



WINTER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2009

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Dear Brook Forest Residents:

E-Mail and Emergency Notices – In the past few months we had a home invasion break-in. We were able to notify 120 of our residents of this incident within a few hours by sending out e-mail alerts to those residents. It will be of considerable value if we have an email address available for all of our residents. We absolutely promise that these email addresses will be kept confidential and used only when it is necessary. It would be your individual choice if you would like to have it published in our Brook Forest directory that only goes to our residents. I think this type of alert system is extremely worthwhile. **Please send the management company your e-mail address if you want to be notified of events in our neighborhood that affect all of us.**

Landscaping – The board was very active this year in improvements to the common areas. We concentrated our efforts in two areas: the tennis courts and surrounding grounds and the area between the I88 Tollway and Kingston Drive. We cleaned up the shore line on the peninsula by the tennis courts and removed the scrub growth and dead trees. We trimmed the trees around the courts and have mulched heavily to reduce the weed growth. We continued our noise abatement efforts along Kingston Drive by planting 142 spruce trees that range from 8 to 12 feet tall. As the trees mature, this will improve the appearance of our neighborhood. We also worked with Commonwealth Edison to have the power poles painted. The poles were very unsightly and the painting has improved their appearance greatly. We worked to improve the ground planting at the entrances. We now have much greater flexibility in what we are able to plant now that we have irrigation. We were able to have three separate seasonal displays in our entrance planters. The grounds committee has done an excellent job.

Declarations of Covenants – Last year we put forth great effort to obtain the required signatures to amend our covenants. The covenants now allow that new construction can be five feet taller than was previously allowed. This increase in height is consistent with the other subdivisions and Village ordinances. This will keep us competitive with market values. This project took a year but was very worthwhile. I want to thank everyone who helped accomplish this change.

Waterway Project – I have been writing about improving the waterway between Regent Drive and Midwest Road for over four years. This project has met with some success because the County has now offered \$165,000 in grant funds to offset the costs. This is in the form of \$15,000 in matching funds, \$100,000 in grant funds for shoreline improvements and \$50,000 toward rebuilding the dams (weirs).

We had the weirs evaluated and they are old and in bad repair and unable to withstand increased water flow in the event of flooding. The cost estimate to replace the weirs is approximately \$250,000. The County will contribute \$50,000 toward the replacement of the weirs because this is a flood control issue.

I contacted Sen. Dan Cronin and he has offered to add the shortfall of \$200,000 to the capital budget because this is a storm water/flood control issue. The legislature has not passed a capital budget but may do so this year. I am very appreciative of Sen. Cronin's efforts on our behalf and hopefully the budget will be passed and our project included in the funding.

It is the intent of the board to rebuild the weirs if we can get the funding from the County and State and then turn the weirs over to the County who agreed to maintain them in the future. The County has agreed to take over the weirs once they are in good condition.

Brook Forest Board Election – This year we have three openings on the board. Mike Martin, Karen Pezzati and Mort Westman are up for re-election. If elected they have agreed to serve another term. Enclosed are the forms and information if you are interested in running for a board position. If so, please fill out the forms and return them to the management company.

Annual Meeting on Monday, March 16th - Our Annual Meeting will be held at the Bath and Tennis Club again this year. We will have complementary soft drinks and hors d'oeuvres with a cash bar starting at 6:30PM and the meeting will start at 7:00PM. We will have our Annual Meeting followed by Candidates Night. Candidates Night will consist of those running for the three Village Board Trustee positions and the two Park District Board positions.

The format for Candidates Night will be a three minute presentation by each of the candidates. Questions for the candidates will be held until the end of the presentations for those who choose to stay and participate. We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on March 16th. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to the Management Company.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Sanford – President

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