

STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 1, Issue 4

SUMMER 2006

COVENANTS AND BYLAWS UPDATE



The Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and By-laws approved by the required 80% of Association members earlier this year has been filed at the Courthouse. This update focused on removing references to Steeple Run Development and on combining all of the various documents and amendments currently recorded at the Courthouse. The language of the original documents had been retained to preserve the provisions of the existing conditions and restrictions.

A copy of the final document will be mailed shortly to each home-

owner of record. Each page has been numbered and dated and contains the County Recorder's document number to avoid confusion with earlier, and any future, versions. A copy will also be emailed as a PDF file.

As we continue to refine the Covenants, input from the residents is needed before more substantial changes can be initiated. This is your opportunity to suggest changes and refinements to the Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Bylaws, guided by the basic principles of fairness. Some suggestions have already been raised concerning financial practices, the wording of the restrictions and definitions for temporary or permanent structures, garage size, outdoor antennas, and the manner in which the Board, Phase Directors and Committee members are elected or appointed.

The ultimate goal is to enhance the value and beauty of the properties in Steeple Run, keeping within the original vision of our development and without causing any member undue financial or emotional distress. We all want to same thing – for our property to steadily increase in value over the years. This includes upholding the covenants and bylaws of the Association, seeing that homeowners receive value for their tax dollars, and keeping our community safe from crime.

We want to hear from you. Please send your comments and suggestions to SRHA Secretary Jill P. before July 1, 2006.

Fence Waiver Approved by SRHA Board

By unanimous resolution of the SRHA Board of Directors, another fence waiver was approved and filed at the McHenry County courthouse on May 17, 2006.

The fence waiver was issued to Karen and Ted F. after inspection and review of the structure by the Architectural Control Committee.

These waivers apply to structures that were in existence prior to the amendment to the Covenants that prohibits the installation of fences except for those required by County code such as around a pool. Perimeter fences are no longer acceptable and dog runs must be limited to an area no larger than 150 square feet.

If you have questions about the new fencing restrictions, please contact your Phase Director or Dave M. of the Architectural Control Committee.

The waiver for Cindy and Craig I. is currently being processed.

Special dates of interest:

- GROUP NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS BEGINNING JUNE 12 8:00 AM AND 7:30 PM
- NEXT BOARD MEETING: WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 7:30 PM
- DEADLINE FOR COVENANT SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS: SAT. JULY 1
- SRHA DUES ASSESSMENTS DUE BY JULY 1, 2006
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY AND MOVIE NIGHT SAT. AUGUST 26.

Inside this issue:

TREASURER'S REPORT	2
DUES ASSESSMENT	2
GROUP WALK	2
SOCIAL SCENE	2
DIRECTORY UPDATE	3
SPRINKLER SYSTEMS	3
GAS COST CALCULATOR	4



STEEPLE RUN NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2005-06

	<u>1st QRT</u>	<u>2nd QTR</u>	<u>3rd QRT</u>	<u>4th QTR</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
INCOME	5150.00	210.00	158.00	0	5518.00
EXPENSES-Actual thru April	1702.57	981.84	934.95	465.14	4084.50
EXPENSES-Est. thru May	1702.57	981.84	934.95	800.00	4419.36
BALANCE -Est. thru May	3447.43	-771.84	-776.95	-800.00	1098.64

Fiscal Year : As we near the end of the fiscal year (June through May) we expect to see fourth quarter expenses lower than projected. This is due primarily to the delay in resolving the landscape and lawn care provider as well as lower legal and communication expenses. It is important to understand that these prospective expenses will carry over into the next fiscal quarter. Nonetheless, it does mean that we will be in a positive cash flow for the fiscal year.

Looking forward to the next fiscal year, we anticipate more activity in the legal and administrative area.

The amendments and update of the By-Laws will have high priority. We are also exploring options to upgrade the monuments at the Sands road entrance. This would be a major expense and draw down a significant part of the reserve. The current prospective budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year anticipates a slight deficit cash flow. (Approx \$200 – 400) in excess of the annual assessment income of \$5180. However, it does not yet reflect the potential cost of liability insurance, which could be up to an additional \$1100.00.

Dues Assessments. The annual dues assessment for the 2006-07

year will again be \$70. A notice has been mailed and payment should be received by June 30, 2006. This will be the fourth year that the assessment has been at the \$70 level. We will continue to review expenses in an effort to continue providing value at reasonable costs to the members.

We appreciate the cooperation of all homeowners in the prompt payment of the annual dues assessment. Delays in payment result in extra costs for the Association and could result in penalties, property liens, etc. for delinquent homeowners. Thanks again for your cooperation.

Tired of the view from your treadmill? Want to have companionship and support while you walk? Everyone interested in going for a group neighborhood walk can gather at the Crystal Lake Avenue entrance monuments. Here are the most requested walking times: 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Starting June 12, 2006, this walk will also go through Wynwood and surrounding areas as well. Anyone can start, quit or miss at anytime. For more information, contact Karen M. at 444-8874. Let's be "Heart Healthy!"



The Social Scene: Out and About in Steeple Run

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY & MOVIE NIGHT

The Neighborhood Party is scheduled for Saturday August 26, 2006. The Block Party will be combined with "Movie Night." **Please contact Karen F. or Nancy E.** if you have any questions. The event is still in the planning stages and more information will follow.

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Our annual Neighborhood Garage Sale took place on Thursday-Sunday May 18-21 in approximately 7 garages with 10 participating families.

Justine W. took charge of running the sale. We would like to acknowledge and praise her for her effort and to extend our appreciation of all the hard work she put into the planning. A job well done.

EASTER EGG HUNT

The Easter Egg Hunt was a very successful event. On April 8th at 3:30 p.m., the children raced to find as many of the filled eggs they could which ended the event in record time...good job, all of you!

We would like to thank Jennifer M. and her volunteers for all their time and effort in making this a memorable event.

Volume 1, Issue 4

Directory Updates

Please make the following changes to your 2005 Steeple Run Directory:

- CYGAN Add rhcygan@sbcglobal.net
- NATTRASS Add Davidn@bulklift.com
- NELSON Remove Wendi, Brittany and Lindsey
- NELSON Correct phone number to 1-847-227-8653
- PETERSON Change , (comma) to . (dot) in jill@peterson.name



On Saturday June 3, Hastings Asphalt Services worked in our subdivision. 9 SRHA members took advantage of the sealcoating proposal. As a demonstration of the power of negotiating as a group of SRHA members, these homeowners saved approximately \$1000.00! Thanks to Ron R. and Herb L. for bringing this to our members.

Sprinkler Systems for a Perfect Yard by Dave M. & Herb L.

If you love a green lawn and lush flowers, you might want to consider adding an underground sprinkler system. Sprinkler systems also add to the resale value of your home and allow you to spend your valuable time in other areas.

If you're considering the purchase of a sprinkler system, here are some hints you should know: Sprinkler systems consist of zones; most zones will have up to 6 rotating heads on each (this is based upon water pressure). Each zone can cover approximately 5400 sq ft of open lawn area. Separate zones should be used for landscaped or flower areas and require different spray heads. The typical system in this neighborhood will require between 12-16 zones, depending upon the yard topology. Each system has a programmable timer. Many systems offer the option of

rain sensors (so your system does not run if it has rained) and even a remote control (so you can turn the zones on and off while adjusting the system, working in the yard or just playing around). If you're purchasing a new system take a close look at the number of sprinkler heads (ideally you want head-to-head coverage where one head sprays all the way to the next), the brand of equipment (Rain Bird may be the best) and installation of an RPZ (or reserve flow prevention) valve on the main water line exiting the house. New systems can cost between \$400-500 per zone, depending on the layout and attributes of the system design.

Sprinkler systems require yearly maintenance. Each Fall it must be closed, usually by a professional, in order to blow all the water out of the system before the ground

freezes. Most services also include Spring openings in their fee, where minor repairs and adjustments are also typically included at that time. You can expect to pay about \$200 to \$300 per year for this service, depending upon the layout of the system.

I have worked with and recommend a local company for both new services and yearly maintenance (McHenry County Lawn Sprinklers @ 847-366-9926). Feel free to contact them or other companies if you love a lush green lawn!

NOTE: The Board doesn't recommend the use of any contractor over another nor does the Board guarantee the cost or quality of the services but offers this information to SRHA members to use as they see fit. Other contractors are welcome to submit separate bids as well.



#	Contractor	Contact:	Telephone:	Contract:	Parameters:	\$Open:	\$Close:	Total Annual Cost Estimate:
1	All Green		815-568-7160					
2	Allstate	Noel	847-817-6100	No	Base cost plus zone pricing	Base = \$50, plus \$5 per zone	Base = \$50, plus \$5 per zone	\$220 for (12) twelve zones
3	American National		847-566-0099	Only services systems that they install				
4	BECMAR		815-356-1467	No	Flat Fee	\$75.00	\$144.00	\$219
6	McHenry Co. Lawn Sprinkler Systems		847-366-9926		By Zone	By Zone: \$20-\$25	By Zone: \$20-\$25	High: \$300 Low: \$240
7	NatureScapes	Yvonne	847-639-6900		By location, by time	\$145-\$155	\$120-\$130	High: \$285 Low: \$265
10	WaterWorks		815-385-5599	Yes	Service Contract for both open and close	\$275 open/close	\$275 open/close	\$275



STEEPLE RUN NEWS

THEY'RE COMING: JAPANESE BEETLES

Adult Japanese beetles begin emerging in late June to mid-July and will continue to be around for 6-8 weeks. They may fly 10-15 miles, attracted to other beetles and damaged leaves.



The adult beetles prefer to feed on roses, zinnia, marigold, petunias, hollyhock, raspberries, crabapples, tall hedge buckthorn, lindens, Japanese maples, pin oak, Norway maple, birch, sycamore, poplar, American mountain ash, pussy willow. Generally dogwood, forsythias, holly, red maple, silver maple, boxwood, burning bush, green ash, redbud, mock orange, evergreens, hosta and lilac are not affected. The adults are most active from 9am – 3 pm on warm sunny days.



The adults are about 1/3 to 1/2" long, shiny, and have a metallic greenish-bronze appearance with a metallic green head and reddish coppery brown wing covers. They have 5 white pairs of tufts of hair on both sides of the abdomen that look like spots and two additional tufts on the top of the abdomen.

This insect spends about 10 months of the year in the soil as a larva feeding

on grass roots. It is a white grub with a characteristic "C" shaped form up to 1" long. Growth is completed during June and the adult emerges in early to mid July in northern Illinois. 40-60 eggs are laid in the soil by one adult female beetle. In 2 weeks they hatch and feed on grass roots and then overwinter in the soil. There is one generation per year.

Non-chemical control

- Early morning hand-picking. When disturbed, they fold their legs and drop to the ground. Hold a can of rubbing alcohol or water with detergent below the infested leaves to catch the beetle when it drops.
- Clean up diseased or early ripening fruit. The odor will attract beetles.
- *Bacillus popilliae* (sold as Milky Spore Disease, Doom or Grub Attack) for grubs, applied to the soil for several years for it to build up to a level that is effective. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), *Diazinon* and *nematodes* (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*) can also be used against grubs.

- Japanese beetle traps are generally ineffective; they attract more beetles to the area.

Chemical control

Insecticidal sprays (like rotenone, Sevin and Tempo) may be applied when the beetles are numerous and feeding on susceptible plants. Sevin can reduce damage for 1-2 weeks (or less if it rains) but is highly toxic to bees and other beneficial insects. Synthetic pyrethroids can also be effective. Since the adults feed for 6-8 weeks, multiple sprays may be needed depending on the product.

Correct timing and application are critical for success. Because they are toxic, please read and follow the label directions exactly. Check with McHenry County Extension office or store staff before selecting a product.

The Japanese beetle can be a destructive pest of trees, plants and turf. It is impossible to eliminate them from your property but with proper management you can reduce the damage inflicted. Healthy and vigorous plants should be able to tolerate some defoliation.



BIRCH BORER

This insect is a serious pest of white-barked birch trees that are stressed by being planted in clay soils or other adverse conditions. It is unlikely that you will see the insect – symptoms will be your first clue that your tree has a problem.

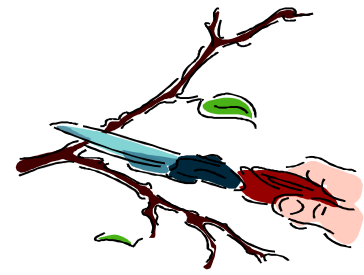
An early warning of borer damage is a yellowing and thinning of foliage in the upper crown of the tree. These symptoms are more evident in hot, dry weather. This wilting is caused by the tunnels bored throughout the trunk and branches, interfering with sap flow. The tunnels can be identified by raised or rippled bumpy surfaces on the bark. Infestations usually begin in the crown and move

down the tree over successive years. If uncontrolled, the tree can die in 2-3 years.

The most effective control is proper cultural practices. As you select your trees, choose a resistant variety. Plant it in a cool, moist, shaded location and not a sunny, open exposed location. Fertilize the tree if needed, provide sufficient water during dry spells, and add 2-4" of mulch to the root zone. Prune dead or declining branches in fall (adults borers are attracted to fresh pruning cuts).

Chemical controls are difficult to administer and are best left to the professionals in late May or early June.

UNSLIGHTLY WEBWORMS



These two common pests create conspicuous gauzy tents in deciduous trees. Crabapple, apple, and cherry trees are the primary hosts for the Eastern Tent Caterpillar. The larvae spin the tents in twig vees. 200-300 caterpillars rest in the tent at night and on cloudy, rainy days, emerging on sunny days to eat the leaves. Usually new leaves will emerge later in the season but defoliation can weaken a tree, making it susceptible to other insects and diseases. By late June adults will lay their eggs which will hatch the following spring.

Approximately 150 species of trees host the Fall Webworm. It prefers maple, crabapple, birch, chokecherry, walnut and willow trees. Eggs are laid on the undersides of leaves and the feeding larvae spin webs over the leaves with some webs large enough to include some branches. The damage, which occurs in late July and August, is more a cosmetic problem than a health threat to the tree.

Removal of the web is the best control for both types. To minimize the damage to

your landscaping and to interrupt their life cycle, remove and destroy the tents when first noticed. Remove at night or on a cloudy day when the caterpillars are inside. Crush the caterpillars or immerse them in an alcohol solution.

The non-chemical Bt (Thuricide or Dipel) or insecticidal soaps must be sprayed directly on young caterpillars in the nests. Orthene, Sevin and Malathion should be applied as soon as the tents are noticed. Follow the directions carefully.



EASTERN TENT CATERPILLAR



FALL WEBWORM

Help eliminate mosquito breeding grounds by draining any standing water. Check for standing water in flower pots, improperly sloped gutters, rain gauges, sagging tarps, and bird baths.

DO YOU TEST YOUR WELL WATER ANNUALLY?

The Standard Test checks for coliform bacteria and nitrates, two contaminants that can infiltrate private wells. The Department of Health and the EPA recommend annual testing for coliform bacteria and nitrate for private wells (\$23 for both/reduced to \$18 fee in April). Since many contaminants are colorless and odorless, testing is the only way to determine whether well water is safe to drink.

Bacteria and chemicals can get into well water and contaminate it in different ways. Some bacteria and chemicals occur naturally. Contaminants such as nitrate can come from animal waste, wastewater, flooded sewers, polluted storm runoff, fertilizers, agricultural runoff, decaying plants, refuse dumps or septic systems that are not working properly. High levels of nitrate in drinking water can cause illness in young children and pregnant

women. If coliform bacteria (normally found in the digestive systems of warm-blooded animals, in sewage, in soil, in surface water and on plants) are present, it is possible that other harmful bacteria like viruses and parasites could also be found in the well water. A well contaminated with coliform bacteria requires immediate attention – and chlorination.

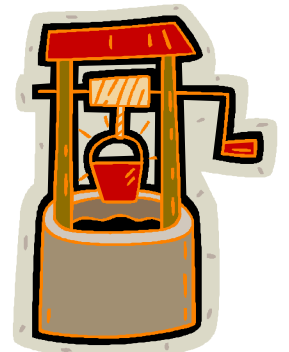
For a nominal charge, the McHenry County Department of Health will also test private wells for lead (\$25), fluoride (\$15) and nuisance chemicals resulting in water hardness (\$18), iron (\$15), odor (sulfate \$10), chloride (\$15), specific conductivity (\$5) and pH (\$5).

Sample kits may be picked up at the health department in Annex A of the county government center 2200 N, Seminary Ave. Woodstock or at the

Algonquin Township office, 3702 Route 14 847-639-2329. Sterile bottles are available from 8 am – 4:30 pm.

If you wish to use the convenient local Drop-off Site, the sample should be collected on Tuesday morning and dropped off at the Township office between 9 am and noon Tuesdays (except holidays). If you plan on delivering your sample to the Health Dept. in Woodstock, you must obtain your sample within 24 hours of delivering it before 10 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The Department of Health will bill later for the water test.

For information about private well water, call the Environmental Division of the Health Dept. at 815-334-4585.





CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2006:
Erik, Elyse, Lisa, Chelsea
and Ashley
WAY TO GO!!



A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Questions? Comments?
Volunteering? Contact:

E-mail: webmaster@steeplerun.org



FYI—

On Wednesday June 7
about 5:45 pm, a McHenry
County sheriff pulled over
a black SUV for passing a
line of left-turning cars
using our right-turn only
lane on Crystal Lake Ave.

That's one less person to
make that dangerous
move....



To estimate your annual gasoline cost, you must first know the gas mileage of your car, the current price of gas and the total number of miles driven per year. Multiply the miles driven by the number obtained from the chart (using mpg along the top and the gas price along the side).

For example, a car that gets 20 mpg, with today's gas price \$2.90 and drives 10,000 miles per year:
14.50 (from the chart using the 20 mpg column and the \$2.90 row) x 10,000 miles driven per year = \$1450.00 per year.

ANNUAL GASOLINE COST CALCULATOR

MPG	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40
\$2.30	28.75	23.00	19.17	16.43	14.38	12.78	11.50	10.45	9.58	8.85	8.21	7.67	7.19	6.76	6.39	6.05	5.75
\$2.35	29.38	23.50	19.58	16.79	14.69	13.06	11.75	10.68	9.79	9.04	8.39	7.83	7.34	6.91	6.53	6.18	5.88
\$2.40	30.00	24.00	20.00	17.14	15.00	13.33	12.00	10.91	10.00	9.23	8.57	8.00	7.50	7.06	6.67	6.32	6.00
\$2.45	30.63	24.50	20.42	17.50	15.31	13.61	12.25	11.14	10.21	9.42	8.75	8.17	7.66	7.21	6.81	6.45	6.13
\$2.50	31.25	25.00	20.83	17.86	15.63	13.89	12.50	11.36	10.42	9.62	8.93	8.33	7.81	7.35	6.94	6.58	6.25
\$2.55	31.87	25.50	21.25	18.21	15.94	14.17	12.75	11.59	10.63	9.81	9.11	8.50	7.97	7.50	7.08	6.71	6.37
\$2.60	32.50	26.00	21.67	18.57	16.25	14.44	13.00	11.82	10.83	10.00	9.29	8.67	8.12	7.65	7.22	6.84	6.50
\$2.65	33.12	26.50	22.08	18.93	16.56	14.72	13.25	12.05	11.04	10.19	9.46	8.83	8.28	7.79	7.36	6.97	6.62
\$2.70	33.75	27.00	22.50	19.29	16.87	15.00	13.50	12.27	11.25	10.38	9.64	9.00	8.44	7.94	7.50	7.11	6.75
\$2.75	34.37	27.50	22.92	19.64	17.19	15.28	13.75	12.50	11.46	10.58	9.82	9.17	8.59	8.09	7.64	7.24	6.87
\$2.80	35.00	28.00	23.33	20.00	17.50	15.56	14.00	12.73	11.67	10.77	10.00	9.33	8.75	8.24	7.78	7.37	7.00
\$2.85	35.62	28.50	23.75	20.36	17.81	15.83	14.25	12.95	11.88	10.96	10.18	9.50	8.91	8.38	7.92	7.50	7.12
\$2.90	36.25	29.00	24.17	20.71	18.12	16.11	14.50	13.18	12.08	11.15	10.36	9.67	9.06	8.53	8.06	7.63	7.25
\$2.95	36.87	29.50	24.58	21.07	18.44	16.39	14.75	13.41	12.29	11.35	10.54	9.83	9.22	8.68	8.19	7.76	7.37
\$3.00	37.50	30.00	25.00	21.43	18.75	16.67	15.00	13.64	12.50	11.54	10.71	10.00	9.37	8.82	8.33	7.89	7.50
\$3.05	38.12	30.50	25.42	21.79	19.06	16.94	15.25	13.86	12.71	11.73	10.89	10.17	9.53	8.97	8.47	8.03	7.62
\$3.10	38.75	31.00	25.83	22.14	19.37	17.22	15.50	14.09	12.92	11.92	11.07	10.33	9.69	9.12	8.61	8.16	7.75
\$3.15	39.37	31.50	26.25	22.50	19.69	17.50	15.75	14.32	13.12	12.12	11.25	10.50	9.84	9.26	8.75	8.29	7.87
\$3.20	40.00	32.00	26.67	22.86	20.00	17.78	16.00	14.55	13.33	12.31	11.43	10.67	10.00	9.41	8.89	8.42	8.00
\$3.25	40.62	32.50	27.08	23.21	20.31	18.06	16.25	14.77	13.54	12.50	11.61	10.83	10.16	9.56	9.03	8.55	8.12
\$3.30	41.25	33.00	27.50	23.57	20.62	18.33	16.50	15.00	13.75	12.69	11.79	11.00	10.31	9.71	9.17	8.68	8.25
\$3.35	41.87	33.50	27.92	23.93	20.94	18.61	16.75	15.23	13.96	12.88	11.96	11.17	10.47	9.85	9.31	8.82	8.37
\$3.40	42.50	34.00	28.33	24.29	21.25	18.89	17.00	15.45	14.17	13.08	12.14	11.33	10.62	10.00	9.44	8.95	8.50
\$3.45	43.12	34.50	28.75	24.64	21.56	19.17	17.25	15.68	14.37	13.27	12.32	11.50	10.78	10.15	9.58	9.08	8.62
\$3.50	43.75	35.00	29.17	25.00	21.87	19.44	17.50	15.91	14.58	13.46	12.50	11.67	10.94	10.29	9.72	9.21	8.75