



**NEWS
AROUND
THE
NEIGHBORHOOD**

August 2013

2013 Board of Directors

***Steve Probst, President
Ralph Flens, Vice President
Denise Warren, Secretary***

***Joe Arias, Treasurer
Dave DeYoung, Director***

As we draw closer to the time when we as a community elect new leaders, I thought it would be beneficial to write a few thoughts on what leadership is... In order to better understand what leadership is, we should first know what it is not. Leadership has nothing to do with seniority or one's position in the hierarchy of an association. Leadership has nothing to do with titles. Leadership has nothing to do with personal attributes. Leadership isn't management.

So, again, what is Leadership?

According to Warren Bennis: "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."

I contend that leadership is a process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, toward the achievement of a goal. When you cast your ballot for the open positions on the Board this year, please keep in mind that you are electing new leaders for the community. Also, please ask yourself if the people you are voting for can handle the price of leadership.

You may ask what I mean by the price of leadership... Well, I like to refer to the responsibility of leaders to stand tall in the face of criticism and remain fair and impartial as the "price of leadership." Leaders are second guessed and vilified by those who do not have access to all the facts, and leaders must listen and empathize and not lose control of their emotions or temper. A leader is one who can bring those who fundamentally disagree together to work toward a common goal. Finally, a leader is one who does not utilize confidential information or facts to defend his/her actions or manipulate the actions of others. A leader rises above all and never loses sight of the vision which he/she is working toward.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those leaders with whom I serve on the Board. You have shown an ability to come together even when we do not agree, and we find a solution that works for everyone. Thank you!

-Steve Probst

Board Openings

There will be two positions open on the Board in November. Please consider running for this very rewarding volunteer position. You will get to know how our community operates and participate in getting things done. Please submit a short bio/resume to Peter Bylen **by October 1**.

Board Meeting Dates

Board meetings are generally held on the third Thursday of the month. All meetings will be held at the Dyer-Schererville Public Library, 1001 West Lincoln Highway, at 6:30 p.m. Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

September 19

October 17

November 15 (annual meeting)

Please try to attend a board meeting and learn how your community works. If you can't attend, be sure to read the minutes on our Website in the "Meeting Minutes" section.

Lawn Care Program Update

The services of Philip Hergarten, Consulting Turfgrass Agronomist, have been renewed for the 2013-2014 lawn season. His lawn program will continue to focus on the long term health of our lawns. The program calls for a re-testing of the soil to determine the content of the fertilizing treatment. His overall assessment is that he feels "most if not all of the turf did very well to date with the program." However, as he indicated last year, the improvements will take time. The process continues with well-timed applications from our vendors. All of our vendors will play an intricate part of our lawn care program. The inefficiencies of our irrigation will be an ongoing challenge. We have also undertaken the aerating for a second time this year, to loosen the tight soil conditions in our lawns.

We will continue to share information on our Website for the homeowner that might want additional detailed information. We expect to review next year's customized lawn maintenance program very soon. It will be designed to suit this year's testing of the soil. Tentative plans are to schedule an introduction of the program during our annual meeting in November.

Architectural Review Committee

This Committee is in need of members! If you have a computer and can spare a couple hours per month, please consider volunteering. You will review, investigate and approve incoming Exterior Modification Requests and make sure they fall within the established rules of the Association. You will also partner with the Board of Directors and present to them any first-time exterior modification requests in which there is no rule, or where a rule needs to be changed. Please submit your name to Peter Bylen if you are interested.

Maintenance

If you notice a sprinkler on in the rain, or it's running on an off day, or maybe a dead tree or brown grass where a sprinkler may be malfunctioning, please don't assume that we know about it. It is the responsibility of every homeowner in Briar Cove to bring attention to these items by alerting Peter Bylen. He will notify the appropriate vendor. Thank you for your cooperation.

DuPont Trees

If you are having issues with DuPont getting your tree(s) removed, please call DuPont at the numbers provided in their mailing. The Association cannot remove these trees or make inquiries of DuPont for you.

Maintenance Tips on Caulking

The Briar Cove Homeowner Manual provided by Olthof Homes points out that “Time and weather will shrink and dry caulking so that it no longer provides a good seal”. The caulk will dry, shrink, and crack in spite of what the package may tell you. With that being said, a timely reminder that caulking should be part of the twice a year ritual to inspect the exterior of your home. The caulking may or not need attention, but routine inspection may avoid the chance of any damage and can be easier to repair if caught early. You should have a qualified person inspect for loose or cracked caulking. Use your checklist from the Homeowners Manual to review other items of interest that may affect the exterior of your home.

Neighbor Conflicts

If you are having a conflict with a neighbor, you must use the necessary channels provided by the towns of Schererville and Dyer to resolve the situation. The Association is not responsible and has no jurisdiction over these issues.

Social Committee Welcomes New Homeowners

Our Welcoming team from the Social Committee is pleased to announce that they have made contact with nine new homeowners, with three left to welcome before the end of the month. They provide a welcome packet that consists of a gift along with general information and our governing documents in a binder.

With the economy improving and the home sales picking up, it appears that Briar Cove is a community that is appealing to new home buyers.

This leads to an interesting bit of information from one of our homeowner sellers. Their Realtor told them that with the economy improving, Briar Cove homes have become the easiest to sell because our community is beautiful and very well kept!

Landscaping & Beautification Committee

“Kudos” to our L & B Committee for realizing their goal of adding community curb appeal to our Ludington entrance. Thanks to all the committee members.

1st American Management

If you have a question or need to report a problem, please contact Peter Bylen first. He will contact a board member, if necessary. He can be reached at 219-464-3536, ext. 310, or toll free at 800-990-3536. The after-hours number is 219-465-3956. You can also reach Peter by email at pbylen@1stpropertymanagers.com.

Briar Cove Book Group

The Briar Cove Book Group will meet on September 18 to discuss “Lottery”, a fictional story about Perry L. Crandall who has an IQ of 76. Having been raised by his Grandmother with the necessary skills to make it on his own, Perry now has to figure out how to fend off greedy family and shysters when he wins \$12 million dollars in the state lottery. Additional books are available for loan if you are interested in participating in this discussion.

In October we will be reading “Mennonite in a Little Black Dress”, a memoir of going home which tells the real life story of Rhonda Janzen whose husband left her shortly after she turned forty. When a car accident leaves her with serious injuries, she returns to her Mennonite family who welcome her back with open arms and give her offbeat advice.

In November we will read “Half Broke Horses” by Jeanette Walls who tells the true story of her grandmother, Lilly, who survived the Depression, many tornadoes, droughts, and floods, and great personal tragedy. She was a defender of the down trodden and fought against prejudice of all kinds—against women, Native Americans, and anyone else that was outside of the social norm.

All three of these books are available free through the Lake County Library system as part of their Book Club to Go Kits. Call Karen Davis [REDACTED] for more information about the Briar Cove Book Group.

Turning Blue Jeans “Green” (by Karen Davis)

The average woman owns eight pairs of jeans and I myself am above average as I have three different sizes; I keep telling myself this is a common dilemma to most women, but I resolve to downsize my closet.

For those of you in the market for new jeans, a good rule of thumb is to search for quality over quantity, and classic styles. High-quality basics will last longer, have more versatility and reduce your overall impact on the environment.

Since washing your jeans too often can wear out the denim, most manufacturers recommend that you only wash them when you absolutely must. Turn your jeans inside out before washing to keep them looking sharp, wash them in cold water, and use a chemical-free detergent. Line drying will save a lot of energy and help to preserve the fabric by sparing them the heat of the dryer. Your jeans will retain their shape and color and wear longer by following those guidelines.

Lastly, recycle old denim by using it for crafting, or donate jeans to a thrift store to be sold as garments or as tonnage. Unsalable jeans can be recycled to make more fabric, paper, or even insulation.

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