A Special Thanks to Ron Rw.

President Therese G. has accepted Ron R.’s letter of resignation from the SRHA Board. We would like to give him a big Thank You for his years of service to the Board. His contributions of his time and many talents will be greatly missed.

If any residents would like to complete Ron’s term (until the January 2010 Annual Meeting), please contact any Board Member.

President’s Message by Therese G.

It is finally spring. It felt like winter would never end. I love seeing the grass turn green, the flowers blooming, and the leaves on the trees begin to unfurl. I was elected President of the Steeple Run Homeowners’ Association after the Annual Meeting in January. My husband Tim and I have lived in Steeple Run since 2002 and in the Crystal Lake area for over 20 years. We have 2 sons. John is completing his freshman year at Purdue and Paul is finishing his junior year at Prairie Ridge.

I want to thank Herb L. for his leadership the last couple years and for the opportunity to serve our neighborhood. All of the members of the board have volunteered their time, since they believe active participation in the Association and the neighborhood is vital to keeping it a great place to live. We welcome your input and participation in any of the neighborhood activities. All board meetings are open to all members of the Association (i.e., all Steeple Run homeowners). Should you wish to attend, we ask that you let us know so that we have enough chairs set up and if you have a specific concern so it may be included on the agenda.

Minutes from the board meetings and the day and time for the next meeting are always listed on our website at www.steeplerun.org. The next meeting is June 4, 2009, 7:30 pm, at my house.

To help keep our entrances looking nice, we will be having a Spring Cleanup. The date hasn’t been finalized yet. By doing the work ourselves, we save the association more than $500 versus having a landscaping company do the work. Please consider helping us one Saturday morning. It is an investment in the entire neighborhood.

You’ll also see other activities that have been planned in the neighborhood. The annual garage sale will be held over 2 weekends, May 28-30 and June 4-6. Please contact Karen M. if you wish to participate. The Preferred Contractor program has a couple specials identified for May, including the Arrow Septic program and the Paradise Auto Oil Change program. Details are found in the previous newsletter. Karen and Linda have also begun planning for this year’s Block Party.

As a reminder, our Covenants and Bylaws have some rules about parking campers, trailers, boats, trucks, etc. in the open on your property. We recognize that the item may be parked for a few days while you get it ready to use. However, it shouldn’t sit outside on the property for an extended period of time. If it needs to sit, please let the board know the reason and how long it will be there.

At the Annual Meeting, some of our residents asked about mosquito abatement programs. We are investigating the options and there is a detailed article elsewhere in this newsletter. Safety is one of our prime concerns for all residents. Since treatment for mosquitoes is done as a neighborhood service, we will verify overall interest in the program and will need your permission for a special assessment to cover the cost of the service for the season. Details on the treatment and a vote on the assessment will be coming soon.

Enjoy the wonderful weather, consider participating in the next neighborhood event, and say hi to a neighbor as you take a walk.
Treasurer’s Report by Joe O.

FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

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NET CASH FLOW

$6290.00

We completed the Third Quarter on February 28th. Our overall expenditures continue to be in line with the budget for the year. Based on the forecast for the remainder of the year, we anticipate that we will have a slightly positive overall cash flow for the total fiscal year. Our annual dues for the next fiscal year (2009-2010) will remain at $85. The formal dues notices will be mailed in the latter part of May. We will be preparing the budget for next year in the coming weeks.

SRHA Dues Notices and a Possible Special Assessment

Notices of the Annual Dues for the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 should be mailed shortly. The $85 assessment is the same as last year.

Dues should be paid before July 1st, 2009 for the Fiscal Year that runs from June 1 to May 31, 2010.

If you do not receive your postcard, please contact Joe O. Payment may be mailed to our PO Box (address on back page), mailed to Joe O. or dropped off at Joe’s.

Any Special Assessment for the purpose of neighborhood-wide mosquito abatement would need approval of 60% of the homeowners. The Board is currently investigating companies offering this service and are not able to present the entire picture to the residents yet.

The mosquitoes are already out. Please keep an eye on your email and postbox for this information to be shared in the near future. When we have the complete information, we will need to act quickly, which may not coincide with the newsletter publication or the scheduled Board meetings.

While we have not yet received pricing from the second mosquito company, we expect the estimated cost would be less than $35 per household. More information will be provided and all residents will have an opportunity for input and questions before any vote is taken.
PATRICK I: Eagle Scout

The prestigious Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in Scouting. And now a new Eagle lives in Steeple Run.

Patrick I. of Troop #165 received his Eagle after completing the requirements in the areas of leadership, service and outdoor skills.

For his final Service Project, which took 9 months to complete, he constructed a portable display cabinet for McHenry County artifacts. Displayed at the Nature Center in Veterans Acres Park, it is used to educate youth about McHenry County history.

Patrick also received the Bronze Palm Award for earning 7 merit badges over and above the amount required to attain Eagle Scout rank. He has camped over 100 nights, hiked over 125 miles and canoed more than 20 days.

Patrick is a Spring 2009 graduate of Prairie Ridge High School.

His proud parents are Craig & Cindy of Belson Lane.

Being an Eagle Scout carries a special significance beyond Scouting as a young man enters college, business and community service.

About 5% of Boy Scouts are able to meet this performance-based achievement whose standards have remained high over the years. Since 1912, only 1.7 million Boy Scouts have become Eagle Scouts.

Congratulations, Patrick – you’re one in a million!

Date Change: Neighborhood Garage Sale

The Steeple Run Neighborhood Garage Sale will be held:

- Thursday May 28, Friday May 29 and Saturday May 30
- Thursday June 4, Friday June 5 and Saturday June 6

Contact Karen M. to participate or for more information.

QUINCY S.: Neighborhood Spotlight Correction

Quincy S. was inadvertently not included in the listing of high school students involved in the production of ALL SHOOK UP at Prairie Ridge High School in the Winter 2008-2009 newsletter.

Please accept my apologies for missing your name in the Lighting Crew as I scanned through the program.

If you know of a Steeple Run resident that the Neighborhood Spotlight should shine on, please submit the information to secretary@steeplerun.org
Landscaping Pests Become More Visible

Spring brings us a new season but the same old yard pests.

The Eastern tent caterpillars are already making their unsightly webbed bags in some of our trees. (See Summer 2006 for control techniques).

The pine sawfly usually appears on our mugho and Austrian pines around Mother’s Day; this year was no exception. They eat last year’s needle causing unsightly damage before they lay their eggs on the same tree. Remove or chemically kill the pine sawfly larvae to break the vicious cycle.

Gypsy moths are entering the caterpillar phase of their life cycle and can be trapped in April-May by burlap bands around tree trunks. Refer to the Summer 2008 and Spring 2007 newsletters for complete information.

Emerald Ash Borers leave D-shaped holes as they exit from under the bark in late May until July. Refer to the Spring 2007 newsletter for information and links. Report suspected EAB sightings or suspected infestations to the McHenry County U of IL Extension at 1-815-338-3737 or the IL Dept. of Ag Extension Office 1-630-584-6166.

Japanese beetles will emerge from our ground in late June. (See Summer 2006 and Summer 2008 newsletters) As you work in your planting beds, schmush any C-shaped white grubs that you unearth. You can also have your lawns treated with grub control in the next month. Both Preferred Contracts—Lawn Doctor and Scotts—provide special grub control pricing for SRHA members.

McHenry County remains under quarantine to help curb the spread of Gypsy Moth and Emerald Ash Borer. Please buy firewood locally and inspect your campers, boats, lawn chairs, etc. for hitchhiking egg masses when returning home from visits out of the county.

Rabid Bats in McHenry County Again

Rabid bats have been found in McHenry, Fox River Grove and Woodstock. In 2008 our county led the state with 23 of the 103 rabid bats found in Illinois.

Please remember that a bat that is active by day and found in a place in which they are not usually seen (in the house, pool or lawn) and unable to fly is more likely to be rabid. More information can be found in the Fall 2007 and Summer 2008 newsletters.

For questions about exposure, call the McHenry County Communicable Disease Program 1-815-334-4500.

If you find a suspicious bat, contain it and call Animal Control immediately at 1—815-459-6222.

Are Your Red– or Yellow- Twigged Dogwoods Turning Gray?

If your dogwood stems are losing their attractive color—the primary reason why they are used in landscapes— it is time to look at your pruning practices.

Most red-twigged dogwoods are pruned incorrectly by landscaping services. They should not be sheared, topped off, or given a ‘crew cut’ to keep their height down. That method of shaping makes the shrubs top-heavy with new growth and the stems become woody and covered in gray bark.

The best red (or yellow) color is produced on young stems so to keep your shrubs vibrant and within bounds, prune out about 1/3rd of the woodiest stems each spring; cut them back in to the ground level to encourage new bright shoots.

In 3 years, you’ll have a rejuvenated plant. Maintain it every spring by pruning out 1/3rd of the stems, selecting the oldest (grayest) and cutting to the ground.

Lilacs and other shrubs can also benefit from removing old, woody stems.
CALLING ALL STEEPLE RUN GRADUATES!!

If you know of a graduating high school or college senior in our subdivision, please submit the information to secretary@steeplerun.org ASAP so that it can be included in the Summer newsletter.

We would like to shine the spotlight on their accomplishments and highlight their future plans for continuing education or career choices.

Highway 31/176 Development

The CL City Council has sent plans to the Planning Commission for final review of a proposed Walgreens at the corner of 31 and 176. Walgreens hopes to open the store in 2010 but their plans may be delayed by IDOT’s 2005 plans to close off Terra Cotta east of 31, creating a 4-way intersection in place of the current 5-way. IDOT plans to have contract letting in Summer 2012. The cost of land acquisition ($15 million) exceeds the actual construction costs ($8.55 million and has delayed the project.

The CL Planning and Development Director is hoping that this corridor will become more significant to retailers when they realize that this area is underserved. The increase in residences, in Preston Pines and Prairie Grove, will also fuel business growth.

SOCIAL: Steeple Run Block Party—June 13

Plans are being put into place for our Annual Block Party.

Mark June 13 on your calendars with June 20 as a rain date.

Keep the date open for our Steeple Run Block Party. Karen M or Linda L are the contacts for this event. More information will be available in the next few weeks.

ComEd Appliance Recycling Initiative

If you have an older second freezer or refrigerator keeping your beverages cold, it’s probably costing you more to operate than you think. Normally, you would have to pay someone to take it away.

For a limited time, ComEd will pay you $25 for your old working refrigerator, freezer or window air conditioning unit. ComEd will pick it up and recycle it in an environmentally responsible way.

Schedule a pickup at www.ComEd.com or 1-888-806-2273.
Scheduled Mosquito Abatement

Given the success of our Preferred Contractor Program in providing value to our residents with quantity or group purchasing, several residents asked at the Annual Meeting if we could investigate the possibility of providing neighborhood-wide mosquito abatement similar to what Crystal Lake provides for their residents.

Health and safety are some of our prime concerns, along with adequate insurance, effectiveness and coverage.

To control nuisance mosquitoes and to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and encephalitis, treatment would need to be neighborhood-wide and would be weekly.

Control needs to be aimed at both the larval mosquito and the adults. The weekly spraying would control flying adult mosquitoes.

There is much that the individual homeowner can do to eliminate the mosquito larva (covered in the Summer 2008 newsletter). Algonquin Township has contracted with a service to monitor and to treat standing water for larval mosquitoes. They routinely check the retention areas northeast of Steeple Run & Smith and along Sands, south of Steeple Run.

If you have a low spot or ditch on your property that holds stagnant water for more than 3-4 days, you can call the Township or Clarke at 1-800-942-2555 to have it checked and treated. ‘Dunks’ can be purchased at Home Depot to drop into exterior drains, ponds, or low areas to treat and eliminate mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be crumbled and cast over an area that accumulates water occasionally.

At the most recent SRHA Board meeting, a representative from Clarke Mosquito Control presented their services and answered our questions and concerns. The FAQ sheets can be found below and on the next page. A representative from Clarke Mosquito Control will be at our next Board meeting, which is always open to the members to attend. We must complete a competitive bidding process, according to our Covenants before we can bring any proposal to the residents.

When all of the information has been gathered, the Board will try to get the information into our members' hands as quickly as possible so that we can move forward, or not, with controlling the mosquitoes that are preventing many of us from enjoying our yards.

Meanwhile, we would like to hear from you —

- Are you interested?

- Are you willing to pay up to $35 or less (one payment only) for a 12 week summer with fewer mosquitoes?

Contact Therese G., Herb L. or any board member.

DeMarco Mosquito Control

How does Clarke control the mosquitoes in our neighborhood?

Clarke uses truck-mounted misting units to apply insecticides as an ultra-low-volume (ULV) spray. ULV spray units disperse very fine aerosol droplets (fog) that stay aloft about 30-40 minutes and kill mosquitoes on contact. The amount of insecticide sprayed by ULV units is small compared to the area treated, usually about 3 ounces per acre (less than 0.0036 pounds of active ingredient per acre), which minimizes exposure and risks to people and the environment.

How long does the fog kill mosquitoes?

During the misting treatment, flying mosquitoes within the treated area are killed. The local mosquito population is reduced for a few days. Misting does not prevent mosquitoes from re-entering the area.

If the Steeple Run subdivision has been “sprayed” for mosquitoes are all mosquitoes in the neighborhood eliminated?

No, misting treatments will kill mosquitoes in your area for a few days. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) also recommends the use of repellents to further reduce your exposure to mosquitoes. For more information on repellents visit:

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm
Are the insecticides used for spraying safe? Should I keep my family and pets indoors?

The mosquitoicide used in the program has been assessed by the USEPA and found that, when used according to label directions, it does not pose unreasonable risk to public health and the environment including wildlife, plant material, pets and humans. There is no need to relocate during mosquito control misting.

Can the kids and pets play in the grass the day after treatment?

Yes, because the treatment is being dispensed in very fine aerosol droplets, the product will travel through the air and break down in the environment (generally within 24 hours) producing no residual effect.

Do I need to close the windows before treatment begins?

The treatment does not pose any unreasonable risk to your family in the home. Closing the windows is personal preference and not on the safety precautions found on the label.

What other insects, birds or animals are affected by the misting treatment? What about the bees and lightning bugs?

During the pesticide registration process, the USEPA considers the effect of insecticides on wildlife. If the insecticide is applied according to label directions, wildlife should not be killed or injured. Insects that are similar in size to a mosquito and are active during applications will be affected by the ULV treatment (i.e. midge flies).

Bees are active during the day and will not be present during the treatment. Additionally, larger insects like lightning bugs and moths are much larger in size and the active ingredient will not reduce their populations.

Would installing a “bug zapper” or a CO2 trap in my backyard control the mosquitoes?

Electrocution devices or "Bug zappers", using ultraviolet light as an attractant, are ineffective in reducing outdoor populations of mosquitoes or their biting activity. Studies indicate that mosquitoes make up only a tiny percentage of the insects captures in such traps. The majority are moths, beetles, and other harmless night flying insects.

Several mosquito traps use carbon dioxide as an attractant and claim to capture tremendous numbers of mosquitoes. Such devices seldom have been shown to actually reduce populations of biting mosquitoes on a property. In some situations they could even attract more mosquitoes into the area one is hoping to protect.

How do I know when the truck will come through the neighborhood?

Clarke offers a call notification service when treatment is scheduled for the Steeple Run neighborhood. After May 15th, you can contact our mosquito hotline at (800) 323-2555 and asked to be placed on the “Steeple Run call-notification list”. The receptionist will ask a few questions including your address, county and phone number. On the days of treatment, our automated system will call the phone number provided. If you do not answer, it will leave a message. These calls are made the day of treatment.
Mosquito Control Begins at Home

There are many ways to help minimize mosquito populations around our neighborhood.

The first defense against mosquitoes with their disease transmission potential is to eliminate their breeding sites. They lay their eggs in small amounts of water that can be found around our homes and yards, such as in artificial containers and treeholes.

- Empty and remove any water-holding containers (old tires, barrels, flower pot saucers).
- Empty wading pools at least once a week and store upside down.
- Cover trash bins to keep water out.
- Change bird bath water twice a week.
- Make sure your gutters are properly sloped to prevent water pooling.
- Fill in tree rot holes and hollow stumps with sand or tree tar.
- Empty outdoor pet dishes daily.
- Keep the lawn and yard tidy and mowed.
- Stock ponds with fish which eat mosquito larvae or treat with Bti (Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis) in Dunks.

Protect yourself from bites:
- Avoid the outside during peak feeding times—just before and after dusk and just before dawn
- Wear light colored clothing
- Use mosquito repellent
- Use mosquito netting over infant carriers and keep household screens in good repair

In short—remember the 5 Ds:
1. Dusk and Dawn
2. Drain standing water
3. Dress appropriately
4. Doors and barrier screening
5. DEET and other insect repellents

The US Centers of Disease Control and Prevention has an updated mosquito repellent fact sheet at www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/RepellentUpdates.htm. When choosing an insect repellent, make sure the active ingredient is recommended by the CDC and check the percentage of that ingredient to know how many hours of protection is provided.