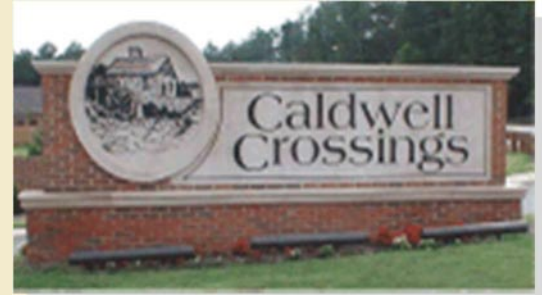




Caldwell Crossings Home Owners Association



News You Can Use

Visit Your website: caldwellcrossings.org

Don't be a victim

F.B.I. statistics show that 1 in every 6 home will be burglarized this year, and 1 in every 4 burglaries involves forced entry.

Most burglars only need 60 to 90 seconds to complete their act. Unfortunately, most entries are made through open garages, unlocked doors and windows. Open garages provide the perfect opportunity for burglars to access your home and valuables. Here is a simple checklist to ensure that you don't become victim of burglary.

When returning to your residence

- Is my garage door shut?
- Did I take my purse/wallet out of my car?
- Is my car locked?
- Did I lock the door behind me?
- When leaving your residence
- Did I lock the front door?
- Did the Garage door shut all the way?
- Are the other cars at my home locked?



Memorial Day

Three years



after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country

It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some States Have Confederate Observances Many Southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April, Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day. To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten,

in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "**The National Moment of Remembrance Act**," To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of

(Continued on page 4)

Helping a neighbor

HELP! My front door, a Thermatru originally installed by Harbar Construction, is not holding up as well as it should. Has anyone else had issues with their front door's paint bubbling up? I've spoken with several repairmen about replacing it, but, I'm afraid I'll have the same problem with another fiberglass door. Someone mentioned the dark color of the door may be contributing to the problem. When I purchased one of the model homes, I wasn't expecting to have to replace my door after 10 years.

Nancy Prater

205.257.2383 (office) | 205.482.8941 (cell)

Answer to problem:

It has come to my attention that the supplier of cabinets, in the Harbar built homes, used a hinge manufactured by "HETTICH AMERICA L.P." These hinges have a defect, that causes a small plastic part to break, at which time the hinge will no longer allow the door to stay closed. Hittich will replace all the hinges with the updated, new and improved product.

You will have to go to the Hittich America L.P. web sight and find and print out the Product Replacement form. Be sure to count all your cabinet doors that could possibly need a new hinge. Send the completed form with a \$20 check (packing and shipping charge), to the address on the form - in Buford, Georgia. Hittich will send you as many as you need. I got about 42 because the hinges don't always break at the same time. If you only replace the few that might have initially broken, and have to go back to Hittich at a later date, they will require another \$20.

Installation will require drilling some new holes in your door as the replacement hinge screw holes don't line up with the originals. It is a very easy fix however. If you have any questions please contact me.

Bert Brosowsky 4138 Crossings Lane 205 980-6861

If you receive a paper copy of our newsletter. We do not have an email address for you., please send your email address communications@caldwellcrossings.org. Hand delivery of the newsletter has been done by Vern Hydorn and Mike Smith. If you can help them, it would be appreciated.

Extra, Extra Read All About It!

Do you have something to say? Would you like to share your expertise on a subject? Do you have helpful hints? Well your neighbors are waiting to hear from you. Send your thoughts, hints suggestions to

communications@caldwellcrossings.org
and see them published in our next issue?

WELCOME

Please welcome the following to our neighborhood:

- Raymond and Betty Nelson
- 3216 Crossings Drive
- Bryan Self
- 3400 Crossings Way.

Sewer Credits

Sewer Credits for Sprinkler Usage

If your residence is located in Southlake, Riverchase, Inverness, Mill Springs or Caldwell Crossings and you have a separately metered automatic sprinkler system, we can issue a sewer credit for sprinkler usage. You may contact us at 205-444-7523 or [email fendleya@ci.hoover.al.us](mailto:fendleya@ci.hoover.al.us) for meter reading forms.

Once you have a meter reading form, you read your meter yourself (it's important to note on the form if your meter reads in gallons or cubic feet) and [email](mailto:fendleya@ci.hoover.al.us) or return the form to: Hoover Building Inspections

**2020 Valleydale Rd.
Suite 103
Hoover, AL 35244**

Submitting Readings

You can submit readings two or three times each year depending on your usage. You should submit a reading at least once a year. Once the form is received, the credit is processed and posted to your Birmingham Water Works account.

Water Leaks

You may also request a sewer credit for a leak. You must submit a copy of your invoice from the company who made the repairs or the receipts where you purchased items to make the repairs yourself. Also submit a copy of the Birmingham Water Works bill that reflects the charges resulting from the leak.

This information should be mailed to
Hoover Building Inspections
2020 Valleydale Rd.
Suite 103
Hoover, AL 35244

TRASH COLLECTION REMINDER

Please help in keeping our neighborhood clean and neat looking. Some homeowners are putting trash bags and/or trash receptacles at the curb several days prior to pickup service. **When this happens on weekends, it is particularly unsightly to neighbors and guests visiting our area.**



Pick up service days are **Tuesday and Friday** for trash and Wednesday for recyclables. In accordance with Section 6.20(b) of the Caldwell Crossings Covenants, "trash cans and containers shall at all times be kept at the rear or inside a dwelling and shall be screened from view from streets and adjacent lots and dwellings by appropriate landscaping or fencing approved by the ARC, unless placed at the curb on the day of pickup by the waste pickup service for the Development."

Since trash pickup comes rather early, it is permissible to place trash bags and trash receptacles on the curb on the evening of the day prior to the pickup service. **Homeowners who use a lawn service company to maintain their yards should have the lawn service company take the grass and/or tree clipping with them or have them stored in accordance with the Covenant requirements.**

Computer Corner



My internet speed is **not** what is advertised.

Almost no one gets the internet speed that your internet service provider (ISP) advertises. External conditions make it difficult to accurately tell you the speed you will get but in advertising your ISP will show the best speed they have. However, the advertised speed and your speed show be pretty close. You might want to check your speed using a free application. Point your browser to **SPEEDTEST.NET** You should get close to 70% of the speed promised by your ISP. So if your ISP tells you that your download speed will be 24 Megabytes per second,, you should get atleast 16.8 MBPS. If you get less than 70% you may have a log jam somewhere in your connection or system. You can try to identify the problem by doing the speed test on another computer in your home. If you get a good rate, then perhaps the problem is with your other computer.

Check on the way your computer connects to the internet. If you are using Wi-Fi, it could be your wireless router. Try connecting directly to your router or to your modem.. If this improves your speed, perhaps you might consider replacing your router.. You can also try a different port on your router. Or changing out the Ethernet cable you are currently using.. If you try these and there is no improvement, it might be time to contact your service provider and have them verify your connection.



(Continued from page 1) **Memorial Day**

Remembrance Act," This act encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance : "It's a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day."

Tips for Saving Water

- Don't over water your lawn.
- To prevent water loss from evaporation, don't water your lawn during the hottest part of the day or when it is windy.
- Only run the dishwasher and clothes washer when they are fully loaded.
- • When washing dishes by hand, use two basins - one for washing and one for rinsing rather than let the water run.
- Use a broom, rather than a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- Repair dripping faucets and leaky toilets. Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day



Our Message Board is back. You can use the link on our webpage to get to the message board. Feel free to post virtually anything you want as long as it is not offensive. No sign up is needed.

<http://boards2go.com/boards/board.cgi?user=caldwellcrossings>

[Check out the revised website](#)

New Board Member

Harriette Hyché has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors for the unexpired term of Dave Livingston. We are delighted that she has stepped up to fill this role. Harriette is married to Jerry and they have lived here nearly 7 years . Harriette is retired from one of the larger insurance companies in Birmingham.



HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION - is allowed the owner-occupant and is claimed at the time of assessment.

A. Any owner-occupant under 65 years of age is allowed homestead exemption on state taxes not to exceed \$4,000 and on county taxes not to exceed \$2,000 assessed value, both excluding all school and municipal taxes.

B. Homestead "Special" - If you are 65 years of age or older **and your income is less than \$12,000**, tax

credit is given for all the State tax. The County tax credit is based on the first \$5,000 of assessed value. You must claim this exemption; proof of age and income is required.

C. Any owner-occupant over 65 years of age, having a net annual taxable income of \$7,500 or less, is exempt from taxes on the principal residence. You must claim this exemption; proof of age and income is required.

D. Any owner-occupant who is **100% disabled or blind** is exempt from taxes on the principal residence. You must claim this exemption and proof of disability is required.

Special exemptions (A, B, C, and D above) must be filed annually with the Property Tax Commissioner.

Our Board of Directors is charged with maintaining, preserving and enhancing the common assets of our association. In order to perform those duties our Board depends upon the advice and counsel of experts in various fields of community association management: our management company, attorneys, landscapers, insurance specialists, etc. When making decisions regarding our community, the Board is expected to consider all the facts and factors involved in the issue and make the best business decision possible. Sometimes those decisions may not appear to be in the best interests of all of the owners, however if each owner understood all of the underlying issues that go into making the decision, they would understand that the board's choice of action is usually the most practical and well thought out. In addition to dealing with insurance, maintenance, financial and contractual decisions, the board must also balance their positions on the board with their role as a homeowner. If assessments are increased that means they are increased for them also. If rules are enacted, that means they have to obey them, too. Being a board member does not grant one immunity from the responsibilities of living in an association. In fact, serving on the board reflects just how seriously they take that responsibility. So, please keep in mind that our board members are actually doing "double-duty" for our community: they serve as board member and neighbor...and they deserve a heartfelt "thank you" for all of their contributions to our community!

Don't leave your pet in your car

Summer is a time for both you and your pet to enjoy the sunshine and outdoors, but along with the fun, the season also offers up situations that can endanger your pet. By taking precautions, you can decrease the chance that disaster will happen. The Humane Society offers these tips for pet owners to keep their furry friends safe this summer. Never Leave Your Pet in the Car In nice weather you may be tempted to take your pet with you in the car while you travel or do errands. But during warm weather, the inside of your car can reach 120 degrees in a matter of minutes, even if you're parked in the shade. This can mean real trouble for your companion animals left in the car. Dogs and cats can't perspire and can only dispel heat by panting and through the pads of their feet. Pets who are left in hot cars even briefly can suffer from heat exhaustion, heat stroke, brain damage, and can even die. Don't think that just because you'll be gone "just a minute" that your pet will be safe while you're gone; even an air-conditioned car with the motor off isn't healthy for your pet.



From the Board of Directors:

• Be courteous to your neighbors by complying with the restrictive covenants. These were established to provide for quality of life and protection of property values. A copy of restrictions is available on-line at our website caldwellcrossings.org.

• We need every resident to consistently maintain their lawns including irrigation, fertilization, mowing & trimming. Please correct any maintenance deficiencies and avoid our need to assess HOA fines. We ask that tenants notify their landlords about any needed landscaping maintenance.

• We ask that trailers and other items which are not permitted to be parked in the driveways and streets be stored properly off site or in the garage.

Architectural Review Committee

Jim Moon

Ann Rowell

Vickie Oster

Contact the ARC By email:

ARC@caldwellcrossings.org



Board of Directors

President: Jim Moon

Secretary: Steve Goldman

Member at large: Harriette Hyche

Treasurer (non Board Member)

Vern Hydorn

Editor and Publisher for Newsletter:

Steven Goldman

You can email the Board of Directors directly. Use the following email address:

BOD@caldwellcrossings.org

Include your name, address and phone number. A reply will be sent as soon as practical.

