

# DEVONSHIRE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The Devonshire Homeowners Association held the September Open Board meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> with over thirty of our homeowners present. The agenda included updates on our financials, landscaping and parking. There were open discussions on lot lines, seal coating, tree service, landscaping, possible changes for dues collection, and a concern with our landscaping timbers. As always, we welcome all suggestions from our homeowners.

**FINANCIAL** .... Paul Brower gave the following financial report. Our balance as of January 1, 2008 was \$46,905. Income through August 1, 2008 was \$49,233 with expenses year to date at \$77,408. This leaves a balance of \$18,730 as of August 1, 2008. Major expenditures for 2008 included new mulch for \$23,765, landscaping replacements for \$14,969 and a complete audit for \$1,800. The board is working on the 2009 budget and will have it completed for our December 9<sup>th</sup> open meeting.

**LANDSCAPING** .... We completed our fall walk through with American Landscaping and authorized an additional \$2,600 in improvements and replacements. We would like to think that we are very close to replacing all the dead landscaping inherited from Kipling. We also included the removal of dead sod next to homes and installing mulch in those areas. We decided to do this for two reasons. First, we felt the grass was struggling to grow next to the buildings, and second, we would eliminate the need to weed-whack next to the siding.

If a new plant was installed on or near your lot, please take a few minutes every day to water. We noticed a few replacements from the last go-around didn't live because they dried up. We all pay for these replacements and a little squirt of water will go a long way in saving us some money.

As stated at the last two open board meeting, our focus will remain on the front and sides of our homes. The back of our lots and property will be taken care of as money permits. Please let Coldwell Banker know if we missed anything in the front or side of your home.

We have a big problem with the condition of our landscaping timbers. One of our homeowners pointed out some areas where the timbers are rotten and falling down. While we were discussing the two estimates we received to replace the wall behind 1604 Augusta, one of our homeowners asked if we could do a repair or replacement ourselves and save the \$6,000 estimated price. The answer is yes. We would obviously need a lot of volunteers. Sandie viewed the wall with us and made a repair suggestion that would take very little effort. It wouldn't solve future deterioration but would clean up the mess we currently have. So if you are handy, healthy and willing to donate a days labor, give Bob Bradley a call at 815 207 4038.

**PARKING** .... Carole Miller reviewed our "no parking" petition during our last meeting. Carole explained the process we followed to secure the Village's approval to install "NO PARKING" sign on one side of both Devonshire and Augusta. The signs were installed over a week ago and our homeowners will be given a one-month grace period to get accustomed to the new signs. We were advised that some time in mid-October, parking tickets would be issued for vehicles parked in the "no parking" areas. Please let all your friends and family members know of this change.

*As a reminder*, at no time can vehicles be parked on the common area driveways. This would be the driveway leading into each cluster. Parking is only allowed directly in front of each garage door and we would further request that whenever possible, your personal vehicle(s) be parked in your garage as a courtesy to your neighbors.

October 2008

Next board meeting is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>. See you there.

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**MEETING DATE** .... The next Open meeting for the Devonshire HOA is December 9<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be at the clubhouse and open to all Devonshire homeowners. The meetings will start at 6:30 PM. We had a sign made that will be posted at our entrance the day of our open board meetings.

**DOWNSPOUTS** .... During our last walk through, we noted a number of gutter downspouts without extensions at the bottom. This condition will damage our mulched areas and will eventually erode the ground causing additional problems. Paul Brower and Bob Bradley will be walking the area again to make notes of all downspouts needing these extensions. We will be happy to help any homeowner needing help in resolving this concern.

**DEVONSHIRE HOA DUES** .... As explained during our last meeting, the Kipling Master Board is reviewing the “master” covenants with regard to the payment of all association dues. These would be the dues collected for the Master Association and the Devonshire Association. It is their opinion that all dues are to be paid to the Master Association and then redistributed to each neighborhood. The Devonshire Board is opposed to this action and has registered a concern over this potential change. We will keep all Devonshire homeowners advised as this action develops.

As of now, when paying your dues for the Devonshire Homeowners Association, that’s \$70.00 per month, please mail your coupon payment to Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell at PO Box 1203, Bedford Park, IL 60499. This payment should not go to the clubhouse. If you don't have a coupon, send your payment to Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell at 113 E. 9th street, Lockport, IL 60441.

You may continue to pay your Master Association dues, that’s the \$105.00 quarterly, at the clubhouse.

**DEVONSHIRE CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS** .... All Devonshire concerns and complaints should be directed to Coldwell Banker Honig-Bell at 815-834-4308 or a board member. Please do not call the clubhouse with a Devonshire concern.

**OCTOBER MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE** .... American Landscaping issued the following maintenance for October 2008. All turf will be cut and trimmed 2 to 4 times. All sidewalks will be edged with a power edger. All beds will be hand weeded. All suckers from trees will be removed. American will be cutting down the perennials in November.

## **OTHER INFORMATION:**

- The “guard” house was again cleaned up and some overgrown plants were removed. Thanks to Darlene and David Jaral for this effort. Darlene also added some mums around the light.
- During our recent walk through, we noticed a number of locations within our common areas, especially behind and next to homes, where homeowners did not pick up after their dog. Please be reminded that there is a Village Ordinance (Ord.78-270, 4-25-1978) requiring all dog owners to pick up after their pets. This Ordinance includes all common areas within Devonshire.
- As many of you know, Drew’s Landscaping denied any responsibility for damage to siding from weed whacking. In both Drew’s contract and our new American contract, damaged siding will only be covered if the damage is higher than 12 inches from the ground.

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