

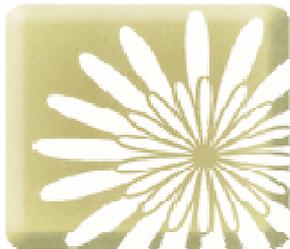
# STEEPLE RUN NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Volume 4, Issue 4

SUMMER 2009

## President's Message by Therese



It seemed to take forever, but summer is finally here. We went from cold and rainy to hot and sunny. It may seem strange, but one of the things I like best about living in the Chicago area, is that we have 4 seasons.

In my last letter, I mentioned a mosquito abatement program. We have done some investigation and there are 2 different companies that service this area. Given the current timing, the homeowners' association will not pursue a neighborhood pro-

gram for this summer. A summary of the treatment information is found later in the newsletter. Both companies do have options for individual yard treatments. We will follow-up in the fall so that a vote on neighborhood spraying and a special assessment can be taken at the annual meeting in January, 2010.

The neighborhood garage sale generated a lot of traffic. We had 13 homes in 11 garages that participated. Thanks to Karen Malcolm for putting this together.

The block party has been postponed until the fall. This is always a fun event and a great chance to meet your neighbors, while having something to eat or listening to the music. Our organizers (Karen and Linda) will be sending out information as we get closer to the date.

Since the weather has finally gotten nice, a lot of people are

outside. Please remember these safety reminders.

- The speed limit in the neighborhood is 25 mph. It is for everyone's safety.
- If you are out walking, please stay to the left.
- Anyone on a bicycle or scooter should stay to the right and wear a helmet.
- Parents remind your children to watch out for cars if they are crossing an intersection. There have been a couple close calls with children who zipped across the street without stopping.

Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Therese G  
President SRHA

## Architectural Control in Steeple Run

Changes to the exterior of your home or property need to have the approval of the SRHA Board 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.

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 Six of the Covenants covers this approval process:

1. Submit preliminary sketches as the planning process begins
2. Submit the Architectural Change Approval Form (downloadable from the website), survey, plans and material specifications to the Arch. Control Committee
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

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.

### Special Dates of Interest

- JUNE 30 DEADLINE FOR SRHA DUES (\$85)
- AUGUST—ENTIRE MONTH \$15 OIL CHANGES AT AUTOMOTIVE PARADISE FOR SRHA MEMBERS
- THURSDAY AUGUST 27 7:30 PM SRHA BOARD MEETING AT THERESE GRAFF'S HOME
- SEPTEMBER 12 AND 19—ARROW SEPTIC PUMP OUTS—RSVP NEEDED

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# STEEPLE RUN NEWS

## Treasurer's Report by Joe O

"OUR FINANCES WERE FAVORABLY IMPACTED BY LOWER YEAR-TO-YEAR COSTS IN ALL MAJOR CATAGORIES."

FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009					
	1st QTR	2nd QTR	3rd QTR	4th QTR	TOTAL
INCOME	6290.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6290.00
EXPENSES	1256.43	1959.12	1166.53	584.17	4966.25
NET CASH FLOW					1323.75
					YTD
EXPENSE CATEGORY					TOTAL
Communications	130.93	0.00	546.30	167.54	844.77
Legal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Maintenance	1002.50	660.00	359.06	220.00	2241.56
Office Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	42.00
Insurance	0.00	1124.00	0.00	0.00	1124.00
Utilities	123.00	175.12	186.17	154.63	638.92
Social	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	75.00
TOTAL	1256.43	1959.12	1166.53	584.17	4966.25

The fiscal year 2008- 2009 ended May 31, 2009 with a bank balance of \$8441.92. This represents a net increase of \$1323.75 for the year. Our finances were favorably impacted by lower year-to-year costs in all major categories. This included no expenses for legal fees, and lower utility costs. The Lawn Maintenance costs were also well below the previous fiscal year, due primarily to the volunteer work for spring clean up and mulching around the signs.

We are planning to do the same again this year, in order to keep costs down. Linda and Herb LeBlanc have cleaned up the monument planting beds. Work to repair the signs at the Sands Rd entrance is also planned to be done on a voluntary basis.

The Annual Dues Assessment of \$85.00 is due by June 30. If you have not already done so, please pay your dues. This saves collection expense and time. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## Steeple Run Homeowners' Dues

As of the deadline, 46 of 74 homeowners have paid their Annual Dues. This represents a higher number of delinquent dues than we have experienced in recent years.

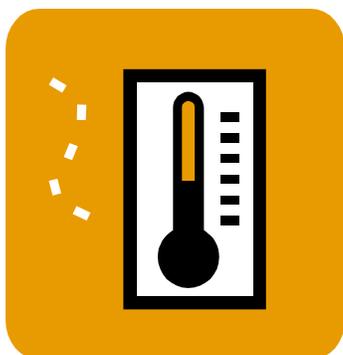
For those that have paid the dues as required, we thank you. We sincerely appreciate your

cooperation in making this annual administrative task less burdensome on everyone involved.

We must now proceed with follow up reminders and written notifications to those that are delinquent. This creates unnecessary expense and requires more time and recordkeeping. Your

prompt payment will be appreciated.

The \$85 assessment is the same as last year and covers our expenses for lighting and maintaining the monument areas, insurance and communications. We will continue to review ongoing expenses with a goal of providing value to all homeowners.





## LOST and FOUND—a new SRHA service

In the past two months, 2 house cats belonging to the Maier and Kulis families have slipped out of their homes and have gone missing. In each case, an alert was emailed to our residents. Both cats have successfully been returned to their homes. The importance of having ID tags, collars and microchips on our pets cannot be stressed enough. Karen M. has volunteered to be the Contact person for the Lost and Found, which isn't limited to pets but also includes lawn reindeer, lawn furniture and other items that may be involuntarily moved across our neighborhood.

The following letter was received from Stephanie M.:

*doing this so promptly, we would not have found him. He is a very dear cat to our family and we have had him nine years. He has disabilities, including blindness and neurological problems, but the sweetest cat we've ever had. We feared he would be starving or worse yet, meet up with the coyotes. By getting the word out, we found out he had been picked up by animal control and we were able to bring him home safe and healthy. He's happy to be home and we doubt he will be trying to venture out into the fresh air again any time soon. If he does, he now has tags and a micro chip.*

*Thank you to everyone for getting the word out about our lost cat. Without you*

*Thank you,  
Stephanie M.*



Spring, Summer and Fall are perfect times to install or repair exterior lighting. Please take advantage of the warm weather to install a driveway lamp near the intersection of your driveway and the road right-of-way if you do not already have one as per our Covenants. A missing driveway lamppost near the street will delay the closing of a home sale. Such properties will remain out of compliance until any Covenant violations are corrected.



## New Neighbors

The Schwartz family has moved out of their home on Church Hill Lane and a new family has moved in. Please extend a warm welcome to our newest neighbors in Steeple Run.

## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT:

### NOLAN J. and JULIE S.

Congratulations to Nolan and Julie . Both students are recent graduates of Prairie Ridge High School.

seven home runs and 33 RBIs as Prairie Ridge won back-to-back Fox Valley Conference Fox Division titles. Jacoby also had 20 doubles. He will play at NCAA Division I Oakland (Mich.) University.

Nolan has been named to The Northwest Herald All-Area Baseball Team. Here's what the Herald had to say about his senior season:

Julie was named to The Northwest Herald All-Area Girls Soccer Team (2nd team). She recently moved from our neighborhood.

The Wolves' catcher had another productive offensive season with a .456 average,

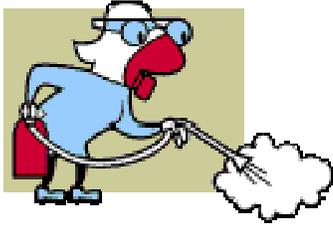
*If you know where to shine the Neighborhood Spotlight, please send the information to [secretary@steeplerun.org](mailto:secretary@steeplerun.org)*



## NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT: The LeBlancs

A special thank you to the LeBlancs for a job well done! They've weeded, pruned, fluffed and cleaned up the planting beds at the entrances, presenting a manicured first impression for our neighborhood and saving the homeowners' association (that's all of us!) several hundred dollars.





## STEEPLE RUN NEWS



### Neighborhood-wide Mosquito Spraying

The SRHA board has been researching neighborhood-wide adult mosquito abatement programs with the intention of bringing the information to the members so that we all can make an informed decision on the Special Assessment that would need to be passed to pay for the neighborhood-wide service. Less than a week after receiving the presentation by the second company, they informed us that their schedule was filled; individual homeowners are still able

to contract to have their personal yards sprayed.

Because of the time needed to disseminate the information, to arrange for Q&A sessions with a company representative, to conduct a vote on a Special Assessment and to collect the Special Assessment, the Board realized that it would not be possible to arrange this service for the neighborhood for Summer 2009.

We will continue to pursue this for Summer 2010, shar-

ing information this Fall and voting at the Annual Meeting.

The Preferred Contractor Program has been very successful in providing value to our SRHA members and neighbors through group purchasing. When comparing 2009 prices for individual and neighborhood spraying, the value is once again obvious.

Less than \$40 a household for a summer of weekly spraying versus \$600 or more....

### Preferred Contractor: Automotive Paradise during August



Automotive Paradise is offering a \$15 oil change (plus tax) to SRHA members during the month of August.

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 in the Citgo Plaza near Sands and Highway 14:

4410 US Highway 14 #1  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
Phone: 815-459-1909

*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: Arrow Septic on September 12



Arrow Septic is offering septic tank pump outs for \$175 per household tank of up to 1500 gallons on September 12th and possibly 19th when the 12th is filled. Pricing will drop to \$165 if 7+ homes enroll.

Please RSVP with Maria (815-459-5558). Be sure to mention that you live in Steeple Run. A complimentary 5 point inspection is included.

If a homeowner in the subdivi-

sion is new to Arrow Septic, they are encouraged to visit their website at [www.arrowseptic.com](http://www.arrowseptic.com) for a complete listing of offered services.

Payment is due at time of service. Checks, all major credit cards and cash are accepted. 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

X222to arrange payment by credit card or to disclose where you will leave a check for the driver. Starting around 8:00 am, specific times for each residence will not be given.

Please be sure that the access lid is easily accessible but DO NOT OPEN the lid for safety reasons. A Digging charge (\$20 per 15 minutes digging time) will be added if the tank lid isn't accessible and exposed for the driver.



### Preferred Contractor: Clarke Mosquito Control

Clarke Mosquito Control of Roselle is offering their Estate Comfort Care Program for individual homeowners who would like to have their property treated. Treatments are completed during daytime (Tuesday through Saturdays) using a high-powered backpack applied directly to trees, bushes and foliage on the property and using an ATV for fog treatment of the entire area.

The backpack application

uses Flit 10EC and the ATV fogger uses BioMist 4+4. More information about these pyrethroid adulticides can be found at their website:

[http://www.clarkemosquito.com/product\\_list.cfm?categoryid=23&parentlist=4](http://www.clarkemosquito.com/product_list.cfm?categoryid=23&parentlist=4)

Their price sheet includes two rates—regular pricing and a reduced 'spring special' price for those who pay for the entire program upfront on a

credit card.

Clarke's Comfort Package price list and enrollment form is available on the Preferred Contractor page of our website: [http://www.steeplerun.org/Preferred\\_Contractor.html](http://www.steeplerun.org/Preferred_Contractor.html)

Clarke has been treating the Palmisano property for several years.

Call 630-671-3128 with questions or to enroll.

### Preferred Contractor: DeMarco Mosquito Control

DeMarco Mosquito Control of McHenry offers several packages for Residential Service in 2009. Their treatment includes a barrier spray and ATV fog, which will kill mosquitoes on the property and repel others from entering the treated property. Each application lasts 5-10 days, depending on the weather. Applications are made dur-

ing the daytime. DeMarco also has a rosemary oil/mint spray available.

If more than 4 homes enroll for a minimum of 6 treatments each, all will receive a community discount of 30%

Call 815-344-4545 with questions or to schedule treatments.

A Residential Service price list and enrollment form for DeMarco is available on the Preferred Contractor page of our website: [http://www.steeplerun.org/Preferred\\_Contractor.html](http://www.steeplerun.org/Preferred_Contractor.html)

DeMarco's website is:

[http://www.demarcomosquito.com/residential\\_mosquito\\_control.htm](http://www.demarcomosquito.com/residential_mosquito_control.htm)

### Preferred Contractor: Lawn Doctor Mosquito Abatement

Lawn Doctor of McHenry County is offering mosquito abatement with a new product this year for clients who prefer a more 'natural' method. Their garlic-based spray kills mosquitoes, ticks,

fleas and gnats and has a residual deterrent effect for 3-4 weeks.

Plants, pets and humans are not harmed and the smell 'quickly dissipates' to a level that humans cannot detect.

Lawn Doctor is offering a 22% savings to Steeple Run residents, dropping the \$258 price per visit to \$200.

To set up an appointment, call 815-344-5050.

COMPARING MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAMS IS LIKE COMPARING APPLES TO ORANGES— PLEASE READ THE ARTICLES FOR THE DIFFERENCES



2009 INDIVIDUAL MOSQUITO ABATEMENT PROGRAMS			# Treatments				
		effective duration	1	3	6	12	15
Clarke	regular pricing	5-7 days	n/a	\$921	\$1,620	\$2,889	\$3,285
Clarke	pre-pay discount	5-7 days	n/a	\$825	\$1,449	\$2,589	\$2,949
DeMarco	regular pricing	5-10 days	\$288	\$726	\$1,362	\$2,220	\$2,688
DeMarco	>4 homes 6 visits@	5-10 days	\$202	\$508	\$953	\$1,554	\$1,882
Lawn Dr.	SRHA discount	3-4 weeks	\$200	\$600	\$1,200	\$2,400	\$3,000



## STEEPLE RUN NEWS

### SUMMER ROAD SAFETY

As the weather warms, more residents are taking to the streets to enjoy our neighborhood. Whether you're biking, jogging, walking or learning how to drive, we all want Steeple Run to remain a safe environment for these activities. And to do so, we all need to use Common Sense and follow the Rules of the Road.

- Stop completely at stop signs
- Observe 25mph speed limit throughout subdivision
- Use caution on the curves and hills for hidden hazards
- Ride on right close to the edge of the road,
- Walk on left facing traffic
- Bikers should use hand signals to indicate turns
- Ride in a single file, one person per bike
- Don't speed down driveways and dart into the road. You must yield the right of way to road traffic
- While helmets are not required by law, they are recommended safety equipment

The hours around sunset and sunrise are especially dangerous.

- After dark, make yourself visible:
  - wear light colored clothing, reflective clothing or blinking/strobe lights
  - Carry a flashlight
- Have proper lights on bikes and vehicles-
  - Front light must be visible from 500 feet and a rear red reflector visible from 600 feet
- Watch out for cars who may not see you
- Be prepared to dodge off the road

No amount of safety equipment can provide a bicycle rider with adequate protection when involved in a collision with a car or truck. The best way to avoid injury is by obeying the Rules of the Road and by being aware of and prepared for the dangers. Make Road Safety a priority in your household.



**ILLINOIS Bicycle Rules of the Road can be picked up at the DMV in Woodstock and are available online at**

[http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_a143.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a143.pdf)

### Mobile Radar Unit

In an ongoing effort to make our streets safer and to increase awareness of speeding, the McHenry County Sheriff's mobile radar unit was placed on westbound Steeple Run, just west of Smith, last week. The speed limit throughout Steeple Run is 25 mph.



### Building Raised on Site behind Jewel

Have you wondered what all the construction is between the Jewel/Hobby Lobby and Central High School? Wonder no more, thanks to Cindy I. Immanuel Lutheran Church (currently on McHenry Avenue) is building their new school and church. A mid-September move is being planned.

Progress on the project can be followed on the web at:

<http://www.imcl.us/tp40/page.asp?ID=197259>

The Northwest Herald should carry more information on new traffic routes as the roads are completed in that area.

## 2009 Directory Update Process Begins by Jill P

The Steeple Run Neighborhood Directory will be updated in July, incorporating any changes since the Blue 2007 edition, along with any changes and corrections submitted by you.

Each family will receive an email with the listing as it will appear in the 2009 Directory. Please update your family listing so that we have valid phone number and email addresses. It should include all persons living in your home,

including college students who return home between semesters. Also include the birthdates of children under 18 to help new residents locate playmates and classmates as well as potential babysitters.

Reply to that individualized email with any additions, changes and corrections or by emailing the information to [secretary@steeplerun.org](mailto:secretary@steeplerun.org).

A Directory Update Form

(PDF) is available at our website if you want to make changes on paper and deliver it to Jill P:

[http://steeplerun.org/files/Directory\\_Update\\_Form.pdf](http://steeplerun.org/files/Directory_Update_Form.pdf)

Our directory is intended for SRHA member use only; it is not to be shared with persons or businesses outside of our subdivision. It will be distributed to all SRHA members as soon as all the updated listing information is received.

### MYSTERY SOLVED:

THE RED, YELLOW AND BLUE CIRCLES WERE PAINTED ON OUR ROADS BY THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE DELIVERYPERSON TO HELP HER LEARN HER NEW ROUTE

## SCAM ALERT

This week, one of our residents was left with an uneasy feeling after a young lady rang her doorbell and inquired about "the free 18 inch TV." She claimed to have read the notice on the bulletin board "at her work" and that the address, but no phone number, was included.

After this confusing encounter and the residual doubts and sinking feeling, our resident

listened to her inner voice and called the Sheriff.

He concluded that this could have been an instance of thieves scoping out and targeting potential victims. An attractive red-headed 19-21 year old female roaming our streets would draw less attention than her male counterparts.

Always give your home a lived in look while you're

away. Put lights and a radio on timers. Stop paper and mail deliveries during your vacations.

Although we have no organized Block Watch, we're a community that cares. Please keep an eye on your neighbors' homes and property. If you see something suspicious, do not hesitate to contact the Sheriff or a SRHA board member.



## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY by Jill P

If first responders or medical personnel had to rely on your cell phone to locate a relative in case of emergency, could they find your spouse or next-of-kin quickly on your phone's contact list?

Cell phone address books should be used in addition to (not in place of) the more standard emergency information and photo IDs that you carry in your wallet. The ubiquitous phones should not be relied upon as the only form of identification that

you carry. Cell phones can become damaged in accidents, can be separated from your person and can be unfamiliar to the person trying to retrieve the information.

State Police departments across the country are recommending that you identify your Emergency Contact on your cell phone by listing them under the last name ICE, an acronym for In Case of Emergency that it recognized throughout the USA and the UK. More than one can be

listed using ICE1, ICE2, ICE3, etc. In my phone, I have identified my ICEs as ICE, Hubby and ICE, Sister (ICE is the contact last name and the identifier is the first name).

In a recent non-medical situation, a cell phone was found along the road in Steeple Run. There were no names in the red Emergency category found in the phone's software but the phone and owner were reunited when 'Mom's number was found in the recent Call History log.



McHenry Co. remains under Quarantine - Please do not move firewood in or out of the County. Buy the wood when you arrive at your vacation locale or picnic spot.



A PUBLICATION OF THE STEEPLE RUN HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

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

**We're on the Web!**  
**www.steeplerun.org**

## IT'S ONLY FUN UNTIL SOMEONE GETS HURT or GETS A TICKET



An increasing number of neighbors are concerned about children riding motorized mini motorcycles, scooters, ATVs and toys on the streets in Steeple Run and in a reckless manner.

Their disregard of simple traffic laws is extremely dangerous and this behavior needs to be stopped before a horrific accident occurs. These children have been running through stop signs, riding double on a one person motorbike, riding at excessive speeds, often on our streets after dark without lights or helmets.

These motorized vehicles are not street legal, according to a McHenry County

sheriff, and should not be on our streets or public sidewalks. It is OK to ride them on private property (driveways, walkways and backyards) only.

In addition, anyone driving a legal motorized vehicle on county roads must be at least 16 years old AND have a valid IL Driver's License. Electric scooter operators must wear goggles or safety glasses or have a windshield.

The sheriff also recommends that residents observing these illegal motorbikes/scooters in operation on the road should not hesitate to report it to the Sheriff's Non-Emergency number -

815-338-2144.

Today's children are tomorrow's drivers. Please make sure that your children understand and obey the Rules of the Road and that they behave in a responsible manner. Everyone who uses the public roads must obey traffic laws so that we all can get to our destinations safely.

There have been too many near misses to ignore this behavior any longer!

