



## A Message from the Board President

Spring seems to be getting an early start this year. The trees are starting to bloom and soon the grass will be growing again. When spring comes around it is a good time to start to tackle those projects in the yard and on the exterior of your home. Our neighborhood is a highly desirable area to live in and this is partly due to how nice the homes are maintained. Keeping up the appearance of your property is one of the best ways to maintain value of your home and it helps the neighborhood too. Remember that if you plan any changes to the appearance of the exterior of your home we require that you fill out a change request to get approval before beginning work. We can usually get your project approved in just a few days. There is a form on the web site at

[www.nottinghamdowns.com](http://www.nottinghamdowns.com).

In the spring the Nottingham Downs Homes Association board sponsors some activities that we encourage you to participate in. April 16 from about 9:00 am until about 11:00 am we will join with the city to clean our stream and park area. All ages are invited to help pick up trash that has collected along the stream over the last year. The city provides some gloves and trash bags and picks up the trash when we are done. The last few years we have collected 20 or more bags of trash. On May 5<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> will be our annual garage sale. We advertise on some local web sites that are popular for this type of activity and we will put up signs to advertise just before the event. This is a good opportunity to clean out some things that are not getting used anymore.

Mark your calendar for our annual picnic on June 4<sup>th</sup> in the park. We plan to start about 5:00 pm. The homes association provides meat and some drinks and paper plates. We ask that families bring side dishes to share and any games that you would like to enjoy with the group.

One of the more important tasks for the board this year is to negotiate a new trash contract for next year. Three years ago we were successful in getting a very good bid for our trash and we will work hard to do that again. One of the things we will ask about is the possibility of additional large item pickups. We anticipate that there will be an increase in the cost for the next contract that will require us to increase the dues to cover the increase. Trash costs are about 70% of our total expenses for the year so that is the main contributor to our dues costs. Our cost is about 1/2 of the cost of contracting for trash service individually.

This year the board is starting to collect information and looking into updating our mailboxes. We get some complaints about the condition of some mailboxes. We will be collecting information on what we can get the post office to do and also what we may need to do to improve the condition of the mailboxes. This process is just getting started so there isn't anything to share at this time however we do hope to have some information to discuss at the next annual meeting in November.

Aaron Dirks

## It's Picnic Time

It's almost time to get out of the house and enjoy some great Bar-B-Que. You don't even have to fire up your own grill! We'll meet in the park, at the picnic tables, at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a great way to connect with neighbors you haven't seen in months as well as meet some new ones. The homes association will provide the meats, drinks and paper goods. Bring your favorite picnic dishes and any games you'd like to share.



NOTTINGHAM DOWNS HOMES ASSOCIATION

Spring 2016 Newsletter



## Stream Clean Up

Join us to restore the natural beauty of our section of Overland Park streams by removing trash and debris. This event keeps pollutants out of the water that can cause harm to wildlife and keeps our area looking clean. The city of Overland Park and the Environmental Advisory Council are sponsoring the 2016 Stream Clean Day on Saturday, April 16th. We will meet at the picnic tables in the park at 9:00 a.m. Wear work clothes, waterproof boots and gloves. Cotton gloves and trash bags are provided by the city. Kids are welcome to join in and can use this event to earn Community Service credits.



## Garage Sale!!

Clear out those closets, basements and garages! This year's neighborhood garage sale has been scheduled for May 5, 6 and 7.



## Talkin' Trash

Ah, trash. We all have it; we all must dispose of it. How fortunate that our homes association and Deffenbaugh make it easy to have our undesirables hauled away on a weekly basis. Still, there is much to say about our trash and recycling service.

**CONTRACT** – The contract between our homes association and Deffenbaugh will be renegotiated this year. It is likely our price will increase, which could result in increased dues for the period beginning 1-1-17.

**TRASH CARTS** – How, When & Where.

- All items placed in our trash carts must first be secured in trash bags. Cart may be placed at the curb no more than 24 hours prior to pick-up.
- Carts should be placed about one foot from the curb and at least three feet from recycling carts so that the truck's mechanical claw may lift them without damaging the carts or wheels.
- Ideally, carts would be stored in our garages, but this may not be possible for some residents. Carts not stored in garages, must be screened from view from the street and any neighboring property, and they must be behind the existing building lines. Screening may be made from fence, wall or landscaping, but portable storage units are not permitted. Reminder: external modifications to your property must be submitted to the Nottingham Downs Homes Association (NDHA) committee for approval.

**DATES OF COLLECTION** - The pick-up day for Nottingham Downs is presently Wednesday. If our collection day falls on or after a weekday holiday, Deffenbaugh will pick-up one day later that week. Holidays affecting trash and recycling collection are

New Year's Day  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  
Memorial Day  
Independence Day

Labor Day  
Thanksgiving Day  
Christmas Day

## RECYCLING

Recycling is a good thing, when done correctly. So, are you “doin’ it right”?  
QUESTION: How many pizza boxes can go into your recycling cart?  
ANSWER: None! They are on the unacceptable materials list.

If that was new information for you, you may be one of us who is “doin’ it wrong”. So what is the right way? First off, NO hazardous materials or glass should be placed in the recycling cart. There are other solutions for these, which will be covered later.

Some good news is that the recyclables can be commingled loosely in the cart, so no garbage bags are needed.

Corrugated cartons are recyclable, but should NOT be put in the carts. These should be cut into pieces no larger than 2' by 2' and placed beside the recycling bin.

Containers should be rinsed clear, but labels can remain.

*continued on page 3*

# Yard Waste

Here is a shocker. Leaves, grass clippings, branches and trimmings account for nearly 16% of all residential waste in Johnson County. As a result, Overland Park residents are able to separate yard waste from other trash so that it can be properly composted. While yard waste is not to be placed in plastic bags or mixed with trash or recycling, we have some good alternatives.

**MULCH MOWING** will recycle grass trimmings by letting them fall back to the turf.

**MULCHING AND MANAGING YOUR LEAVES** by mowing over them and letting them stay on the grass, will allow the nutrients to seep back into your soil.

**COMPOSTING** grass clippings and leaves will produce humus, which is much like rich topsoil that can be spread back onto your lawn and beds.

**RECYCLING** – The proper yard waste receptacles are brown paper bags which are available at local hardware and department stores. For the safety of the truck drivers, yard waste and limbs should weigh less than 50 pounds. Limbs should be tied into bundles no longer than 4 feet and no more than 18 inches in diameter. These bundles should be tied with string or biodegradable twine, NOT wire. The maximum number of bags is 8 for months January through September. During the last three months of the year, the maximum is 10 bags.

## 2016 Officers and Committee Chairpersons

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| President             | Aaron Dirks                                  |
| Vice President        | Eve Nuti                                     |
| Secretary             | Amelia Cierpiot                              |
| Treasurer             | Michael Raupp                                |
| Garage Sale           | Dan Reardon & Kathy Sobba                    |
| Picnic                | Kathy Sobba & Julie Walstrom                 |
| Stream Clean-up       | Lon Amick & Aaron Dirks                      |
| Overland Park Liaison | Michael Raupp                                |
| Yard of the Month     | Sherry Dyer & Dan Reardon                    |
| Welcoming             | Tony Moore & Sherry Dyer                     |
| Directory             | Amelia Cierpiot, Sherry Dyer & Michael Raupp |
| Annual Dinner         | Eve Nuti & Julie Walstrom                    |
| NDHA Webpage          | Brenda Mills & Lon Amick                     |
| Nextdoor Website      | Lon Amick                                    |
| Newsletter            | Julie Walstrom & Sherry Dyer                 |
| Collections           | Eve Nuti & Lon Amick                         |

*For contact information can be found at [www.Nottinghamdowns.com](http://www.Nottinghamdowns.com)*

*continued from page 2*

If you missed the pizza box question, you may find it helpful to read the full lists of acceptable and unacceptable items. Some “uh-oh” moments may await you. A Deffenbaugh list can be found on our Nottingham Downs website. Once there, open “ND Documents & Info” on the left, scroll down to “Trash Service”, and then “Rules of Recycling”. Now, go dig out those egg cartons, paper plates and paperback books before Wednesday!

Rechargeable batteries can be recycled at many local stores including Target and Home Depot.

Lastly, Overland Park sponsors special recycling events throughout the year for electronics, paper and Christmas trees. These will be announced in our OP magazine, *OVERview* and may be found on the [OPKansas.org](http://OPKansas.org) website.

### The Non-Recyclables

With the exceptions of yard waste and hazardous materials, what doesn't recycle can go into your trash cart. (Granted, there may be other exceptions, and some discernment should be used.)

**GLASS** is recyclable, but NOT in our recycle carts. The city has a recycling center at 11921 Hardy that will take glass. Our most convenient bin for glass only collection is in the parking lot of Hen House at 135<sup>th</sup> and Metcalf or at Whole Foods at 119<sup>th</sup> and Glenwood.

**HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** can cause serious environmental concerns and may present health hazards to people who come in contact with them. Johnson County has a disposal facility where we may drop off these items at no expense. For an appointment, phone 913-715-6900.

To help identify household hazardous waste items, look on the product labels for words such as “corrosive”, “reactive”, “toxic”, “flammable” or “explosive”. For more information, you may visit the Overland Park website at [OPKansas.org](http://OPKansas.org).

## Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Friday, November, 4th for this year's annual meeting at Deer Creek Golf Club. Cash bar opens at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 and business meeting at 8:00. This event provides a great opportunity to meet and connect with old and new neighbors as well as discuss timely events that are going on in our neighborhood. Discussions in the past have included, Google Fiber, AT&T Fiber project, parking and traffic issues. This year we plan to have some discussion about the state of our mailboxes. This is a great opportunity to have your voice heard. The cost of the event is included in your annual dues and there are door prizes at the end of the night!

## Calendar Items/Events

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Stream Clean-up | April 16, begins 9:00 a.m.               |
| Garage Sale     | May 5, 6 & 7                             |
| Picnic          | June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. |
| Dinner          | November 4                               |



**NOTTINGHAM DOWNS HOMES  
ASSOCIATION**

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