
THE

BECKETT'S RIDGE

buzz



Volume 6, Issue 3

Beckett's Ridge Homeowners Association, Hillsborough, N.C.

October 2006

Police officers to control Halloween traffic

By Susie Oles

The Beckett's Ridge Homeowners Association, in conjunction with the Hillsborough Police Department, plans to reduce the flow of traffic through our neighborhood on Halloween night to maintain a safe environment for our children and families.

Our neighborhood has become a popular spot for trick-or-treating: In recent years, about 150 kids (infants to teenagers) have participated. It is a fun and exciting time, but it also poses some danger because of the increased vehicle traffic along our streets.

To reduce the traffic, we will stop all through-traffic from 5 to 9 p.m. on Halloween under a permit submitted to Town Hall. It is outlined below.

Two off-duty Hillsborough police officers will be hired to control the traffic. They will be stationed at the front and back entrances to our



Halloween safety tips. Page 3.

neighborhood.

1) Main Entrance (Hwy. 86 and Beckett's Ridge Drive)

An officer will be stationed at the corner of Beckett's Ridge Drive and Kennesaw Court. All residents and their guests will stop and provide their names and addresses, and the officer

will direct them into the neighborhood. All other drivers will be instructed about our policy, and the officer will politely ask them to turn around in Kennesaw Court and exit the neighborhood.

2) Back Entrance (Old 86 to Millstone Drive/Beckett's Ridge Drive)

The officer will be stationed at the corner of Beckett's Ridge Drive and Woodbury Drive. All residents and their guests entering this way will stop and provide their names and addresses, and the officer will direct them into the neighborhood. All other drivers will be instructed about our policy. They will be asked to enter Baycourt Trail and either park along one side of this road or exit the neighborhood by turning around in the Baycourt cul-de-sac and then parking along one side of Beckett's Ridge Drive Extended or Millstone Drive.

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Upgrades sought for Beckett's Ridge Dr., Millstone Dr.

By Paul Newton

Last July, the Beckett's Ridge HOA Board of Directors requested that the Town of Hillsborough address concerns about Beckett's Ridge Drive Extension at the rear entrance to our community (this is the portion of Beckett's Ridge Drive that goes past the intersection with Woodbury Drive and Baycourt Trail). The HOA Board expressed concerns over the unsightliness of Beckett's Ridge Drive Extension, safety concerns for pedestrian and vehicle traffic along the road, and possible remedies.

After discussions with town staff, HOA President Paul Newton addressed the Hillsborough Town Board in

September, noting the Board's concerns and asking the town to devise a plan to address the concerns. The Town Board agreed to allow town staff to devise plans to address the concerns.

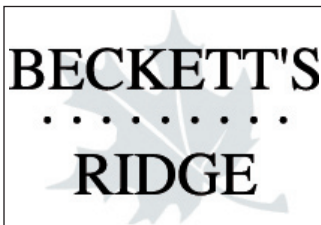
Demetric Potts, assistant town manager, reported the following to the HOA Board:

Landscaping: The Beckett's Ridge HOA requested that the right-of-way area on the southern side of the Beckett's Ridge Drive Ext. between Baycourt Trail and Cates Creek Parkway be cleaned up and replanted with sod.

Planned action: The Town Public Works Department is researching the cost to have a landscaping company prepare and re-sod the area. Once we

have a company under contract, we will move forward with this project. We anticipate having a company under contract within the next two weeks. Once the new sod has been installed, the town will seek assistance from the adjacent property owner in maintaining the area by providing the needed watering of the sod to assist in establishing root growth. If the property owner agrees, I will propose to the Town Manager that the town reimburse or credit the property owner for water consumption for the two (2) month period that would be needed for watering this new planting. We will work out the details of this proposal at

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**Newsletter Publication
& Submissions**

HOA members may submit brief announcements and articles for the newsletter by the 15th of each publishing month (March, June, September, December). Ads for BR homeowner-owned businesses and services will be included as space allows (business-card size). They must be in a jpeg or pdf format. Send inquiries to brbuzznewsletter@yahoo.com or to Beckett's Ridge Buzz Newsletter c/o Beckett's Ridge HOA, PO Box 97243, Raleigh, NC 27624. The BR Buzz paid advertising policy is available upon request. Costs for the publishing and distribution of the BR Buzz newsletter are funded by HOA dues and ad revenue.

**Visit the Beckett's Ridge
web site:**

www.beckettsridge.com

Neighborhood Notes

Nolan leaves HOA Board

Angela Nolan of Oakhurst Trail resigned from the Beckett's Ridge HOA Board in September. The Board thanks Angie for her devoted service on the Board and also for her good work as previous editor of the Beckett's Ridge Buzz.

If you are interested in serving on the HOA board, to fill Angie's seat or to fill any seats coming open in January, please notify Laura Erskine at Charleston Management (919-847-3003 or lkerskine@charlestonmanagement.com).

Welcome, new neighbors!

Please welcome these new Beckett's Ridge homeowners:

Todd and Keri Boyette – 902 Chandler Ct.
Cesar and Laris Smith-Cortes – 2807 Beckett's Ridge Dr.

Jeffrey and Erin Lyons – 2310 Oakhurst Trail

Walter and Marla Nichols – 903 Chandler Ct.

Rachid Rafih – 1001 Scotsburg Trail

Kids, drivers: Play it safe!

The newsletter and the BR web site have heard recently from 1) people who worry about unsafe driving in the neighborhood, and 2) people who worry about children who play or ride in the street. We pass their concerns along for everyone's safety:

1) Drivers, especially teenagers, should remember that small children do not always watch for cars as diligently as they should. Drivers need to obey speed limits and stop signs, and be aware that children can dart out into the road without warning. Please make sure that every driver in your family proceeds with caution.

2) Please advise kids to keep scooters and other wheeled toys out of the street — especially on Beckett's Ridge Drive. People have seen children ignore stop signs, ignore oncoming cars, and ride down steep driveways into the street. Some ride bikes dangerously around moving cars, and some are on scooters or bikes that they aren't old enough to manage. If your children are young, please supervise them and keep them out of the street. If they are older, please remind them to watch out for traffic.



A good sign. This advertisement for a yard sale is displayed properly — on its own stakes. Unfortunately, the stop sign shows the damage that can occur when a notice is taped to one of the neighborhood's poles. Please place any message you want to display on its own support.

MATH TUTOR

Certified and experienced math teacher offers tutoring services for middle and high school students (general math, Algebra, Geometry, and Algebra 2). I tutor in my home in Cornwallis Hills. Contact Sandy Silverman at 245-0420 or aisilver@nc.rr.com.

NEED A MOTHER'S HELPER?

I am 9 1/2 and live in Beckett's Ridge. I have lots of experience playing with and taking care of younger children. I am experienced (I have references), energetic and responsible. I can make simple meals. If you need a little breathing space, call me: Sierra, 643-7788.

Upgrades sought for Beckett's Ridge Dr., Millstone Dr.

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the appropriate time.

Road Improvements: The Beckett's Ridge HOA expressed concern that the sidewalk that was to be installed along the Beckett's Ridge Drive Ext. as a condition of approval of the second phase of Millstone Business Park has been forgotten.

Planned action: In an email to Paul Newton on Aug. 23, Margaret Hauth, Hillsborough planning director, said the town was holding a bond for improvements. She stated that she had written to the developer to remind him to install the sidewalk. Unfortunately, the developer has not responded or contacted Ms. Hauth. Ms. Hauth has referred this issue to the town attorney for advice on whether this is now an enforcement action or what options are now available to address this concern. Kenny Keel, town engineer, has received a request from the developer to release the bond for the water and sewer infrastructure. Mr. Keel will reply to the request with a checklist of items that need to be addressed before release of the bond. He has included on this checklist that the developer will need to complete the sidewalk. If Mr. Keel's reply does not get the town a satisfactory response from the developer, staff will seek other options as advised by the town attorney.

Widening of Millstone Drive and Beckett's Ridge Drive Ext.: The Beckett's Ridge HOA requested that the town explore the feasibility of widening Beckett's Ridge Drive Extension and Millstone Drive to accommodate the installation of a sidewalk. (The HOA also mentioned widening as a safety measure – we mentioned the Montessori School and the problems it generates with people parking in the middle of the street.)

Planned action: The town staff believes that the installation of a sidewalk on Beckett's Ridge Drive Extension will be addressed as required by the condition of approval of Millstone Business Park Phase II as stated in the above comments. To address the widening and installation of a sidewalk on Millstone Drive, town staff will provide the Town Board at a future meeting with estimated costs for construction of a sidewalk on this stretch of road. This will be a preliminary estimate on sidewalk construction; this estimate will not include easement acquisition, storm water infrastructure, and necessary engineering fees. It is hoped that the information provided will be sufficient to enable the Town Board to give direction to staff on whether or not to proceed with a project to reconstruct Millstone Drive.

Ask the NC Department of Transportation to consider the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Old NC 86 and Millstone Drive:

Planned action: Town staff suggests that we wait a couple of months before we contact NCDOT with this request. The reason for the delay is that staff is having preliminary discussions with the developer of Waterstone to see if they would consider reconstruction of Oakdale Drive as their northern entrance.

With consideration of the interest of the developers and the concerns of the Beckett's Ridge HOA (for an intersection with a signal), town staff feels that exploring this alternative could be advantageous for all. In an effort to allow the developers an opportunity to determine if this is a viable alternative and to put together a decision package for the Town Board to consider, town staff ask for more time to address this request.

Halloween traffic plan

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3) Side entrance (Summit Drive via Granview neighborhood)

No officer will be on duty at this entrance; however, an officer will place cones at the intersection of Oakhurst Trail and Scotsburg Trail. There will be no through traffic to or from the Granview neighborhood at this entrance.

We are trying to coordinate with the Granview neighborhood by informing them of our plan and offering suggestions about how they can coordinate with us to accommodate their traffic needs. Our Community Police Officer representative is communicating our plan to Granview, and our homeowners association is also communicating with Granview's HOA.

About a week before Halloween, signs will be posted at both entrances of the neighborhood to alert drivers. In addition, a flier will be mailed to all residents of Beckett's Ridge, and it will be posted on the neighborhood web site.

Thank you for your cooperation as we try to provide a safe environment on Halloween. If you have questions or concerns, you may contact Laura Erskine, our property manager (847-3003 or lerskine@charlestonmanagement.com).

Trick-or-treat safety tips

- Young children should trick-or-treat with an adult.
 - Older children should trick-or-treat with buddies.
 - Plan your route and make sure your family knows it.
 - Visit only houses where the lights are on.
 - Do not run. Walk on sidewalks and driveways.
 - Take a cellular phone and watch with you.
 - Carry a flashlight.
 - Wear bright-colored costumes with reflective markings.
 - Accept treats at the door. Never go inside a house.
 - Be cautious of strangers.
 - Costumes should not drag the floor.
 - Costumes should be made of flame-resistant material.
 - Wait until you get home before you eat your candy so that your parents can check it.
 - Don't play near lighted jack-o'-lanterns.
- (From www.halloweensafety.com)*

Animal safety: For your pets' safety and out of consideration for your neighbors, please keep pets inside on Halloween night, especially if you will not be at home. In past years, dogs left outside have barked for hours because they are agitated by passing trick-or-treaters.

Town Notes

"Spirits of Hillsborough" Haunted Tours: 60-minute tours are Oct. 27 and 28, 7, 7:30, 8:30, and 9 p.m.; Oct. 29, 7 and 8:30 p.m. Tours begin at the Orange County Visitor Center/Alexander Dickson House, 150 E. King St. Walk the streets of Hillsborough to learn about legends, lore, and maybe some ghosts. Tickets are \$5 for children (ages 5-14); \$10, adults. Info: 732-7741 or www.historichillsborough.org.

Hillsborough Walking Tour: Saturday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Alexander Dickson House, 150 E. King St., Hillsborough. Explore Hillsborough's history on a 90-minute guided walking tour through its historic district. \$2-\$6, Info: 732-7741 or www.historichillsborough.org



*Life's Too Short For
Long Faced Religion*

Searching for a church?
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Sundays at 10:00.

I-40 & New Hope Church Rd
Exit 263

www.sunrisechurchnc.org

Rabies shots: North Carolina requires all dogs and cats over 4 months to be vaccinated against rabies. Upcoming clinics (\$5 cash – dogs must be on leashes, cats in carriers):

Oct. 28, 1-2 p.m., Hillsborough courthouse parking lot, 106 E. Margaret Lane; **Oct. 28,** 1-2 p.m., Piedmont Feed & Garden Center, White Cross (Rt. 54 West); **Nov. 4,** 2-4 p.m., Orange County Animal Shelter, 1081 Martin Luther King Blvd., Chapel Hill.

Pet registration: Orange County requires all dogs and cats over 6 months of age to be registered with the Animal Control Division. Fees are \$5 for sterilized animals; \$10 unsterilized. For information, call 245-2075 or 245-2076.



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