

President's Corner

Hello Kempton Park Neighbors!

Summer is here and the heat is also! Hopefully this finds you all enjoying vacations, our pool, cooking out, and possibly working in the yard! Unfortunately, we're seeing mischief in our midst. First, the Suffolk Police will attend our next Homeowner Association meeting on 19 August at 6:30 PM at Fire Station No. 5 to talk about Neighborhood Watch. Please attend because only we can keep our neighborhood safe. We have seen several incidents of vandalism and mischief around the area that has not harmed anyone, but they do have a cost. My neighbor had a beautiful crepe myrtle destroyed by vandals in the dark hours of this morning (1 August). This incident along with the 5 trees damaged or destroyed at Steeplechase and the fire on the playground at the school, does not bode well for those of us who have lived here for several years with no problems. Additionally the Association lost a humane trap used to capture muskrats in one of the drainage ponds. The muskrats have created some erosion issues and need to be removed. The trap enabled us to humanely catch the animals, which the city would remove to another area where they could live without causing damage. Unfortunately, the trap disappeared and now the Association is paying for its replacement. That's your money. Likewise, our sign we use to notify residents of meetings and events was vandalized, so it is no longer in use. Finally, one of our neighborhood homes was broken into. This one is serious. I asked our Property Manager, Tiffani Lucas, to contact the Suffolk Police Department about establishing a neighborhood watch. We are looking for persons that might be interested in participating in such a program. Please contact the UPA office if you wish to be a part of this program and/or attend the 19 August meeting and take part. Kempton Park is a nice place to live, and I would like it to stay that way.

On another note, I am concerned about how some homeowners don't seem to be concerned about how they keep their homes. I would call some of our streets "trashy." I've started to see unkempt yards, grass growing in the cracks of sidewalks and driveways, trashcans not put away out of sight and left in the front yard or driveway, and debris in the yard and driveway. Recently, I noticed a washer and dryer on the street in front of a house. I could understand if it was trash day, but trash pickup was days away! There is no excuse for any of this. I know we are busy, take vacations in the summer, and have things we like to do with our families, but keeping up your home should be part of your routine. I am grateful that my father took the time to teach me how to care for a yard, and I passed that knowledge to my sons. I admit that lawn care is much more difficult now that my teenagers are adults with homes of their own, but my wife and I take time to keep the grass to weed ratio as it ought to be. Kempton Park has community rules that we have to follow, and recently these were revised to help make living in your homes easier. However, revised rules and no rules are different things. We've had tribunals and fined homeowners for violations. Please take care of your homes and yards and all will be well. If you have a valid reason for not maintaining your premises, let the property manager know BEFORE we have to go through the process of writing up delinquencies. We are all neighbors and we all can help one another. On a related note, several basketball goals are staying on the street. The basketball goals can only be there when in use. They need to be moved and stored by the house when not in use.

Your Board is continuing to move projects along to both maintain and improve life in Kempton Park. The Board recently approved adding a solar-powered diffuser to one of the drainage ponds to keep it from getting stagnant. Solar power units seemed to be the best solution for this location with a problem that we've been trying to resolve for several years. We were all excited to finally get this project moving! Additionally, the Board is looking at several projects to help our neighborhood to include planting new trees in the pool area and eventually getting to our last pond. Please let us know if you see things we can do to make life better for Kempton Park.

Sincerely,
Ray Laffoon, President
Kempton Park Homeowner's Association