

# Ashley Forest Homeowners' Association

March, 2008  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter  
Volume 5, Issue 1

# The Forest News



## What's Inside:

President's Corner	1
19th Hole Quotes	1
Snow Days	2
Garage Sales: Can Residents Have Them?	3
E-Mail Updates	3
Spring Cleaning Ideas & Checklist	4
Speed Control in Ashley Forest	5
Neighborhood Buzz: Meet the Bridgemans	6
Financial Update	7
Neighborhood Recipe Exchange	7
Board Members & Annual Block Party Reminder	8

## The Horizon:

*Our Web Site  
We're coming to the web! Stay tuned...*

*www.ashleyforest.us  
(Under construction)*

## President's Corner - Marty Sas

In our last newsletter, as we closed out 2007, I provided you with a short summary of the action items your Board would be working on in 2008.

There are articles in this edition of the Newsletter that address the status of 2008 Action Goals that are items listed below.

- Stop signs/speed bumps/table
- Garage Sales-Do we want them?
- Black top repair at front entrance
- Web Page Layout
- Newsletter- publication schedule
- Street light – repair existing one and install new one on Ashley Forest Drive
- Close Out HOA Member Dues for 2007 with 100% paid – some homeowners have not paid for this year yet

I'm sure you all have noticed the extra street light on Ashley Forest drive. Jim

## 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Quotes:

*"Golf is harder than baseball. In golf, you have to play your foul balls."*

*- Anonymous*

Spears our "Caretaker Extraordinaire" coordinated the inspection and installation with the EMC. The HOA paid \$450.00 for the pole and installation. In addition, when the weather gets a bit warmer, the HOA will repair the turf that was damaged during the installation of the light pole. Thanks again to Jim for his effort.

We have discussed the road repair at the front entrance with the Fayette County Public Works. They have inspected the area and have indicated that it is "a bigger job than we anticipated. However, you will be pleased with the results when we can get to it" in about two months (March/April) "with cooperation from the weather".

By the time you receive this newsletter you should have received a reminder that Homeowner's Association dues are to be paid up by March 31,

## Welcome Spring!



2008. Remember, that one of our goals is to eliminate late fee assessments this year. Only YOU can help us reach 100% payments by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please help us to support you.

As spring rapidly approaches we all will begin to venture outside more frequently. And as we mentioned at the Annual Meeting and again in some of the articles in this month newsletter --- we need your assistance with obtaining signatures on the petitions that will need to be circulated for a vote on the options listed.

Also it is not too early to begin planning for our Second Annual Block Party. Only YOU will ensure that it will be a success!! Please contact Cathy Main, Clovis Jackson or any Board Member to volunteer to 'lead the party'! We need your support.

*- Marty*

# Celebrating the Seasons

Farewell for Now Old Man Winter...



## *A Day that will live in infamy...*

Where were you on Saturday, January 19, 2008, when the mammoth snow flakes fell and blanketed our beautiful community?

Were you out making snow angels, snowmen, skiing (yes, skiing: we saw one brave young man don a pair of snow skis & tackle the local slopes), sledding or engaged in a snowball battle?

While the day was cold, the laughter emanating from our neighbors offered radiant warmth to passer-bys like a warmhearted cup of cocoa. What a day!



**Thanks for the...  
Memories**



## **Georgia Snowmen Snowwomen & Snowkids**



# Garage Sales: Can Residents Have Them?



This question has been asked by various Ashley Forest residents. The current Amended and Restated Declaration of Protective Covenants and Restrictions (DPCR) for Ashley Forest restricted such activities, especially the DPCRs (Exhibit C, paragraph 2) which state, "the following activities are prohibited within the Properties unless expressly authorized by, and then subject to such conditions as may be imposed by, the Board of Directors and include: any business, trade, garage sale, rummage sale, or similar activity, except that the owner or occupant residing in a Unit may conduct business activities within the Unit so long as it is not apparent or detectable by sight, sound, or smell from outside the Unit...."

For reference, "garage sale" herein will be synonymous with yard sale, rummage sale, moving and/or estate sale. For some time, the Ashley Forest Board (The Board) has taken this matter under review and has considered various pros and cons, some of which are noted below.

## **Pro: Bring Family & Friends Closer and De-clutter**

The pros of having garage sales are obvious and simply stated. Garage sales can be fun for those that enjoy them, allow residents the chance to de-clutter and purge unwanted items while making extra income and the opportunity to mingle with neighbors.

## **Con: Potential to Attract Crime**

Some opinions do not support Garage Sales in our neighborhood, at this time, because there is a belief that these types of events have the

potential to attract some "unacceptable" or unscreened visitors, unlike family and friends, into our neighborhood.

In erring on the side of caution, there is a belief held by some that we can avoid the tendency by minimizing exposure to these unacceptable or unscreened visitors, who may have malicious intent. Other opinions shared include that since 1997 the residents of Ashley Forest have maintained the preservation, character, and **safety** of our surroundings without opening our community to everyone.

While we are not trying to paint a picture of being "anti-social" or unfriendly, many of us watch the local TV news and/or subscribe to area newspaper(s), which depicts unexplained crime, some times violent, in many neighborhoods in metro-Atlanta.

While void of any statistics to support such a claim, there is a belief that holding such events will invite potential problems and increase the risk of crime. In other words, there is a belief that there is a correlation between increased home invasions and other crimes, and authorized garage sales in neighborhoods where potential criminals are able to roam and visit the neighborhood with less thought or resident scrutiny. In summary, the most common argument against garage sales is focused around the actual or perceived opportunity for crime to come into our community.

In the final analysis, erring on the side of caution, the cons seem to outweigh the pros and the Board feels that it is best not to change the current restrictions prohibiting garage sales.



However, the Board as part of its on-going commitment to our residents has offered Ashley Forest residents a viable alternative to consider that would involve having a community garage sale at a nearby off-site location.

## **An Alternative - We Need to Hear Your View**

As an alternative, the Board has offered to assist in planning a Community Garage Sale event at the Hopeful Community Club (The Community Club), which is close to our beautiful community.

The Community Club is at the corner of GA Hwy 92 and New Hope Road. So what is your view or opinion regarding an alternative site? Over the next few weeks the Board will be soliciting your views and opinions regarding this alternative. Please let the Board know your interest regarding this alternative plan by sending a note to any board member or email [clovis616@cs.com](mailto:clovis616@cs.com).

Remember, mid – to – late spring will be an excellent time for such an event. So your immediate input will play a part in preserving a potential spring date at the Community Club. Your opinions and feedback are welcomed & appreciated.

*- Clovis Jackson*

**Ashley Forest Pride  
Begins with Us!**

Show off your community pride by keeping your lawn & landscape clean & manicured.

**Keep Ashley Forest Beautiful**



## Spring Cleaning Ideas & Reminders

From Better Homes & Gardens

### Move over David Letterman, Better Homes Gardens Top Ten Cleaning Ideas

1. Get Organized by Design, Not by Accident
2. Eliminate Clutter/Dump Junk
3. Donate & Store
4. Freshen & Wash
5. Optimize Storage
6. Make it a Family Affair
7. Identify Your Trouble Spots
8. Dust First, Vacuum Last
9. Clean Top to Bottom
10. Clean Back to Front



Try Sarah's  
Homemade

All Purpose Cleaner  
Receipt

New Spray Bottle Mix

- 1 part water
- 1 part vinegar

### E-Updates

What is the best way to stay informed of Ashley Forest news, events, and happenings? Sign up for the e-mail tree! Send a message to **Cathy Main** at [cathy-main@bellsouth.net](mailto:cathy-main@bellsouth.net) with **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line.

#### ✓ Get Organized

Kick off your spring cleaning by getting organized. Pick up and eliminate clutter in each room before you start cleaning. Try placing a cardboard box and two or three garbage bags in each room you're decluttering. Then, fill them as you sort through your shelves, cabinets, and closets.

#### ✓ Donate & Store

Donate old books, magazines, toys, and clothes that you don't wear to charity, or fill a box for your next garage sale. If you can't bear to give away old magazines and books, box them up and store them out of the way. Now that it's warm outside, have your winter clothes cleaned. Consider storing clothes at a dry cleaner if you don't have enough space.

#### ✓ Freshen Bedrooms

Rotate and flip mattresses. Wash blankets or comforters or take them to be cleaned. Wash mattress pad and bed skirt. Have pillows professionally cleaned or hang them outside in the fresh air, or freshen with the air (no heat) cycle of your clothes dryer.

#### ✓ Clean Floors & More

Wash and/or wax floors, depending on their material. Then, deep-clean rugs or have them professionally cleaned. Wash or dry clean rugs. Wash baseboards.

#### ✓ Clean Up, Down, and All Around

Now is the time to clean light fixtures, ceiling fans, and mirrors. Vacuum upholstery and draperies.

Dust and wax wood furniture. Flip sofa and chair cushions. Dust or wash window blinds, and replace bent or worn miniblinds. It would also be a good idea to wash and iron curtains or have them cleaned.

You may scrub your bathroom every week, but now it's time to battle clutter and refresh old products. Go through your medicine cabinets and safely discard any outdated products. Replace worn bath mats, shower curtains, and liners, or wash and dry shower curtains and liners.

#### ✓ Optimize Storage

Assess the state of your storage areas, whether you have an attic, basement, garage, or storage shed. Add shelving units and containers to create order.

#### ✓ Check Batteries & Stay Safe

Spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Perform all required safety checks. If you don't own a fire extinguisher, purchase one. Learn how to use it and keep it in the kitchen.



#### ✓ Clear Out Your Kitchen

Take time to clear out your pantry, kitchen cabinets, and drawers. Wipe out and install fresh shelf paper. Store or donate equipment you don't use, such as small appliances or cookware. Discard stale spices or dated items such as baking powder. Clean the refrigerator and freezer. Vacuum the cooling coils under or behind your refrigerator.



#### ✓ Wash Your Windows

Wash your windows inside & outside. Use a commercial glass spray, or try a homemade solution of two tablespoons of ammonia or vinegar and a quart of water. Then use lint-free cloths, strong paper towels, or crumpled newspapers to rub away streaks. Don't forget to clean storm windows and screens.

For more Spring Cleaning ideas & tips go to <http://www.bhg.com> or [www.housekeeping.about.com](http://www.housekeeping.about.com)

# Speed Control in Ashley Forest

It does not take long while standing along any of the streets in our subdivision to notice someone exceeding the 25 MPH speed limit. There are hills on every street in the subdivision and it is easy to exceed the limit unless you make a conscious effort to control your speed.

This topic has been brought up many times over the last several years and discussions have resulted in an overwhelming agreement that something must be done. Finding a unanimous solution to control speeding and create a safer neighborhood has been more elusive.

Regardless of the final decision, it will require a vote among all homeowners with a majority approval. The cost shall be covered through a special assessment shared equally by all homeowners. However, due to the unstable cost of petroleum products and not knowing when this work may take place a cost adjustment may be required to the pricing noted

herein. We have narrowed it down to the following solutions:

- Install additional stop signs at existing intersections in all directions. This would require the addition of five (5) new stops signs and painted stop bars on the street. In addition, it will require the written approval of all homeowners in the immediate areas affected by the signs.



(Signed petition) Cost \$1,320.00 OR \$17.60 per homeowner.

- Install speed bumps strategically located throughout the subdivision. These bumps would be made from black rubber with yellow stripes and be approximately 12" wide 3" high across the entire width of the road affecting traffic in both directions. Cost \$5,064.00 or \$67.52 per homeowner.

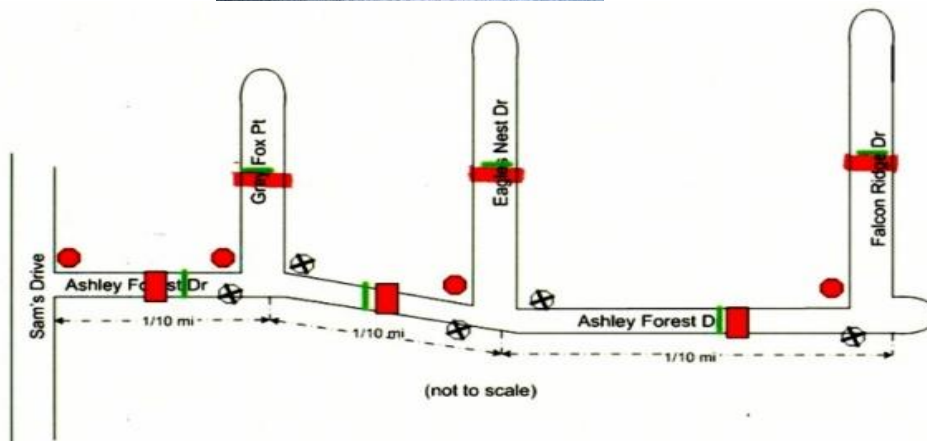


- Install speed tables strategically located throughout the subdivision. This would be an asphalt hump approximately 3" high by 3' wide with diagonal painted stripes the entire width of the street affecting the traffic in both directions. Cost \$ 2,460.00 or 33.80 per homeowner.



For illustration purposes see accompanying drawing provided below. A petition will be distributed around the neighborhood with additional information and photos seeking your approval and desired solution.

*- Rob Fleming*



# Feature The Neighbor

As mentioned in the last edition of The Forest News, we plan to feature a family or two in an effort to get to know each other better.

This edition features **Debbie & Jim Bridgeman** of 205 Ashley Forest Drive and their two children, Noah and Ana (2 beautiful dogs and for a limited engagement the well dress snowman in the photo at the bottom of the page).

**He'd rather be golfing...she'd rather be reading Harry Potter.** You can catch the entire family at the movies, making a craft together or jaunting off to The High Museum of Art.



When asked if they could hop on a plane to anywhere, without hesitation the destination was Hawaii. Aloha! Easy to agree; picture paradise, a warm tropical climate, lush terrain, sandy beaches and the opportunity to ride the "North Shore Tube".

Jim Bridgeman graduated from Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!) with a liberal arts degree. He works as an air traffic control instructor at the en route center in Hampton, GA. His hobbies include wheel thrown pottery, golf, coaching T-ball, and having fun with his kids.



Debbie graduated from the University of TN, Chattanooga with a degree in Physical Therapy. She currently works part-time at Lafayette Nursing and Rehab Center in Fayetteville. Her many hobbies and activities include paper crafting, sewing, reading, shopping, and driving the kids to their activities!



Race Hall

Their wonderful and gregarious daughter Anna is 8 and is in the 2nd grade at Burch Elementary. She loves to read and act out skits. She dances ballet & jazz at Georgia Academy of Dance.



Their son Noah is 5 and attends kindergarten at Burch Elementary. He loves to build things with Legos. He enjoys playing soccer & t-ball. He also attends Tae Kwon Do classes at ATA Karate for Kids in Peachtree City.



You can find the Bridgemans enjoying movie nights, traveling to Tennessee to visit family or jaunting off to the mountains or the beach.

The family enjoys the outdoors, playing Blockus, Yahtzee or merely spending time together doing craft projects. Aloha!



## Neighbors Who Care

## Financial Update

- Norman DeGrange

As of 02/29/08:  
Savings Balance - \$5,995.87  
Checking Balance - \$16,578.26

were filed against each of those properties. As of this notice 2 liens have been satisfied and removed.

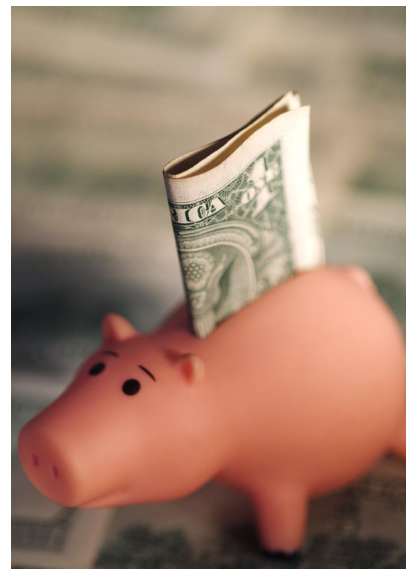
If you have any questions or if you want to see if you are documented as being current, please contact:

**Norman DeGrange**  
Treasurer

(770) 461-0635  
degrange62@msn.com

and through the end of 2007 the association collected dues from all but 6 property owners. Liens

To avoid late fees 2008 dues must be paid no later than 3/31/2008.

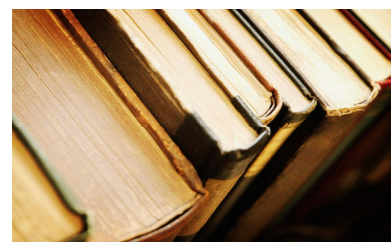


## Neighborhood Recipe Exchange

- Debbie Bridgeman

**Put Spring in Your Step with these**

**Easy Refreshing Recipes**



### Fruit Salsa with Cinnamon Chips

#### Fruit Salsa

Finely chop 1 Granny Smith apple (a food processor works great)  
Pulse in food processor with 7-8 large ripe strawberries, 2-3 ripe peeled kiwi fruits, and a tablespoonful of apple jelly.  
Pulse until well combined.  
Serve with Cinnamon Chips.

#### Cinnamon Chips:

Cut prepackaged flour tortillas into strips, triangle or any other shape. Lay tortilla pieces in a single layer on a cookie sheet. Spray tortillas lightly with cooking spray and then sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake in the oven at 375 degrees for approx. 8 minutes. Keep a close eye on the chips as you do not want them to burn.

### Great for Brunch Ham & Asparagus Toast Rachel Ray's 30 Minute Meals

- 1 lb. thin asparagus spears salt
  - 1 loaf of chewy, crusty farmhouse style white bread, cut into 3/4" slices
  - 1/2 stick butter, softened
  - 2 TBS. dijon mustard
  - 1 1/4 lbs. boiled, baked or smoked ham Freshly ground black pepper
  - 1 lb. fontina cheese, shredded or sliced  
(I use muenster cheese & they turn out great!)
1. Trim asparagus. simmer asparagus in salted boiling water for 3 minutes. Drain and run under cold water..
  2. Cut to fit toasts. Toast 8 thick slices of bread
  3. Combine butter and mustard, then spread on the toasts
  4. Grind ham in food processor. Spread on toasts and top With asparagus, black pepper and cheese.
  5. Cook under broiler until cheese melts.

If you would like to share a favorite recipe please email it to Cathy Main at [cathymain@bellsouth.net](mailto:cathymain@bellsouth.net)



*Neighbors Who Care*

*President*  
Marty Sas

*Vice President*  
Rob Fleming

*Treasurer*  
Norm DeGrange

*Secretary*  
Sarah Blum

*Member-At-Large*  
Jim Bridgeman  
Doug Main  
Clovis Jackson

*Newsletter*  
Cathy Main

**Contact Us**



Residents may contact a Board member by phone or write to:

Ashley Forest  
Home Owners Association  
PO Box 262  
Tyronne GA 30290-0262

**Time to Spring into Action  
Our Block Party  
Remember the Fun...**



**Neighborhood Block Party & Great American Barbeque**

Please pencil in the tentative date of September 27, 2008, for our second annual Block Party. In the coming months, we will be asking for volunteers to help plan & execute this fun and memorable event. If you have ideas to share, please pass them along. We can use your help to put together thoughts & ideas that will contribute to another fun & triumphant event. Please contact any Board member, send a note to our P.O. Box, or email me (Clovis) directly at: [clovis616@cs.com](mailto:clovis616@cs.com).

*Neighbors Who Care*

