



Stonehenge Living

The Stonehenge Homeowners' Association Community Newsletter • www.stonehengeliving.com

Water Restrictions Lifted

Contributed by Derek Brandon

All Stonehenge residents are currently allowed to water their lawns, wash their vehicles, and fill their pools, without facing tickets or possible service interruptions.

The City Council voted unanimously on May 2nd to end the mandatory Stage 2 water restrictions that have been in place for all City of Raleigh water customers since last year. Stonehenge residents who were on water supplied by Heater Utilities (now DBA Aqua America, Inc.) were not affected by the decision and were not previously under restrictions.

Residents should watch for further news this month as the City Council will vote in mid-May on recommendations for long-term water conservation, which means that there may be new restrictions at that time.

For more information about the water conservation regulations, call the City of Raleigh Public Utilities Department at 857-4540 or visit the City's Web site at www.raleigh-nc.org. Aqua can be reached at 800-537-4865 or at www.aquanorthcarolina.com.

Help Report Speeders & Aggressive Drivers!

While driving home the other day with my baby in the back seat, I was tailgated by a red pickup truck. I slowed down slightly to make the driver aware that they were following too close. The driver made an aggressive move and swerved around me and passed me on the left hand side going at a high speed. Shaken, I immediately called the Wake County sheriff to report the tag number. I learned, to my horror, that the driver lives in Stonehenge! The sheriff promised to increase patrols for a few days and follow up on the complaint.

I am begging everyone in the neighborhood to be more diligent about reporting the license plate numbers of speeders and aggressive drivers. There are more children, pets and pedestrians than ever in the neighborhood. We need to work together to keep them safe.

Cut these numbers out and paste them near your phone:

- If you see a speeder or aggressive driver please call the Wake Co. Sheriff's office at: **919-856-6840**.
- If you live in the city of Raleigh, you should call the city police at this number: **919-890-3335**.

Please help make Stonehenge a safer neighborhood.

2006 Neighborhood Yard Sale

Contributed by Evelyn Pizzolato

More than 30 addresses were listed on the maps for this year's Annual Stonehenge Yard Sale, and about 150 maps were picked up by shoppers at RTP Federal Credit Union. Despite the threat of storms that would bring much-needed rain, most participants proceeded with their sales. Shoppers cruised the neighborhoods looking for the best deals. Everything from furniture to luggage to baby items was offered. One family simply advertised "tons of stuff". No matter how much was sold, perhaps this annual event was a good way to kick off everyone's spring cleaning projects.

Welcome Packets

Contributed by Kelli Brandon

New this year—Welcome Packets for newcomers to our neighborhood! We are going to distribute Welcome Packets—full of information on the neighborhood, a newsletter, and coupons/advertisements for local merchants—to new neighbors. We will need YOUR help! Please contact Kelli Brandon at kellibrandon@nc.rr.com if you notice a newcomer moving in! We would love for these packets to be hand delivered and will gladly get a packet to you for delivering to the newcomer. If this is not possible, we can mail the packet but a personal touch is so much better for welcoming our new neighbors!

Stonehenge Homeowner Association Directors

President: Bret Appel (bappel@bellsouth.net) 844-4746

Treasurer: Pat Kosak (prkatabsi@yahoo.com) 847-3088

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CLUB CORNER

Contacts

Book Club:

Beth Chase (familychase@nc.rr.com) 848-8244

Meets the second Thursday night of each month. Open membership.

Stonehenge Women's Network:

Diane Lahti (diane.lahti@earthlink.net) 847-0650

Meets second Tuesday night of each month except June-August.

Stonehenge Supper Club:

Char Rafferty (chart0128@aol.com) 848-6166

Couples group which meets four times each year. Now collecting names for next group.

To add your neighborhood group information to the list in the next newsletter, contact Diane Lahti at diane.lahti@earthlink.net or 847-0650.

Business Notes from the Stonehenge Treasurer

By Pat Kosak

The Stonehenge Homeowners Association Board of Directors is currently working with a more than \$9000 budget for 2006. This budget includes the costs of the newsletter, the new Welcome Package for new homeowners, several parties for homeowners and their children, and landscaping expenses for common areas.

It is very important that your membership dues be sent in as soon as possible to help pay for these many needs. \$20 per year seems a small price to pay for the benefits that come from membership in the Association.

You will find another envelope within this newsletter to forward dues to the Treasurer. If you have already sent your 2006 dues, you have our thanks. If not, please mail it as soon as possible.

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Stonehenge Yahoo Group Highlights

Here is some of the useful information shared on the Stonehenge yahoo e-mail group.

Lawn care recommendations from homeowners:

Most of Stonehenge has fescue grass. The common recommendation is never cut tall fescue shorter than 3.5". By letting tall fescue be tall it forces root growth. We have a clay soil which should be de-compacted annually, core aeration improves soil breathing and water absorption, and the cores brought up contain microorganisms which help break down thatch, and micronutrients that don't dissipate so are not normally included in fertilizers.

Good fescue can take several years of seeding in the fall to get full coverage. Soil preparation is the first step. Get a chemical analysis and see what treatments are needed. Variables like drainage, sunlight, trees that suck up water, etc can lead to different results in adjacent lawns.

Information on reliability of our electrical service:

Electricity is remarkably reliable in Stonehenge. Not only are the neighborhood lines underground, but we are close to Progress Energy transmission lines. Our power is usually the first to come on after an outage.

Want to learn useful information about Stonehenge or share information with your neighbors? Join the Stonehenge yahoo group by sending an e-mail to: stonehengehoa-subscribe@yahoo-groups.com. More detailed information on the yahoo group is available on page 1 of your 2005 Stonehenge telephone directory.

2006 Egg Hunt Great Success!!

Contributed by Pattie Baker

The Stonehenge Egg hunt is BACK! After many years of absence, an egg hunt took place Saturday, April 15 at Seven Oaks Swim Club. Everyone had a great time. There were about 45 children in participation and 20 or so adults. Fun was enjoyed by all!

The hunting areas were separated according to ages. There were fun games for children of all ages after the hunt. While refreshments were being enjoyed by all, some guessed the number of jelly Beans in a Jar (286), some had relay races which involved handing off eggs to teammates, and others picked up Little Peeps to reveal a prize. And yes, the day was bright and sunny and the chocolate melted and melted. It was a BLAST!!

The Stonehenge HOA would like to thank all who helped make this years Egg Hunt the success it was. Thank you to all who planned, shopped, cooked, and hosted signs. The Stonehenge board especially thank Ann Shehdan, Lori Edwards, and Pattie Baker who served as the organizing committee. We look forward to a great turn-out in 2007!!! We are even talking about a Easter Bonnet parade!

There are pictures from the Egg Hunt available to view on snapfish.com. You can e-mail Anne Shehdan at gracemom@nc.rr.com if you need the link or if you would like her to send you a digital copy of one of the pictures.

City of Raleigh Regulations for Home-Based Businesses

Contributed by Doug Wilkerson

The Homeowners' Association has had several questions about the subject of home-based businesses and the regulations governing them by the City of Raleigh. Most of Stonehenge is within the city limits of Raleigh; however, there are some sections that are not. We contacted the City of Raleigh Zoning and Inspections Department as well as the Wake County Zoning Department to get the "straight scoop" as to what home-based businesses can and cannot do. For the most part, the rules are similar in both the city and county locales and very straightforward. Here they are:

1. The business must be carried on by the residents. It may be a sole proprietorship or a corporation that is wholly owned by the residents. It may also be a partnership where all of the partners are residents of the structure. In other words, all employees of the business must live at the residence.
2. Display of goods, products or services may not be visible from outside the dwelling.
3. The business may not exceed 25% of the livable portion of the dwelling or 500 square feet, whichever is less. The house may not be altered and construction features not customarily found in homes may not be added to accommodate the business. Wake County is more liberal on this point and allows up to 50% usage.
4. Outside storage or accessory buildings may not be used for the business.
5. Only handmade items, food and crafts may be offered for sale on the premises. No other goods, products or commodities bought for the purpose of resale shall be sold - at retail or wholesale - on the premises. Inventory may not be stored or displayed on the premises.
6. Equipment may not be used which creates noise, vibrations, glare, fumes, odors or electrical interference "detectable to the normal senses" of others that are off the property (neighbors). No equipment can be used that interferes with any radio or TV reception of neighbors.
7. Off-street parking shall be provided in accordance with City Code 10-2081. Off-street parking shall be maintained in addition to the spaces required by the residents itself. No parking in yards to accommodate customers. Parking is allowed only in driveways.
8. *This regulation causes the most questions and is more restrictive for those homes located in the city limits of Raleigh.* Only one vehicle used in connection with the business shall be parked or stored on the premises. The vehicle may not be a large or oversized truck such as, but not limited to, a dump truck. Advertising may not be displayed on the vehicle as a substitute for signs for the business. (There are other ordinances governing the amount of signage that can be placed on a vehicle which belongs to a home-based business and is kept at the residence. And, this wording does not apply to business vehicles that are owned by businesses not located at the residence. See the Special Use Permits section

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of City of Raleigh's Board of Adjustments.)

In simple terms, a home-based business cannot have signs on the vehicle it keeps at the residence. It should be noted that this regulation does not prevent an employee of a commercial business from parking a business vehicle with signage at a residence overnight.

Residences that are not within the Raleigh City limits have some options for displaying signs that are allowed for Wake County houses. Details are available in the Home Occupation guidelines within the Wake County Unified Development Ordinance.

9. No person other than members of the family residing in the dwelling shall be engaged or employed in the business.
10. No specialty service for groups, such as dance lessons, crafts or music lessons shall be provided for a group larger than 5 people.
11. The exterior character or appearance of the dwelling shall not be altered or changed to accommodate the business.

As you can see, the rules easily allow the operation of a home business while also providing protection for neighbors. Businesses such as in-home baby sitting, tax preparation, web design, IT consulting or computer support are some common examples of home-based occupations which easily fit into these guidelines. The rules even allow for customers or clients to visit a residence to conduct business with the home-based enterprise — as long as the parking requirements are met.

One resident's suggestion is to talk to the neighbors closest to you if you are thinking of starting a home-based business. It is a good idea to let them know that you intend to operate within the regulations set forth by the City of Raleigh or Wake County. You may avoid misunderstandings and hurt feelings down the road. Don't forget that you'll need a privilege licenses from the City of Raleigh or from Wake County as well!

Stonehenge Homeowners' Association

2006 Calendar Year Membership Dues: \$20

(Please fill out completely, and print clearly.
This info is used for the directory.)

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please note that dues are collected throughout the calendar year, and therefore this form will reappear in every newsletter. Dues collected in 2006 will be credited to that calendar year.

Your dues help support:

Stonehenge Living Newsletter • Stonehenge
Directory • Social Events • Neighborhood Zoning
and Traffic Projects • Community Projects
www.stonehengeliving.com

Please use the enclosed envelope for your convenience!

Send dues to:

Pat Kosak | 2004 Petworth Court | Raleigh, NC 27615

Student Job Opportunity

The Stonehenge HOA is looking for couriers to deliver our quarterly newsletters. Time required for each delivery is generally less than two hours. This is a perfect first job for students aged 11-15.

If your child is interested, please send an email to Sheila Brewer at wbrewer3rd@aol.com or call 846-5228. You will need to provide your child's name, age, address, email address, and phone number.

SECOND ANNUAL SUMMER SOLSTICE POOL PARTY for all Stonehenge Neighbors!!!

When? Sat. June 24th

Where? Seven Oaks Pool

Time? 8:00 – 11:30 pm

Who? All Stonehenge residents and their families (including those who are not members of Seven Oaks pool)

Cost? \$5 per family for paid up Stonehenge Homeowners Members, \$10 per family for other Stonehenge residents

Bring? A dish to share (side dish, dessert, or appetizer). Towel, bathing suit or change of clothes if planning to swim. Pool toys if desired. Any beverage desired in addition to the lemonade provided

Fun? Pool open for swimming and entertainment by Party of 2. Plus an "Open Mike" for all musicians! Bring your instrument or practice your solo!

**RSVP by June 21st to Pat Kosak with payment
2004 Petworth Court, Raleigh, NC 27615**

NEED..... Family name/number of people/email address

Price of Admission provides use of pool, hamburgers/hot dogs/buns/lemonade, and entertainment. In the event of adverse weather conditions, we will contact you via e-mail with instructions. E-mail Diane Lahti at diane.lahti@earthlink.net if you would like to be put on a special e-mail list for those interested in performing during the Open Mike period. Invite your neighbors to come with you!

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