

# English Hills News

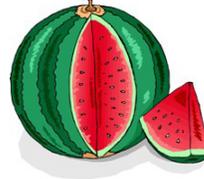
July 2014

## English Hills Summer Picnic: July 26

Since we changed the format from Watermelon Bash to Summer Picnic, the turnout to our summer event has been much better. Maybe it's because we have more food now. Whatever the reason, this is turning into a very enjoyable experience.

If you are new to English Hills, or not, it's a great opportunity to meet with your neighbors. The location will be on the **Foxfire Lane cul de sac, 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 26**. Don't forget to bring a folding chair for your comfort.

The community will provide watermelon, fried chicken, and drinks. If you would like to bring a side dish, it would be most welcome.



We have invited a representative from the Henderson County Sheriff's Office to update us on ways to make our homes and community more secure. You won't want to miss this fun and informative event. See you there.

## The Community Speed Limit

The speed limit hasn't changed. It's still 25 mph, but the need to watch your speed has become increasingly more important with more children now living in English Hills.

As a rule of thumb, please keep your speed to 20 mph or less. This

should give you ample time to react to unforeseen activity from the side streets.

This is a wonderful community for walking and riding bikes. Watch your speed, and keep it safe.



**At Left:  
Scene from  
the Fall 2013  
English Hills  
Picnic. Please  
join us on  
Saturday,  
July 26!**

## Answering your questions about the EHHA

**Bill Geiger**

For the past three years or so, we have had an undercurrent of mistruths in our community concerning the EHHA Board, which I will refer to throughout this article as the Board. In this article, I will do my best to address those mistruths, and at the same time, I will invite you to become a part of the dialogue.

We are a small community of 58 homes, and each household has a responsibility to maintain the beauty and tranquility of English Hills. The Board was set up at the inception of English Hills to give the homeowners a voice in maintaining the community. In addition, the Board was given the responsibility of providing social events to bring the community together.

Now, let's get to some of the most popular mistruths, whether they be intentional or not:

**Annual Dues.** The annual dues of \$25 is due on May 1, which is the beginning date of the community year. The dues were \$20 until the Annual Meeting of 2014, at which time the amount of the new dues structure was passed. The increase was considered three years ago, but had been tabled until now.

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Answering your questions about EHHA

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There seems to be a misconception that the Board uses community dues for Board parties and events. There are **no** Board parties and events – there are **English Hills** parties and events, and they are designed to bring homeowners together in a social setting, as the Board has been tasked to do in the EHHA Bylaws, Article 2, initially approved on May 6, 1976.

For the year ended Apr. 30, 2014, the amount of dues collected was \$760, which means that 15 households still owe dues for the prior year. Expenses paid for community social events amounted to \$246 for the year. The largest single expense for the community is the cost of electricity for the entrance lighting. That amount for this past year was \$413.

Whether the dues be \$20 or \$25, these constant accusations by three or four homeowners have proven to be pure silliness. It's time be part of the solution and not the problem. The Board takes its responsibilities very seriously, and if homeowners have realistic ideas for improvement, we are happy to

listen. There will be more to come soon on that subject.

**Newsletter.** A while back, one of our homeowners suggested that – as a cost-cutting action – we could dispense with color in our newsletter and maybe use cheaper paper. Neither of these actions would have saved a dime, since the newsletter has never been paid for by the community. The writing, professional editing, and layout is all time that is donated, along with the special paper and the ink necessary to print it. And that's the way it will remain for the near future.

The additional \$5 was added to cover those times when services or materials are not being donated, and that would include the time and materials for the community directory.

**Homeowner Upkeep.** It's the responsibility of each homeowner to keep their property maintained in a reasonable manner, which means that the grass be cut during the growing months, while a prevention of overall overgrowth is kept in check. *Home & Garden* is not judging English Hills, and expensive landscaping is not required. If you notice your yard receiving any judgmental comments from unofficial "inspectors" surveying the

community, rest assured they are not Board members.

**Elections.** Last, but not least, is the election process. In order to conduct the Annual Meeting each year, we must have representation of at least 20 homes, as directed in Article 4, Section 5 of the EHHA Bylaws. The voting for the slate of officers can be done with an in-person vote or a designated proxy. The turnout at this meeting is generally abysmal, so the proxy is important. Some choose to believe that the proxy is not a legitimate vote, but it is detailed in Article 3, Section 3 of the EHHA Bylaws.

If you are one of those who proclaim that "it's always the same people on the Board," then **step forward and make your intentions known about wanting to serve.**

The community needs new people to get involved, and you could be one of them. Those who serve, and have served on this Board, do so because we have a deep love for English Hills. We wish more homeowners would donate their time to join in our efforts to ensure a safe, secure, beautiful English Hills. If you share that goal, then let's work together to accomplish it.

Dogs on the loose

If you see a strange dog on your block, try to determine if the dog is a part of our community **before** calling Animal Control. The Board has no authority to be an enforcement arm, but we don't want to see dogs running unattended in English Hills.

We are open for solutions to this problem; however, we believe that the solutions should be of a positive nature. We are working to solve the problem – not make it worse. Contact any Board member with your ideas.

**Save the date for the Fall Picnic**  
**Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**  
**on the Oakshire cul-de-sac – more details soon!**

Your EHHA Officers 2014-2015

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