

STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 3, Issue 3

SPRING 2008

Frankly the SRHA Board is Disappointed

In my first Steeple Run Newsletter as President of Steeple Run, I mentioned compliance with the SRHA Covenants and Bylaws, Rules & Regulations. I've asked SRHA members to reread the updated SRHA Covenants and Bylaws, Rules & Regulations and if they had questions to contact any Board member or attend a SRHA Board meeting so that their questions on compliance could be addressed.

In the Summer 2007 Newsletter I again wrote about compliance as it relates to installing or relocating driveway lamps and the parking of RV's, trailers, boats, or campers on driveways within Steeple Run Estates. You were asked if you were still unclear as to what's allowed to consult the Covenants and Bylaws, Rules & Regulations or contact a Board member or attend a board meeting so we could add clarity to your understanding and questions.

And finally, in the FALL 2007 Newsletter I included this statement:

"Finally, the Board and many of the SRHA members continue to question those who do not comply with SRHA Covenants, and its Rules and Regulations. You don't need to be

on the SRHA Board or volunteer for an event or committee to take part in the benefits of living in Steeple Run Estates. All anyone has to do is comply with the Covenants, and its Rules and Regulations and you participate in the process. This Board and your neighbors have demonstrated their commitment to the SRHA Covenants, and its Rules & Regulations by following its guidelines. To those SRHA members who have compliance issues step up to the plate it's your time to help. Please join us - participate in the process"

Frankly, the SRHA Board is disappointed in the behavior of several Steeple Run residences that habitually choose to ignore the Covenants and Bylaws and its Rules and Regulations. In the past year, Board members have observed the parking of a work trailer on Church Hill and a camper and commercial truck on the same street. In addition, Board members have also indicated boats were parked on the driveways of both Smith Rd. and Belson Lane for days during the Summer of 2007. Several homes have non-working or no driveway lamps.

Three of our homeowners have said

that they will be correcting their non-compliance issue and have taken steps to correct them. We thank them for coming forward and volunteering to get them corrected.

The Steeple Run Newsletter is published 4 times a year and is mailed to all SRHA members. It's is my belief that through this publication the majority of Steeple Run homeowners have at least read one of its publications and sensed a focus on compliance as a concern of the Board of Directors.

The Board will be notifying Steeple Run homeowners who are currently in non-compliance on the above issues within the next 30-45 days.

I thank those who have boats, RV's, Campers and work trailers and commercial vehicles that don't abuse the Covenants and Bylaws, Rules and Regulations. YOU are making Steeple Run Estates a better place to live.

Sincerely yours,

Herb L.- President

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

SRHA held its Annual Meeting on January 24th. The Power Point slideshow used during the meeting is available on the website for non-attendees to view.

Minutes from this meeting have already been distributed to members as have copies of the most current Covenants & Bylaws. At the subsequent Board meeting, officers were elected.

Serving on the SRHA Board of Directors until January 2009 are:

- Herb L.—President
- Joe O.—Treasurer
- Karen M.—Asst. Treasurer and Social
- Tom R.—Secretary & Landscaping
- Dave N.
- Jill P.-Newsletter & Website
- Ron Ro.—Vice President & Landscaping

Serving until January 2010 are:

- Chip J.-Landscaping
- Mike L.-Architectural Control

Dave M. and Jim Schl. have volunteered to continue serving on the Architectural Control Committee until January 2009.

Special Dates of Interest

- SATURDAY MARCH 29TH 8-NOON ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT RECYCLING COLLECTION OPENS FOR SEASON
- THURSDAY APRIL 24TH 7:30 PM SRHA BOARD MTG.
- FRIDAY APRIL 25TH RSVP WITH ARROW SEPTIC
- GARAGE SALE MAY 15-17
- SATURDAY MAY 17TH ARROW SEPTIC PUMP-OUTS
- GARAGE SALE MAY 22-24

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STEEPLE RUN NEWS

Treasurer's Report by Joe O.

3rd Quarter 2007-2008

	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	ESTIMATED 4th QTR	YTD TOTAL
INCOME	6290.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6290.00
EXPENSES	1549.75	2673.27	2083.70	0.00	6306.72
ESTIMATED EXPENSES				1665.00	1665.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED EXPENSES					7971.72

“THE THIRD FISCAL QUARTER ENDED ON FEB. 29 WITH A NEAR EVEN CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR-TO-DATE” WITH A DEFICIT EXPECTED BY THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR

EXPENSE CATEGORY

EXPENSE CATEGORY	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR
Communications	185.60	143.06	514.58	200.00
Legal		95.00	310.50	
Maintenance	1224.00	282.40	1040.00	1140.00
Office Supplies				
Insurance		1109.00		
Utilities	140.15	188.81	218.62	325.00
Social				
TOTAL- Actual	1549.75	2673.27	2083.70	
TOTAL-Estimated				1665.00

The third fiscal quarter ended on Feb. 29 with a near even cash flow for the year to date. We anticipate expenditures of approx. \$ 1665.00 for the next quarter, which will put us in a deficit position for the total year. The primary factors for the deficit were legal expenses for the County permits and related architectural surveys as well as lawn care expenses. There were also extra expenses for copies and mailing for the revised By-Laws. It is important to note that many of the extra expenses we incurred this year are not expected next year. Therefore, we hope to be in a more balanced budget position next year.

Social Report: by Karen M.

The Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale is being planned for Steeple Run residents over two weekends in May 2008.

The dates of the sale will be:

- Thursday May 15
- Friday May 16
- Saturday May 17
- Thursday May 22
- Friday May 23
- Saturday May 24

Participants have the options of participating

fewer dates and of extending their sale to include Sundays.

If any Steeple Run residents wish to participate in the upcoming Neighborhood Garage Sale, please email or call Karen M. ASAP to participate.



NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Your Steeple Run News has a new column to highlight accomplishments and milestones of our residents. We need your input. If you know of a family member or neighbor who has earned a big round of applause, please submit the information to webmaster@steeplerun.org for inclusion in the newsletter. We'd love to share the good news.



BABINGTON GOES TO THE DANCE DURING MARCH MADNESS



Todd Babington realized a lifelong dream when he competed in the 1st Round of the NCAA Tournament wearing #32. This was his team's 6th NCAA appearance

but a first for Todd, a 6'5" guard on the Austin Peay in the South Region. He was named the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament "Most Valuable Player" in March.

The #15 Austin Peay Governors lost to the #2 University of Texas Longhorns in Little Rock, AR 74-54 on Friday March 21. Todd scored 11 points on 4-of-11 shooting opportunities. The Governors had missed their first 7 shots until Todd made a 3-pointer 4 minutes into the game to put Austin Peay on the scoreboard.

The game was not televised in our region.

A senior, Todd is majoring in Special Education. According to his mother Pam, "he has a passion for helping kids that are physically, emotionally and/or academically challenged" and he wants to coach! The family is very appreciative of the community support Todd has received.

A 2004 graduate of Prairie Ridge High School, Todd was a standout on the basketball and football teams where his name is still found on the record books.



February 17, 2009

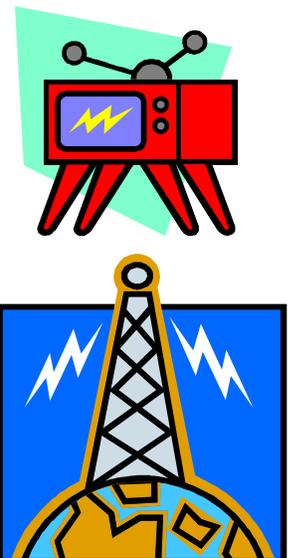
That's a date you may have been hearing a lot lately. It's the day that the Federal Communications Commission is requiring all broadcasters to convert their signals from analog to digital signals.

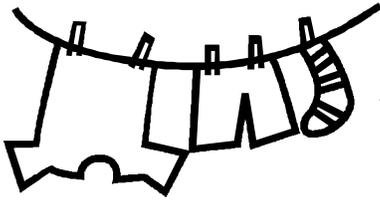
If you fall into the <20% of US households that rely on antennas for TV reception, you will need to buy a TV with a digital tuner if yours does not already have one,

get a converter box for each TV, or enroll with a cable or satellite provider. As of March 1, 2007 all televisions sold were required to have digital tuners or carry a warning of the changeover in 2009. You can check the Owner's Manual, look at the TV to see if it has a built-in Advanced Television Systems Tuner (ATSC), or check the manufacturer's website. Ana-

log TVs will continue to work with cable and satellite feeds, gaming consoles, VCRs and DVD players and will work with antennas if you purchase a digital-to-analog converter box and if your antenna receives UHF signals (channels 14 and up).

The FCC has a special informational website: www.dtv.gov.





How to Improve Your Well Water Quality by Bill H.

“THE WELL WATER IN OUR COMMUNITY IS VERY HIGH IN HARDNESS, IRON, MANGANESE AND SULFUR.”

The well water in Steeple Run poses many challenges for the homeowner. If you have rust stains in your sink, toilet and dishwasher; if you detect an odor while in the shower; if your exterior brick or driveway is stained red; if your whites come out of the laundry a dull grey or black; if your glassware emerges from the dishwasher with a hazy film; if you find black specs in your tub or sink; if your drinking water has an off-taste or smell; then you know what I'm talking about.

The well water in our community is very high in hardness, iron, manganese and sulfur. This is not to say that the water is unsafe to drink. But, from an aesthetic perspective, it would be fair to say that it's next to impossible to use the well water directly as it comes out of the ground without some form of treatment to remove or reduce these objectionable impurities.

The first line of defense is to install a properly designed water softener. The softener should be sized to remove all of the calcium and magnesium hardness plus iron. As a general rule of thumb, the softener should have 1 to 1-1/2 cubic feet of resin. Many of the smaller, less-expensive units have 3/4 cubic feet or less. The softener should be designed for high-iron conditions to insure that it is capable of reducing the iron level to 0.3 ppm or less.

It's important that you regenerate the softener often

enough to prevent it from leaking hardness and iron into your hot water tank and plumbing. Unless you have a twin-tank unit, don't use water while the softener is in the regeneration mode. This normally occurs every 2 to 3 days between 2 AM and 4 AM.

Plumbers typically supply raw well water to the outside hose bibs. If you water the lawn during the summer, it's not a good idea to allow the sprinkler to play on the house, driveway or car as this will leave rust stains when the water evaporates. If this occurs, the stains can be removed (with some elbow grease) with a solution of Iron-Out and warm water.

Dull grey or discolored laundry is caused by iron and manganese that leaks through the water softener. Iron tends to leave a rusty color or spot, whereas manganese produces black or grey discoloration. Bleach is not effective on these stains as it is an oxidizing agent and only makes the problem worse. A strong reducing agent like Iron-Out is required to remove or lighten the stain. Read and follow package directions.

An off-odor in the water is caused by sulfur. Bacteria that live in the oxygen-free recesses of the well consume sulfate from the water and produce hydrogen sulfide gas as by-product. This produces a rotten-egg smell that is most noticeable in the shower or at the tap.

A supplemental filter is bene-

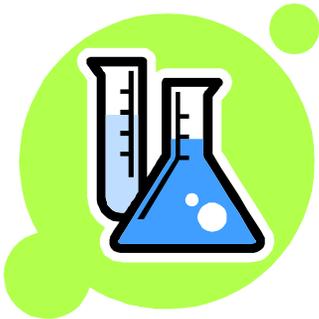
ficial to remove residual iron, manganese and sulfur. Activated carbon is often recommended for taste and odor enhancement, but it is not effective for iron removal. Disposable cartridge filters containing a carbon block are available from the hardware store or home center.

A more-effective approach is to install an oxidizing filter. These are commonly called iron filters and work much like a softener, but use a media that is regenerated with potassium permanganate. Although effective, they are difficult to maintain.

Another oxidizing filter contains manganese dioxide. (Trade name Pyrolox or equal) This is a natural oxidizing mineral that removes iron, manganese and sulfur. It does not require regeneration like the traditional iron filter. This unit should be installed after the water softener to remove the last traces of iron, manganese and sulfur that slip through. This system will produce good-tasting, iron- and odor-free water.

A cloudy haze on glassware and deposits in the dishwasher are frequently caused by the sodium silicate in dishwasher detergents. Use detergent sparingly to minimize this problem. Also, the dishwasher is best cleaned with citric acid to remove hard water or rust stains.

These ideas will help you enjoy a continuous supply of clear, good tasting, and odor-free water. Next time we'll discuss drinking water systems.



SOFTENER SALT, BOTTLED WATER and POOL CHEMICALS

Steeple Run residents Maryann and Walter G. are offering their neighbors special prices on delivered water softener salt and bottled water. Delivery will be on Fridays. Buy 5 bottles or 5 bags and get the 6th free.

Water Softener Salt:

- 50 Lb. bag of Solar Salt
- \$6.49 each plus sales tax
- Minimum delivery of 3

Bottled Water:

- 5 gal. bottle of Spring Water or Distilled Water
- \$5.95 each plus tax with a

\$6.00 deposit on each bottle

- Minimum delivery of 3

Walter and Maryann own both Pitt's Water and J&L Pool in McHenry. They also build in-ground swimming pools and sell hot tubs. A 15% discount off regularly priced pool and spa chemicals purchased in their store is also being offered to SRHA members —just remember to mention that you're a neighbor!

Their 17th Annual Wet & Wild Sale is April 18, 19 & 20, 2008.

If you have any questions, please email WeRWater@sbcglobal.net

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.

Reduced Fees for Well Water Testing in April

During April, the McHenry County Department of Health is offering reduced fees on their water testing. Well water samples can be tested for coliform bacteria and nitrate for \$18.

colorless and odorless, testing is the only way to determine whether the water is safe to drink. Well owners should test their water yearly.

Sampling kits may be picked up in Woodstock or at the Algonquin Township Office.

Since many contaminants are

Samples should be obtained Tuesday morning and dropped off at the Algonquin Township offices on Tuesdays between 9 am and noon.

For more information, call the Environmental Division of the County Dept. of Health at 815-334-4585.

McHenry Co. Residents Urged to Test Home Radon Levels

During April, radon test kits may be purchased at the County Department of Health for \$5. Our county is in a Medium Risk radon area, or Zone 2.

leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. The odds of developing cancer depend on amount and length of exposure and whether a person is a smoker or non-smoker.

Homes with elevated levels may be fixed fairly inexpensively according to the county health department.

An excellent radon information sheet is available from the National Safety Council (www.nsc.org/issues/radon/faq.htm). For more information or questions, please call the McHenry Department of Health at 815-334-4585.



THE ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP OFFICE IS THE CLOSEST LOCATION TO OBTAIN COLLECTION BOTTLES AND TO DROP OFF YOUR SAMPLE FOR TESTING.

Radon is a naturally occurring, colorless, odorless, radioactive gas that can be harmful when trapped indoors. It is the second



STEEPLE RUN NEWS



**RESERVE
YOUR SPOT
BY APRIL
25TH.**

**MARK
SATURDAY
MAY 17TH
ON YOUR
CALENDARS!**

Arrow Septic 2008 Preferred Contractor Offer

Arrow Septic will offer a discounted rate for pumping septic tanks up to 2000 gallons:

\$169 per household tank for 1-6 homes

\$159 per household tank for 7+ homes

Please RSVP by April 25th by calling Maria at Arrow Septic 815-459-5558. Saturday May 17, 2008 is set aside for Steeple Run subdivision. (If there is a large response, May 24, 2008 can be reserved as well.) Remember to mention that you are in Steeple Run for the special pricing.

Payment is due at time of service. Checks, all major credit cards, and cash are acceptable. If a resident will not be on the reserved date, call Arrow's office at 815-459-5558 before May 17th to arrange payment by credit card or disclose where they will leave a check for the driver to collect.

No other coupons or discounts will be valid with this offer. In addition to the discounted price, a digging charge of \$20 per 15 minutes of dig time labor will be added per household if the access lid to each tank isn't easily accessible and exposed

for our driver. Please do not OPEN the lid and leave it open as this causes a safety concern.

Arrow Septic always includes a complimentary 5 point inspection with every pump-out.

The inspection includes the following:

1. They check the structural condition of the tank
2. They check the flow from the house to the tank. (Provided resident is available to flush a toilet from inside the home.) Also if they have access to the inlet or outlet pipes, they will run a video scope through to inspect the condition of the pipe(s) at no charge.
3. They check the condition of the outlet baffle.
4. They check the septic field.
5. They check the level the tank is running at.

Unfortunately they are not able to give specific timeframes of when each home will be done on that Saturday. Drivers will start at around 8:00 a.m. and which homes they start with are at the technician's discretion.



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.

Green Keep 2008 Fertilization Offer

Here are the 2008 prices and packages for Green Keep's Lawn Care Service:

Basic package-

4 applications of Fertilization & Weed Control (with Crabgrass Control in spring) is \$115 acre, per application (\$460 per season which can be reduced to \$414 with a 10% prepayment discount).

These prices are **per acre of turf**, not lot size. Please visit them at www.greenkeep.com

Deluxe package adds grub prevention-

4 applications of Fertilization & Weed Control (with Crabgrass Control in spring) plus 1 Grub prevention in summer is \$115 acre, per application (\$575 per season which can be reduced to \$517 with a 10% prepayment discount).

They can also create a program to meet specific needs.

If you need any information, have questions or wish to enroll, please call Ronald L Hammond at (847) 426-0100.



Scotts Lawn Service Fertilization Offer for 2008

Factoring in our multiple residences and their neighbor referral discount, Scotts is quoting us:

\$120 per application, minimum of 4 applications. For example,

4 applications: \$480

5 applications: \$600

Please call Gerry to take advantage of the private offer from Scotts Lawn Service, 847-695-6323. Mention the SRHA discount to receive our preferred rate.

“At Scotts Lawn Service, we custom tailor a program to the needs of our clients. We understand not every-

body treats their lawn the same way, expects the same results out of their lawn, or has exactly the same cultural practices. We will learn exactly what the expectations are on an individual basis and discover the program that fits their needs and their budget. Call today to experience the Scotts Lawn Service difference.”

The Lawn Doctor of McHenry Co. has Organic Fertilizer, Too

The Lawn Doctor of McHenry County is offering Steeple Run residents several lawn care options this year. Residents can choose between traditional and organic fertilizers and 3, 4, or 5 applications.

Traditional fertilizer:

- 5 service weed & feed: \$100 each (\$500)
- 4 service weed & feed: \$115 each (\$460)
- 3 service weed & feed: \$130 each (\$390)

Service includes crabgrass pre-emergent, fertilizer on all applications and broadleaf weed control. They will alert customers to any specific problems they might have.

If you have pets, small children or are concerned about the effects of chemicals on your

body and our groundwater, you may want to consider going green with organic fertilizer.

Natural & Organic fertilizer:

- 5 service feed only: \$125 each (\$625)
- 4 service feed only: \$140 each (\$560)
- 3 service feed only: \$155 each (\$465)

There is no weed or crabgrass control on any organic product.

Lawn Doctor's licensed technicians can also provide aeration, insect control, grub control, overseeding and soil amendments.

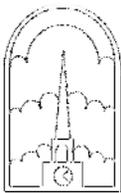
For either Lawn Maintainer Care or the Natural Program, call 1-815-728-0600 with questions or to enroll in their plan.

www.Lawndocor.com

IF YOU PLAN ON PARTICIPATING IN ANY OF THE 3 OFFERED PLANS, CONTACT YOUR SERVICE **ASAP** AS THE FIRST FERTILIZATION DATE IS APPROACHING. REMEMBER TO REQUEST THE STEEPLE RUN PRICING.



Please tell us what your high school graduates and college students are doing. See Page 3



A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLERUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Questions? Comments?
Volunteering? Contact:
Jill P.-editor
Email:
secretary@steeplerun.org

We're on the Web at
www.steeplerun.org

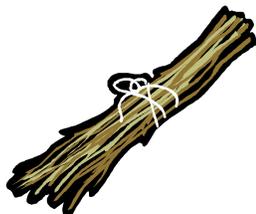
Springtime Yard Chores Rapidly Approaching



Within a few short weeks, the snow will melt, our yards will dry out and spring clean-up lists will be written.

But before Spring is sprung, there is still some time to complete the few tasks that are best done in winter. This is the ideal time to prune trees and shrubs while they are still dormant—we can see the tree's framework and make the decision which branches to cut while biting insects aren't a nuisance.

Do not prune sappy trees, like maple, birch and pines, now as the sap is running. Spring flowering bushes should be pruned 2 weeks after flowering; pruning now will cut off the flower buds for this year. When pruning, cut back to a lateral branch or side shoot rather than leaving a stub.



Time is running out to apply dormant oil to fruit and crab-apple trees before the leaf buds pop; be sure to read the directions concerning any expected rain and the recommended air temperature.

This is also a good time to consider how you will dispose of yard waste during the upcoming growing season. The County Board has placed limits and conditions on the burning of yard waste, effective April 1, 2008. Composting is an option. Landscape waste service is available through some of our garbage collection firms for an added fee. Algonquin Township has a free roadside collection of large branches; see the Spring 2006 newsletter for details.

In addition to the contents of the yard waste toter, residents

subscribing to MDC's yard waste collection can put out branches up to 4 feet in length if they are tied into bundles and secured with biodegradable twine. Each bundle should be no larger than 24" in diameter and individual branches should not exceed 3" in diameter. Branches exceeding these dimensions can be taken to the township drop-off site or roadside pick-up arranged.

As you're inspecting your yard this spring, look for Gypsy Moth egg masses on your lawn furniture, wood piles, bark crevices, etc. In late May and early June, Emerald Ash Borer exit holes may be seen. The Spring 2007 newsletter has more information and photos.