

# STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 2

WINTER 2008-2009

## A Farewell by Herb L.

My two years as President of SRHA expired with the election of new Officers at the Annual Meeting.

Two things stand out - the people I've work with on the Steeple Run Estates Board and the conversations I've had with other members of SRHA.

18 different Steeple Run Estates residents have served with me on the SRHA Board in the last 4 years. All of them volunteered their time and many of them put in long hours gratis to update the Covenants, hang holiday ornaments, spread mulch around the entrance monuments, organize special events like Easter egg hunts, holiday parties, garage sales,

block parties, bunko and poker. I thank them for their dedication in making Steeple Run Estates a GREAT place to live and raise a family. I appreciate all their efforts, which in effect made my tenure as President much easier and very rewarding.

I've had more than 35 conversations, some good, some not so good, but mostly good with SRHA members on a variety of subjects. The Board of Directors and I listened and reacted to these conversations in the best interest of all the members of SRHA.

To continue to be a successful Homeowners' Association Steeple Run Estates has to have a Board of Directors

that represents the point of view of all the SRHA members, whether mundane or controversial.

There were 5 positions on the Board to be filled with qualified candidates willing to serve a term of two (2) years. Four volunteers were elected to those positions at the recent Annual Meeting. There is still an opportunity to step up to the plate! Join a committee and help continue to make Steeple Run a great place to live.

Yours Truly,  
Herb L.

*Editor's note: my apologies to Herb for not getting this out before the Annual Meeting.*



### Special points of interest:

- PRHS MUSICAL—FEB. 27 & 28, MARCH 5, 6 & 7
- APRIL 25: 9 A.M.—NEXT SRHA BOARD MTG
- MONTH OF MAY—OIL CHANGES AT AUTOMOTIVE PARADISE
- MAY 13—ARROW SEPTIC DEADLINE
- MAY 16—SEPTIC PUMP OUTS
- MAY 21-23 AND 28-30 GARAGE SALE
- MAY 25-LAWN DOCTOR DEADLINE
- MAY 31-LAST DAY FOR OIL CHANGE OFFER

## SRHA Annual Meeting Held January 31st

Our Annual Meeting was held on the last Saturday in January at the Township offices. Minutes of that meeting have been distributed to all members and are available at the website. The PowerPoint slides used during the meeting can also be viewed on the website.

Thank you to all residents who attended in person or submitted their proxy ballot.

The Association depends on its volunteers and we would like to express our gratitude to our outgoing board members. Thank you to Tom R. who has completed his 2 year term and to Tammy R. his assistant. Thank you Chip J. for serving on the board.

Meet the 8 SRHA Board members and Officers:

- President Therese G.
- Vice President Ron Rw.
- Treasurer Joe O.
- Secretary Herb L.
- Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary Karen M.
- Mike L.
- David N.
- Jill P.

### Inside this issue:

TREASURER'S REPORT	2
DRIVEWAY LAMP POST	2
NEIGHBORHOOD SPOT-LIGHT	3
DIRECTORY UPDATE	3
PREFERRED CONTRACTOR	4-6
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED	7
NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE	7
COYOTES	7
HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL	8



# STEEPLE RUN NEWS

## Treasurer's Report by Joe O.

As of 12/31/2008

FISCAL YEAR	2008-09				
	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	TOTAL
INCOME	6,290.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,290.00
EXPENSES	1,256.43	1,959.12	671.80	0.00	3,887.35
EST. EXPENSES			335.00	1,230.00	1,565.00
NET CASH FLOW					5,452.35
					837.65
					YTD
EXPENSE CATEGORY					TOTAL
Communications	130.93	0.00	57.74	0.00	188.67
Estimate			335.00	200.00	535.00
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
Maintenance	1,002.50	660.00	359.06	0.00	2,021.56
Estimate			0.00	800.00	800.00
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	1,124.00	0.00	0.00	1,124.00
Utilities	123.00	175.12	64.28	0.00	362.40
Estimate			115.72	180.00	295.72
Social	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	75.00
TOTAL	1,256.43	1,959.12	1,006.80	1,230.00	5,452.35

“WE ENDED  
THE  
CALENDAR  
YEAR IN  
GOOD  
FINANCIAL  
SHAPE.”

The Year to Date summary reflects actual expenses through December 31, 2008 and estimated expenses by category for the remainder of the fiscal year.

We ended the calendar year in good financial shape. Our expenses are generally in line with the budget and we expect to be on budget for the remainder of the fiscal year. Thanks to Ron Rw's efforts, the light fixtures at the Crystal Lake Avenue entrance were recently upgraded. The new lights are more energy efficient and should require less maintenance in the future. Looking forward to the remainder of the fiscal year, we hope to keep expenses in line with last year, particularly the lawn care costs. With that in mind, we could have a positive cash flow for the fiscal year.

### Contractors for Driveway Lampposts

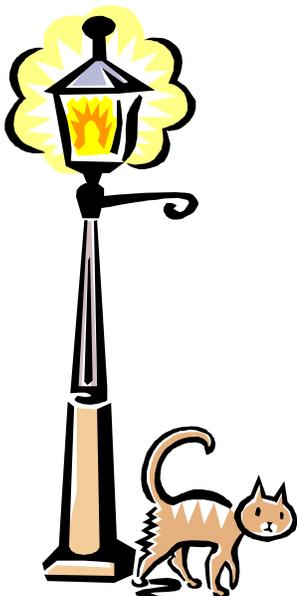
There isn't a better time than now to line up an electrical contractor to install or repair your driveway lamp. There is still plenty of time to get several estimates now and choose a contractor so that when the ground thaws, you will be already to start with the project.

The ground will thaw soon and with the current economy, contractors are looking for work. Well-lit streets provide better

visibility and safety; as the weather warms, more residents will be walking along our roads after dark.

Without the required driveway lamp near the intersection of your drive and the road, you will cause a delay in the sale of your home as your home will be out of compliance with our covenants.

Please don't delay. Get it done sooner rather than later. Resolve that this will be the year to get this done!



## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

### MIRACLES ARE REAL vol. 2 by Nancy E.

Editor's note: Team 22 for Nancy first appeared in the Fall 2007 Steeple Run News. Thank you Nancy for this update.

Wow! *Team 22 for Nancy* was great in 2008. Formed in 2007 in memory of Nancy H. of Lakewood, in 2007 we were the top fundraising team and one member of our team was the top overall individual fundraiser.

So in 2008, I became team captain and was highly motivated to make a difference again! With special thanks to a HealthBridge instructor who let me recruit at her classes, I was able to create an awesome team of exercise buddies. To-

gether with the support of family, friends and neighbors, *Team 22 for Nancy* made a great difference in 2008. Thank you all! This year we are the 2nd place team raising \$3982 and again our top-fundraiser from 2007 was the overall top individual fundraiser in 2008, having raised \$1820. Our team also received several medals and many members exceeded their personal goals – yea!

My extra special blessing was finding out the week before the race that my mother-in-law was cancer-“free” for the first time in years so my entire family did the run/walk with me. My hus-

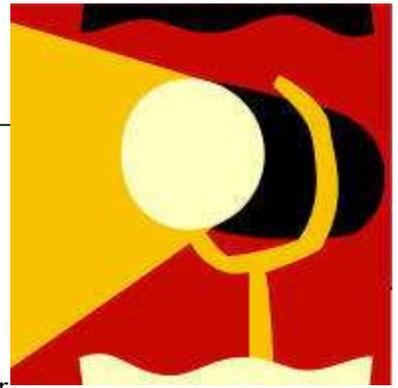
band walked with our three sons while our daughter ran and earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in her age group. I would like to dedicate this year's team success to my dear friend and exercise buddy, Karin, in memory of her father who lost his long battle with leukemia on New Year's Day.

I would also like to thank and congratulate *Team 22 for Nancy* on a great job 2008 and all those who supported our team! Looking forward to *Team 22 for Nancy 2009* – let's shine again!



### DIRECTORY UPDATE: It's a BOY!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO MIRANDA AND HAROLD A. ON THE BIRTH OF THEIR SON. TRAVIS JACOB WAS BORN FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>, WEIGHING IN AT 7 POUNDS 10 OUNCES AND 21" LONG.**



PROCEEDS STAY IN MCHENRY COUNTY TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS, TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SCREENING AND TREATMENT AND TO PROVIDE MAMMOGRAMS FOR MCHENRY COUNTY WOMEN.



# STEEPLE RUN NEWS



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

## Preferred Contractor: Lawn Doctor

The Lawn Doctor of McHenry County is again offering Steeple Run residents several lawn care options in 2009. Residents can choose between traditional and organic fertilizers and 3, 4, or 5 applications. Prices are on the table below and cannot be combined with any other discounts or specials. Their regular undiscounted price is \$135 per application per acre.

Their lawn service includes crabgrass pre-emergent, fertilizer on all applications and

broadleaf weed control. They will alert customers to any specific problems they might have.

### Natural & Organic fertilizer:

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.

There is no weed or crabgrass control with any organic product but you can request

for spot treating weeds at no additional charge.

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 Jason at 1-815-728-0600 with questions or to enroll in their plan. **Call by May 25th** if you want all 5 applications this growing season.

[www.Lawndocor.com](http://www.Lawndocor.com)

Frequency of Service	*1-5 Homes	*6-10 Homes	*11-15 Homes
5 Service Weed & Feed	\$105	\$100	\$95
4 Service Weed & Feed	\$110	\$105	\$100
3 service Weed & Feed	\$120	\$115	\$110
Grub Service	\$219	\$189	\$179
5 service Organic	\$125	\$115	\$105
4 service Organic	\$140	\$130	\$115
3 service Organic	\$155	\$140	\$120

*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.*

## Preferred Contractor: Scotts Lawn

For 2009, Scotts is offering Steeple Run residents weed and feed lawn care for \$120 per application with up to 6 applications a season (there is a minimum of 4 applications); their normal

price is \$155.90.

Grub-Ex treatments can be applied a-la-carte for \$240.

Scotts lawn service is a continuous service and will continue to treat the property until you call. If

at any time you need to add or drop services, simply give them a call.

To enroll in this offer, call Gerald Zoeller at 847-695-6323 and mention that you're a SRHA member.



### Preferred Contractor: Automotive Paradise Oil Changes

For the first time, the SRHA Preferred Contractor Program includes an offer for car care.

Automotive Paradise, *formerly known as Meinike*, is offering an exclusive opportunity for SRHA members.

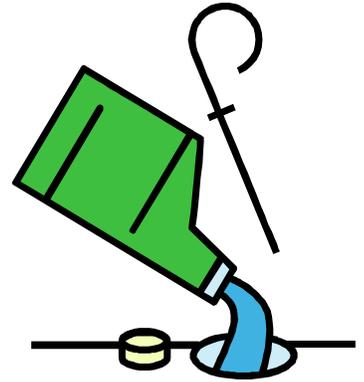
**During the month of May, 2009** either call or stop in for an oil change and filter for the low price of \$15.00 plus tax.

SRHA Members need to show proof of *address* to be authorized for this service. No other form of identity is necessary.

Automotive Paradise is located at:

4410 US Highway 14 #1  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
(In the Citgo Plaza near Sands and Highway 14)

Phone: 815-459-1909



### Preferred Contractor: Arrow Septic

Arrow Septic is offering a discounted rate of \$175 per household tank up to 1500 gallons (if a total of 1-6 homes enroll). If the total of enrolled households is 7 + the pricing will drop to \$165. No other coupons or discounts will be valid. 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 the driver. Please be sure the homeowners DO NOT OPEN the lid and leave it open as this causes a safety concern.

Arrow Septic will include a complimentary 5 point inspection with every pump-out:

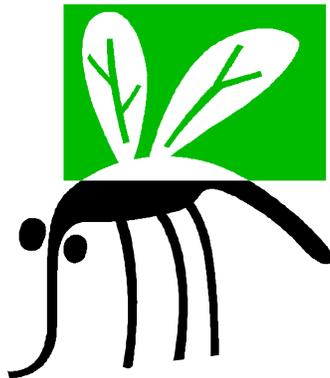
- Check the structural condition of the tank
- Check the flow from the house to the tank. (Provided resident is available to flush a toilet from inside the home.) Also if we have access to the inlet or outlet pipes, we will run a video scope through to inspect the condition of the pipe(s) at no charge.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

If a homeowner in the subdivision is new to Arrow Septic, they are encouraged to visit their website at [www.arrowseptic.com](http://www.arrowseptic.com) to see a complete listing of services offered.

Payment is due at time of service. They accept checks, all major credit cards, and cash. If a homeowner is not going to be home on the day of the appointment, please call their office at 815-459-5558 X221 or X222 to arrange payment by credit card or to disclose where they would be able to leave a check for the driver to collect. Drivers will start around 8:00 a.m. and which homes they start with are at the technician's discretion; specific times for each residence will not be given.

Saturday May 16, 2009 has been reserved for Steeple Run subdivision. (If we end up with a very large sign up, we can also reserve Sat. May 23rd, 2009 as well.) Please sign up with Maria (815-459-5558 or [csr\\_maria@arrowseptic.com](mailto:csr_maria@arrowseptic.com)) by **Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>**. Be sure to mention that you live in Steeple Run.





## STEEPLE RUN NEWS

### Preferred Contractor: Mosquito Abatement

Can you remember last summer when the grass was green and the mosquitoes chased us out of our yards, even during the day?

The SRHA is investigating the possibility of hiring a firm to spray our neighborhood for mosquitoes, similar to what is done in Crystal Lake. At this time, Herb is waiting for quotes and responses to our questions from two companies.

There are several major

concerns that have to be addressed if this is a desired service. The actual pesticides need to be disclosed as well as their safety record and any adverse effect on our health, the health of our pets and the neighborhood wild animals. Proof of adequate insurance needs to be presented by the vendor. If any precautions need be taken during spraying, we need to implement a notification procedure to contact

every member household.

There is also the possibility that a special board or neighborhood will be held so that we all can hear their presentation and ask the vendor any questions or concerns we might have. A special assessment may need to be passed to pay for these treatments.

Stay tuned for more information and details. As we learn more, we will share it.

*The SRHA Board does not recommend the use of any contractor or product 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.*

THE MAGIC JACK PLUGS INTO YOUR COMPUTER TO PROVIDE FREE PHONE CALLS. IS IT TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE? ASK HERB IN A FEW MONTHS.

### MAGIC JACK—Is It Worth It? - You Be the Judge by Herb L.

Magic Jack is a tiny gadget that plugs into the USB port of your PC. Any phone can then be connected to Magic Jack, and - voila - all the free domestic calls you want (and prepaid International calls can be made for \$0.02 a minute).

When purchased by calling the number shown in the TV infomercial Magic Jack, itself, costs \$39.99. That price is the purchase price for the gadget and includes a phone number advertised as being yours "for life".

System require-

ments include Apple/Mac, Windows XP or Vista, as well as a high speed internet connection.

Magic Jack can be ordered on a free trial basis, so your credit card will not be billed unless you decide to keep the gadget.

The first year of service is offered at no charge, and the second year is offered at \$19.99 (which can be paid when/if you decide to keep Magic Jack).

While the company offering the product offers ways to deal with any difficulties in installing the software, within minutes of plugging the device into

the USB port it is possible to begin making calls with it.

**A BIG WORD OF CAUTION:** Several critics have suggested that you should use separate, dedicated computer for the Magic Jack. The plug and play phone connection is reputed to have the ability to track your emails, etc. Read the Download Agreement carefully. And in addition, there is currently no way to remove the software from the computer that was loaded and the device hooked up to as well.

Herb is currently evaluating this product and will be able to answer your questions.



## Volunteers Needed in May



Last year, volunteers saved SRHA members more than \$600 by performing the Spring Clean-up of our entrance monument areas. They also weeded, pruned and spread mulch so that our community can put its best foot forward.

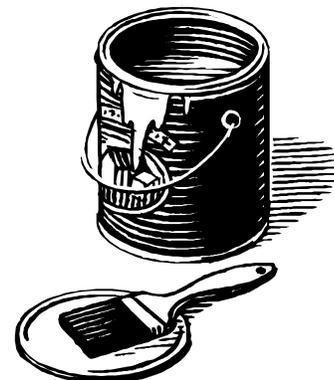
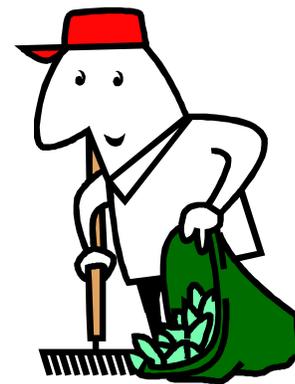
This year, there are two opportunities to spend a few hours in camaraderie with your neighbors while beautifying our entrances.

Volunteers are again needed for the Spring Clean-up and for the repair of one of the Sands Road signs. A rotted corner post needs to be replaced. The wood has already been purchased.

If you can help, please contact Ron Rw.

Remember: Many Hands Make Light Work.

And my favorite: The more, the merrier!



## Neighborhood Garage Sale

As you do your Spring Cleaning, keep a box handy to put in items for the Neighborhood Garage Sale which has been tentatively scheduled for :

- Thursday May 21, Friday May 22 and Saturday May 23
- Thursday May 28, Friday May 29 and Saturday May 30

Mark your calendars now. For more information or to participate on any or all dates, please email or call Karen M.



## Coyote Pack Attacks Threaten Our Pets

Chipmunks, gophers, squirrels, rabbits and deer have been common sights in SR but now coyotes are being seen more frequently. Reports of them stalking our pets have been shared.

After the horrific attack on Penny's beagle in January, what we can do to protect ourselves, our pets and our property was discussed at the Annual Meeting and subsequent Board meeting. As of now, there is no perfect or easy legal solution, only suggestions. We are open to more suggested solutions as this threat is unlikely to disappear quickly.

The coyotes are hungry, looking for food and following their nature. Minimizing food sources would help discourage their hunting here.

Keep an eye on your pets and small children, even during daylight hours.

Switch to squirrel- and deer-proof bird feeders to eliminate seed spillage on the ground which encourages small rodents and mammals.

Eliminate hiding places for small game, like under your deck or in a brush pile. Burn the brush on one of the approved Open Burning weekends this spring.

Do not deliberately feed the deer or encourage their presence. Coyote scent marking their territory deters deer but doesn't help with the coyote problem. If you think a deer is too large for coyotes to hunt, you'd be wrong; the coyotes have already ripped

apart one deer within our neighborhood., leaving a rather unpleasant clean-up

Eliminating small game will not totally eliminate the presence of coyotes. It is assumed that their den is in the open lands to the south of us—The Hollows, the farm and the industrial properties near the RR tracks—and they will continue to pass through on the way to their dens after a night of hunting. They have been seen returning home as late as 4 hours after sunrise.

Continue to be aware of your surroundings and watch over your pets. Any ideas will be welcomed by the board members listed on the front page or emailed to the website.





Your business tag line here.

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**



## ALL SHOOK UP—PRHS Musical Opens Tonight!

Five talented Steeple Run residents are involved in the terrific toe-tapping Prairie Ridge High School Theater Department production of ALL SHOOK UP, a clever contemporary musical combination of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and Elvis Presley's music:

*"All Shook Up tells the all-new story of a square little town in the middle of a square state in the middle of a square decade where a lonely young girl dreams of hitting the open road. Into her life rides a guitar-playin' roust-about who changes everything and kick-starts a hip-swivelin', lip-curlin' musical fantasy that will have you jumpin' out of your blue suede shoes."*

The show has 6 performances scheduled for February 27 and 28, March 5, 6 and 7 (all at 7:00 pm) and a March 7 matinee (1:00 pm).

**It's not too late to get tickets!**

- You can order directly from their online service [www.showtix4u.com](http://www.showtix4u.com).
- The prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students

Any questions, please call 815-479-0404 x.6 during school hours.

Let's give a big round of well-deserved applause to our very own:

- Stuart B.  
Pete Barnes (Chorus)
- Paul G.  
Horton Wilder (Fella & Chorus)
- Roseanne L.  
Stage Manager
- Neelesh N.  
Davy Jensen (Chorus)
- Mel R.  
Assistant Director

Also a special thank you to their parents and siblings for their unwavering support and numerous transportation duties. And to Herb L. for bringing us this scoop ahead of Opening Night.

