

Spring Lake Estates Homes Association Winter 2015

Important Dates:

**December 20th from Dusk till Dawn
Luminaries Fest**

**January 6th at 7:45PM
Block Chair Meeting
Location: 3333 Fawnridge**

**Saturday, February 27th at 2PM
Annual Association Meeting
Location: RockValley College - Bell School Building Room 13**

From the President

We are preparing to celebrate the Christmas season with our Annual Luminaries Festival. You will notice the signs already posted around the neighborhood. We will be having a very important meeting for all available Block Chairs in January. If you are a block chair or wish to help as a block chair, please attend. We have the Annual Association Meeting at RVC. Please plan on attending. I am going to be going door to door, with a smile on my face, to ask each of you in person to please attend. As always, I know that you will greet me with a smile on yours, and hopefully say yes you will attend. This year's meeting will be dedicated to discussing the Spring Lake project. The lake project is the largest project we have right now, and it is probably one of the largest ever.

Carlos Angeles

Updates

Luminaries

Get ready! December 20th from dusk till dawn, join in as we light our luminaries. It isn't too early to start planning your display and collecting your supplies. There are no restrictions. Use the materials you wish to use. Some will use the traditional paper bags, sand and candles. Some residents have LED's instead of candles. Using milk jugs, metal bags, or glass jars instead of paper bags allows you to reuse each year. The translucent containers work better than the transparent ones to create a glow. Those of you who are more creative can share tips on the website, or the nextdoor app.

We have sand at the pond for you to use. You may want to bring a small shovel if you like. Zanocco Ace Hardware, 1605 N. Alpine, in Edgebrook shopping center has supplies for the traditional display and for other options.

On behalf of the board members, and all of the chairs, have a Very Merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Annual Meeting

We have reserved room 13 at the RVC Bell School Building. This is the same location where last year's meeting was held. We are expecting that many residents will be coming out to learn and ask questions about the lake project.

Annual Meeting Agenda

Message from the President-

I will give a brief introduction, a look at where we are, and what to look for in the next year.

Elections-

We appreciate any and all members who help out throughout the year. If you would like to participate on the board, we have positions open. Many of our block chairs have said that they are not able to continue due to health concerns, and physical restrictions. The annual meeting is the time where we elect members to fill these positions. Please consider serving your neighborhood. See the form at the end of this newsletter. If you are interested, please provide this information via your preferred method of communication to:

Carlos Angeles
3053 Suffolk Place
c.angeles3053@gmail.com
815-685-7839

Also on nextdoor app and facebook

Alderman Kevin Frost –

We will once again invite Alderman Kevin Frost to attend the meeting to give residents an opportunity to talk to him in person.

Lake Project –

We will have a presentation, which will last about an hour, outlining what is happening with Spring Lake, and what we are planning to do to protect the neighborhood's greatest common space. We will have all of the key people in one place to answer any questions you may have. Please join us in the discussion. Don't stay home and then complain because you don't agree with the direction we are going. Be there, get informed, and be heard.

Meeting Close –

Announcement of board meeting calendar for the rest of the year

Spring Lake

Key Players

Terry Bomkamp and the Lake Committee

Terry is a long time resident of Spring Lake Estates. He is the Lake Committee Chairman and a Board member. Through his leadership, the Lake Committee conducts meetings to discuss and plan the lake project. Terry will present Lake Committee findings to the board.

Dr. Joey Holmes

Dr. Holmes is a Life Sciences professor at Rock Valley College. His students have performed research on our lake for the past few years. They have collected thousands of pages of data that is helping us to determine the past, current, and projected condition of our lake. He and his students will have access to all of Spring Lake Estates common areas for the purpose of conducting their research, which will continue to benefit the neighborhood. This research includes using any special equipment that would assist in collecting data. Dr. Holmes has researched other nearby areas, and is now focused on helping us with the project..

Rebecca Olson, M.S.

Rebecca has focused her career on land and water conservation in Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin, and beyond. She is the owner and president of Olson Ecological Solutions, LLC, a consulting company founded in 2006 and partner company of Tallgrass Restoration, LLC. She also assists conservation groups and landowners in purchasing and selling land for preservation with Hoffman Realty, LLC.

Rebecca's work protects, enhances, and creates natural areas and encourages human interaction with nature in various ways. The projects that she develops and manages provide natural areas in rural and developed settings like river corridors, drainage systems, wetlands, parks, and neighborhoods. These

projects ensure many benefits to our communities, including open spaces for people to enjoy, habitat for wildlife, and areas to provide natural water filtration and prevent flooding.

For example, Rebecca is working with the residents of Babbling Brook near Dixon, Illinois to protect the water quality of the creek and prevent pollution from entering Lost Lake. Together they have created a plan, remeandered straightened stream channels, created basins to capture silt, reinforced eroding streambanks and shorelines, controlled cattle access to the stream, and planted native vegetation along streambanks. In other areas, Rebecca is working with Tallgrass Land Conservation to create large wetlands to mitigate the effects of development. In addition to these efforts, Rebecca has participated in various land and water conservation efforts in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Minnesota, including wetland mitigation design and planning, watershed and regional planning, design and management of ecological restoration and green infrastructure projects, ecological research and inventories, conservation subdivision design, land preservation, and grant writing and administration.

Rebecca volunteers to serve her community as a member of the Board of Directors for the Rockford Park District Foundation and Natural Land Institute, and as a member of the Land Advisory Council for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County. She has also participated on several boards of directors focused on ecological conservation and neighborhood development in the past, including Zion Development Corporation, Severson Dells Nature Center, and Audubon Society. Past employment positions have included the Director of Land Preservation for the Natural Land Institute and a member of the natural area restoration team for the Forest Preserves of Winnebago County.

Rebecca attended Denison University for her Bachelor of Arts in biology and minor in chemistry. She then received her Master of Science in wildlife biology from Colorado State University. She moved to Rockford in 2000. She has been married to her husband, Scott, for 15 years and has two children. When she is not mucking around in the wetlands, she enjoys spending time with her family and biking, cooking, and skiing.

Spring Lake Updates

Beaver Activity Follow-up

A local trapper removed one beaver before the end of the trapping season this past Spring. High water from a heavy rain washed the newly formed dam out of Spring Creek shortly after trapping season ended. No beaver activity or tree damage has been observed since then. Please report any activity to Terry Bomkamp since they can cause serious damage to the trees in the area and to the dam that holds the water in Spring Lake.

Spring Lake Clean-up

We had several volunteers assist on the lake cleanup on April 30th. Over 200 lbs. of litter and debris was removed from the lake and shore line. A picnic was provided to those that assisted. THANK YOU volunteers!!

New Air Hoses/Aerators

Some new hoses have been installed this summer to replace hoses used to operate the fountains and aerators. Many of the aerators and pumps have been replaced or repaired. We currently have 11 of the 12 recommended aerators fully functional.

Environmental Consulting Firm

We have received a proposal from Rebecca Olson, owner of Olson Ecological Solutions (OLS) that includes Five Phases to increase the water quality of our lake. This same firm has been working with

Candlewick Lake and many other local projects. See Rebecca's bio for more information related to Olson Ecological Solutions. Phase 1 which includes an in-depth study of the lake quality and best next steps to take was recently approved by the board. A special presentation will be held at the annual meeting in late February 2016. Please plan to attend this meeting since the project will affect and improve the quality of life throughout the neighborhood including our parks. A discussion will also be held in regard to how these projects will be funded.

Property Values

Based on feedback from local real estate agents and tax records it's estimated that the swimming pond, lake, and parks that belong to Spring Lake Neighborhood increase our property values \$3000-\$5000 per property. Not bad considering the low cost of our annual maintenance fees!

Rock Valley College

Earlier this spring, it was learned that RVC has had an on-going study for the past 3 years related to the water quality of the lake. Dr. Joey Holmes has collected over 8000 pages of data that he has shared with the Lake Committee and board. He will work (OLS) as our lake projects move forward.

Past records from Lake Committee

Help is needed to locate the 40+ years of records related to the lake. If you have knowledge of that info, please contact Terry Bomkamp or Steve Elsberg 815.494.2598.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

A fish study was conducted in October to help us confirm the steps we are currently taking in regard to our lake project. We also have a healthy population of largemouth bass but we need to begin a re-stocking program this Spring to increase the number of fish in our lake. We are also considering installing some artificial crib style habitat for our fish. Remember that you must have a valid DNR fishing license to fish in our lake even if you live on the lake shore. We are also maintaining a catch and release program at this time. It's recommended however that all small blue gills if caught are NOT returned to the lake. They make good garden/flower bed fertilizer.

Wild Life

Did you know we had an American bald eagle visit our lake daily for 2 weeks in February. This past spring we had loons for a short while as they migrate to northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Other sightings include: deer, mink, muskrats, coyotes, and turkeys. We must be living UP North!

Property Owners on the Dam

Our most recent Dam Inspection indicated that several parts of the dam have an excessive amount of shrubs, bushes, and small trees that are causing damage to the structure of the dam. It is the responsibility of those owners to remove stated vegetation. If the property owners chose not to take responsibility the home owners association will need to have the work contracted and the property owners will be invoiced for work completed. A special mailing was sent to those owners on behalf of the board of directors. If you received a notice, we only ask that you acknowledge receipt of the letter by the end of February. There will be three opportunities to walk the area with us. Meet at the pond on any of the following mornings.

February 3rd, 19th and 26th at 9:00AM

Lake Access

Canoes, paddle boats, small sailboats, kayaks, boats with no motors can be launched at the launch site located at the end of Montlake. A fishing pier built as an Eagle Scout project is located there also. Does anyone know the name of the scout who completed this project? Unfortunately the plaque that was mounted has been destroyed. For young fisherman small blue gills can be caught on worms with every cast. What fun! If you continue down the drive of Montlake, you have access to the south bank of the lake. This makes a nice walk to the swimming pond and then continues on a paved walking path across Spring Lake Drive. There are additional walk ways connecting our streets and parks throughout our neighborhood. All other areas of the lake shore are private property please be respectful.

Spring Lake Estates Yearly Election Candidacy

Fill in the suggested information in this form. We will hold elections at the annual meeting. This form is not required to be filled out in order to be considered for election.

Full Name

Address

Phone

Email

Open positions:

Vice President

Architectural Committee Chair

Garage Sale Chair

Newsletter Chair

Block Chair for the following areas (see map on the following page)

Area 2

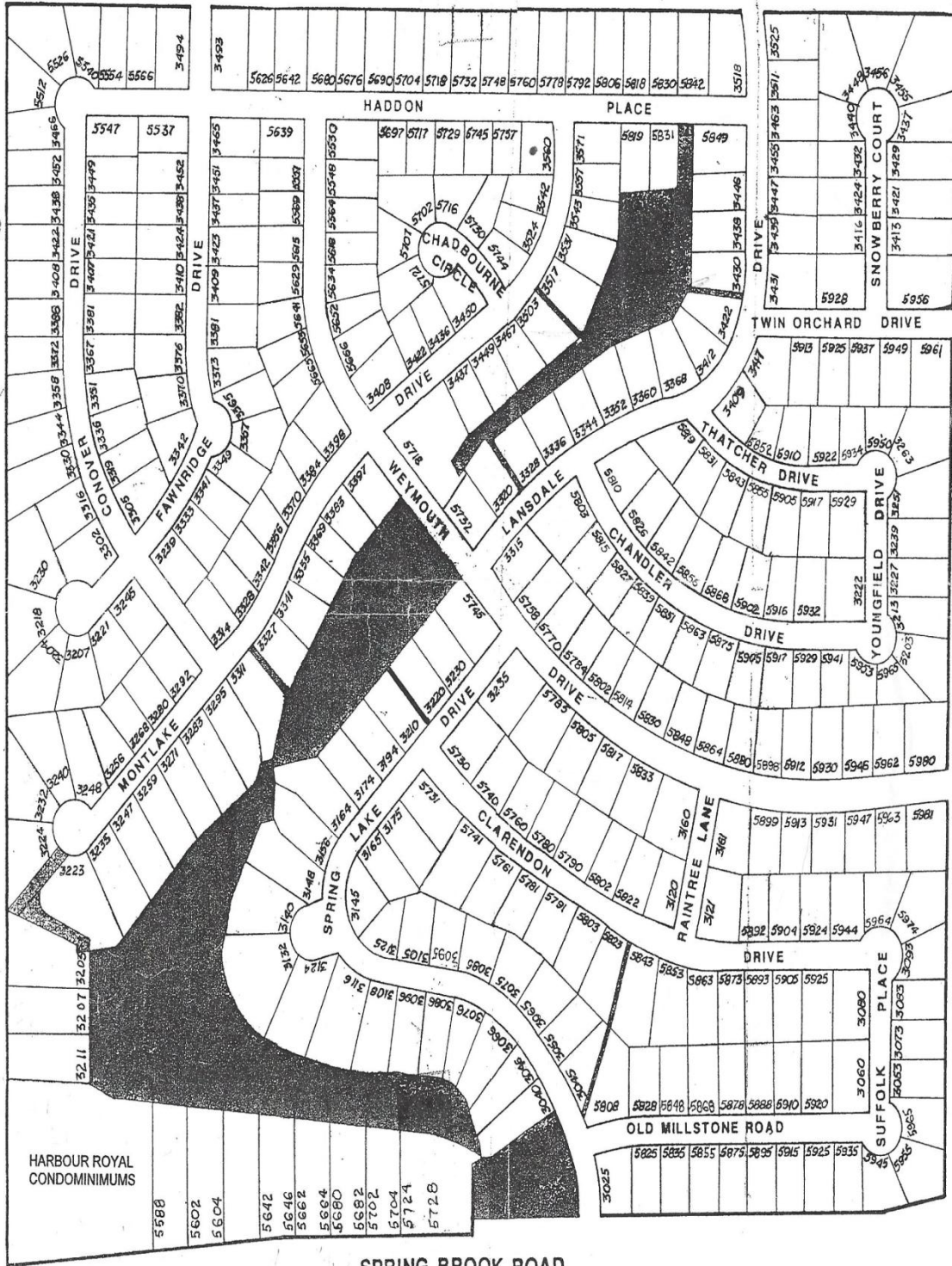
Area 3

Area 8

Area 9

Area10

SPRING LAKE ESTATES



SCALE: 1"=200'



HARBOUR ROYAL
CONDOMINIUMS

- 5688
- 5602
- 5604
- 5642
- 5646
- 5662
- 5664
- 5680
- 5682
- 5702
- 5704
- 5724
- 5726

SPRING BROOK ROAD

Communication

The paper newsletter has been the main method of communication from the board to the members of the association. The board is looking to improve communication and community involvement. Here are a few ways to communicate with the board as well as with other members in the neighborhood.

- Spring Lake Estates Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/SpringLakeEstatesRockford/>
Also available for iOS and Android smartphones
- Nextdoor App – location based message board
<https://nextdoor.com/>
Also available for iOS and Android smartphones
- Spring Lake Estates website is under construction.
<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/SLE>
- Your board members, committee chairs, and block chairs are available by phone or email