

September 2008

## President's Corner

Hello Kempton Park Neighbors!

This is my first letter since the election of this year's Kempton Park Board of Directors. Ray Bailey, Cheryl Hendricks, Shirley McGill and I are on the board for another year with Steve Dorman joining us as your new member-at-large. We continue our ongoing efforts to improve our neighborhood.

The first issue I need to address is safety. The Board of Directors asked the Suffolk Police to monitor and enforce traffic laws that seem to be routinely broken in our neighborhood. Residents and guests were observed exceeding the 25 MPH speed limit and not stopping at stop signs. There are times when 25 MPH is too fast for conditions due to children playing, pets, parked cars and relatively narrow streets. My father, a former police officer and rescue squad member, gave me good reason to never speed in neighborhoods, school zones and construction zones. Not even by a little bit. There is NOTHING so urgent for a driver to risk causing a pedestrian fatality. Slow down and use good judgment while driving, especially in our neighborhood!

Likewise, pedestrians be aware of your surroundings. All of our streets have sidewalks. Please use them. Some of our streets are narrow, particularly when we have to park our cars along the street making it impossible for an automobile driver to safely pass a pedestrian in the street. It's really dangerous when the pedestrian (bicyclist, skateboarder, etc.) is going down the road listening to their favorite songs oblivious to the traffic. Also, realize that pedestrians are nearly impossible to see at night when dressed in dark clothing, even with the best of head lights and driving slowly. We like our neighbors and would rather not see anyone run over.

The second area is the way our neighborhood looks. Several homeowners have complained to the Board about trashcans being left on the street and/or being left in the front of the house. The guidelines state that trashcans are to be screened from view by neighbors except on the days for pickup. You may put them out the night before pickup and remove them from the side of the street at the end of the day. The proliferation of trashcans left in front of the house throughout the week is unacceptable. Many residents have received letters. The next step will be a tribunal followed by a fine for those found guilty of violating the guidelines. Aside from being unsightly, the trashcans are frequently blown about by the wind. They need to be stored out of sight where the wind won't blow them around.

Likewise, we've noticed residents failing to mow the strip of grass between the sidewalk and the road. It takes me about 45 seconds to neatly perform this function. I mow slowly too! Likewise, grass growing in the cracks in sidewalks, driveways and along the pavement edges of the street detracts from a nice attractive neighborhood. Several houses need to have a pressure wash to remove dirt and other debris from the siding. An attractive neighborhood makes for a pleasant place to live. For those like our active military who are with us for only a few years, it will help preserve property values. YOU the homeowner need to make the effort to preserve or even improve your investment.

Finally, the Board is looking at several projects to help our neighborhood. We continue the several years' worth of effort to get aeration in our drainage ponds. One pond is done. We are still working options for the second. Likewise the pool and landscaping are going well. We are working to get all the lights working in the pool area and we plan to add trees in the area behind the pool when the budget and time of the year will allow.

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