



**NEWS
AROUND
THE
NEIGHBORHOOD**

April, 2010

Welcome Spring !

The old saying that “April showers bring May flowers” couldn’t be more welcome this time of year. With Old Man Winter winding down, the thought of Spring around the corner is a welcome relief that we can hardly wait for.

We have another full year of activities scheduled for 2010 that are outlined in this Newsletter. Our committees will be hard at work to enhance the quality of life in Briar Cove. The Social Committee will be busy planning the fun stuff. The L&B Committee is just itching to get started on the front entrance and waterfall area. The April 15th board meeting will be used as a photo opportunity for our Committee groups pictures, so please be sure to attend.

It’s a given, the involved homeowners provide the best input, while the unresponsive homeowner just keeps us in the dark. We are working to provide as much information to the homeowner as possible via our Website and our quarterly Newsletters. We encourage you to provide your e-mail address to 1st American; it would provide instant information to the homeowner on urgent matters of concern.

Spring Things

Fertilizer. The first round of fertilizer will be done during the week of April 12 or April 19, depending on the weather.

Sprinklers. If your home has an irrigation valve, please turn it on between April 19 and April 25, 2010. Per Schererville Irrigation, there is no need to call after you have turned on the valve, but feel free to call if you have any questions (322-0890). Schererville Irrigation will test, repair the sprinkler system and have the sprinklers ready for activation.

Mulch. Mulch in the front landscape beds will be replaced this spring. If you added any additional landscaping and would like new mulch, you can contact Todd (Mastercut) or purchase your own. **You must use cedar mulch.** Any other mulch is a violation and will need to be removed and replaced with cedar mulch.

Phase 2 Painting

Phase 2 of our painting project should begin late May or early June depending on the weather. The tentative route will begin on Ludington, proceed to

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Pentwater, moving to Charlevoix Way, then to Grand Haven Way, and finishing on Mackinaw Place.

The painting will include all the exterior wood on the home, including caulking, the mailbox, fences, any stairs behind the home and painting of the front shutters. The painter will also move the house address numbers from above the door to over the garage door. If choosing to have your front door painted, you must make arrangements to leave the front door open until completely dry.

The address numbers for all homes must be the same or similar (4" black numbers). If you replaced your numbers and they are not similar to the original numbers, they will need to be changed.

All homeowners in Phase 2 painting will be contacted by 1st American. Phase 3 will be completed next year.

Driveway Sealing Project

The second and final phase of the seal coating is scheduled to start early June. You will be alerted of the start date. Weather permitting, the seal coating should take about two weeks to complete. The contractor will leave an informational flyer alerting you that your driveway will be sealed. Please make plans to leave your driveway clear.

Bike Outing

A homeowner (Rodney Graves) has offered to lead a bike outing if enough interest is there. It would be scheduled for a weekend in July or August; it would

also include a rain date. You would need to find a way to transport your bike to and from the starting site. The ride would be considered a loop ride, which means you would end up where you started. A 10-15 mile ride is being considered, but will be determined at a later date. If you are interested, please contact Carmen Ware at carmenware@sbcglobal.net.

Outdoor Items

With the warmer weather approaching, this is a good time to familiarize yourself again with what is permitted outdoors in the front landscaping. The following is taken from our Second Amendment to Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions:

"14. OUTDOOR ITEMS. The following items may be installed: (i) an address sign placed within the landscaping; (ii) landscape lights may be placed within the mulch area; (iii) one shepherds hood with a hanging flower pot; (iv) plants, plant stands and flower pots in the landscape area or on the front porch; (v) a bench or chairs may be placed on the front porch; (vi) an American flag attached to the Residential Unit may be displayed; (vii) a wreath may be displayed on the front door; and (viii) holiday decorations may be installed one week before and after a holiday, with the exception of Christmas decorations which may be installed from the week of Thanksgiving until one week after New years Day. No

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other permanent flag poles, decorative flags, awnings, bird baths or bird feeders, decorative animals, decorative iron works, decorative lawn sprinklers, additional fencing, miniature fountains, landscape lights attached to a structure, name plates, pavers, plaques, rocks, signs, statues or figurines, storage sheds, sun globes, thermometers, wind chimes, wishing wells, any other general decorating items and landscaping shall not be permitted unless they receive prior written approval of the Architectural Review Committee."

If something is not covered in the above paragraph, please consult our governing documents or contact Peter Bylen with your questions.

Board Terms/Amendment

Your Briar Cove Board would like to express their thanks and gratitude for your help in securing the signed consent forms for our amendment change. We are very pleased to announce that the proposed amendment change to the association's By-laws was passed. It required 180 signed consents; to date we received 187 to ensure passage.

The effort it took clearly shows the difficulty in managing the change process involved in the amending of our governing documents. To make things happen it takes the entire community to pitch in to ensure the proper information is getting to all our neighbors. Too often

you may assume that your signature or input may not be needed, but nothing can be further from the truth.

What does this amendment mean? Our current board was elected under our previous by-laws they are obligated to finish out the terms as elected. The 2010 November election will have (4) open board seats, the seats to be filled will be staggered. "After the present terms expire, the fixed terms of all Directors will be three (3) years."

Trash/Recycle Bins

All trash containers and recycle bins must be stored out of sight from the street, except on trash day.

New Sign

You may have noticed the new "no parking when snowfall is 2" sign at the entrance. This sign was installed by the Town of Schererville at the request of the board.

Calendar of Events

We have a new Calendar link on our Website. The board created a calendar showing fixed and tentative dates for board meetings, garage sale, Christmas party, etc. Please check it out! You can download/print a pdf copy and hang it on your refrigerator.

Next Board Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15, 2010, 6:30 p.m., at Lake County Public Library, Schererville-Dyer Branch, 1001 West

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Lincoln Highway. Board meetings are going to be scheduled for the third Thursday of every month. These dates are, however, subject to change since the Library only permits you to reserve rooms three months in advance. Check the Website for current dates.

Take Northwest Indiana EasyGo Chicago Bus Service to Chicago Loop

This new service provides rides from 213th & Calumet, Dyer to downtown Chicago. For information on rates and schedules, check out their Website at <http://www.easygochicago.org/>.

Proposed NIPSCO Substation

Recently, Briar Cove residents received a letter from NIPSCO informing them of a new substation planned to be built just to the west of Ludington Lane. Two meetings were scheduled by NIPSCO to present the plans and to answer the questions of the residents. The meetings were held on March 11 and 12 in Dyer and Schererville, respectively. Questions and concerns were expressed by the residents. NIPSCO, Dyer and Schererville are taking these concerns under advisement.

Item of Interest to the Community

The Hammond Police Department Canine Unit is presenting a documentary that tells the incredible story of the Marine Dog Platoons of WW II. It's a heartwarming exploration of the unique bond formed between young marines and their dogs. A special introduction by our neighbor, Edmund Adamski, will be given. Ed served in the 3rd Marine War Dog Company while fighting in Guam. All proceeds will go to the Hammond Police department Canine Unit. For tickets call (219) 781-4301.

War Dogs of the Pacific - A Documentary

Date: 04/17/2010

Time: 11:30am

Address: Lake County Visitor Center
7770 Corinne Drive, Hammond, IN
46323

Contact: Woof Pack K-9 Unit

Phone: (219) 781-4301

General Admission (Adult, Child or Senior): \$10.00

www.briarcovehomeownersassociation.com