

The Rockford News

Double rainbow over Rockford!
Photo taken from the top of Rockford Circle on July 18th

Summer Bounty

Community Courtesy

One of the reasons we love Rockford is that it's a safe, walkable community. Many Rockford residents walk their dogs, run, or walk during the cooler early morning and early evening hours. Because we don't have sidewalks, people walk along the sides of the streets. Please be mindful of this when you're driving through the community — help keep Rockford safe for our residents and pets by slowing down when you see pedestrians at or near the roadside to make sure they have enough time to get out of the way.

Thank you!

Save the Date!
Annual Homeowners Meeting
October 9th, 3:30pm - 5pm
Palisades Church
 watch your email for more information

For those who love the fresh, locally grown produce available during the summer, there are alternatives to the local market right in Homewood:



J&S Produce: Operated by Jason and Sheila Davidson, this produce stand offers fruit, vegetables, flowers, honey, and other items fresh from their family and friends' farms in Chilton County. They can be found in the parking lot next to Trinity United Methodist Church (at 1400 Oxmoor Road near the Homewood Central Library) every week during the summer months on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 7am to 4pm. Board member Catherine Forsythe says the produce is fantastic! For daily updates and information, you can find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/JS-Produce-605602482846423/>

West Homewood Farmers Market: Voted the "Best Farmers Market" in Central Alabama in 2015, this lively market is open June - August on Tuesday nights from 5pm to 8pm and offers a variety of fresh produce stands as well as live entertainment and local food trucks. Oxmoor Road at Oak Grove Road. For more information, check their website at <http://www.westhomewood.com/>

Homewood Market: Sponsored by the Urban Cookhouse, this market is open every Saturday thru Aug 20th, 8am to 12 noon at Homewood Central Park, 1623 Oxmoor Road



In the last few weeks, several residents have complained about people soliciting in the neighborhood.

If someone comes to your door, do not open the door unless you know them! If you think they're up to more than soliciting business, or feel uncomfortable, call the Birmingham Police — *if you feel threatened or in danger, call 911*

- Thick shrubs can provide cover for a burglar jimmying his way in. Keep vegetation trimmed low, and consider installing thorny plants close to the house to thwart thieves
- Check the position of mirrors in your living room or entry from your front windows. If you can see the reflection of your alarm system, intruders can too—and they'll know if you forgot to arm it when you dashed out on an errand.
- Keep your phone next to the bed at night — and your key fob too if you have an alarm system. If you wake up to noises that sound like someone is breaking in, you can hit the alarm on your key fob to scare the burglar away.
- A spare key stashed under a rock or above the door frame is bound to be discovered. Instead, exchange yours with a neighbor you trust in case of emergency
- If your window security is lax, burglars can come and go without making a sound. Criminals can find ways into your home before breaking in—as part of a cleaning or repair crew, say—and simply unlock a back window for easy access later. Routinely check windows to make sure they're latched. Remember that curtains or shutters keep big-ticket items hidden — if a crook can't see your goodies, he's likely to try a house that has them on display
- You might keep the deadbolt locked on the front door at all times, but what about the back door off the patio? Or maybe you leave the garage door wide open sometimes? Be conscientious about all your entrances.
- Thieves know that common places to keep valuables are the lingerie drawer, nightstand, and underneath the mattress. Smarter stashing places for jewelry, cash, or other small precious items might include the pantry or even the laundry room.
- Cut the packaging for new TV's, computers, or gaming systems into small sections and stack the pieces to hide what came inside. Keep those cut-up cartons inside until the morning of trash or recycling pickup.
- Sharing your travel plans on social media? All a burglar has to do is look up your address and he knows he has plenty of time to help himself.



**The Rockford
HOA Board
wants
YOU!!**

We're seeking people that would like to volunteer for the Homeowners Association Board. The Board usually meets every other month in person, with other business conducted via email. *This is a great way to get to know your neighbors and your neighborhood!*

If you're interested, please let one of the Board members below know by September 6th.

President: LAMAR JEFFRIES
740 Rockford Circle
205-612-8033 | ljeffries205@yahoo.com

Vice President: JUDI ALEXANDER
700 Rockford Drive
205-915-3510 | jmalex@aol.com

Treasurer: CATHERINE FORSYTHE
736 Rockford Circle
sewingcath@mindspring.com

Secretary: TANYA EPSTEIN
764 Rockford Circle
205-492-9088 | tepstein@kpsgroup.com

Welcome Comm.: LUCYNDA SMITH
732 Rockford Circle
205-917-1390 | scholless@earthlink.net

Welcome Comm.: MADRENE ROBERTS
750 Rockhurst Drive
205-290-1510 | dmyroberts@yahoo.com

Member: JIM MILLYARD
665 Rockhurst Drive
205-290-4246 | millyard@bellsouth.net

Member: HOWARD CAMPBELL
629 Rockhurst Drive
205-269-2159 | otis1313@hotmail.com

Member: BUDDY THRASHER
712 Rockford Circle

Member: SHIRLEY COUNTER
812 Rockhurst Lane
256-431-6575 | shirleycounter7591@gmail.com

Member: GREG RAGSDALE
713 Rockhurst Drive
205-945-9021 | gregandgrace@mac.com

Watering frequency...

When can too much of something good be bad?

With our high temperatures in the summer months, keeping your lawn green and healthy can be a challenge and watering is key to maintaining that vibrant lawn. However, a proper watering strategy is crucial, including the time you water, how much you water, and a variety of other factors. Below are some basic questions you need to ask when deciding on the watering frequency for your lawn, as well as answers to help you get started.

When is the best time for me to water my lawn?

The answer to this question is simple – The earlier, the better! The best time to water your lawn is very early in the morning when the air is cooler and your lawn is still wet from dew. By watering in the morning, you'll avoid some of the rapid evaporation that would happen later in the day as the sun comes out and temperatures rise. This gives the lawn... time to absorb the water in the soil and reach the root zone.

Watering your lawn early in the morning is tremendously better than watering it at night, for completely opposite reasons. While watering during the day causes water to evaporate too quickly, watering in the evening allows water to cling to the grass for too long. Overnight, the water will continue to rest in the soil, around the roots, and on top of the foliage, which will encourage it to rot, develop fungus, and attract insects.

How often should I water my lawn and how do I know if it needs to be watered?

It may come as a surprise that more plants are actually killed through over-watering than under-watering. The key to proper watering is to water deeply and infrequently. What this means is when you water your lawn, you want the water to soak deep down into the soil in order to reach the roots. When water is absorbed at this level, it will retain in the soil and you will not need to water the lawn every day. Watering on a daily basis is not beneficial to your lawn. Too much water can be just as damaging to plants as too little water and the excessive irrigation will invite future disease problems.

Dry soil is an indicator that the lawn needs more water. If the soil is dry, it is dehydrated and needs water. If the soil is moist, there is no need to irrigate. A simple test is to walk across the lawn. If the grass blades spring back, hold off on watering. If you can see your footprints, the soil is most likely dehydrated. Your goal is for the lawn to receive enough water to keep the soil slightly moist in the upper six inches of soil. This usually requires at least one inch of water per watering session or around 30 minutes of watering, however, each lawn is different.

Do I still water my lawn if it rains?

When scheduling your watering frequency, it's very important to take into account upcoming rainfall. Do not water your lawn if heavy rains are expected soon, and if you use an automatic watering system, be sure to update the system's preferences around days expected to have heavy rain. Keep in mind this is for heavy rainfall when the water will be able to soak into the soil and reach the roots. Sprinkling or a light supply of rainfall will not provide enough water for your lawn and you should continue to water as planned.

What about the other plants on my property?

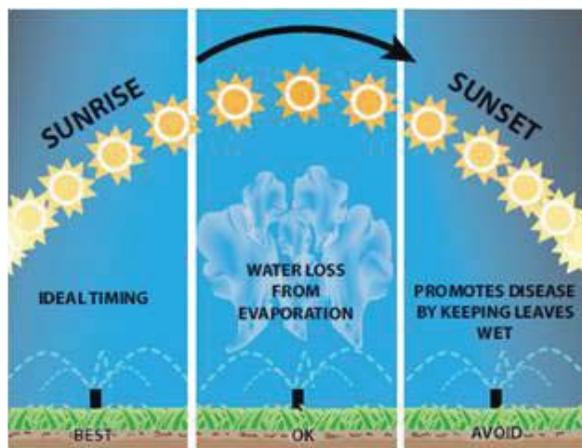
If your lawn has other landscaping elements such as trees, shrubs, and flowers, be sure to understand their watering requirements. While some plants need to be watered daily, others will only need a couple of waterings per week. A plant's age also determines how often you need to water it. Young, newly planted landscaping requires more water to establish and grow a strong root system. On the other hand, mature, established plants don't need to be watered as often. Instead, like your

lawn, they will need a large amount of water at one time so that their roots can maintain good health deep in the ground.

What is the best way to water my lawn?

Unless you want to get up before the sun rises to water your lawn, we advise getting a watering system installed. On top of letting you get extra sleep, choosing and operating a watering system correctly can also reduce water bills, insect and disease problems, and maintenance requirements. Also, keep in mind that certain landscape elements, such as flowers and potted plants, may require more attention and water than your irrigation system will be scheduled to provide for the lawn.

Watering your lawn correctly during the summer months is crucial and sets up your lawn's health for the remainder of the year.



Remember Recycling

Wednesday Mornings 6am

Recycling is picked up with same trucks that are used for trash pickup, but the materials are brought to the Birmingham Recycling & Recovery center. Place your materials for recycling in the same spot you would put your trash on Wednesday mornings by 6am.

Materials that are accepted in the City recycling program include:

- Mixed Paper: cereal or other packaged food boxes, phone books, magazines, office paper, junk mail, etc.
- Newspaper
- Corrugated Cardboard: broken down
- Steel, aluminum, and tin cans (rinsed)
- Plastics - most plastics, contents emptied & rinsed

Target has a glass recycling receptacle.
Publix accepts plastic grocery bags.

SUMMER RECIPE

Granny's *Killer* Home

Baked Cheesecake



Crust: 2 cups fresh graham cracker crumbs
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup melted butter

In a bowl, blend graham cracker crumbs with sugar; stir well with a fork. Add melted butter, blend with fork, and press firmly into bottom and sides of a 10" springform pan. Bake crust at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Remove crust from oven and reduce heat to 300 degrees.

Filling: 40 ounces softened cream cheese
2 cups sugar
7 eggs

1 tablespoon vanilla

With a mixer, beat softened cream cheese with sugar until well blended. Add the eggs, 2 at a time; beat until mixture is light and fluffy. Blend in vanilla.

Baking: Carefully pour mixture into crust and bake at 300 degrees for 1½ to 2 hours (*do not open oven door!!*). Turn off oven, and slightly prop open oven door so cooling process happens slowly, which will prevent the top of the cheesecake from forming cracks or collapsing.

Serve once cheesecake is completely cooled. May be served plain or with cherry or blueberry pie filling on the side as a topping. And Granny always said if it cracked on top during the cooling process, either of those concealed the cracks and made it appear that the cook intended to serve it that way!

OR...serve with fresh strawberries, blackberries, blueberries, peaches, or other fruit from one of the Farmers Markets on Page 1!

Courtesy of Catherine Forsythe

Has Your Contact Information Changed?

You must keep the Rockford HOA informed about:

- ***changes to your contact information***
- ***information about any renters or other non-Owner resident if you are not residing at Rockford on a day-to-day basis***

Please submit the following form to the HOA if and when those things change

Homeowner Name(s):	
Homeowner Address:	
Homeowner Phone Number(s):	
Homeowner Email Address(es):	
Renter Name(s):	
Rockford Address:	
Renter Phone Number(s):	
Renter Email Address(es):	