



**NEWS
AROUND
THE
NEIGHBORHOOD**

Fall 2011

2011 Board of Directors

Joe Arias, President
Jay Popp, Vice President
Rita Stopper, Secretary

Ralph Flens, Treasurer
Dave DeYoung, Director

Pumpkin Pie, Halloween Treats, and Indian Summer

It hardly seems right that summer is coming to an end and autumn officially begins September 23rd. We have had such a mix of weather that it seems we've hardly had time to enjoy it. The old line that "if you don't like today's weather stick around, it will be different tomorrow" has never been more fitting. So instead on dwelling on what could have been, let's welcome fall with its pumpkins and children trick or treating in their costumes. Let's take time at Thanksgiving to give thanks for friends and family and blessings of good health. This is also time to think of fall activities in our Briar Cove community. The information in the fall edition is worth noting, with some dates to mark on your calendar. Briar Cove's website also contains more information for your convenience, which our web master works hard to keep current.

Elections are right around the corner with one (1) director's term ending. Our 3rd and final phase of our painting project is finished. We'll be scheduling the winterization of the irrigation system shortly and starting the fall lawn treatments, aerating and reseeding. There are vendor's bids to review, a budget to prepare, committees to review, and information to gather for our newsletter and website. This leads me to acknowledge that it's never been a one-man show, or that it's even managed all by the Board. It is accomplished with the help of our committees, and with our management company who provides the needed guidance to help manage the activities of Briar Cove. A reminder that the OCTOBER 20th Board meeting will include presentations by the committees and any candidates who wish to present themselves to the homeowners for a "meet your candidates" night. We will also use it as a photo opportunity so please make plans to attend.

The annual Briar Cove meeting, which is by far the most important meeting of the year, will be on November 15th and everyone is encouraged to attend.

Now...here's what's going on in the neighborhood.

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New Trash and Recycling Carts

A while back the Town of Schererville notified us that they were changing to a new waste pick-up provider. At that time they solicited information as to the size container residents wanted. The latest update from the Town of Schererville and Republic/Allied Services is the contract has been signed, sealed and delivered. The unexpected request for the smaller carts has created a backlog. The Town of Schererville has already ordered cart sizes based on your mailed requests. At the present time you will not be able to change cart size. Expected start up is late October or November. Look for additional information in the monthly water bills.

The larger carts have proven to be a challenge to store out of view and in your garages. In addition to Briar Cove rules, the Towns of Schererville and Dyer also have ordinances that prohibit leaving carts out in the open other than at specified pick-up times. Now is the time to make space for the cart size you will be receiving.

The flyer contains basic procedures on where to place your container to avoid damaging your vehicles or mailbox. Please take the time to read and acquaint yourself with the new procedures. The Town of Schererville advises homeowners to direct all questions to the Republic/Allied Services. All necessary information will be posted on our web-site for your convenience. An informational video will be posted at www.schererville.org.

There may be different rules for our Dyer and Schererville residents, so read your flyer. Our Living Green Section provides helpful tips on how to clean and avoid the dread of maggots in your containers.

November Board election

With the governing of a HOA comes the duty of voting.

To that end there is one term expiring; therefore, we will be electing one person for the Briar Cove Homeowners Association Board. Amendment changes in February, 2010, changed the term for incoming directors. Beginning this year, all incoming directors will serve a full three-year term. Each year there will be only a portion of the board up for election: this year one board member will be elected, next year two board members will be elected, and the third year two board members will be elected. This cycle repeats every three years.

If you feel you would like to run for a board position, please prepare a short bio with any skills you may have and your feelings on why you would like to be a director. Send to Peter Bylen at First American before **October 1, 2011** so your name will be on the ballot that will be sent to the community in October. Our Nominating Committee Chairman, Ralph Flens, will be in touch with interested candidates after their information is received. At the November General meeting you can also present yourself as a write-in candidate, but it would be to your benefit to be listed on the ballot mailed to the community.

Next Open Board meeting

October 20, 2011 6:30 pm
Schererville Library (Across from Culvers on US 30)

Included in the agenda will be a question and answer period for candidates in the November election.

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November General Meeting

Please mark your calendars.

Tuesday November 15, 2011 7:00 PM
St. John Community Center (next to the
Paragon on US 30)

Please note: it is very important that all Briar Cove residents attend. If a quorum is not present, an election cannot be held and issues such as budgets etc cannot be voted on. Your presence is vital. Refreshments will be served.

Website

When was the last time you visited the Briar Cove website? A wealth of information is at the tip of your mouse. Next time you're wondering what's going on around our neighborhood, visit our website.
<http://www.briarcovehomeownersassociation.com>

Sprinkler system shut down

1st American has started sending notification letters the week of September 19th to start winterizing the sprinkler system. Those homeowners with a shut off valve will be given necessary instructions to turn the irrigation meter valve inside of their homes. Schererville irrigation will then be able to winterize the sprinkler system the following week. Please adhere to the date to avoid costly service calls for Schererville Irrigation to return.

The rain sensors continue to help us hold our watering costs down. We have replaced and adjusted some sensors to fine tune the system. We also appreciate and thank those homeowners who call in to report faulty sprinkler heads. Even though we are winding down with our watering cycle, please take the

time to report a malfunction in the irrigation system.

Tree replacement program update

About two-thirds of the trees marked for removal because of disease, insects or overcrowding have been removed. Any additional removal this fall will address trees that are structurally dead only. The replacement of the removed trees will be started in spring and will consist of an assortment of six bushes that are suitable for our soil conditions. Most bushes will grow no higher than 10 feet and be no more than 8 to 10 feet wide. Our arborist has identified the following bushes as viable replacements: Gray Dogwood (*Cornus Racemosa*), American Cranberry (*Viburnum Trilobum*), Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus Occidentallis*), Winterberry (*Ilex Verticillata*), Blackhaw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum Denatum*).

Pictures of the bushes will be made available upon request and also will be on our website. If it is the homeowner's desire to plant something other than what the arborist suggests, the homeowner can fill out an exterior modification request. If approved, all costs associated with the planting and maintenance will be at the homeowner's expense.

Evergreen tree damage this spring related to DuPont Imprelis (weed killer) has been shown to our fertilizer contractor, Forever Green, and they have in turn made DuPont aware of the problem. DuPont has voluntarily accepted responsibility and is working with Forever Green to remove and replace the affected evergreen trees. More than likely this activity will not start until spring.

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Lawn Care Service

What is aeration and why schedule it again? Lawn aeration involves the removal of small soil plugs or cores from the lawn. Most aeration is done mechanically with a machine having hollow tines or spoons mounted on a disk or drum. Known as a core aerator, it extracts 1/2 to 3/4 inch diameter cores of soil and deposits them on the lawn. Aeration holes can vary in depth with 2-3 inches deep and 2-6 inches apart.

Core aeration is a recommended lawn care service to improve the health of our lawns. 1st American will contact our homeowners prior to the start of the service.

Landscaping and Beautification

Landscaping and Beautification committee members are winding down their work around the front monument entrance and the waterfall area. They stayed within their allotted budget and managed to plant hundreds of ground cover Geraniums between the monument and around the waterfall area.

Double Knock out Roses added color to the landscape bed and are expected to bloom next spring. A second bench was added for walkers to bask in the sun and take in the view of our waterfall front. The L & B committee was thrilled when one of our homeowners chose the waterfall area to hold a lovely wedding.

Sue extends thanks to our great group, Betty, Beverly, Chris, Dave, Dee, Leslie, Ken, Mary, Millie, & Nancy.

Neighborhood Watch Committee

Chairperson Don Stopper held a meeting on September 15th to give update information and to recruit additional homeowners to the committee. The committee would welcome volunteers from Manistee, Grand Haven Way, and Traverse City Ct.

The two main functions of the watch committee are to **WATCH** the neighborhood for suspicious activity (something out of the norm), and **REPORT** any such activity to their police department.

The **DON'TS**: don't attempt to stop any criminal activity, never intervene if a crime is taking place, don't put yourself at risk.

Annual Garage Sale

The Homeowners Association annual garage sale proved to be successful in spite of the rain during the last half of the day. Many homeowners were able to sell off enough "stuff" to make room. The Garage Sale is held on the 3rd Saturday of August each year and is the only day to hold a garage sale in Briar Cove.

Walking Path Improvements

The walking path surface has been re-graded to fill out the uneven surface. Smaller stones are being used to provide a better walking surface. In addition, the lawn contractor trimmed overhanging tree branches or bushes. A small section of the re-graded surface was washed out due to heavy rainfall; a review will be held to evaluate the cost to repair and to avoid a recurrence.

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Briar Cove Book Club

Our first book discussion of the year will be "Escape" by Carolyn Jessop which is the riveting story of polygamist life in the FLDS. The author recounts her marriage to one of the leaders of the church and of Warren Jeff's' (now a convicted pedophile) coming to power and how Carolyn escaped with all eight of her children. This story is even more compelling knowing that there are 30,000+ polygamists in the US today and the population is growing with the insurgence of Muslims.

In October we are reading "Dreams of Joy" by Lisa See which is a sequel to "Shanghai Girls" which we read previously. Lisa See is a favorite author of the group and she continues her tale of the sisters searching for their daughter who ran back to communist China to find her father. We encourage new members and invite interested women to join us for discussion and to bring new ideas to the group. The friendship and food is also a great enticement. Call Karen Davis at 865-2241 for more information.

Hot tips for dining out

Did you know that group discounts are available for groups of 11 or more for 30% off ticket prices at Munster's Theatre at the Center, 1040 Ridge Road? Currently running is "Guys and Dolls Sept. 15 through Oct 16. Sample ticket prices vary from \$36 to \$40. For more information you can call the box office at (219) 836-3255 or visit TheatreAtTheCenter.com

Living Green

It appears that maggots have been an issue with some residents and what follows are some ideas to help eliminate or control those vile critters. Since cold weather is ahead flies will be dying off, but the larvae will need to be destroyed. Usually maggots are associated with meat and one suggestion is to keep a small bag in the freezer to store discarded meat. On garbage day put the frozen refuse in the garbage can. Also, if refuse is placed in tied garbage bags and placed in a sealed can maggots should not be an issue.

After an infestation, pour boiling water in the can to kill any maggots and larvae and then scrub the interior with one part vinegar to two parts water. Allow to dry thoroughly as maggots and flies love water; always be sure to shut the lid completely after placing refuse in the can. Vinegar, mint oil, eucalyptus and bay leaves have all been noted to repel flies. Experiment with wiping down the exterior of your can with the vinegar or diluted mint oil, or crumble some of the leaves in and near the trash can

Many of us also take exception to spiders in the house, and no matter how "friendly" they are we don't care to share our space with them. To help ward them off, use orange oil, eucalyptus leaves or pennyroyal on cotton balls or small rags.

An interesting website to get more information about green living is:

www.care2.com

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