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Issue 1

Please contact us at  
[russomwgfbusiness@att.net](mailto:russomwgfbusiness@att.net) for  
newsletter submittal ideas !!!

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Westglen Farms Subdivision  
City of Wildwood  
St. Louis County, Missouri

# The Westglen Farms Wire

## YOUR Newsletter Gets Its Start...

*Scott Russom, Secretary*

After a years' worth of discussion and planning, your Board of Trustees has taken an important step in improving communications in our neighborhood.

*The Westglen Farms Wire*, intended to be published bi-monthly (six annual issues), belongs to you. While we've developed some categories aimed at communicating the basics, other regular topics may develop over time, with your help.

To submit any reasonable subject you'd like to see discussed in your newsletter, please contact me at [russomwgfbusiness@att.net](mailto:russomwgfbusiness@att.net), and put "Wire Submittal" in the subject line. Let's make this publication what YOU need it to be.

## Crime & Prevention

At February's 2009 Annual Meeting, Officer Brad Wood—a perennial participant in our neighborhood meetings—commented that crime in the subdivision is "down" over the past couple years. This news was well-received, given the stories we've read concerning serious crime waves having affected nearby municipalities as recently as this past Holiday season.

Officer Wood went on to discuss the kind of negligence that invites crime, as well as the County's involvement in reducing the incidence of speeding on the subdivision's main roads. Below are several of Officer Woods' suggestions in the prevention of crime.

- Lock vehicles parked outside the home every night.
- Hide or conceal garage door transmitters kept in the car at all times.
- Have your bins, papers and mail collected by a trusted neighbor, friend or family while away.
- Use automatic appliance timers on lights while away.
- Secure all fencing doors with either keyed or combination-type locks.
- Have your grass and yard maintained even when you're away.
- Wildwood's website under "Police," has downloadable vacation notice forms--let them know you'll be gone, and they'll do home checks.

## Neighborhood Home Values

If the value of your home will ever be of concern to you, it is right now. While it's unlikely any of us needs another reminder of what the real estate market has done in the last two years, spring is a great time to re-establish those maintenance disciplines that result in "added value" to prospective new

neighbors. Remember that real estate, like most other high-end investments, is actually worth what someone is willing to pay for it, and home prices are never cast in stone, regardless of what a real estate agent tells you.

Perhaps the idea of taking a quarterly walk around your property makes sense. Done with a critical eye, and from the curb, as well, you might notice a few inexpensive changes you can make to enhance your home's curb-appeal. Efforts like these improve the perceived value of your property immediately, and also tend to inspire your neighbors to do the same. While you're out in the yard this season, consider these things:

1. Are your gutters and roof clean and clear of limbs, leaves and debris?
2. Are the bushes neatly-trimmed and fairly "symmetrical?"
3. Are the plastic "diverters" connected to your downspouts in good condition?
4. Has your yard been recently-mulched around beds, trees, etc.?
5. Is your mailbox or its post in need of repair or replacement?
6. Are your house numbers clear and conspicuous?
7. Are lower tree branches neat and trimmed?
8. Where are you keeping your trash containers? (hint: "out front" might not be the best place.)
9. Is the paint peeling?
10. Weeds between the driveway slabs?
11. Is there another place for that "work-in-progress parked out front?"

**A Few Words on Commercial Vehicles:** Additionally, residents have shared concerns, in the recent past, about commercial-type vehicles (cars, trucks, vans and box trucks) that we park in our driveways or along our streets.

Yes, there are rules against parking certain vehicle types on our streets, and over the years, Trustees have taken appropriate latitude in the enforcement of such rules. As a body, your Trustees have no interest in negatively-affecting any respect of your gainful employment. Conversely, an abundance of permanently-parked commercial vehicles detracts from the beauty of our neighborhood, not allowing us to put our "best foot forward" in terms of overall appearance.

While your Trustees continue to assess any "real" problems commercial vehicles cause us (and how to deal with such problems graciously), let's be sensitive to one another as "neighbors" and friends: If you're approached by a neighbor who is concerned that your commercial vehicle is unsightly or otherwise detracts from the character of our neighborhood, hear them out in fairness. If we cannot resolve these matters between neighbors, the Trustees will intervene to accommodate the Indentures (subdivision rules) as-written.

Similarly, if you're the neighbor with the box truck greeting you from across the street every morning, "approach" is everything, and we suggest a gentle meeting-of-the-minds to see if a resolution can be reached. While the "rules" are on your side, sometimes their enforcement causes much larger, longer-term issues in any neighborhood.

In short, when dealing with a neighborhood on such sensitive subjects, let's treat one another as we wish to be treated, on both sides of the question. When necessary, the Trustees will get involved, as always.

## Know Your Neighbors

A core purpose of this newsletter is that it helps to foster the sort of "community" that some of us find missing in Westglen Farms. Eventually, this format will introduce you to your Trustees and neighbors in a variety of articles and "ads." It is very important that you help us in this endeavor—"times like these" reveal a strong need for strong communities, and while Westglen Farms has the "numbers," numbers don't necessarily translate to "network." Let's make sure we know one another.

Here are a few suggestions:

- When a new neighbor arrives, coordinate with other households in the area and deliver a small "welcome home" gift with a signed card, revealing addresses beneath the signatures included.
- Exchange business cards with your neighbors, including (on the back, perhaps) emergency phone numbers.
- Save Westglen Farms' website among your "favorites," and check-in at month-end during odd months beginning the end of March, 2009...there should be a new newsletter waiting for you around that time!



The Trustees believe that our neighborhood is full of folks willing to “help,” either for free or for a fee.

In every “Wire” issue, we’ll try to post services and other items meant for the convenience of our neighbors. “Tips, tricks and suggestions” may also become a part of the “Helping Hand” section, depending upon who comes forward with what information.

In the event that no person submits an item for a given newsletter issue, “Helping Hand” will contain an advertisement aimed at generating such submittals.

Here’s what we’re looking for:

- Volunteers and area of specialty
- Baby-sitters (name, address, phone number and references required)
- Lawn-cutting and maintenance (name, address, phone number and references required)
- Items For Sale (name, address and phone number[s] required for publication)
- Educational tutors (name, address, phone number and references required)
- Musical Instrument Lessons (name, address, phone number and references required)
- Pet-Sitters (name, address, phone number and references required)

## Neighborly Living

*This Issue:*  
“Pet Waste”

As low as attendance typically is at our annual meetings, “pet waste” is a topic that is discussed every year. In years past, there have been meeting attendees who were present specifically to register complaints about having to clean up after someone else’s pet.

No newsletter will keep people from, well, “being people.” There will always be those who will fail to show appreciation and respect for the property of others.

That said, take a second to consider how easy and considerate it would be to simply carry a plastic grocery bag with you while walking your dog. No pet paraphernalia is required, other than the bag, if you’re brave-enough. If not, wear a gardening glove, grab the pet’s mess using the bag, and turn the bag inside out!

I can’t say how great it is to see my neighbors walking our sidewalks with these bags, both empty *and* full. People who do this are people I want to know, folks I want living around me.

As a community, the less “pet mess” we see laying around, the more conscious others will be about picking up after their own pets

## In Forthcoming “Wire” Issues:

- **Youth News**  
*Events and concerns for and about—and perhaps written by—WGF kids!*
- **“Meet Your Neighbors”**  
*Interesting submittals from, and about, the people of Westglen Farms.*
- **Did You Know?**  
*Wildwood and Westglen Farms facts, figures and fun...might also be called “Our Own Oddities,” just like the Post-Dispatch segment from years gone by!*
- **Meet Your Trustees**  
*One-by-one introductions to the folks in formal service to your neighborhood.*
- **Calendar of Events**
- **WGF Finances**  
*At-A-Glance*