In the years since the last publication, we have welcomed many new neighbors into Steeple Run who may not have the information that longtime residents take for granted. Some of the articles will be news to some and review for others. Not every topic can be covered in one issue.

As I find the time, I will add to the website newsletter archive by scanning my personal copies of The Neighborhood Voice so that readers can follow the path residents have taken to this point in time.

J. Peterson, SRHA Secretary

SRHA Board Members for 2018

SRHA held its Annual Meeting on January 20th and the following members were elected to 2 year terms:

— Arlinda Brantley
— Mike Dombrow
— Crystal Senyshyn
— Karen Malcolm

Returning Board members serving until January 2019 include:

— Kirk Hensley
— Steve Kadish
— Herb LeBlanc
— Linda LeBlanc
— Brooke Ziolo

Board members who have completed their terms are:

— Dan Annen
— Jim Maier
— Joe O’Malley

We are all grateful for their serving, some for many years. Your dedication and institutional knowledge will be missed.

At the subsequent Board meeting, officers were elected.

Brooke Ziolo will continue as SRHA Treasurer and Kirk Hensley has volunteered to serve as the SRHA Secretary.

Ashley Annen and Beth McBreen have joined Linda LeBlanc and Karen Malcolm on the Social Committee.

A Compliance Committee has been formed and is composed of Mike Dombrow, Rodrigo Leudo, Jennifer Mark, Jim Schlough and Crystal Senyshyn.

*In the months following the Annual Meeting, several resignations have been submitted. These updates to the Board composition and volunteers are featured at the bottom of page 2.

The Contact Us page on the website has been updated.

Inside this issue:

Treasurer’s report
Resignations
Covenants
Exterior Changes
McHenry County Ordinances
Lyme Disease
Wildlife Alert
Preferred Contractor
Non-Compliance
Dead Yees
Driveway Lights
Block Party

Dates of Interest:

• SAT. OCT. 6, 2018—First Day of Open Burning
• SAT. OCT. 13, 2018—Septic Tank Pumpouts
• SAT. OCT.20, 2018—Septic Tank Pumpouts
• TUES. NOV. 6, 2018—Election Day
• SUN. NOV. 25, 2018—Last Date for Open Burning in 2018
• TUES. NOV. 27, 2018 7:00PM—SRHA Board Mtg.
• SATURDAY JANUARY 19, 2019 10AM-12PM SRHA Annual Mtg
Peterson was nominated and unanimously approved to serve as Secretary and complete Kirk’s term until January 2019.

Mike Dombrow has also resigned and in September, Janice Hudson was nominated and approved to complete his term until January 2020.

Ashley Annen and Beth McBreen have resigned from the Social Committee.

Between the Annual Meeting and publication of this newsletter, there have been a few resignations and changes in the Board members.

Kirk Hensley resigned from the Board in April. At the May meeting, Jill Peterson was nominated and unanimously approved to serve as Secretary and complete Kirk’s term until January 2019. Mike Dombrow has also resigned and in September, Janice Hudson was nominated and approved to complete his term until January 2020.

Available cash on hand at the end of the Fiscal Year is $7,275.79. Please visit the website for the First Quarter Income/Expense Statement.

The $85 Annual Dues Assessment for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 has been mailed to all homeowners. As of September 11, 2 households were still outstanding and were mailed a Past Due Invoice for the assessment, $25 late fee and 1.5% interest.
By purchasing a home in Steeple Run, new owners automatically become members of the SRHA and are bound by the Covenants that are bound to each lot.

A copy should have been included with your closing documents. If you have misplaced your copy, they can be read on the website, www.steeplerun.org, and are available to download and print from the Downloads page.

The Steeple Run Estates Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions and By-Laws are the rules which govern our neighborhood and were designed to preserve and enhance the property values as well as protect the safety of the residents.

This document can be, and has been, modified to change with the times and situations. The original Covenants were established by the developer, requiring 80% of households to approve changes to provide stability and to ensure that the changes proposed were acceptable to nearly all of the neighbors.

Please become familiar with the rules and conditions set forth in this document to understand what is expected and to avoid any non-compliance issues. The most common issues that have been dealt with are found in ARTICLES FOUR and SIX.

When the Covenants undergo the review process, watch for communications from the Board, seeking volunteers and input, explaining changes and the approval process.

SRHA APPROVAL NEEDED FOR EXTERIOR CHANGES

Changes to the exterior of your home or property need to have SRHA approval BEFORE any work is done.

This important step is necessary even if the project complies with the Covenants and should be at the top of every To Do list when planning your projects.

Exterior changes requiring approval include, but are not limited to: driveway lights, additions, sidewalks, retaining walls, terraces, decks, gazebo, antennas and dishes, dog runs, pools, structures, driveways, and roofs.

Article 6.02 of the Covenants covers this approval process:

1. Submit preliminary sketches as the planning process begins for an informal ‘go-ahead.’
2. Submit the Architectural Change Approval Form (download from the website), survey, plans and material specifications to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) for consideration.
3. The Committee will examine the plans for compliance and work with the homeowner to make any needed alterations to achieve compliance. They then make a recommendation to the Board for their final approval.
4. The request then must be approved unanimously by the full Board before the project can begin.

The homeowner is also responsible for obtaining necessary permits from the county. Please keep in mind that the Board does not meet every month, so get them involved early in the planning.

When in doubt, ask a Board or Architectural Control Committee member rather than risk having to undo the work at your cost.

This is not a hollow warning—one neighbor did not get an McHenry County permit before finishing their basement; the work had to be re-done and inspected before their home sale could go to closing. And there were fines to be paid to the County.
McHenry County Rules Apply, too

In addition to the SRHA restrictions spelled out in the Covenants, we are also bound to the ordinances set forth by McHenry County.

Always check before starting a project to see if SRHA and County approval is necessary. Building permits are required for many projects, both interior and exterior.

The terrain established by the developer has been approved but changing the existing engineered groundwater flow, including berms and walls, must be approved by the county.

Other county laws prohibit golf carts on our roads, require grass, lawns and weeds be kept under 8" (the same as our Covenants). Noxious weeds, like thistles are prohibited. Mowing to under 8" will also knock down goldenrod and ragweed—seasonal allergy sufferers will thank you.

Also see the following articles on open burning of landscape materials and barking dogs.

County Ordinance: Open Burning Season Nears

The McHenry County Board is regulating open burning to protect the public health, safety and welfare. An ordinance was passed effective April 1, 2008. It defines what, when and under what conditions landscape waste can be burned. Even more restrictive rules apply to residents of Crystal Lake and other municipalities.

The complete McHenry County Open Burning of Landscape Waste Ordinance is available for reference, printing or download at the Steeple Run website.

McHenry County has very specific laws governing outdoor burning of landscape waste and recreational bonfires.

Although at times it may seem otherwise, enforcement of these laws has been stepped up. The authorities have visited some residents west of Sands Road in previous autumns.

Fines start at $100 and escalate to $1000 for subsequent violations.

Please remember that burning is allowed:
• On weekends in April, May, October and November
• Only between dawn and dusk
• At least 100 feet from habitable structures
• Only when the winds are less than 10 mph
• Must be supervised by someone older than 18
• A water source (fire extinguisher or garden hose) must be available at the burning site.

Call the McHenry County Department of Health (1-815-334-4585) to report open burning on windy days and on weekdays. Law enforcement agencies and fire protection districts are also authorized to enforce the ordinance.

While these laws sometimes make burning inconvenient, we will all breathe easier, especially our asthmatic residents, and we will still have opportunities to dispose of our yard waste.

EXCEPTIONS

There are exemptions for prairie restoration, outdoor cooking, external fireplaces, self-contained outdoor wood-burning devices and recreational fires (less than 3’ by 3’ by 3’ in size). These fires are not subject to the distance from structures restrictions, dates and times, and wind speed restrictions of the ordinance. It is also not necessary to have a garden hose standing by.

Ceremonial bonfires (greater than 3’ by 3’ by 3’) have the same exemptions if:
1. Notice has been given to the fire protection district
2. A permit has been obtained from the McHenry County Dept. of Health

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives to open burning our landscape waste exist:

Waste haulers offer landscape waste collection services for an additional fee.

Algonquin Township has a drop-off site and limited pick-up service for brush (subject to change. Check Highway Department website for current information).

Landscaping companies offering clean-up and pruning services should remove the debris created; be sure removal is included before signing the contract.
**County Ordinances: Barking Dogs**

Even our dogs are subject to County regulations. In addition to vaccinations, the County spells out what is acceptable behavior for our pets and their owners.

Picking up and properly disposing of their feces should be a no-brainer but sadly some owners walk their dogs through our neighborhood and do not pick up from the grass or the pavement and the odor attracts more dogs. Owners also need be mindful of how much barking their pets are allowed, especially those pets which are outdoors most of the day. The ordinance is available on our website but below is a summary.

No dog shall be allowed to bark, whine or howl:

- For longer than 15 minutes
- Intermittently for a period in excess of 2 hours

Or vocalize at all between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

Disputes between residents are always best resolved in a friendly fashion first but formal complaints can be made to Animal Control 1-815-334-4470.

Do not bring complaints to the Board. The Board cannot file a complaint; complaints must come from individuals.

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**LOCAL WILDLIFE—COYOTE and BATS WARNING!!**

Residents new to suburban living close to The Hollows may not be aware of the wildlife that exist in Steeple Run.

Some of the animals are nuisances—like chipmunks and skunks that are now looking to winter under a deck, brush or woodpile.

Not as common, but a hazard to our pets, are the hawks (daytimes) and owls (after dark) which have been known to sink their talons into pets, even those on leashes.

Coyotes, although usually nocturnal, have been spotted during the day in our neighborhood. In early morning, they may be returning to their dens; late afternoons is the beginning of the hunt for food.

But we have had coyotes spotted in Steeple Run at 1-2 p.m., sunning themselves in a quiet backyard, right next to the deck!

Bats have also snuck into our homes; a neighbor was bitten by a bat in their home and had to undergo a series of painful rabies shots. The bat’s brain is required for rabies testing.

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**OUR NEIGHBORHOOD HAS POSITIVE LYME DISEASE CASE**

Ticks are a hazard that needs to be on our radars. I had always assumed that a person or pet had to take long walks through the woods or tall grass to be exposed to the Lyme disease-carrying ticks. Not so.

A dog in our neighborhood has tested positive for Lyme Disease; this is a family pet who enjoys walks through our neighborhood and has never been anywhere else except at the vet’s parking lot. Because of his exposure, the whole family needed to be tested and treated.

Ticks most active in spring and fall, although they are active year round. I found one on my pants in mid-December last year, long after I assumed it was cold enough for them to be gone.

Because of the many diseases that ticks have been found to carry, they are to be taken seriously.

—Do self-checks on yourself, your children and your pets. The Deer Ticks are the size of a period on this printed page and they’re the carriers of Lyme.

—Clean up debris and tall grasses on property especially dried leaves and brush piles.

—Educate yourself on symptoms and methods of prevention. Use a search engine or visit newsletter back issues.

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**TICKS INFORMATION FROM ORCHARD BEACON**

- Ticks most active in spring and fall, although they are active year round.
- Ticks are the size of a period on this printed page.
- Ticks carry Lyme Disease, which can be harmful to both humans and pets.
- Do self-checks on yourself, your children, and your pets.
- Educate yourself on symptoms and methods of prevention.

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**TICKS LIFE CYCLE**

- Eggs hatch into larvae, walk on grasses.
- Larvae moult into nymphs, walking on the ground, grasses, etc.
- Nymphs moult into adults, walking on the ground, grasses, etc.

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**TICKS PREVENTION TIPS**

- Check UV rays, temperature, relative humidity.
- Check personal clothing, skin, hair, and pets.
- Use products containing permethrin.
- Avoid walking through tall grasses areas.
- Use insect repellent on pets and children.

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**TICKS TESTING INFORMATION**

- Tests can determine if you have Lyme Disease.
- Testing may include blood testing, skin testing, and urine testing.

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**TICKS REMOVAL TIPS**

- Use tweezers to remove the tick from your skin.
- Clean the bite area with soap and water.
- Keep the tick for testing if you want to.
- Do not rub the tick with your fingers or use other methods to remove it.

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**TICKS & PETS**

- Do not let pets go off-leash in tick-heavy areas.
- Keep pets up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Check pets for ticks regularly.

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**TICKS & PEOPLE**

- Do not let pets go off-leash in tick-heavy areas.
- Keep pets up-to-date on vaccinations.
- Check pets for ticks regularly.

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**TICKS & ENVIRONMENT**

- Reduce tick populations by maintaining a clean environment.
- Remove leaf litter, debris, and tall grasses.
- Use products containing permethrin to control ticks.

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**TICKS & THERAPY**

- Ticks can cause various illnesses in pets and people.
- Prompt removal of ticks can prevent illness.
- Seek medical attention if you suspect Lyme Disease.

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**TICKS & FEEDBACK**

- Share your experiences with ticks in your area.
- Join local groups or forums for advice and support.
- Contact local health departments for information.

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**TICKS & FUTURE**

- Continuous vigilance against ticks is necessary.
- Advances in tick control and disease prevention continue to improve.
- Stay informed and proactive to protect yourself and your pets.

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STEEPLE RUN NEWS

PREFERRED CONTRACTOR: Arrow Septic Pump Outs

Arrow Septic is again offering our Steeple Run residents a discounted rate for pumping out septic boxes on two Saturdays in October. Their offer letter is available on the Preferred Contractor page of our website for additional information.

If you are new to home ownership with a septic system, neglect or abuse of the system will cause it to fail prematurely and have undesirable consequences such as odors, wet mushy areas in the yard and septic backups inside the house!

Each septic tank service includes a 5 Point Inspection to help you to keep on top of issues that may be developing and can be remedied before becoming a major problem.

For homeowners unfamiliar with a septic system, ask the driver for a “New Homeowner” folder that is loaded with information and useful tips for maintaining your septic system.

Here is the multi-family discount plans for your neighborhood for the dates of:

Saturday OCTOBER 13TH & OCTOBER 20TH, 2018 between 7:30 am – 3:30 pm:

Normal price is $205.00 for 1 tank up to 1500 gallons.

$20 SRHA discount - $185.00 for 1 tank.

Please reserve you date now by calling Arrow Septic at (815) 459-5558 and mention that you live in Steeple Run to receive our Preferred Contractor discount.

NEW FEATURE: Our Contractor List

A page has been added at www.steeplerun.org as a means for neighbors to recommend contractors to neighbors, similar to an Angie’s List for Steeple Run residents.

Unlike the Preferred Contractor Programs, discounts are not necessarily available to members.

These listings of contractors with which our members have had positive experiences are there for you to consider as you gather estimates for your needs or projects.

The listings are currently incomplete. We are accepting recommendations in more categories than are currently listed. The Board is limiting this to services provide for our homes, and not including personal services.

If you have had a good experience and would recommend them to your neighbors, please get the contractor’s permission to be listed before submitting.

Email the contact information to ja.peterson@att.net for posting on our website. Include the business name, address, phone numbers and website URL. Your must be willing to share your experience with interested neighbors and your name will be included, along with the date.
Non-Compliance Process

The SRHA Board takes its responsibility to enforce the Covenants very seriously. The Compliance Committee was established in response to enforcement demands made at the Annual Meeting.

The Compliance Committee would like Steeple Run homeowners to know that if you are concerned about an issue of compliance that you feel violates our current Covenants, please submit your concern in writing to Crystal Senyshyn at 3809 Church Hill or any Board member.

The reported violation will be investigated and taken to the Board for a course of action according to our established protocol. Responses will be in writing, noting the course of action to be taken.

Golf Carts Not Legally On Our Roads

An increasing number of neighbors are concerned about the golf carts on the streets in Steeple Run. Steeple Run no longer has private roads and are subject to IL laws and Rules of the Road.

While handy, these motorized vehicles are not street legal, according to a McHenry County sheriff, and should not be on our streets or public sidewalks. It is OK to ride them on private property (driveways, walkways and backyards) only. This hold true for ATVs, mini-bikes and go-karts, too.

The disregard of simple traffic laws by some is extremely dangerous. These young drivers have been running through stop signs, riding with extra people hanging on the outside, and often riding on our streets after dark without lights.

In addition, anyone driving a legal motorized vehicle on county roads must be at least 16 years old AND have a valid IL Driver’s License. Electric scooter operators must wear goggles or safety glasses or have a windshield.

The sheriff also recommends that residents observing these illegal vehicles in operation on the road should not hesitate to report it to their Non-Emergency number - 815-338-2144.

Adult should always set a good example because today’s children are tomorrow’s drivers. Please make sure that your children understand and obey the Rules of the Road and that they behave responsibly.

Dead and Dying Trees

You may have noticed a number of dead pines in our area, especially Austrian pines and blue spruces. Neither tree is native to our area and so are susceptible to disease.

Dead trees should be removed quickly for several reasons. They provide shelter and breeding locations for whatever insect, nematode or fungus caused the death, they are a fire hazard, and they are in danger of being toppled by the wind—possibly into a home or automobile.

In addition to the pines suffering, it is widely known that our green ash trees are infested with the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).

Gypsy moth infestations, Japanese beetles, Eastern tent caterpillars, pine sawfly and birch borers have all been, or continue to be, scourges on our landscape.

If you have dead or dying trees, please remove them as quickly as possible. Dead trees do not enhance your property and shelter disease.

More information can be found in the archived newsletters on the website.

For more information on tree pests, see back issues:
Vol 1: 4
Vol 2: 3
Vol 3: 4
Vol 4: 3
Vol 6: 1

Page 7
A good time was had by the attendees at the Annual Steeple Run Neighborhood Block Party held on Saturday, July 21st.

Grilling with coal and gas, we shared our favorite foods and beverages as we caught up with friends and neighbors. No one went away hungry. The bugs stayed away even in the nice cool shady spots. Naturally, the party continued long past dusk in some homes.

A special thanks to all of the attendees who donated goods and food, and to those who lent chairs, tables and grills and their front lawns. Also, thanks to Ron Seymour, we have professional photos to share.

Autumn is a great time to make our neighborhood roads safer and homes more secure—please have your driveway light ON from dusk to dawn. If your light does not have a photocell, indoor wall switches can easily be replaced with timers that are programmed for our latitude and time zone.

If you do not yet have the required driveway light near the intersection of your driveway and the road right-of-way, please have one installed before the ground freezes. Remember to get SRHA approval before installation.

Steeple Run Neighborhood Block Party Highlights

A good time was had by the attendees at the Annual Steeple Run Neighborhood Block Party held on Saturday, July 21st.

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