

# SPRING LAKE ESTATES NEWSLETTER



## NEXT BOARD MEETING

**DATE:** TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18  
**TIME:** 6:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** RVC BELL SCHOOL CENTER (CORNER BELL SCHOOL & SPRING BROOK ROADS) - ROOM 2  
**AGENDA:** NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, LAKE RESTORATION PROJECT, DUES, BUILDING & GROUNDS

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is it just me or are the years getting shorter? It seems that just yesterday we opened the pond and it was summertime. Now we are coming up on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The lake project that Joel Helge undertook has been completed in Weymouth Park. He planted wild plants and grasses to stop the erosion in to the lake. In springtime this will be grassland and be home to various forms of wildlife beneficial to the lake and surrounding area. We plan to fence the area off to protect the newly planted grasses and plants.

The current projection is that the dues will increase by 6.2% for 2009. That was the current listed Consumer Price Index for July 2008 upon which we base the increase in dues. If the projection holds, our 2009 association dues will be \$207.00 due on March 1. The invoices will be mailed the first week of January 2009.

We are in good shape financially, but we need to build up reserves for emergencies. While we have some outstanding dues, we are aggressively pursuing them through the Small Claims Court. These cases also include those who were on payment plans and fell behind. While the association knows that these are tough times financially, it is the lack of communication from those in difficulties that cause the association to take legal action. If you are in a difficult situation, please let us know so we can address it.

Our investments are sound. Our C.D. is in a locked rate and when it comes due again, the association will, as it has in the past, exercise due diligence in finding the best rates with a secure financial institution.

This summer also saw a rash of burglaries. Fortunately no one was injured in these incidents. Carol and I were victims of a robbery some time ago and we still remember the pain and the feeling of being violated. Our thoughts and prayers go out to our residents and friends who were victims.

I want to congratulate the residents on becoming more aware of their surroundings and the people who are in the area. Lets keep it up. Make your home and yourself a hard target. The Rockford Police Department will come out and do an evaluation of your home free of charge. Simply call our Community Services Officer (listed on pg. 2) and request one.

While was are on the subject of Police. If you see something that you feel is not right, call 911 immediately. Always teach your children of Stranger Danger and know where they are at all times.

We have noticed some sheds have been built on property within the association without going through the Building Committee. If you build something without contacting Tom McNeany, you run the risk of legal action as this is a violation of the by-laws. The proper procedure is to contact your immediate neighbors to see if they have any concerns, get a sketch or plans of your shed or fence, then submit them to Tom McNeany, Building Committee Chair.

It is that time of the year again. On the last page of the newsletter you will find nomination forms. If you want to be on the S.L.E.H.A. Board for 2009, please fill out the form and return it to us no later than December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please do not nominate someone without their permission.

Lets all have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season! Peace to all!

Bob

President: Bob Neumann

E-mail: bobneumann@ymail.com

Phone: 815-282-4635

## BOARD MEMBERS

### OFFICERS:

#### President:

Bob Neumann

815-282-4635

bobneumann@ymail.com

#### Vice-President:

Chuck Hummel

815-636-9322

#### Treasurer:

Ray Nilles

815-633-0836

#### Secretary:

Pam Long

815-282-2083

### CLASS A:

Tom McNeany

815-282-4016

Richard Gassmann

815-633-9882

### CLASS B:

#### OPEN

Mark Sullivan

815-877-4441

### MEMBER EMERITUS:

James Stewart

Dixie Simons

### COMMITTEES

#### ARCHITECTURAL

Tom McNeany

815-282-4016

#### NEWSLETTER

Carol Neumann

815-282-4635

ceneum@att.net

#### POND

Paula Reiter

815-540-6810

preiter1228@yahoo.com

#### LUMINARY

Wendy Higgins

815-282-3988

higginsdoobiz@

higginshomeinspection.com

#### GARAGE SALE

Pam Osborne

815-654-7968

chefwyf@cheffrons.com

#### SAVE SPRING LAKE

George & Judy Goldman

815-654-1288

4cures.org

#### LAKE PATROL

Matt Macias

282-3556

## BLOCK CHAIRPERSONS

### AREA 1

Chandler/Youngfield/  
Thatcher

Susan & Ray Nilles

5950 Thatcher

815-633-0836

r.nilles@att.net

### AREA 2

Clarendon +2 on Raintree

Kathleen Slade

5802 Clarendon

815-654-8389

no e-mail

### AREA 3

Conover +7 on Haddon

Larry Hoffman

3335 Conover

815-877-9032

larryhoff@insightbb.com

### AREA 4

Fawnridge

Terri & Patti Bomkamp

3333 Fawnridge

815-282-4758

pbomkamprd@insightbb.com

### AREA 5

Haddon (E of Fawnridge)

Joyce Zartman

3571 Montlake

815-877-3615

joyce.m.z@juno.com

### AREA 6

Lansdale

Deena Hergert

3320 Lansdale

815-494-9650

deenak@comcast.net

### AREA 7

Montlake (N of Weymouth)/  
Chadbourne

Paula Reiter

5702 Chadbourne

815-540-6810

preiter1228@yahoo.com

### AREA 8

Montlake (S of Weymouth)

Ed Cunningham

3259 Montlake

815-282-6154

ed@cunningnet.com

### AREA 9

Old Millstone/Suffolk

Carol Bachhuber

5935 Old Millstone

815-877-8894

clsbach@insightbb.com

### AREA 10

Springbrook - Condos

Jim Stewart

5548 Springbrook #206

815-637-2785

jcstw1@aol.com

Dixie Simons

5548 Springbrook #202

815-877-6549

no e-mail

### AREA 11

Springbrook - Duplexes

Barb & Tim Koons

3220 Springlake

815-708-6627

fishmed@netzero.com

### AREA 12

Springlake

Judy Goldman

3132 Springlake

815-654-1288

judy@4cures.org

Steve Ferrall

3156 Springlake

815-986-6723

steveferrallrealtor@insightbb.com

### AREA 13

Twin Orchard/Snowberry

Susan & Ray Nilles

5950 Thatcher

815-633-0836

r.nilles@att.net

### AREA 14

Weymouth (E of Lansdale)/

+2 on Raintree

Kathy Harms

5880 Weymouth

815-877-8320

kaharms54k@aol.com

### AREA 15

Weymouth (W of Lansdale)

Elizabeth Russo

5732 Weymouth

815-877-4657

russo@insightbb.com

### BLOCKCHAIR COORDINATOR

Carol Neumann

5898 Weymouth

815-282-4635

ceneum@att.net

### ALDERMAN - FOURTH WARD

Carl R. Wasco

815-282-1635

cwasco2155@aol.com

### COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER

Officer Liz Hughes

815-987-8276

liz.hughes@ci.rockford.il.us

### ADDITIONAL POLICE NUMBERS

Emergency **911**

Non-emergency **815-966-2900**

Community Standards **815-987-5566**

(Property and neighborhood violations)

### 2008 QUARTERLY BOARD MEETINGS

Tuesday, Nov 18, 2008 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb 21, 2009 2:00 p.m.

2009 Annual Meeting

The meetings will be held at Rock Valley College with building and room number assigned prior to each meeting.



Jeff Higgins, son of Kim & Wendy Higgins, graduated from dental school and has opened his practice in Lathrop, MO

**Editorial**

As president of this association, I have received a number of complaints regarding various issues. All of them have merit, except one. The issue of dues. I have heard it all from "we should make those not in the association pay dues" to "why should we pay dues when we don't use the parks". Another popular one is "why should we pay for the lake if we don't have full access to it", or my favorite, "the dues are too high"!

The fact of the matter is that when you purchased your home in Spring Lake Estates, you knew that you were buying into an area that was controlled by a homeowner's association. In fact many of our current residents served on those first boards. There is no way for an individual homeowner to "opt out" of this or any homeowner's association.

We all pay dues for the common good of our area. Ask any realtor. Spring Lake Estates is a highly desirable area for those who like a nice house at a reasonable price, great parks, and a fantastic neighborhood.

We all benefit from the parks and lake (with its new handicap accessible fishing dock), whether we use them or not. It is reflected in the value of our homes.

As far as our dues being too high, a check of the local area show the average association dues is between \$850 to well over \$1,000 per year and they don't have what we offer. We are well below the average and do a lot with very little.

So while I know that people will still complain about the dues, I hope this puts things into perspective.

**RENEW THE TRADITION**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 4:30 p.m.**

**WE LIGHT OUR LUMINARIES**



**NEW LUMINARY FUN!**

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m., together we light our luminary, dim our entry lights, and warm our neighborhood hearts again. Last year's display

was awesome. More than half the homes in the association participated turning our neighborhood into a winter wonderland! Lets see if we can surpass it this year! Plan your display now and collect your supplies early! For a traditional display, here's what you'll need:

1. White, weather resistant luminary bags; use approximately 1 per every 6 - 9 feet of your path (or whatever looks good to you).
2. White luminary candles; use 1 per bag.
3. Sand or kitty litter; approximately 2 cups per bag.
4. Long lighter; like the one to start grills.

These supplies can be found at Zanocco Ace Hardware at 1605 N. Alpine in the Edgebrook Shopping Center or ACE Hardware at 5874 East Riverside in the shopping center at Riverside and Mulford. (Also available elsewhere.)

To assemble the luminaries:

1. fold bag tops down about 2" to anchor the bag shape
2. put 2 cups of sand or kitty litter in each bag
3. after placing your luminary bags along your drive or pathway, securely mount a candle in the center of the sand within the bags. (Take care that the area is free of any debris or obstruction.)

Instead of candles, battery operated lights of various sizes are available. (Walmart carries small oil lamps made specifically to be placed inside candle holders or luminaries.) Metal luminary "bags" are also available. Or go creative with milk cartons, jars or ice!

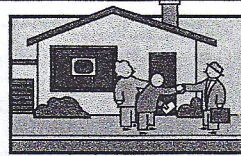
The luminaries will be lit at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for that evening only. Grab your camera, walk the neighborhood, greet your neighbors, or plan a party for that day. Enjoy the beauty of the season!

Collect your luminary remains the next day. Reuse, recycle or share what you can.



**WE HAVE HAD COMPLAINTS REGARDING PETS RUNNING LOOSE AND FOLLOWING CHILDREN. KEEP YOUR PETS UNDER CONTROL (LEASHED OR FENCED) AT ALL TIMES. IT'S THE LAW!**

Place your business card ads here. \$10 per newsletter or \$40 per year. With the yearly rate you are guaranteed placement in 4 newsletters with extra issues at no additional charge. Call Carol at 815-282-4635.



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS**

John & Pat Leahy  
Gerald & Sally Larson

5740 Clarendon Drive  
5548 Spring Brook #305



**HOMES FOR SALE**

3120 Raintree Lane Realtor - ReMax, Zil Huma	815-986-3827
3319 Conover Drive Tom McKiski Realtors, Larry Perry	815-885-3637
3447 Lansdale Drive Realtor - Dickerson & Neiman, Bonnie Pierce	815-227-5900
5548 Spring Brook Road #303 Realtor - Whitehead, Julie Snyder	815-395-6858
5548 Spring Brook Road #312 By Owner, Jeff Jones	815-282-3997
5588 Spring Brook Road Realtor - Keller Williams, Audrey Johnson	815-519-7822

**gambino REALTORS**

3815 N. Mulford Rd. Rockford, IL 61114



**Jim Barbagallo**  
BROKER ASSOCIATE

DIRECT LINE:  
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**Karen Barbagallo**

DIRECT LINE:  
**815 637 0709**

karenbarbagallo@aol.com

www.gogambino.com

**CALL FOR NEWS!**

Weddings, anniversaries, births, announcements, ads, whatever you want! Block chairs, you're the front line for info from your areas. Send me your news - homes for sale, new neighbors. Any budding columnists? How about a human interest or "Erma Bombeck" type column. Let's get the NEWS back into our newsletter! The next issue will be published mid-February. FILL IT UP WITH NEWS! Call Carol at 815-282-4635 with your articles.

**JEFF JONES, CLASS B BOARD MEMBER, HAS RESIGNED. JIM MILNE HAS VOLUNTEERED TO COMPLETE JEFF'S TERM AND WILL BE APPOINTED AT NEXT WEEK'S BOARD MEETING.**



**Dickerson & Nieman**  
REALTORS

www.dickersonnieman.com  
6277 E. Riverside Blvd. • Rockford, IL 61114  
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Toll Free: 800.666.3530

**Steve Ferrall**

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Cell: (815) 985-8783

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*Richard Warner*

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839 N. Perryville Road  
Rockford, IL 61107  
Fax: (815) 231-5857



pscordato@whiteheadweb.com  
whiteheadweb.com/pscordato



**KIMBALL HIGGINS**  
Licensed Home Inspector

5895 Old Millstone Road  
Rockford, IL 61114  
Phone: 815-821-5511  
Fax: 815-282-3989  
Email: Kimball@jahiggins.com