

# STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 1

FALL 2008

## President's Letter by Herb LeBlanc



I hope everyone had a great summer traveling to far away places, attending sports events and tournaments or just staycationing.

At this time, I would like to address three items of interest to all SRHA Members. First, kudos to Jimi Pinkl, Jackie and Julie Schwartz, Nolan Jacoby, Todd Babington, Kelly and Carrie Ibbotson, Sampson Evans and Jeffrey Jenkins for their excellent achievements in their individual activities. Read more about their accomplishments inside this edition of the Steeple Run Newsletter.

Second, I would like to commend all the Steeple Run homeowners; to date no complaints have been forwarded to the SRHA Board concerning leaf and yard waste burning within Steeple Run Estates. On the other hand, the Board and several SRHA members have taken a more aggressive stance against the leaf and yard waste burning violators west of Sands Rd. Reports of burning have been forwarded to Board members and the County Sheriff was called and complaints were filed against the violators. The new law concerning leaf and yard waste burning, in effect, makes it the responsibility of the County Police and Fire Department to follow up on complaints of this type. Keep those calls and email coming; together we can stop this very unpopular activity from happening during prohibited times and un-

der unsafe and illegal conditions.

Finally, I would like to invite everyone to the SRHA Annual Meeting to be held January 31, 2009. I would also encourage Members to get involved in SRHA Board activities. In the last Covenant update, an additional 4 members were added to the SRHA Board and as of January 2009 Annual Meeting 5 seats on the Board will be open and need to be filled.

Get involved! It's your neighborhood, it belongs to you, so why not have something to say about it?

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season.

Regards,  
Herb LeBlanc  
President - SRHA

## Annual Meeting: Saturday January 31, 2009 10 AM

Please plan on attending the SRHA Annual Meeting at the Algonquin Township Offices on **Saturday January 31 from 10:00 am to noon.** Coffee and doughnuts will be served.



We urge all residents to attend the Annual Meeting so that we can discuss and complete the business that affects us all. By attending this meeting, you can have your opinions heard, discuss proposed actions, budgets and special assessments, provide direction to the board, elect 4 board members and approve the proposed 2009-2010 budget.

Annual Meeting Packets of materials will be mailed to each member residence in the next few weeks and will be made available at our website.

It is important for enough members to attend or to vote by proxy so that a quorum can be reached. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this once-a-year event.

### Special Dates of Interest:

#### ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY**

**JANUARY 31ST 2009  
10:00 AM TO 12:00**



### Inside this issue:

TREASURER'S REPORT	2
CAR-TRAIN COLLISION	2
OBITUARY	3
TAX EXEMPTIONS	3
NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT	4-5
DIRECTORY UPDATE	5
ID YOUR PET	6



## STEEPLE RUN NEWS NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

### Treasurer's Report by Joe O'Malley

	2008-09				
	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	TOTAL
<b>INCOME</b>	6,290.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,290.00
<b>EXPENSES</b>	1,256.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,256.93
<b>NET CASH FLOW</b>					5,033.07
<b>EXPENSE CATEGORY</b>					<b>TOTAL</b>
Communications	130.93				130.93
Legal					
Maintenance	783.00				783.00
Accrued Expenses	220.00				220.00
Office Supplies					
Insurance					
Utilities	123.00				123.00
Social					
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	1,256.93				1,256.93
<b>Year To Date Balance</b>					5,033.07

THE  
BUDGET IS  
ON  
TARGET

The books for the prior fiscal year 2007-08 have been closed and the required federal and state income tax forms have been filed. The first Quarter of the current fiscal year ended on Aug. 31 with an estimated bank balance of \$12,152.54. This total reflects an accrual of \$220.00 which covers lawn care services, not yet billed for the month of August. The Maintenance costs reflect \$215.50 for new wood to repair the signs at the Sands Road entrance. The actual repairs and painting of the signs are targeted for this fall.

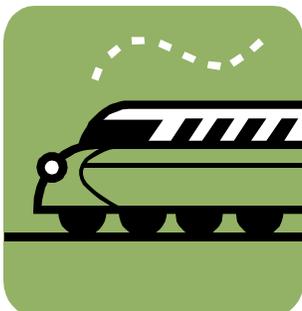
I am pleased to report that all homeowners have now paid their annual dues. We appreciate your cooperation. This is the only income for the Homeowners' Association and typically results in a positive cash flow balance for the quarter. We are generally on track with the budget for the year with some additional anticipated expenses for sign repairs as well as Liability Insurance costs falling in the second fiscal quarter. The sign repair expenses will be charged to the contingency reserve for that purpose.

### Former Resident Walks Away After Train Hits Car

Former Steeple Run resident Wanda Hay was not injured when her car was struck by a slow-moving maintenance train in Crystal Lake around noon on Wednesday December 10th.

The three engine train was moving about 8 mph when it struck the front driver's side quarter panel of her Saturn. Witnesses stated that she had stopped before the extension tracks but

then pulled into the train's path. The tracks are behind the Commons of Crystal Lake Shopping Center and run parallel to Main Street. There are lights but no gate at that crossing.



## OBITUARY: Rick Cygan

Rick Cygan, a longtime Steeple Run friend and neighbor, passed away on Thursday December 11, 2008 at Hospice of Northeastern Illinois from complications following a brain stem stroke. We would like to extend our deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Irene and their children, Heather and Chad during this difficult time.

Born in Chicago, he graduated from Lane Tech High School and was a life member of the Lane Tech Alumni Association. He worked as an engineer and salesman for Graco Inc., an industrial equipment manufacturer. After more than 30 years, he retired in 2005 to enjoy hunting, home improvement projects and gardening.

### Visitation—Tuesday Dec. 16th 9 am

St. Anne's Catholic Church  
120 N. Ela Street  
Barrington, IL (847-382-5300)

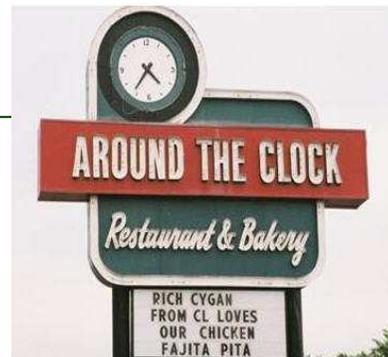
### Mass of the Resurrection—10 am

### Memorial Dinner Buffet— 6 to 9 pm

The Milk Pail  
14N630 Route 25 (1/2 mi. North of I-90)  
Dundee, IL

Please RSVP for the dinner to aid planning.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Caring Bridge, Hospice of Northeastern Illinois or a charity of your choice.



## PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS: We All Get One

By now, everyone should have received their new property assessment postcard from the county; this information was also published recently in the NW Herald. You may appeal this assessment within 30 days after publication. Please refer to page 4 of the Summer 2007 newsletter for Joe O'Malley's excellent article explaining the appeal process.

McHenry County offers a variety of property tax exemptions which may help lower your property tax bill if you qualify. For more information on all of these exemptions, contact the McHenry County Assessors Office (815-334-4290) or <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/common/CountyDpt/Treas/treExpSav.asp>

### General Homestead Exemption

With no age requirement, this exemption is available for all owner-occupied residences

and reduces the equalized assessed value up to \$5,500. This is all of us in Steeple Run. If it is not on your most recent tax bill, contact the Township Assessor.

### Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption

To qualify for this \$4,000 reduction in assessed value, you must be 65 or older during the taxable year and be the owner of record.

### Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption

If you're 65 or older and have a total taxable household income less than \$55,000, you can apply by July 1 to have the equalized assessed value frozen.

### Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral

Qualified Seniors (65 and less than \$50,000 income) can defer all or part of their property tax if they apply before March 1. The tax is paid at time of sale or after the home-

owners death – with a 6% interest rate added in.

### Returning Veterans' Homestead Exemption

This 1-year exemption lowers the equalized assessed value of your property by \$5,000 in the year you return from active duty in armed conflict.

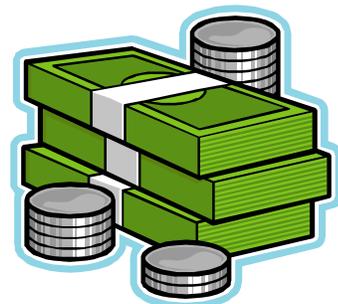
Other exemptions are available to qualified homeowners:

- Home Improvement Exemption
- Circuit Breaker Program, Regular Disabled Veteran Exemption
- Disabled Persons' Homestead Exemption
- Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemptions

Our assessor is Robert Kunz, Jr at the Algonquin Township Assessor Office which is open M-F 8am-5pm. 847-639-2700 (FAX 847-639-8638)

<http://www.algonquintownship.com/assessor.html>  
<http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/common/CountyDpt/Treas/treExpSav.asp>

“AN EXEMPTION IS AVAILABLE FOR ALL OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENCES AND REDUCES THE EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE UP TO \$5,500”





## STEEPLE RUN NEWS NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

### JIMI PINKL: 3rd Place in State Band Battle

Their name has changed but residents should remember Jimi Pinkl's band performing at our last Block Party. The Copper Brown Blues Band of Crystal Lake, featuring our own Jimi Pinkl, placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Illinois State Teen

Battle of the Bands competition at the IL State Fair. More than 100 bands from all over IL competed this year. Other band members include Sam Zuidema, Matt Gonsiorek and Matt Palsgrove. Congratulations guys!



### NOLAN JACOBY: Earns Baseball Kudos

Nolan Jacoby has committed to attend Oakland University in Rochester, MN on a baseball scholarship. He will be a Golden Grizzly, playing baseball in NCAA Division I.

hitter, delivered the game-winning RBI (a sacrifice fly) in the IHSA Class 4A Baseball Tournament State Championship game. He also provided a crucial 2 run triple in PR's 5-4 victory in the Schaumburg Supersectional on the road to the state title.

Prairie Ridge High School hitting 0.376 with 12 doubles, 5 home runs and 21 RBIs.

Nolan expects to be a DH and then fill the catcher position when the current Oakland U catcher, currently a senior, graduates in spring.

Nolan received a Northwest Herald All-Area Honorable Mention last spring as a designated hitter. Prairie Ridge Catcher Jacoby, a left-handed

According to the NW Herald, Nolan finished this year at

Good luck, Nolan!



### TODD BABINGTON: Turns Pro in Belgium

After graduating from Austin Peay with a degree in Special Education, Todd Babington started working at Prairie Ridge High School supervising the in-school suspension program. He also served as an assistant coach for the football and basketball teams.

When the Optima Gent Dragons in the Division I Pro league in Belgium made him an offer he couldn't refuse, he jumped at the opportunity and is now playing pro basketball and exploring Europe in his free time. Two thumbs up, Todd!



### JULIE & JACKIE SCHWARTZ: Earn Tennis Kudos

SR residents Jackie and Julie Schwartz finished 4<sup>th</sup> at the IHSA State Finals in girls tennis. They lost in the doubles semi-finals to the eventual state champions. Last year, the twins finished

in the top 8 at the state level. They've only played doubles together their junior and senior years.

area coaches and the NW herald sports staff.

The Prairie Ridge girls had a 4<sup>th</sup> place team finish with 24 points, following a 2007 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish with 25 points.

In 2007 and 2008, they were named NW Herald Girls Tennis Players of the Year by unanimous input from

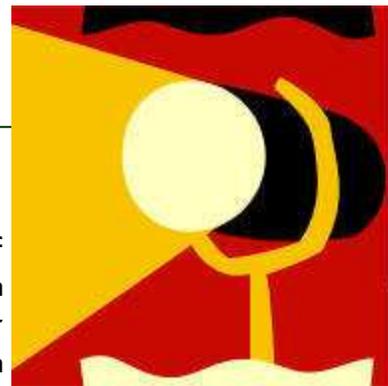
Congratulations!



## KELLY & CARRIE IBBOTSON: Soccer Tourney Champs



Twins Carrie and Kelly Ibbotson are members of the Crystal Lake U19 girls soccer team that won the 2008 Sheppard Schleisman Memorial Soccer Tournament hosted by the Cary Soccer Association in September and October. In its 24th year, the tournament honors an 8-year-old soccer player and his coach, both killed by a drunk driver in 1984 on their way home from a birthday party.



## SAMPSON EVANS & JEFFREY JENKINS: Undefeated Super Bowl Champs

Congratulations to Sampson Evans, Jeffrey Jenkins and their Pac Ten Prairie Ridge Junior Wolves Featherweight Football teammates who capped off their undefeated 2008 season with a league-winning Super Bowl Championship Game in late November! Sampson is a quarterback and safety and Jeffrey plays in the offensive end position.

The Wolves organization works closely with PR high



school coaches to ease the transition to high school football. They also help develop character through cohesiveness, positivity and coaching while placing the best interests of the players first.

IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHINE THE NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT ON, PLEASE SEND THE INFORMATION TO [SECRETARY@STEEPLERUN.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@STEEPLERUN.ORG)

## DIRECTORY UPDATE:

Please notify Jill Peterson by phone or email if any changes need to be made to your family's information in the Steeple Run neighborhood Directory. Additional family members and new email addresses are common corrections to be made. A Directory Update form is available at our website on the Contact Us page.

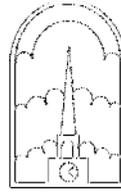
Directory updates have been a regular feature in this newsletter and will continue between Directory publications. Our directory will be reprinted in 2009 once each listing is updated and complete.

Meanwhile, please correct the Moreland family email address in your Steeple Run directory:

[greg.moreland@att.net](mailto:greg.moreland@att.net)



*Please observe the 25  
mph speed limit within  
our entire subdivision*



A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Steeple Run Homeowners'  
Association  
PO Box 1350  
Crystal Lake, IL 60039-1350

---

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

---

## **Collar + ID on Pet = Happy Return**



This summer a loose dog was running down Belson Lane, quickly heading for Sands Road and the next neighborhood when it was lured to safety by a resident and her children. Without a collar with ID tags, this pet would have been turned over to Animal Control.

Please make sure that your pets are wearing collars with proof of their rabies vaccination registration (as required by the county) as well as a ID tag that will help them get safely home again. No one expects their cat or dog to dash out the door or to escape through their invisible fence but responsible pet owners should be prepared for the possibility.

have one already. Although your neighbors do not have the necessary microchip readers, vets and Animal Control do, assuring that you will be reunited with your beloved pet. As a bonus, the registration fee is reduced for pets with microchips.



There is a happier ending to this story because the family approached a neighbor walking her own dog. The dog walker thought she recognized the pet and was able to point the good Samaritans to the owner and a happy reunion.

On your next visit to the vet, ask about having a microchip which is easily injected under the skin of your pet if they do not

Our pets are treasured and treated as one of the family. They can't speak for themselves when lost. Help them find their way home quickly by making sure they are wearing a collar with ID tags.