



Summer 2014 • Volume 10, Issue 2



PHA ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

Thank you to those who attended our annual meeting on May 28. Highlights from the meeting are below. Please contact President Jim Nolting with questions or comments, 815-464-0341.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Jim Nolting

Prestwick is a community that is recognized as a highly desirable place to live. Our goal is to maximize community value while maintaining and improving the neighborhood. This includes:

- Aesthetics of entrances
- Adherence to deed restriction, Prestwick covenants and Village code
- Sponsoring of PHA member events
- Monitoring community issues
- Communicating the PHA position on local issues to governing bodies

Architectural Review Committee – Tom Barz

This committee primarily deals with revisions to current homes or new construction plans. The ARC reviews exterior improvement plans including large landscaping projects. If it's a big project, the plans go out to an architect for code/design review. The Village requires permit requestors to get PHA plan approval first before the permit is issued.

Entrances – Tom Wiese

My goal and objective is to get the best bang for our buck with the entrances. I oversee the contractors who work on the entrances. Over the last few years we have installed sprinklers and lighting at the entrances. Long term goals for the entrances include:

- Making sure costs stay in line with our revenues so we are fiscally responsible
- Working on beautifying cul-de-sacs
- Working with Prestwick Country Club on improving the Prestwick Drive entrance

Membership – Brandon Palmer and Judy Snider

Our goal is to increase membership in PHA. Brandon follows real estate sales closely. Brandon and Judy visit new residents and bring a welcome kit and an invitation to PHA membership. Over the past few years, they have visited 40 new homeowners.

Code Enforcement – Marc Steinman

The goal is to keep resident properties in line with Village code and ordinances, as well as Prestwick covenants and deed restrictions. The covenants are buried in the deeds. Very few people actually bother

Continued on page 2

Please send us your email address for our database! Email us at janolting@aol.com.

Summer Gardening Tips, from page 3

Extension:

- Mow lawns higher during these months—a range of 2.5 to 3 inches is suggested
- Mow on a frequent basis cutting no more than one-third of the leaf blade—taller turf allows more shading of the soil, which conserves moisture in the soil
- Avoid applying excess nitrogen fertilizer during hot, dry conditions as lawn grasses will respond by putting out excessive growth when they should be going dormant; wait until early September for fertilizing most lawns, rather than summer.

More information regarding lawns can be found on the Illinois extension website www.urbanext.illinois.edu under the article entitled "Lawn Talk, Lawncare Info for Northern Illinois".

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS



Thelma Ablan, 941 Shetland
Lori Garrett, 834 Highland
Sean & Claire Macfarlane, 645 Pheasant Trail



Annual Meeting Summary, from page 1

to read their deed.

When a neighbor complains or a board member sees an issue with a property, the first step is to have a conversation with that neighbor. Usually the problem gets resolved at that stage. If not, the Village is approached as needed for additional support.

Some common code enforcement situations include:

- Cutting down a tree of a certain size...the Village requires replacement
- Lengthy storage of a commercial vehicle or RV (prohibited by Village)
- Grass not maintained at Village ordinance level
- Speeding through neighborhood
- Off road vehicles on streets
- Garbage cans in view of the street or put out early and/or not removed after pick up
- Signs of any kind in the yard

Government Affairs – Rich Misiorowski

PHA has been involved in the following local issues, working on behalf of residents:

- Widening of Harlem including emergency access to/from Route 30 during construction
- CN safety issues impacting Prestwick residents, including train noise mitigation and validation of CN track bed integrity
- Updating Sauk Trail Dam Emergency Action Plan and validating dam integrity...a revised EAP is due out Summer 2014 from the Will County Forest Preserve
- CN Train Derailment Emergency Action Plan... Frankfort Fire Department ultimately hosted a RR derailment seminar with a national expert as guest speaker
- Making residents aware of a need for a secondary egress route in case of emergency

Treasurer – Tom Kazmierczak

The treasurer processes the dues, pays the bills, gives a financial report at the board meetings and prepares the books for auditing as requested.

ELECTIONS

The following slate was presented and voted upon for PHA board members:

Tom Barz, Lee Hill, Tom Kazmierczak, Bill Matevich, Rich Misiorowski, Jim Nolting, Brandon Palmer, Judy Snider, Marc Steinman, Tom Wiese.

GUEST SPEAKER

Village of Frankfort – Mayor Jim Holland

There are 57 homeowners associations in Frankfort. Prestwick's is the largest. The Mayor commended the board on their hard work on behalf of their residents.

The Mayor presented a variety of Village updates impacting Prestwick:

- A new water tower, 2 new wells and 2 new iron filters are being built/installed south of Prestwick. This will equalize water pressure and also increase storage capacity to meet state standards.
- The west end of Aberdeen will be repaved later in the summer.
- Harlem Avenue widening is no longer on the 5 year plan for Cook County. However, Commissioner Deborah Sims says it is still in the future plans category. Frankfort has recommended that it simply be a 3-lane roadway and Cook County is considering that option.
- Frankfort has received a petition to annex 500 acres of land south and east of Prestwick, close to Stunkel and I-57 where there is a planned interchange.
- The Village recently purchased 3 residential properties near the intersection of Elwood and White Streets. The 4 lots will be combined into H1 zoning.
- Route 30 landscaping – The Village is maintaining the landscaping in the Village. There is an area outside Village jurisdiction which is not currently being maintained. The Village is working to get that resolved.
- The Prestwick water tower is due to be painted. The PHA should let the Village know if they have a particular painting request.
- In response to a question about vacant lots being maintained, the Mayor noted that letters are sent at the beginning of the year notifying absent owners that the grass will be cut and a lien in

place if the grass goes over 6". PHA just needs to call Chris Dempsey at the Village to get empty lots cut and a lien placed on the property.

Questions arising from the public comment time and which the Mayor will follow up on included:

- Creation of a bike trail along Harlem and linking Prestwick neighborhoods to Old Plank Trail... also, is it possible to pave the shoulder along Harlem, create access to the trail at the end of Aberdeen and/or use Com Ed easements
- Maintenance of landscaping/scrub area at the northwest corner of Harlem and Sauk Trail... who is responsible?
- Paving the gravel at the end of Aberdeen by the old water treatment plant for the school buses that use it as a turnaround
- Can the Village partner with PHA to beautify the cul-de-sacs?
- Will the Village approach homeowners to request ash tree removal for dead trees? (Village does so if it's a public safety danger.)

SUMMER GARDENING TIPS

by Prestwick Resident and Master Gardener
Dawn Steinman

Summer is finally here and along with it comes two problems dreaded most by home gardeners, Creeping Charlie and Japanese Beetles.

Creeping Charlie: Although control is difficult, existing Creeping Charlie can be treated with post-emergence broadleaf herbicides from mid-spring to early summer or mid- to late fall. Regardless of the time, the weed must be actively growing for the herbicide to be effective. Look for herbicides containing dicamba and follow the directions on the label.



Japanese Beetles: Japanese Beetles will soon be upon us, and although you may be tempted to purchase one of the popular Japanese Beetle traps, you may want to think twice. It is proven that they attract beetles from long distances. Once they are attracted to the trap's vicinity, they feed on ornamentals rather than coming to the trap. Studies have shown that landscapes with the traps are likely to experience more damage than those without traps. One of the best ways to control them is to fill a container with water and dish soap and knock the beetles into the container.

Another problem plaguing home gardeners is lawn care during draught conditions. Grass is a cool weather perennial and tends to suffer during July and August. Here are a few tips from the Illinois

Continued on page 4

Prestwick Country Club Presents:

Fireworks Extravaganza

Thursday, July 3, 2014



Free Admission Cash Bar

BBQ Buffet 6pm—8 pm

Fireworks 9 pm

Adults \$30.00 Kids \$20.00

Seating is limited and may be reserved by Prestwick Homeowners whose party will be enjoying the buffet. Please call the club at 815 469-5550 to reserve your table.