rooflines and trees. The adults had just as much fun as the kids. Sometimes it took multiple trips around the neighborhood to spot all the bears. Many thanks goes to Josie Petrie for spreading the word and suggesting this event.



A second kid's engagement event was the placement of a variety of Kentucky fossils on the Colony islands. This was a bit of a treasure hunt for kids. Kentucky is rich in fossils and the kids were able to collect a variety of small and large specimens that were collected in different parts of the state.

## The Colony's Most Dedicated Walker

You have surely noticed the young man walking the roadways of the Colony almost every day, rain or shine. That's David Webster who lives at 1200 Colonial Drive. We chatted with David recently to find out more about his walking routine. He told us he started walking in January of 2020 to improve his fitness and health. He walks between 3 and 5 miles a day and runs once a week for a few miles. When we asked what keeps him motivated, he mentioned that he really likes seeing and greeting others walking and driving the neighborhood. He says it's a great escape from class work at UK where he is majoring in Computer Science as a full-time student. He's in his third year of undergraduate school. When he's not walking or studying, David likes to do recreational programming and to solve interesting problems. Next time you see him, give him a big wave.



## Wildcat Chase Water Quality Update

Since 2015 we have been monitoring the water quality in Wildcat Chase stream that runs through our neighborhood. Samples are taken three times a year with a particular focus on E. coli bacteria. Other things, like nitrogen and phosphorous are measured on an irregular basis. The bacteria count in our stream normally falls in the "fair" to "good", but never "excellent" category. So, while it's not the worst stream in Lexington, it is still a good idea to use caution when visiting the stream. Wash your hands thoroughly after having contact with the water. E. coli can originate from wildlife, leaks in septic pipes, and from pet waste in yards. Animal waste is also a source of nutrients like Nitrogen that contributes to algal growth in streams and lakes.

Fortunately, our Nitrogen levels when last measured were in the normal range. Phosphorous levels are moderately high in our stream. This is due in part to the soils in our region that are naturally high in Phosphorous. But it is also a result of lawn fertilizers that are applied in the neighborhood. Remember that if you apply a fertilizer, do it in the Fall and get one that has no Phosphorous – that's the middle number in the formulation shown on the bag.

I saw a presentation about dog waste recently by the Lexington Division of Environmental Services. They had done a survey of pet owners to find out about compliance with picking up dog waste. They found that a high percentage of owners picked up their dog waste while walking in neighborhoods. But when asked if they picked up in their own yards, the percentage fell drastically. Remember that it's just as important for water quality to clean up in your own yard. To watch a short video about how pet waste impacts waterways, visit this YouTube site: <https://youtu.be/B6d7y5HOEQs>

## **Taking your dog for a walk? It's the leash you could do!**

Dr. Kasie Sears, DVM

Spending quality time with your pets has so many benefits! It gets us humans out and moving and does wonders for not only our mental and physical health, but for our pet's overall well-being too. For instance, walking your dog daily keeps them in good physical condition, keeps their joints in motion and improves their digestive and urinary health.

Walking your dog is the perfect way to allow them a way to explore new sights and smells and really enhances the human-animal bond. We encourage you to walk your dog daily, but it is important that we are doing so in the safest manner possible - that includes keeping your dog on a leash at all times. So, let's explain why:

First and foremost, a leash is a means of protection for your dog in many ways! A leash is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline," protecting your pet from traffic and other unrestrained animals. Accidents involving moving vehicles or animal bites are greatly reduced when your pet is on a leash.

Keeping your dog on a leash prevents them from eating something they shouldn't. This is probably the number one reason we see dogs in the emergency room! Dogs love to lap up anything and everything they can get their paws on when they're out for walks. Garbage, offerings from strangers, and non-edibles: we all know dogs explore the world with their snouts and mouths, and some of them are very good at snatching up a chicken bone, a piece of trash or even a rock or stick super quickly! Eating things they shouldn't can lead to upset tummies or worse, an emergency trip to the vet!

You lower the odds of agitating the leashed dog - it's like aggressively approaching a person who is handcuffed and has no way to defend themselves. The leashed dog wants to exhibit normal dog-greeting behavior but can't. This can cause some extreme anxiety and fear-based aggression in the leashed pet. Plus, some dogs just like people more than they like other dogs. You also eliminate the possibility of your dog doing something impulsive -- when walking off-leash, you endanger your own dog in the event that another one becomes aggressive or vice versa. You set everyone up for failure if a scuffle breaks out.

It's incredibly fearful for PEOPLE who may be afraid of dogs or who have had negative experiences with dogs off-leash in the past.

Lastly, it's the law! "All dogs in Fayette County **must be on a leash**, behind a fence or on the dog owner's property under the owner's supervision at all times when outside. Dogs cannot run-at-large, even under voice command, and they must wear their current license and rabies tags at all times."

Even the best of dogs lose track of commands sometimes. At any given time your dog can and will ignore his/her commands. Fido may be the best and most friendly doggo in the world but for his/her safety, we've gotta ask that they be leashed up within the neighborhood!

On a side note - be very mindful of the heat index! Dog's cool off completely differently than we do as humans! Heat stroke is a very common medical emergency during the spring/summer months and in this Kentucky climate will even extend into early Fall. Touch your hand to the asphalt before taking your furry family member out and about. If it's too hot for your hand to remain on the asphalt, it's too hot for your pet too. The best times to walk: early morning before the sun rises or late in the evening.

### **Backyard Conservation Project**



The Fayette County Conservation District ended its 2021 Backyard Conservation Program this July. If you were installing a vegetable, rain, or pollinator garden, purchasing rain barrels or compost bins, or other projects that preserve soil and water, you were eligible for a 50% match (up to \$200) of total costs from this program. The funds were first come first served, and approval before starting the project needed to be obtained. Get ready for next year's grant program that will be announced in late winter or early spring. For more information and the application form go to [www.kyfccd.com](http://www.kyfccd.com) and follow links to Cost Share Programs > Backyard Conservation Cost Share Program. Some residents in the Colony were able to utilize the program last year.

### **Left Leaves Leave Lawn Luscious**

OK, maybe luscious is a bit hyperbolic but the chance to do the alliteration was too tempting. So, now that autumn is nigh, this short article might help you view the dreaded fall cleanup differently. First, it might save you some work, second, it might save you some money, and third, it **will** do your lawn and/or garden some good. So many homeowners (or their expensive lawn services) rake up all those leaves on the lawn and out of the garden beds, put them in bags and have them hauled away. Often the leaves go to a landfill where according to the EPA they account for about 8% of all waste and as they break down with other products, generate methane. Worst of all is leaves blowing into the gutter where if they are not collected immediately, they can clog sewers and generate algal blooms in waterways. Instead, why not use those leaves as natural fertilizer and mulch. Leaves can be mulched with any lawnmower (although a mulching attachment makes it faster) and the confetti sized pieces are then left to naturally decay over winter where they nourish the grass and feed beneficial microbes in the soil. Also, butterflies and moth pupae along with other insects live in leaf litter and in spring songbirds will be able to find food for their young. If, like me, you have a giant sycamore with millions of dinner plate sized leaves, even mulching results in some pretty hefty piles. I use a leaf blower to



blow these piles into the garden beds where they do triple duty, fertilizer, mulch, and winter plant protection. Winter snow and spring rains will help the leaf remnants disappear into your lawn and the garden soil will be a little looser and easier to work for future planting.

Interestingly, some research suggests that maple leaves may reduce weed germination in lawns and leaves from legume species like honey locust can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere and add it to the soil. As a caveat, however, not all leaves are good. If you have garden plants with diseased foliage, black spot on roses being one of the most common examples, put these leaves into the yard waste cart because spores on diseased leaves can go back into the soil and the whole nasty cycle starts up again next year. Even composting them is iffy since the pile may not get hot enough to destroy the disease. One other suggestion for grinding up leaves without a lawnmower (I want to be notified if anyone tries this at home so I can watch) is to fill a garbage can with the leaves and then use a weed whacker in the can. It could be interesting.

### **Cross Keys Park** – by Ken Cooke, Friends of Wolf Run

Cross Keys Park encompasses 11 acres of woodland along "Gardenside Branch" creek and a three-acre pond. Most of the lake is less than 2 feet deep with the deepest point near the dam at about 6 feet deep. Walking trails, picnic tables, benches and stonework landings on its banks were added in 2016 as part of a water quality project. The park entrance is located near the intersection of Cross Keys Road and Traveler Road, a short walk from the Colony.



The Day Use Park is operated by Lexington Parks and Recreation with the water quality features being managed by the Division of Environmental Services and volunteers from Friends of Wolf Run and the Greater Gardenside organization.



In the summer, excessive "Duck Weed" and algae will grow on the pond during periods of low flow. A \$130,000 renovation was implemented to mitigate nutrient and pathogen issues coming from the watershed that included installation of a native plant buffer zone around the pond, a series of submerged planting beds designed to channel water in a serpentine pattern improving mixing, and aeration equipment to help with nutrient removal. The pond hosts three "experimental" solar powered pond aerators that aid in mixing and aeration at night built by local volunteers as part of a water quality grant. Two work only when the sun

shines, one has a battery and is designed to pump air into the pond at night when oxygen levels are lowest helping to mitigate the algal growth.

Fishing is allowed in the pond, but it is not stocked by Fish and Wildlife, Pan Fish, Carp and some smallmouth bass can be caught from the pond, but most likely you will hook an aquatic turtle if you use worms or live bait. The pond is filled with "introduced" Mosquito Fish small "minnow like" predators that would make short work of any mosquito larvae that try to establish in the pond.

The park has had issues with large colonies of Canadian geese. The tall grasses and flowering plants planted in the buffer area discourage geese from setting up house in the area. Park users are not supposed to feed the geese. They contribute to viral and bacterial contamination and should not be encouraged to live there. Occasional Wood Ducks, Mallards, Green and Blue Herons may nest in the area as well. The prize is to see a Black Crowned Night Heron known to frequent the area.

Friends of Wolf Run and Greater Gardenside Organization carry out volunteer workdays for trash removal, invasive control and native plantings at the park. We encourage anyone interested in volunteering to contact the park's Key Steward, Lisa Ciolli at [friend@wolfrunwater.org](mailto:friend@wolfrunwater.org) for more information.

### **Herbie Cleaning**

We were recently contacted by H&M Sanitation who provide Herbie cleaning services to residents in Fayette County. The board does not endorse individual companies, but we wanted to include this information because until now there hasn't been a cleaning service of this kind locally that we're aware of. This company requires an ongoing contract (they suggest monthly cleaning) but do offer bulk discounts for neighborhoods with at least 20 participants. If you are interested, email [TheColonyBoard04@gmail.com](mailto:TheColonyBoard04@gmail.com). If we get enough interest, I'll contact the company to discuss how to set this up. You can contact them directly at [HMSanitationServices@gmail.com](mailto:HMSanitationServices@gmail.com).

### **Annual Colony Neighborhood Picnic**

Join us for the annual Colony Fall picnic on Saturday, September 18th from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm. This year our theme is Breakfast on the Island. The association will be providing drinks and savory breakfast items. Feel free to bring a favorite dish of your own. The location will be the island at the intersection of Colonial Drive and Mayflower Lane. We will have tables and chairs set up at a safe distance from each other.

### **Milestones**

The Board would like to acknowledge the number of young people who graduated from high school, transitioned into other grades, and unfortunately forfeited proms, parties, and sports over the past year. We have seen congratulation signs placed in numerous yards and want parents to know we wish to congratulate all the achievements and accomplishments that occurred.



## Kentucky American Water Main Replacement

Colonial Drive and Standish Way have sections of water mains that are classified as small-diameter, cast iron pipe. These 4” and 6” water mains were installed in the 1940s and have been identified as candidates for replacement through Kentucky American Water’s Qualified Infrastructure Program (QIP) rider. At this time, they are planning to replace these sections of water mains with new 8” ductile iron pipe beginning in the second half of 2022. The company has not indicated whether they will dig up driveways or use a borehole method to install pipe without disturbing the concrete or asphalt. The contractor doing the work will be liable for making any repairs.



## Not so Little Library Coming to the Colony

The board has commissioned the construction of a Little Library by a local craftsman. The library will be located on the Christmas Tree island when it is complete. It will have three shelves to hold an ample number of titles. Share a book and borrow a book.

## Colony Board of Directors 2021-2022 Election

On July 15, 2021 the new Board of Directors was elected. The results were as follows:

### President – Kevin Davis

Kevin and his wife Afsi moved to the Colony in June 2016 and their family has grown with the addition of their dog Sawyer and daughter Nazanin. Kevin is the Kentucky branch manager of the mortgage lending firm Atlantic Home Mortgage and Afsi works for the commercial developer Setzer Properties in Lexington. They love being outdoors and traveling, and really enjoy being a part of the Colony.

### Vice President – Jane Madden

Jane built her house in The Colony in 2013 after retiring as Professor of Neurology and Vice Chair for Research at The Medical College of Wisconsin. She is an avid equestrian and gardener. Serving on the Board continues to be enjoyable and rewarding.

### **Treasurer – Jerry Weisenfluh**

Jerry and Sherri moved to the Colony in 2007 in search of a mid-century home. Jerry is a retired geologist from UK, where he worked for 37 years. He is a key stream restoration steward for Wildcat Chase and Preston's Cave Spring Park. This is his eighth year on the board, three as President. Sherri retired from Hospice of the Bluegrass as Associate Vice President of Counseling. She served two terms as President of the Colony board.

### **Secretary – Kasie Sears**

Kasie and Cole moved to the Colony in October of 2020. They're both busy veterinarians and are proud pet parents of 4 crazy fur babies. They're eager to get involved and very blessed to be a part of such a beautiful community.

### **At-Large – John Burke**

John and Marti moved to the Colony in May of 2015. John's 31-year career with Kentucky Utilities was followed by 14 years of consulting with utilities throughout North America on Advanced Metering Infrastructure. Marti is the Office Manager for BEX Construction. John sees his participation on the Colony Board as an honor and a small contribution to live in such a unique neighborhood.

### **At-Large – Bleik Pickett**

Bleik and his wife, Nicole Breazeale, moved to the colony in July 2019 shortly after getting married and blending their family, which includes three boys, a 2 year old Vizsla and ancient cat. Their family loves the outdoors and traveling. Bleik is the Senior Program Officer for the James Graham Brown Foundation. He manages the foundation's statewide education grantmaking programs and its community and economic prosperity grantmaking programs in eastern Kentucky, and also serves as Director of a mentored scholarship program. Nicole is an Associate Professor in UK's Community and Leadership Development department.

### **At-Large – Josie Petrie**

Josie and Phillip moved to the Colony with their family in 2017. They both grew up in Europe but love Lexington and found it a great place to raise their four children. Phillip owns Craftsmen Contractors, and together they renovate and restore homes. They enjoy hospitality, horses, and the beautiful outdoors. Josie says that "Helping to organize neighborhood events has been a great way to get to know our wonderful neighbors. We feel so blessed to live here."

A special thanks to Tom Smith for also agreeing to run for an At-Large position. Stepping off the board this year after multiple years of service are Bridgett Prather (At-large 2018-2020) and Abbie Loynachan (Secretary 2018-2020). Their work over the past two years is greatly appreciated.

And many thanks to Sherri Weisenfluh for designing and editing this issue of the newsletter.