

STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 5, Issue 1

FALL 2009

From the President by Therese G

Another summer has flown by, fall is in the air, and the days are getting shorter. It is now dark when many of us leave for or return from work or school. Please remember to turn on your yard lights to improve visibility and safety for everyone.

Many of our neighbors have been very busy. The landscaping committee has been hard at work all summer. They picked up mulch from the township and spent a couple weekends working on the landscaping around the 4 monuments. They replaced a rotten post on one of the Sands Road monuments and repainted both of the Sands Road monuments. Overall they have saved the homeowners' association over \$1000 by doing the work themselves.

Earlier this year, the board of directors was asked to investigate the costs to spray the neighborhood for mosquitoes. We met with 2 potential providers. While the

costs were similar, the annual dues will not cover the treatment. A special assessment for all homeowners would be required. To communicate the service that would be provided, a special meeting with one of the providers has been set up on Thursday, Nov 12 at 7:00 pm. We ask all the homeowners to attend. Please ask any questions you may have. The vote for a special assessment to cover mosquito spraying will be taken at the Annual Meeting in January 2010.

The social committee spent months planning a block party. It was cancelled due to lack of response from the neighborhood to the questionnaires. I would like to thank them for all their planning. Hopefully we will be able to have the party next year.

There have been several articles in the Northwest Herald related to homeowners' associations. The articles point out that the associations are responsible for enforcing the

covenants and maintenance of association owned property. The covenants are in place to establish a common set of expectations on the homes and treatment of the property. The current version of the covenants was approved in 2007. All homeowners should have a copy. They are also available on the website at www.steeplerun.org. While our association doesn't own any common property, we are responsible for maintenance of the monuments.

Board member elections are held at the annual meeting in January. Please consider volunteering to be on the board. The board is your opportunity to make decisions on how the homeowners' association manages the different things that come up. In addition, we have several committees that provide other ways to be active in the neighborhood.

I look forward to seeing you on November 12 to discuss the mosquito treatment.

Special Dates of Interest:

- **SPECIAL ASSESSMENT INFORMATIONAL MEETING THURSDAY** NOVEMBER 12 7:00 PM ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP OFFICES
- **SRHA BOARD MEETING—** THURSDAY NOVEMBER 12 AFTER THE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT MEETING, ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP OFFICES
- **MONDAY NOVEMBER 30—FINAL** LANDSCAPE DEBRIS PICKUP FOR MDC CUSTOMERS (1-815-568-7274)
- **2010 ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY JANUARY 16 10:30 AM—** NOON, ALGONQUIN TOWNSHIP OFFICES

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Special Assessment Informational / Q&A Meeting

Date: Thursday November 12, 2009

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Algonquin Township Offices

Special Guest: Clarke Mosquito Control



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TREASURER'S REPORT by Joe O

FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010					
	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	TOTAL
INCOME	6,205.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,205.00
EXPENSES	969.91	0.00	0.00		969.91
EST.EXPENSES				0.00	0.00
NET CASH FLOW					5,235.09
EXPENSE CATEGORY	YTD TOTAL				
Communications	127.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	127.61
Est.					
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	698.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	698.03
Maintenance-Accured Est.					
Office Supplies	0.00			0.00	0.00
Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities	144.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	144.27
Est.					
Social			0.00		0.00
TOTAL	969.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	969.91
NET CASH FLOW					5,235.09

"THE SIGNS AT BOTH THE SMITH ROAD AND SANDS ROAD ENTRANCES HAVE BEEN REPAIRED AND PAINTED. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH VOLUNTEERS FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND SAVED THE HOMEOWNERS A CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE."

The First Fiscal Quarter ended on Aug. 31 with almost all dues assessments paid for the year. The sole exception is for a property that is currently under sale negotiations, and we hope to resolve the dues issue when the sale is concluded. The required SRHA federal and state tax forms have been filed for the last fiscal year. We concluded the year with a bank balance of \$8441.92.

So far this year, our expenses are in line with the budget. The signs at both the Smith Road and Sands Road entrances have been repaired and painted. This was accomplished with volunteers from the neighborhood and saved the homeowners a considerable expense.

We did receive some good news with the annual Liability insurance bill, which will be lower than the two previous years. Looking forward to the months ahead, we anticipate that our expenses will continue to track previous years

Pictured: Joe O'Malley and Herb LeBlanc replacing the rotten sign support post. Ron Rodewald and Linda LeBlanc also labored at the monuments.



Neighborhood Spotlight: Melissa R

Throughout Homecoming Week, students at Prairie Ridge High School sold 2009 PR Homecoming t-shirts and held two raffles to raise \$5,000 to send a terminally ill child to Disney World.

As member of the

student council executive board, Melissa introduced the idea to sponsor a child through the Make-A-Wish Foundation as part of the school's homecoming festivities.

The school's 2009 homecoming theme

was "Wish Upon a Star" and this effort fit right in with the other Disney-related activities as well as providing the students an opportunity to give back to their community.

Way to go, Melissa!



Directory Update

The green October 2009 Steeple Run directories have been distributed. Directory updates will remain a regular feature of the newsletter; any necessary corrections and additions that arise between directory publications will be mentioned in the newsletter so that each member can correct their copy. When information on new families is received, the listing will be provided on an adhesive sticker and included in the mailed newsletter for your convenience.

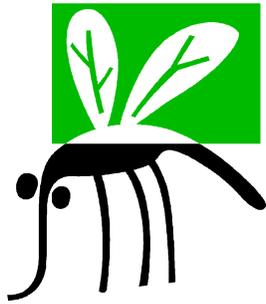


A Special Thanks to David N

David N has resigned from the SRHA Board, citing personal reasons and President Therese G has accepted his letter of resignation. We would like to give him a big Thank You for his years of service to the Board. His contributions of his time and many talents will be greatly missed.

If any resident would like to complete David's term (until the January 2010 Annual Meeting), please contact a Board Member. If you are considering volunteering for the board but aren't certain of what is involved, volunteering for this short time remaining on Dave's term would give you a small taste of what is involved.





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PREFERRED CONTRACTOR: Mosquito Abatement Q&A

“THIS MEETING ON NOV. 12TH IS YOUR TIME TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAM, THE PRODUCT, ITS EFFECTIVENESS, ETC.”

As promised earlier, a special meeting has been arranged to share information about a neighborhood-wide mosquito abatement program and to provide an opportunity for SRHA members to ask questions, to provide input and to raise concerns with a representative of the proposed provider.

Your attendance is encouraged so that you can make a fully informed decision on this matter when this comes to a vote at our January 16, 2010 Annual Meeting.

At the previous Annual Meeting, several residents requested that the SRHA Board look into providing mosquito abatement similar to

what the City of Crystal Lake provides for their residents.

Timing is everything. It was not possible to arrange for spraying in 2009 because we did not have enough time - time for the competitive bidding process, time needed to disseminate the information, time to arrange a Q&A session with company representatives, time to conduct a vote on the special assessment and time to collect the special assessment. Not to mention the company had no time open on their spraying schedule for u.

We are currently arranging the service for the summer of 2010. By voting in January at the Annual Meeting, if

approved, we should have more flexibility in scheduling the weekly treatments.

The board has considered the pesticides used, their safety record and adverse effect on our health, that of our pets and the neighborhood wild animals. This vendor has proof of adequate insurance.

This meeting on Nov. 12th is YOUR time to ask questions about the mosquito abatement program, the product, its effectiveness, the scheduling, coverage, cost and any precautions that we need to take on our scheduled spraying nights. Please join us and bring your questions!



PREFERRED CONTRACTOR: Tree Removal and Trimming

Winter is the ideal time for pruning our large shade and fruit trees. With their leaves gone and the trees in dormancy, their structure is clearly visible and they can be shaped for overall structural strength and pleasing proportion.

Dead trees can be removed during any season so that they don't topple in high winds, causing property damage or personal injury and so that they can't harbor insect pests under the layer

of dead bark - insects that will emerge to attack remaining trees.

Large tree trimming and removal are jobs best left to the professionals.

While looking into tree removal for his own property, Herb L thought that this might be an opportunity for a Preferred Contractor Program to extend savings to other homeowners who are in a similar situation and would like to have trees removed or trimmed.

If you are interested in obtaining these services, please contact Herb and he will investigate our options. If you can recommend a competent, reliable arborist for Herb's comparison study, send him the name and phone number.

The Preferred Contractor Program has been able to provide residents with discounted services when we can enroll a quantity of residents. Please let us know if you are interested and Herb will pursue value savings for us.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

SRHA members are being asked to vote at the Annual Meeting on a special assessment for a neighborhood-wide mosquito abatement program in 2010.

A special assessment must be voted upon and affirmed by 60% of the SRHA households at the meeting, once a quorum of 2/3rds of members has been reached (equivalent to 49 homes), including any proxy votes. The Proxy ballots will be included in the Annual Meeting packets to be mailed in early December. From our Covenants, Article 7.07:

7.07 Annual and Special Assessments. The Steeple Run Homeowners' Association may levy annual and special assessments against the dwelling units or Lots in the subdivision

notwithstanding the above, said annual or special assessments shall not be valid until it has been ratified by a resolution approved by sixty percent (60%) of the affirmative vote of all Lot owners in the subdivision at a meeting specifically called for that purpose.

Please mark your calendars for both the November 12 7:00 pm Informational Meeting and the January 16 Annual Meeting.

The Preferred Contractor Program has been very successful in providing value to our SRHA neighbors through group purchasing. This savings is quite evident when comparing the costs of an individual contracting for a season of spraying (over \$1000) and the cost per home for neighborhood spraying (around \$40) for the entire season.



Outdoor Burning Regulations

McHenry County has very specific laws governing outdoor burning of landscape waste and recreational bonfires.

Steeple Run residents should be commended for following these laws; the board has received no complaints this fall.

Although at times it may seem otherwise, enforcement of these laws has been stepped up. The authorities have recently visited some residents west of Sands Road. A reminder sign has been added to the roadside near Sands and Roland/Steeple Run.

Fines start at \$100 and escalate

to \$1000 for subsequent violations.

Please remember that burning is allowed:

- on weekends in Nov., April, May and October
- Only between dawn and dusk
- At least 100 feet from habitable structures
- Only when the winds are less than 10 mph
- Must be supervised by someone older than 18
- A water source (fire extinguisher

or garden hose) must be available at the burning site

The complete 4 page ordinance can be printed from our website.

Call the McHenry County Department of Health (1-815-334-4585) to report open burning on windy days and on weekdays Law enforcement agencies and fire protection districts are also authorized to enforce the ordinance.

While these laws sometimes make burning inconvenient, we can all breathe easier now, especially our asthmatic residents, and we still have opportunities to dispose of our yard waste.

“FINES START AT

\$100 FOR A FIRST OFFENSE AND ESCALATE TO \$1000 FOR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS”

SRHA ANNUAL MEETING: Saturday January 16, 2010

Please plan on attending the SRHA Annual Meeting at the Algonquin Township Offices on **Saturday January 16 from 10:30 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, including a vote on the mosquito abatement program and the proposed 2010-2011 Budget. By attending this

meeting, you can have your opinions heard, discuss proposed actions, budgets and special assessments, provide direction to the board, and elect board members.

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 (49) can be reached and busi-

ness completed. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this once-a-year event.

Up to 5 Board positions need to be filled. Please raise your hand and get involved. 60-90 minute Board meetings are held 6-7 times a year. Try on the role first by volunteering to fill one of the vacant positions until the Annual Meeting in January!



**MARK SATURDAY
JANUARY 16, 2010**



Daylight Savings Time is done, the days are getting shorter and our streets will soon be dark when our children are walking to and from the school bus stops.

Please drive cautiously throughout Steeple Run.

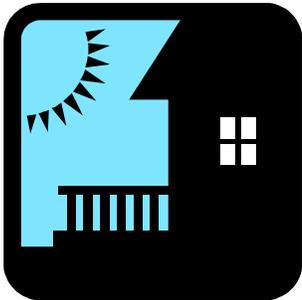


A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLERUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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 Email: secretary@steeplerun.org

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

Nighttime Shenanigans



Since the last newsletter, several reports have been received of kids trespassing on neighbors' porches and decks and even inside screened porches during the overnight hours.

Because of the darkness, it has been difficult to count heads or to make an identification but in one instance, a boy hopped on a bike as he fled after the

group was surprised by the homeowner (who was even more shaken to find a face peering through their patio doors after midnight).

This type of nocturnal activity causes serious concerns as some of these homes have hot tubs on their decks and, besides trespassing, opening latched gates, moving belongings around and hanging

out where they were not invited, the potential for liability lawsuits or a horrific accident exists.

Cold weather should bring an end to this behavior.

Parents, please be aware that some kids are slipping out sometime after 10 pm. Are you SURE that your children are safely tucked in bed?

