Careful! You may be holding a collector’s item in your hands! This could be the last SRHA Newsletter ever published. While its commercial value may be in question, its value to the SRHA homeowners in keeping us all up to date on the activities of the board, our residents, and other events affecting our neighborhood is without question.

As mentioned in my last message, Jill P. has decided to leave the Board after 6 years. Through her tremendous efforts the SRHA has developed a website, and this newsletter, to help keep SRHA residents informed and present a positive appearance to the virtual world. Looking through the content in this issue she has done it again. On behalf of the SRHA Board, and all the residents of SRHA, I want to say “Thank You” for the time and effort you have given us all.

While Jill has created some big shoes to fill, she has also offered to work with anyone who is interested in volunteering to help them come up to speed.

This newsletter should also reach you just before the SRHA Annual meeting on Saturday, January 21st. I invite you to come to the Algonquin Township offices and hear the latest on the activities your board has been engaged in over the last year. Hopefully we’ll have another one of our mild winter days we’ve been fortunate to have this year.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Mike R.
STEEPLE RUN NEWS

TREASURER’S REPORT by Joe O.

FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012

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EXPENSE CATEGORY

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We finished the first two fiscal quarters on Budget and showing the normal increase in income from the annual dues assessment. I am pleased to report that all homeowners have now paid their dues for the current fiscal year. In addition, the property that had been in foreclosure for some time has now been taken over by Fannie Mae and is currently on the market. As part of this process the SRHA has recovered $295.62 in back dues and related late payment fees. So far there has been little progress on the street sign project, and no related expenses to date. We still anticipate that the new custom street signs for Steeple Run may be started in the current fiscal year, and possibly carry over to the next fiscal year. This will allow us to pay for the new signs from existing reserves, without raising the dues amount.

DRIVEWAY LAMPPPOSTS ARE REQUIRED NEAR THE ROAD

If you have a functional driveway light near the intersection of the right-of-way and your driveway, congratulations! You are in compliance with the Covenants (Article 6.04e).

If your light is not situated approximately 30 feet from the road or you don’t have one at all, please consider having one installed close to the road this Spring. The lights mounted near your garage and front doors are not a substitute for the required driveway light.

Photocells or timers can easily be added to light from dusk to dawn, whether you’re home or not.

Now is the time to line up a contractor and select your fixtures. Without the required driveway lamp near the intersection of your drive and the street, YOU will cause a delay in the sale of your home as your home will be out of compliance.

Please get it done sooner than later. Resolve that this will be the year to get this done!
Volume 7, Issue 1 and 2

NEW NEIGHBORS: The PECKENS Family

Please welcome the Peckens family to Steeple Run. They have moved into the former Fisher home on Smith Road.

Please add the attached sticker to update the contact information in your Steeple Run Directory until the next edition is published.

NEW NEIGHBORS: The WEYRAUCH Family

Please extend a welcome to the Weyrauch Family who moved into Lesperances Church Hill Lane home in September. Unfortunately we have not yet received their contact information to share.

IT’S A GIRL!

Congratulations to the Henrichs family. They welcomed her to their family in late September.

Do you know someone who deserves to have the Neighborhood Spotlight shine on them? Just submit the info to webmaster@steeplerun.org.

OBITUARIES: Edann Atwater and TJ Schomer

Two former Steeple Run families were touched by tragedy and grieved in 2011.

Edann Korryn Atwater, the 9 year old daughter of Sarah and grandddaughter of Clark (Tina) and Annette Atwater, passed away in August after fighting the rare genetic disorder, MPS-III (Sanfilippo) Type A.

In late December, TJ Schomer, 20, passed away and will be greatly missed by his friends and family: his mother Luci, brothers Tommy and Ryan and his father, stepmother and two stepsisters.
Steeple Run Estates is a great place to live because of our members who volunteer their time and talent. This combination of members who contribute their business acumen, organizational skills, common sense, discretion, creative ideas and enthusiasm makes our desirable subdivision stand out.

To continue to be successful, our Board needs a variety of members to represent the viewpoints of all residents.

Please continue giving back to your local community by volunteering to help the SRHA.

**SRHA Board of Directors:** there will be 5 positions to be filled in January. Board members serve a 2 year term, acting as stewards of the Association in the best interests of our 74 homes. The Board develops the strategies, policies and manages the finances for the members. And it meets 4 or 5 times a year.

**Landscape**—someone is needed to monitor the contractors caring for the entrance monuments.

**Welcome**—an upbeat person is needed to welcome new residents to our Steeple Run community, familiarize them with the SRHA, gather contact information for the Directory and offer information about the area if needed.

**Newsletter**—someone is needed to assemble the newsletter 3 or 4 times a year to keep Steeple Run residents informed.

There are 74 households in the SRHA. That’s a lot of potential talent! Please take a turn and help.

**KEEP YOUR GAS METER FREE OF SNOW THIS WINTER**

Nicor Gas reminds us to keep our gas meters accessible during our winter weather. Meters should be kept clear of obstructions and the regulator should be able to vent gas in the event of a malfunction. Failure of the regulator to properly vent will cause the gas delivery to your home to shut down.

Be careful when removing snow from around the gas meter to prevent dislodging or damaging the meter, causing a gas leak. Snow should be gently removed from the meter, the regulator and the vents with a broom or brush. Snow or ice buildup covering the outside venting for your furnace, water heater or clothes dryer can also cause a dangerous accumulation of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

**REGULATIONS: BRIEF REMINDERS**

Steeple Run has **Architectural Control** requirements. Changes to the exterior of homes and property must be approved by the Board BEFORE any work is started. The process is outlined on the front of the Summer 2009 newsletter, in the Covenants and on our website. Take questions to any board member.

Please remember that County ordinances prohibit the **open burning** of landscape materials from December-March and May-September in McHenry County; stringent rules apply in April/May and October/November and are posted at the Steeple Run website.

The County has **regulations** for dog owners. In brief, dogs should be leashed when off your property, they shall not be allowed to bark at all between 10 pm and 6 am, for more than 15 minutes during the other hours and not intermittently for a period in excess of 2 hours. Dog feces must be picked up and disposed of properly.
New Laws for 2012

Over 200 new laws went into effect in IL on January 1. Here is a small sampling:

Back seat passengers must now use seat belts, regardless of age. Not wearing the belt in the back seat will result in a $25 fine. The State Police are focusing their enforcement efforts on seat belt usage, speeding, DUI and distracted driving.

It is now illegal to place electronic waste in the trash or to leave it curbside. E-waste (TVs, computers, video game consoles, recorders, portable music players, DVD players, printers) must be taken by the consumer to registered recyclers.

For more information, contact the county Solid Waste Management Program (815-334-4585) or the Illinois EPA (www.epa.state.il.us and click on the Recycling tab on the left column).

Redistricting has separated residents in Algonquin township from the rest of the county. We will now be voting in the 6th District in the November election and for the next 10 years.

The 6th District now includes much of Crystal Lake, LITH, Algonquin, Cary, FRG, and parts of Lake, Cook, Kane and DuPage counties. Our polling place remains unchanged.

SRHA ENERGY POLICY STATEMENT needs to be developed

One of the many new laws affects our SRHA states:

"Homeowners' associations, common interest community associations, and condominium owners' associations’ energy policy statements are required to include whether or not wind energy collection, rain water collection, or composting systems are allowed as well as information regarding their location, design, and architectural requirements."

This will be tackled by the Board in the next few months. Resident input welcomed.

PHYSICIAN PROFILE DATABASE

Health care consumers can do background checks before selecting providers. The Physician Profile database has been made available to the public again. Found on the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation website (www.idfpr.com), the database had been taken off-line following an IL Supreme Court decision; the Patient Right to Know Act reinstated the database in August.

The searchable database includes information on 46,000 doctors and 4,500 chiropractors, malpractice judgments and settlements going back 5 years, including disciplinary actions in other states. Information includes schooling, board certifications, number of years in practice and whether new Medicare and Medicaid patients are being accepted.

Another new law enables IL residents to view hospital report cards, including surgical infection rates, on the IL department of Public Health website (www.idph.state.il.us).
Algonquin Township is the first in the county to offer a FREE discount prescription drug service to its residents. Residents with a Coast2Coast RX card will receive discounts on medications and on some laboratory, vision and imaging tests.

The card is intended for the uninsured and underinsured although it can also provide savings for those insured that have high co-pays for generic drugs or if their plan does not cover their particular medication. Some pet meds are also covered.

In Crystal Lake, the participating pharmacies are: CVS, Dominicks, KMart, Osco, Sam's Club, Target, Wal-Mart and Walgreens.

There is no paperwork to fill out. Cards and more information can be picked up at the township office. The Coast2CoastRX website has more information and cards can also be printed at home from their website www.coast2coastrx.com.

McHenry County residents are also eligible to participate in a nationwide drug discount program through the National Association of Counties (NACo) and Caremark. This plan has no limits, age or income restrictions and can be used anytime your prescription isn’t covered by insurance. This plan also covers 90 day mail-ordered supplies and pet meds.

Cards can be obtained from our county representative or from the county at 667 Ware Rd, Woodstock (815-334-4000). Information is available at the county website (www.co.mchenry.il.us) and also at the NACo/Caremark website (http://naco.advancerx.com).

The same Crystal Lake pharmacies that participate with the Coast2Coast plan participate in the NACo plan. Always ask first for current coverage and costs.

NOTE: The SRHA Board does not recommend the use of any contractor over another nor does the Board guarantee the cost or quality of the services provided but offers this information to SRHA members to use as they see fit. Other contractors are welcome to submit separate bids as well.

Steeple Run will continue offering its popular Preferred Contractor Program for septic tank pump outs with Arrow Septic. This past offering had 7 takers.

2012 is the sixth year that SRHA has negotiated volume discounts for its members. Saturday pump out dates are being planned for Spring (May) 2012 and Fall (September or October) 2012.

It is recommended that your tank be pumped every 2 years to ensure proper functioning. If this is the year to have your tank pumped, please keep an eye open for the upcoming date and details, which should be made available in the Board Meeting Minutes, on the website and in the newsletter, as they become available. Previous details can be read in the Summer 2011 issue of the Steeple Run News.

Illinois Driver’s license holders can enter their emergency contact information, as well as disability, special or medical needs, into this secure database. In an emergency situation where a person is unable to communicate, law enforcement may access the database to help them reach the designated contacts and to provide information to emergency and medical personnel at the scene. Your record can be modified by you at any time.

www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/ecd/home.html
AGGREGATED ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER COMPETITION

Since December 2010, deregulation has given IL residents the right to buy electricity from suppliers other than ComEd; ComEd will continue to bill for distributing the power.

The SRHA Board has discussed explaining our options to our members, with the possibility of getting competitive rates through our Preferred Contractor Program. Several suppliers of electricity are vying for our business. Herb L. has switched from ComEd, is very pleased and is willing to answer questions.

Steeple Run is not alone in considering the electrical aggregation question. Harvard and Fox River Grove locked in lower rates in 2011. Many McHenry County municipalities are putting the question to their voters. Woodstock, Crystal Lake, Cary, LITH, Marengo, Lakewod, McCullom Lake, Island Lake, McHenry and Prairie Grove will have referendums on the March 20 primary ballot to see if their constituents will allow them to seek bids for better rates for their residents and small businesses. This is very similar to the towns seeking cable franchise agreements.

The McHenry County Board is also placing the referendum on the March 20 ballot, asking rural residents (that's us) whether they want the County Board to shop competitively for electricity. Customers living where the referendums pass can choose to opt out of the aggregation deal and stay with their current provider, ComEd or choose one from the dozen other authorized aggregate suppliers.

Savings average 23% for aggregated customers, according to David Hoover, Executive Director of Northern Illinois Municipal Electric Collaborative. A consortium of Grayslake, Lincolnwood and Oak Brook had a 30% reduction in their electrical supply rate. Oak Park asked for bids for green energy using wind turbines and solar panels and secured a 25.6% reduction. Short term savings are possible but the jury is still out as to whether residential competition will bring real value in the long term.

If the process taken by the voters and County Board is too slow for your needs, you can act on your own to reduce your electrical supply rate by switching suppliers. We've all been bombarded with a variety of offers in the mail and tucked into our various utility bills.

Changing suppliers can help lower your bill in the short term and support renewable energy but comparison shopping is a challenge. The Better Business Bureau warns consumers about hidden fees, bogus green energy claims, and fine print.

Ask these questions when comparing suppliers to make sure your bill goes down and not up:

- Is the new supplier licensed by our state's public utility commission?
- What is the price per kilowatt-hour for electricity?
- Does the quoted price include the transmission charge?
- Is the rate fixed or variable?
- Is there a clause in the contract that allows the company to get out of the promised rate?
- What are all of the monthly charges and fees?
- Is a deposit required?
- Will I get a single bill from ComEd or will you bill separately?
- Will the bill be mailed or sent online?
- What is the length of the agreement?
- Is there any cancellation fee or any other penalty for switching before the end of the term?
- What is the opt-out period (the time you have to get out of a contract without incurring an exit fee, sometimes up to two billing cycles)?

These questions can also be asked when considering switching gas suppliers as well.

For current suppliers and rates, visit: https://power2switch.com/switch/rates/60014
We’re on the Web!
www.steeplerun.org

SRHA Annual Meeting This Saturday
January 21 10:00 a.m.

Please attend the short SRHA Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday January 21, 2012 from 10:00 am. at the Algonquin Township Offices on Route 14 next to The Hollows.

We urge all residents to attend so that we can discuss and complete the business that affects us all.

By attending this meeting, you can:
• Discuss proposed actions, budget and assessments
• Provide direction to the board for 2012
• Elect board members
• See a sample of our custom signs

**We must achieve a quorum of 67% (50 homes)** so if you cannot attend, please submit your Proxy Ballot to SRHA Secretary Irene C. by Friday January 20, the day before the Annual Meeting. If a quorum is not met through attendance and proxies, the meeting will have to be re-scheduled and more materials mailed out.

If you have misplaced the Annual Meeting materials which were mailed in mid-December, they can be re-printed from the Downloads page at our website (www.steeplerun.org)