

# STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 6, Issue 1

LATE FALL 2010

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Therese G.

The weather is getting cooler and the days are getting shorter. It is hard to believe that the holidays will soon be upon us. There are several different things happening in the neighborhood. Take some time to read the other articles in the newsletter.



We want to make the newsletter unique and special to our neighborhood. Jill Peterson, who creates and edits the newsletter, is always looking for neighborhood news, whether it is to welcome a new neighbor or a new member of the family, a special activity at school, graduations, scouting awards, or something else. However, she needs to be informed of the news. Don't assume that it will be found just because it was in the newspaper. If you have news that you would like to share with your neighbors, please send it to Jill at [newsletter@steeplerun.org](mailto:newsletter@steeplerun.org).

You may have noticed that the wooden street sign posts are being replaced as needed. The township is replacing them with a typical

green sign on a metal post. As the wooden posts were unique, the board contacted the township highway department to gain an understanding of why they were not replaced with a like sign. The green signs were used because they are easier for emergency responders to view. In addition, new legislation will require all the signs to be upgraded within the next couple years. The board is exploring options to make signs more unique, as a way to enhance the neighborhood. We expect to have information in time for the annual meeting.

The board operates on a tight budget and the money collected is used for things such as mowing around the monuments, printing and postage for newsletters, directories, and the annual meeting, insurance for the board, etc. The annual dues are only \$85/year. Many other communities charge hundreds of dollars. We rely on everyone to pay on time. Unfortunately, several homeowners are consistently late paying their dues. This results in the treasurer and other board members spending a lot of time contacting those homeowners. As a result the board will be enforcing the provisions listed in the covenants to encourage more timely payments. Please see the article

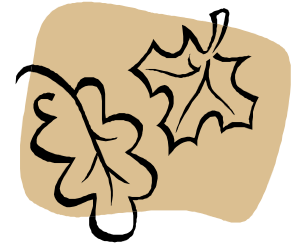
in the newsletter with the details of the changes.

Per the covenants, there must be an Annual Meeting of the Homeowners' Association, each January. We are planning the next meeting on January 22, 2011. The objective of the meeting is to review the activity of the association for the previous year, elect board members, vote on any additional proposals that are presented, and review any new business that is brought forward. Four of the current board members' terms expire in January. Some plan to run again, but we would love to see some new faces join the board. We will also publish a new version of the directory. Copies will be distributed at the meeting. Watch for your official announcement which will be mailed in December along with any proposals to be voted on.

We have a wonderful neighborhood. It only gets better with your support and participation. If you ever have anything you wish to discuss with the board, please feel free to contact any of us.

Therese G.

President, SRHA



### Dates of Interest:

- NOV. 28—LAST DAY TO BURN
- DECEMBER 2—7:30 PM SRHA BOARD MEETING
- JANUARY 22—10:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING

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## STEEPLE RUN NEWS

### TREASURER'S REPORT by Joe O.

FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011					
	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>	5,865.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,865.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	1,857.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,857.99
<b>EST. EXPENSES</b>					0.00
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>					4,007.01
<b>EXPENSE CATEGORY</b>					
Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Est.					
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	1,737.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,737.36
Maintenance-Accrued Est.					
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities	120.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	120.63
Est.					
Social	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,857.99</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,857.99</b>
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>					
					4,007.01

“OUR EXPENSES SO FAR THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN IN LINE WITH THE BUDGET.”

The First Fiscal Quarter ended Aug 31 on a favorable economic note with 69 homeowners annual dues paid. As of the end of the first quarter, 95% of the homeowners have paid their dues. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. One of the remaining properties has been vacant for over a year, and we will address the ongoing liability if and when it is sold. We will continue to encourage the remaining property owners to meet their obligations.

Our expenses so far this year have been in line with the budget. We anticipate higher expenses in the next Quarter due to the Liability Insurance and some accrued expenses for Communications that have not yet been paid.

Although the local and national real estate market is in difficult times, we appreciate the efforts of all homeowners to maintain their property and keep the neighborhood looking good. This helps all of us.

### SRHA ANNUAL MEETING: January 22, 2011

The SRHA Annual Meeting will be held on January 22, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Algonquin Township Offices. If we are unable to reserve the location for the date and time, all members will be notified.

Your packet of Annual Meeting materials will be mailed by December 22. If you do not receive your copy by December 27, please contact Secretary Irene C. There will be more information in the Winter newsletter.



**MARK SATURDAY  
JANUARY 22, 2011**

### Custom Street Signs for Steeple Run

As you drive through our neighboring municipalities, you may have noticed many new street signs. The Federal Highway Administration is requiring signs and posts to meet more stringent standards of reflectivity. These new signs must be made from High Intensity Prismatic (PHI) sheeting to improve visibility and to not fade for 10 years.

The street signs must now use a combination of upper and lower case letters in the Clearview font to increase readability. The new signs will be larger and easier to

see and read at night.

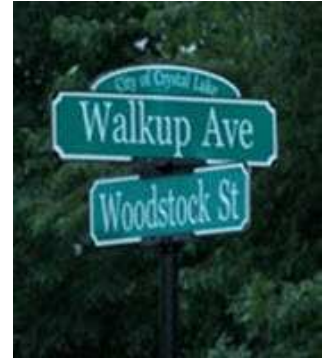
Our township is replacing our brown street posts with new signage to meet the federally-mandated standard for reflectivity. This change to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) went into effect in January 2008 and the township has 7 years to upgrade the Regulatory and Warning signs and 10 years for the Street ID signs.

We have an opportunity to work with the township in creating a unique sign for our subdivision. The SRHA Board

has met with the township road supervisor, Bob Miller, and are exploring our options and the associated costs.

The Board intends to have several design options available for residents to choose from at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2011.

If you would like to design and submit your idea for consideration, please contact Jill P. for the MUTCD requirements. Designs will be discussed at the December 2 board meeting.



This Crystal Lake street sign meets the new standards and has been customized with 'City of Crystal Lake' on the top.

### WANTED: Volunteers

Steeple Run Estates is a great place to live because of our members who volunteer their time and talent. This combination of members who contribute their business acumen, organizational skills, creative ideas and enthusiasm makes our desirable subdivision stand-out.

To continue as a successful homeowners' association, our

board needs a variety of members to represent the viewpoints of all residents.

The SRHA Board of Directors will have 4 open positions to fill at the Annual Meeting on January 22, 2011.

Board members serve a 2 year term, acting as stewards of the Association in the best interests of the 74 member families. The Board develops

the strategies, policies and manages the finances for the SRHA members.

Please consider giving back to your local community by volunteering for the Board or for one of the committees. Contact any board member if you would like to be placed on the ballot or if you have questions about the time commitment involved.



### Interest on Late Annual Assessment Fees in 2011

While the majority pays their yearly assessment fee promptly, some members were several months late in payment, resulting in more notification work and expenses for our treasurer.

Article VII.03 of the SRHA Covenants allows monthly interest and administrative fees to be charged on unpaid late assessments. The Annual Assessment is due on June 1 each year and, for 2011, the Board approved a \$25

administrative collection fee and monthly interest—1.5 % per month accruing after a 30 day grace period ends on July 1. These penalties will kick in for those members 90 days in arrears on September 1, 2011.

If payment is not received by October 1, a lien will be filed and the homeowner will be responsible for all fees and expenses of the lien.





## STEEPLE RUN NEWS

### JOEY P: King of the Blues Finals

In our previous newsletter, we highlighted Joey's regional win in the Guitar Center's annual "King of the Blues" contest. As one of five finalists, Joey competed at the House of Blues in LA in early September.

In his first trip to Holly-

wood, he performed in front of a live audience and the judges. He told a NW Herald reporter that he enjoyed the experience. "It was a great way to showcase my talent. It was a good time."

Although he didn't win the crown, Joey had

beaten thousands of competitors to reach the finals, winning guitar equipment and accessories along the way.

A PR Class of 2008 graduate, Joey is currently majoring in Physical Therapy at NIU.

### KRISTEN L: Engaged



Linda and Herbert L. announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristen to Mr. James Robert Vande Logt, son of Mr. & Mrs. James A. Vande Logt of North Barrington, Illinois.

Kristen is a 2003 graduate of the University of Illinois and a 2009 Master's recipient of National Louis

University. She is currently a fourth grade teacher at Woods Creek Elementary School in Crystal Lake. Mr. Vande Logt, a 2004 graduate of Loyola University-Chicago, is a partner at The EFG Companies, an independent wealth management and financial planning firm in Schaumburg.

### LAURA M: Laura Mac Inc.



In September, Steeple Run resident artist Laura M has opened a boutique in Downtown Crystal Lake. Laura Mac Inc. carries one-of-a-kind special occasion dresses from private label Italian designers and some couture items. Most gowns can be tailored on site. The shop also carries a selection of Laura Mac accessories.

Address: 66 N. Williams St.  
Phone: 815-444-6314  
Website: [www.lauramacinc.com](http://www.lauramacinc.com)  
Hours: Wed, Thur, Fri 2 to 9 pm  
Sat and Sun 1 am to 5 pm.

### SAM M: West Point Appointee



After his May 2011 graduation from Prairie Ridge High School, Sam M. will be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point, NY. Each year approximately 1000 cadets graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Sam has been interested in serving our country since he was 6 years old.

## PR Fall 2010 Activity Program

### Cheerleaders—Varsity

Lindsey J. (2012)

### Football—Freshmen

#32 Joey W.

RB/OLB 5'4" (2014)

### Football—Varsity

#67 Sam M.

OL 6'0" 195# (2011)

#77 Shane E.

OL 6'4" 252# (2014)

### Golf—Boys

Stuart B.

### Madrigal Singers

Neelesh N.

Stuart B.

### Marching Band

Tyler K.—Pit Percussion

Jimmy P.—Snare Drum

Quincey S.—Clarinet

Caleb S.—Clarinet

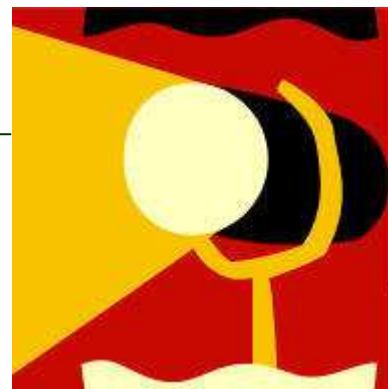
### Soccer — Frosh/JV

Riley D.

F 5'6" 120# (2013)

Nitesh N.

F 5'6" 130# (2013)



## KRISTEN L, CARRIE and GREG S: Chicago Marathoners

The Bank of America Chicago Marathon is the pinnacle of achievement for elite athletes and everyday runners alike.

On Sunday October 10, 2010 Steeple Run was represented along with runners from all 50 states and more than 100 countries.

### Kristen L

Time 5:36:00

29,344th place overall

12,131th place among women

2,930th place 25-29 age division

### Carrie S

Time 5:25:33

27,761th place overall

11,259th place among women

2,705th place 25-29 age division

### Greg S

Time 4:39:00

17,562th place overall

11,515th place among men

1,798th place 25-29 age division

## OUTDOOR BURNING ends November 28

The season for the outdoor burning of yard waste ends the last Sunday of November and cannot legally be burned after that date. Waste disposal companies end their yard waste service with their last November pickup. County ordinances allow for the open burning of landscape waste during daylight hours on weekends in April, May, October and November.





## STEEPLE RUN NEWS

### Why Our Austrian Pines are Dying by Linda L.

“IF YOU HAVE A DEAD OR SEVERELY INFECTED TREE, PLEASE CONSIDER A QUICK REMOVAL BEFORE YOUR TREE INFECTS OTHER HEALTHY AUSTRIAN PINES.”

The Austrian Pine is a favorite with homeowners and architects due to its moderate growth rate, extraordinary adaptability and attractive appearance—that is until NOW. Our trees have been seriously threatened by Diplodia tip blight (a fungus) and a tiny parasite (pine wilt nematode). Scotch and mugho pines can also be affected.

Austrian pine needles normally live 3-5 years before dropping; new needles form in spring as “candles” at the branch tips. The tip blight fungus infects wet, unfolding candles which turn brown by midsummer. The fungus becomes stuck in the tree sap and pine

cones and continues to infect more branches each year, until the tree dies, often from the bottom upwards.

Control with fungicides is difficult because of large tree sizes and the critical spray timing. Local tree professionals or nearby nurseries may be able to help you with diagnosis and available treatment options.

Eliminating tree stressors might keep tip blight at bay. Increase tree vigor by deep root watering during dry periods and fertilize yearly. Prune dead branches during dry summer weather. Increase air circulation by thinning pines planted too close together.

The tiny parasitic pine wilt nematode worm is spread by the pine bark sawfly from infected trees to healthy trees. The nematodes stop the water flow to all aboveground plant parts. Needles brown rapidly and a 40 foot tree can die within one month. To my knowledge there is no known solution.

In summary, if you have a dead or severely infected tree, please consider a quick removal before your tree infects other healthy Austrian pines. When planting, consider other varieties of trees that are native to the US, including white or red pine, spruces or firs.

### PREFERRED CONTRACTOR PROGRAM

There are no current Preferred Contractor offers at this time but Herb is happy to report that the wildly successful Septic Offer will be repeated in May and details can be

found in a future newsletter.

The September Septic Pump-Out had to be extended to an additional Saturday as more than 8

families took advantage of the reduced rate offered to our residents.

Regular maintenance is required to keep your septic system functioning.

*The SRHA Board does not recommend the use of any contractor over another, nor does the Board guarantee the cost or quality of the services but offers this as information to SRHA members to use as they see fit. Any additional bids for this type of service are always welcome.*



## Exterior Changes to Home or Property Require Approval

Changes to the exterior of your home or property need to have SRHA approval BEFORE any work is done.

This important step is necessary even if the project complies with the Covenants and should be at the top of every To Do list when planning your projects.

Exterior changes requiring approval include, but are not limited to: driveway lights, additions, sidewalks, terraces, decks, gazebo, antennas and dishes, dog runs, pools, driveways, and roofs.

Article 6.02 of the Covenants covers this approval process:

1. Submit preliminary sketches as the planning process begins for an informal 'go-ahead'
2. Submit the Architectural Change Approval Form (downloadable from the website), survey, plans and material specifications to the Arch. Control Committee for consideration
3. The committee will examine the plans for compliance and work with the homeowner to make any needed alterations to

achieve compliance. They then make a recommendation to the Board for final approval

4. The request then must be approved unanimously by the full Board **before the project can begin.**

The homeowner is responsible for obtaining necessary permits from the county.

When in doubt, ask a Board or Architectural Control Committee member rather than risk having to undo all of the work at your cost.



## DIRECTORY UPDATE: NEW FAMILY

Please welcome Jennifer and Tom P. who, along with their 2 young children, have moved into the former Moreland home on Belson Lane.

A new directory will be distributed at the 2011 Annual Meeting on January 22 to reflect this change. To maintain their privacy, the actual contact information was included in the mailed newsletter and is not available in the web version.



## NEW DIRECTORY TO BE PRINTED

Our SRHA Directory is being updated. Each family will be contacted in December to verify or correct the information listed. The most common changes include new email addresses, additional

family members and adult children moving out.

Your directory listing can be changed anytime during the year by contacting Jill Peterson or by submitting the Directory Change

form found on the Downloads page of our website.

The new SRHA Directory will be distributed on Saturday Jan.22, 2010 at our Annual Meeting.





Have a Happy & Safe  
Holiday Season



A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Steeple Run Homeowners'  
Association  
PO Box 1350  
Crystal Lake, IL  
60039-1350  
Email:  
secretary@steeplerun.org

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**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.steeplerun.org](http://www.steeplerun.org)**

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## **2010 Property Tax Assessments—30 days to Appeal**

McHenry County recently mailed out our notices of our 2010 Property Tax Assessments.

If you believe that your fair market value is incorrect, the notice outlines the steps in the appeal process. The first step involves the Township Assessor, Robert Kunz.

There is a narrow window in which residents can appeal their

evaluation - 30 days from the date the notice was received.

SRHA Treasurer Joe O'Malley wrote an excellent article on this subject which can be found on page 4 of the Summer 2007 issue, which is still available at our website: [steeplerun.org](http://steeplerun.org).

Additional information can be found at [www.co.mchenry.il.us](http://www.co.mchenry.il.us)

