

Sept. 2009
Issue 10

Chesterfield Neighbors

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Contact the Chesterfield Board of Directors at board@chesterfieldhomeowners.com.

Upcoming Chesterfield Board Meetings:

September 28, 2009
December 28, 2009
(Annual Meeting)

Board meetings are held at 7:00 pm at Valley Community Bank, 75 S. Randall Rd., North Aurora

Published by the Chesterfield Homeowners Association, North Aurora, IL
For up-to-date information, see our web site at www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com.

President's Report

Brian Rominski

During the past summer months, a portion of the bike path was replaced. Bike path users can definitely see the improvement on the far west end near the townhouse subdivision.

Mulch was spread near the main entrance and seven trees were replaced.

Just a reminder that being a good neighbor means being aware of what is going on in the neighborhood and watching out for each other. If you see any suspicious activity or people, please call the police.

Since last spring, an increasing number of people have been using the wetlands as a dumping ground. Our property inspector will be making the wetlands part of his monthly tour and will be reporting on any prohibited activity.

Wetlands management is under way. Late last spring a burn was conducted, followed by herbicide spraying to get the non-native grasses under control. Another burn is scheduled for this fall.

A wetlands education day took place in late June. Eight residents attended and received a tour of our wetlands including plant identification.

Treasurer's Report

Jeffery Henderson

As of July 31, 2009, the Association has \$43,138.29 in our checking account, and \$76,555.65 in our reserves. The Association has no outstanding debts or liabilities.





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Chesterfield Building Science 101

Got Mold?

Brian Rominski

Because of some high-profile news stories and lack of understanding, mold has become a household word. So where does mold come from? Molds are fungi that are part of the natural environment. In fact, molds play an important role in nature because they break down dead organic matter (trees, leaves, etc.). No one knows how many species of molds there are, but the number is estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands. Molds reproduce by producing spores, which become airborne until they find a new home. Mold spores are everywhere, including inside your house. There is no place (with the exception of a hospital clean room) that is mold free.

When mold spores land on wet material (carpets, sheet rock, wood), they will grow. But you can control wet building materials. If you have a basement flood or a roof leak, the best thing you can do is to remove the things that are wet. Along with stopping the water source, this is your best defense against mold growth. If you identify mold growth in your house, the

EPA website for mold has some common-sense guidelines you can follow if you are comfortable cleaning it yourself. If you are not comfortable cleaning mold yourself or you believe the mold growth is extensive, you should contact a professional to remove it.

Mold can affect people in different ways. Molds can produce allergens, irritants, and though very rare, potentially toxic substances.

Here is a brief list of ways to keep you home mold free:

- Immediately remove and replace wet building materials.
- Stop water from entering your home.
- If you use a humidifier, keep humidity levels as low as possible.
- Be sure your home is adequately ventilated.
- Inspect your home frequently for water leaks.

In next issue's Chesterfield Building Science 101, we'll be talking about vented attic and roof design.

Rules & Regulations Corner

Brian Rominski

The Chesterfield Homeowners Association has restrictions on unsightliness, or in other words, leaving a bunch of junk lying around in your yard. These restrictions can be found in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions, Article VII, Covenants and Restrictions As to Use and Occupancy, Item (g):

(g) Unsightliness. No clothes, sheets, blankets, laundry or any kind or other articles shall be hung out or exposed on any part of the Property. The Property shall be kept free and clear of rubbish, debris and other unsightly materials, which shall be kept in receptacles provided for such purposes.

You can find the Covenants on our web site: www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com.

Wildlife in my own backyard

Denise Vancil

If you don't discover wildlife in your backyard, you might find it on your front porch. That's what happened to me on my way out the door. Something large and dark with wings caught my eye because it stood out on the white porch columns. What is that – a butterfly? No, it was the largest moth I had ever seen.

Usually, moths rest with their wings spread out, but this moth was sitting vertical on a column, so it seemed to keep its wings upright. This is the best picture I was able to get, which I blew up to an 8x11 and proudly placed it in my home office. I never knew what species of moth this was until a friend saw the photo and said, "Ah! The Polyphemus Moth, *Antheraea polyphemus*. The large feathery antennae say it's a male."

To give you a bit of perspective, this moth with its wings upright, was as tall and wide as my hand. I think my photo makes it look darker, with pink and blue highlights, because the moth was in the shade. Other photos show it to be a more light-brown color. (See the moth in color at www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com/newsletter.htm.)

From Wikipedia I learned that adult Polyphemus moths live for less than one week. With that short of a life span, I thought it quite a privilege to see this awesome insect and capture its beauty on film. Thanks to my friend for solving the mystery of what type of moth this was. I hope you have an exciting Polyphemus sighting in your own backyard...or porch.



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Recipe Corner

Denise Vancil

Tomatoes have been in season for a month now, so, it's time to make some bruschetta because it's bett'a. Enjoy!

Bruschetta

4 cups fresh chopped tomatoes (remove seeds)
 1 cup chopped Vandalia onion
 1 cup chopped fresh basil
 2 tsps. granulated garlic
 2 tsps. shallot salt or regular salt
 1 tsp. black pepper
 Toasted French bread slices

1 tsp. black pepper
 3 tsps. oregano
 3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
 1/2 cup (or more) olive oil
 5 Tbsp. balsamic vinegar
 Cooking oil spray

Chop the tomatoes, onion, and basil. Mix in a bowl, add all the spices, olive oil and balsamic vinegar and gently mix. Add more olive oil or vinegar to taste. The bruschetta topping tastes better if made several hours before serving and served at room temperature.

Slice the French bread into quarter-inch slices and place on a cookie sheet sprayed with cooking oil. Bake at 400 degrees until lightly brown.

Serve bruschetta at room temperature with the toasted French bread.

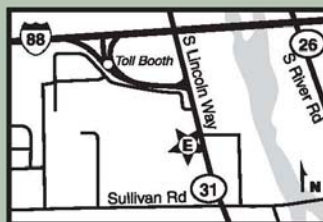
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Chesterfield Neighbors

CHESTERFIELD
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com

Real estate tax overpayment to be abated next year

By now you should have paid your second installment real estate taxes, but did you know that you paid too much? A clerical error by the Kane County Clerk's office caused extra property tax to be added to all North Aurora properties. North Aurora finance director Bill Hannah caught the mistake too late to do anything about it.

The mistake added about 4 cents per \$100 of equalized assessed value to your real estate taxes. On a \$250,000 home with a homestead exemption, that amounts to \$31.33.

The North Aurora village board decided to abate the over-collected property tax next year rather than spend \$5,000 to write and send refund checks to property owners this year. The village board felt it shouldn't pay for the county's mistake, according to President Dale Berman.

Information for the above article came from the May 30 and June 12, 2009 issues of *The Daily Herald*.

Chesterfield Homeowners Assn.
c/o Baum Property Services
P.O. Box 46
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