



**NEWS  
AROUND  
THE  
NEIGHBORHOOD**

*January, 2009*

"Each Christmas always has its own special meaning, and generates memories unique for that year. Memories for this year's Christmas, in addition to celebrating the birth of Jesus, [we] celebrate the many friends and neighbors we have come to know in Briar Cove." *[taken from an e-mail from a Briar Cove homeowner]*

This attitude is shown every day of the year by homeowners here at Briar Cove. Our community is truly a place where people are not selfish, they volunteer, they help others, they look out for each other, they work together. We hope the new year brings much of the same.

Welcome 2009 Board Members. Our newly elected board members are as follows:

Jay Popp – President  
Ralph Flens – Vice President  
Joe Arias – Treasurer  
Denise Warren – Secretary  
Elaine Gadomski – Director

The Board would also like to thank Elaine Sanders for her commitment and hard work during the past year as Treasurer. Elaine will remain as a member of the Finance Committee and will continue to work with Joe Arias on the finances of the Association.

KMC Litigation. For those of you who did not attend the annual meeting, Jay Popp gave an update regarding the KMC audit and potential litigation. Gerard Dupczak, a homeowner here at Briar Cove, is a retired special agent for the Internal Revenue Service criminal investigation division. Gerard was kind enough to review the KMC audit, and as a result of his findings, it is the recommendation of the Board that the KMC/Olthof issue does not warrant further action. The Board is very grateful for Gerard's time and talent. He was extremely thorough and confident in his findings

Damaged Sprinklers. When the sprinkler system was shut down, several homes that had landscaping done were found to have damaged feed lines or heads associated with the landscaping. When the system is started up in the Spring, the repair costs will be the individual homeowner's responsibility.

Survey Results. Thanks to those of you who completed and returned the surveys. Depending on the question, 75-95% of the responses were positive. As of November 20, we received 89 surveys-that's almost 1/3. If you'd like to review the results, they are posted on our Website in the Alerts section.

HD Antenna. Ken Heinemann, a Briar Cove homeowner, did some research and found an affordable antenna (around \$60.00) that can receive Chicago channels. It's a Multi-Directional HDTV UHF Antenna and it is designed to work in locations where the transmitters for digital stations are spread apart. It utilizes a bowtie design that provides a strong gain across the entire UHF spectrum (channels 14-69). It functions incredibly well in areas where flexible aiming is required and features a weatherproof construction that resists extreme wind loading. Ken purchased his from [www.mcmelectronics.com](http://www.mcmelectronics.com) (part number DB4). You may be able to find it a little cheaper by doing a web search for "DB4". You can also purchase a Universal J Mount for wall or roof mounting for under \$20.00. This is definitely a cheaper alternative to paying a monthly cable or satellite dish bill. For more information, please feel free to contact Ken at [Kheinemann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Kheinemann@sbcglobal.net). **Please remember, however, that any antenna needs to be placed on the rear roof below the ridge line of any residence AND you must receive approval from the Architectural Review Committee before installation.**

Missing Evergreen. Anyone with information regarding the beautiful 8' evergreen that was cut down at the Ludington entrance planting berm on the east side should contact the Board or Peter Bylen. The cost to our association to replace the tree will be approximately \$400.

Purchase of EJ&E Railroad by CN. Unfortunately, the Surface Transportation Board has approved this transaction. However appeals are being filed by the Town of Barrington, Illinois and by our Representative, Peter Visclosky.

Here are some helpful reminders to get you through the winter:

Street Parking. The Schererville Police Department has advised us that vehicles should be removed from the street after two inches of snowfall to allow for city snow removal. Possible tickets and/or towing may result.

Fire Hydrants. If you notice that a fire hydrant in your area is obscured or covered when the snow is plowed, please advise Peter Bylen immediately at 800-990-3536, ext. 310.

Damaged Mailboxes. The Association will not absorb the cost for the repair of damaged mailboxes. If your mailbox cluster is damaged, you will need to get together with your neighbor and arrange for the repair. The replacement mailbox must remain uniform. Peter Bylen has recommended two contractors that would be able to replace or repair mailboxes: 1st American Management's maintenance department (800-990-3536 extension 309, or use the contact link at [www.1stpropertymanagers.com](http://www.1stpropertymanagers.com)); or Caporale Posts, the contractor that originally installed the mailbox units (317-883-3725 or [www.mailboxposts.net](http://www.mailboxposts.net)). The costs are comparable and both contractors are fully insured.

Back Door. Be sure to keep your back door clear of snow, as this is your second exit in case of an emergency.

Salt. Use only calcium chloride salt for melting ice, it's the safest for asphalt/cement. Please be sure to read the packaging label, as some products claim to be less harmful than others, and note that the instructions state to clean the slush before it refreezes.

Frozen Pipes. If you are going to be away from home for more than a day or two, you should turn off your water to prevent freezing pipes. Even if you leave your heat on, the power can go off for an extended period of time and a substantial amount of damage can occur if a frozen pipe bursts, not only to your home, but to your attached neighbor's.

Battery replacement. There are some household batteries to replace as needed. Your garage door keypad, your furnace thermostat, smoke alarm sensors (refer to your manual for replacing the batteries). For the homeowners that have a plug-in Carbon Monoxide detector, a power outage will cause a weak or dead battery to chirp until removed or replaced with a fresh battery.

Friendly Year-Round Reminders:

Garbage Cans/Recycle Bins. Please remember to bring in your garbage cans and recycle bins after they have been emptied. Also remember to bring in your delivered newspapers daily. When these items are left for more than a day, a thief may think you are not home. If you are going to be away from home for more than a day or two, a good idea is to arrange for a neighbor to bring these things in for you, or at least to the top of your driveway or front door.

Iron in Sewers. Some preventative maintenance for those of you with basements: If you have a problem with iron build-up in your sump pump, every spring and fall you should wash out your sump pump with a strong spray of water to dislodge all the iron. You can also use Iron Out in the pumps once a month. The last thing you need is for the pipes to be completely closed by iron deposits. If this does happen, it is a homeowner expense, not an Association expense.

**[www.briarcovehomeownersassociation.com](http://www.briarcovehomeownersassociation.com)**