

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

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Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

- July 30
- August 27
- September 24
(quarterly meeting)
- October 29
- November 26
- December 17
(tentative quarterly meeting)

All board meetings will be held at 6:30 pm at Messenger Library.

New management company

Jim Biggs

I am very pleased to announce that as of June 1, CHOA has retained Baum Property Services as our new management company. Our managers will be Bob DuChateau and Michael Baum.

Baum Property Services, Ltd. was founded in 1984 by Michael D. Baum, CPM, PCAM (Certified Property Manager, Professional Community Association Manager). We selected Baum Property Services due to their reputation in the industry, their close proximity, and their years of experience managing similar homeowners associations. We were very impressed by the staff, level of services, and the

consolidation of all accounting, billing, and daily management that has been a major source of discord with past management companies.

Baum Property Services manages most of the largest homeowner associations in the western suburbs. You can see a list of their clients at www.baumprop.com. Baum Property Services has done a great job of helping these communities maintain a status and prestige that we hope to emulate. With their help, I think we will have a community we are all proud of.

Biking at Fermilab

Brian Beatty

If you've never spent the day at the world's highest-energy particle accelerator, you don't know what you've been missing. Home to the top quark and the NuMI neutrino beam, Fermilab National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia is fun for geeks and non-geeks alike. Fermilab's bike path is paved and, in true prairie style, flat, making for a relatively easy ride.

Park your car at the Lederman Science Center and enjoy your bike ride past tall grass, native flowers, a herd of bison and Fermilab's high-powered Tevatron particle accelerator. Fermilab's bike trail, only 4 miles long, might not be challenging, but it is certainly unique.

For more information visit Bike Illinois at <http://www.livin4jc.net/bike/trails/1-chicagoland/du-page/fermilab.html>.



CHOA Board Report

Jim Biggs

I am very pleased that through the efforts of the Communications Committee we present the second issue of our *Chesterfield Neighbors* newsletter. The format and content are a work in progress and will change according to your input. I hope that many of you will send in articles for future editions.

The board has been especially busy our first six months. We passed a completely revised budget that will take us from running in the red to a healthy surplus for future projects in one short year. We were able to do this through the cooperation of all homeowners with support for a one-time supplemental assessment of \$137.92 per home. If you have not paid this amount yet, please send a check to our new management agent, Baum Property Services. Their address is on the last page of this newsletter. Please pay your assessments as soon as possible to minimize late fees and penalties.

To avoid running in the red again, we've been able to cut expenses dramatically. Many savings came from new contracts negotiated by the board. We renegotiated the umbrella policy for our insurance, and have retained a new company to handle our lawn maintenance. Acres Landscaping is the largest firm of its

type in Chicagoland. They have contracts with many of the best associations in the area, and their references are impeccable. They were very flexible in negotiations with the board.

More saving has come through your board members, who have donated their time and skills, and called in favors. You may have recently noticed several board members replacing, realigning and balancing our broken lawn sprinkler system. This time was donated by the board members, and the repair parts cost less than \$75, saving our association \$1,500 from the bid to fix the system.

Unfortunately, while the sprinklers were inoperative, we lost many shrubs and trees due to lack of water. We hope to put the Beautification Committee to work soon on a process to enhance and restore beauty to the community.

As mentioned in the article on page 1, we are very excited to welcome Baum Property Services (BPS) as our new management team. They are a local firm with all functions in house, highly computerized and staffed by a team of professionals with many years of service. They also hold more accreditations than Morton has salt. Mike Baum and Bob DuChateau will

manage our association and can be reached by phone at 630-897-0500 or e-mail at mikeb@baumprop.com. Their website is www.baumprop.com. BPS manages White Eagle, Oakhurst, Stonebridge, Ginger Woods, Tall Grass, Mill Creek and Fisher Farms subdivisions, to name a few. We are very excited about what they may be able to help us accomplish here in Chesterfield.

In addition to budget and contracts, the CHOA has been busy with many other things. The Communication and Activity committees have been meeting to form plans and brainstorm ideas. Committees are listed on our web site. To join a committee, please contact the board member responsible or send email to board@chesterfieldhomeowners.com, and make your community a fun place to live and a great place to make lifelong friends.

I hope you enjoy this issue of your newsletter. Thank you to everyone who made it possible and to everyone who volunteered their time for committees. Enjoy the rest of your summer, come to our neighborhood events, and say hi to a neighbor on your walk today.

Rules & Regulations Corner

The Chesterfield Homeowners Rules and Regulations Committee helps to keep our neighborhood safe. Our bylaws help to protect each home's value and our neighborhood. Here are a few summertime reminders:

Campers, boats and motor homes may not be stored or parked in your driveway. The village allows you to park these items in your driveway for a total of two weeks in the spring and two weeks in the fall. *Article VII (a)*

Your property must be kept free of rubbish, debris and other unsightly materials. *Article VII (g)*

Homeowners are responsible for the upkeep of their landscaping and lawns, including curbside grass and trees. If your curbside tree has died, contact the Village of North Aurora at 630-897-8228 for removal and replacement costs.

Who's Hungry?

Melissa Beatty

Summer is here, and with it comes the mouthwatering smell of barbeque. Whether it's vegetables, beef, fish or fruit, anything tastes great on the grill.

Marinades are the foundation of taste for grilled food, but high-quality cuts of meat need less marinating. A filet mignon or quality rib-eye doesn't need anything more than a drizzle of extra virgin olive oil and a good rub with freshly ground pepper blend. Anything else you can add during the last minute of cooking or at the table.

A warning about salt on steak: Only add salt if you are cooking your steak immediately. Salt pulls the moisture from the meat and leaves it dry if left sitting in the fridge too long before cooking.

A suggestion for quick chicken on the BBQ is to season as you like, place in a microwave-safe dish, and pre-cook it in the microwave for approximately 10 minutes per pound. Rotating the pieces every 5 minutes will ensure thorough cooking. Now your chicken is ready for the grill.

Place the chicken on a preheated grill set to medium flame, cover and wait . . . wait . . . wait. You can baste it, but don't turn it! Wait until it is lightly charred and then turn it over. And for goodness sake **don't use a fork!** If you pierce the skin, you can kiss all those wonderful juices



goodbye. Continue basting with your favorite sauce or cooked marinade until the internal temperature of the chicken reaches 160 degrees. Let the chicken sit for 5-7 minutes to redistribute juices and then serve.

We have such a diverse community here in Chesterfield. We would love to hear about other cultures and how they prepare food on the grill. You can send these recipes to: communication@chesterfieldhomeowners.com

Grilled Stone Fruits



Ingredients:

peaches, nectarines or plums (ripe but firm)
brown sugar
pinch of salt
dash of black pepper

- Cut fruit in half. Remove stone/pit. Place fruit in a baking dish cut side up.
- Mix sugar, salt and pepper together in bowl. Sprinkle lightly on fruit.
- Preheat grill with a high flame. Place fruit on the grill cut side down. Cook until char lines appear, then give each fruit a quarter turn to make an X on the fruit.
- Turn the flame down to medium-low. Turn fruit over and cook until tender. Make sure you keep watching the grill for flare-ups while cooking the fruit. You want the sugar to caramelize, not burn.
- Fruit is best served immediately with vanilla bean ice cream and a drizzle of good balsamic vinegar.



Coyotes can coexist peacefully with humans if people educate themselves about coyote behavior.

Coyotes in Illinois

Leanne Keats

Is the coyote population increasing, or are we noticing them more often because of suburban sprawl? Would you know what to do if approached by a coyote?

Coyotes are Illinois' largest wild predator. They are quite adaptable and seem to be losing their fear of people as they adjust to the human environment. As suburban sprawl pushes residential development to the brink of many wild areas, coyotes find new food resources such as rabbits and rodents, as well as water sources and occasionally cats and dogs as prey.

Currently, there is no organized way for the public to report sightings or encounters with coyotes, so I have developed a web site to collect this information and to provide general information on coyotes. The website will collect data from the public to help understand the nature and prevalence of coyotes and to assess the level of threat to people and pets in surrounding communities. A biologist will be checking the reports for coyote behavioral changes.

Community residents should understand what to do if they have

an encounter with a coyote, and what safety measures they should take to discourage coyotes from inhabiting their neighborhoods:

- Don't leave pets out alone at night.
- Don't try to feed a coyote.
- Don't leave pet food outside.
- A fence around your yard can discourage coyotes from entering your property.
- If a coyote approaches you, make noise (clap your hands, yell, scream) to make it feel unwelcome.

By taking a few sensible precautions, people need not be irrationally fearful of coyotes. According to the Willowbrook Wildlife Association, there have not been any reports of coyote bites in DuPage County, much less attacks on children. In the past 30-40 years, North America has seen only about 20 coyote attacks on humans, compared to over 900 dog bites reported *annually* in DuPage County.

Coyotes can coexist peacefully with humans if people educate themselves about coyote behavior.

To see additional information and to report an encounter with a coyote, visit www.coyoteventure.com.



The Fast and the Furious

Chris Kozlik

It's summertime again, and you know what that means: speeding cars through our neighborhood. What's worse is watching cars speed by as our children are playing or riding their bikes. It's a disaster just waiting to happen.

If you notice any chronic offenders, get their license plate numbers and report them to the North Aurora police

department. The nonemergency number is 897-8705.

Please let's be mindful of your speed when driving around the neighborhood, and help keep it safe for all of us. For those of us with kids who drive, this would make a great time to talk to them about the neighborhood speed limit.

Home Network Security Advisory

Chris Kozlik

Modern computer technology has really come a long way over the last few years. Wireless networks are inexpensive and easy to install. A hundred dollars and a trip to Best Buy get you a state-of-the-art wireless router that can be up and running in just a few minutes. Now, instead of hovering over a keyboard in some darkened bedroom, you can surf the net from the comfort of your easy chair.

Most wireless routers make security easy, setting passwords between all the computers in your network and automatically installing a firewall to keep intruders out. Don't confuse this with the security needed for virus protection; that's different. What I'm talking about is keeping other people with wireless capabilities out of your network.

The signals your wireless router uses to communicate with your computer can radiate out of your house far

enough that someone driving around with a laptop can use your network. Without basic security, it takes just a few clicks for someone to enter your network and surf the net for free. If that's not bad enough, it's not too difficult to get access to your computers as well. A compromised computer can easily give a hacker your personal identification or bank account passwords, if you bank online.

Right now, my laptop can detect five separate home networks, not including my own. Two of the five have no security at all. They would be as easy to access as clicking the Connect button.

Please make sure the security firewall is up and running on your wireless router. There are free programs available on the internet that will check your security. You can Google "firewall check" and look for links to well-established security companies such as Symantec. Their test program can tell you how secure (or exposed) your home network is. You should fix any problems immediately, even if that means paying someone to come out and do the work.

It's a lot less expensive to keep your computer safe that it is to have your identity stolen.



Treasurer's Report

Brian Rominski

The previous Chesterfield Board of Directors passed an operating budget of \$74,075 for 2007. As of May 31, the Chesterfield Homeowners Assn. has \$71,694 in cash assets.

Approximately 40 addresses out the 277 homes in our community have not paid the annual assessment, which was due in March, a delinquency rate of 14%. In addition, 114 addresses have not paid the special assessment, which was due in May, a delinquency rate of 41%.

Please pay your assessments. We need this money to cover the basic necessities of maintaining our community and your property values.

In case it has been forgotten, as of January 2007 CHOA was approximately \$30,000 in debt. In order to pay our debts and avoid this situation in future years, all decisions that this Board makes will be as fiscally conservative as possible. This means that some services have been trimmed, and capital improvements have been limited in order to get the association out of debt and back on track for 2008.

Behind the scenes, countless hours of time, resources, and material (such as paper for this newsletter) have been donated by the Board and committee members to reduce costs. We've called in favors that

have allowed us to handle many items free of charge, such as getting our sprinkler system up and running. We are well on our way to becoming financially healthy once again, and with a little help from everyone in the neighborhood, 2008 will be better financially.

This means everyone who owns property in Chesterfield must do their part. The Board will aggressively pursue all delinquent assessments. If you are unable to pay the assessment due to illness, economic hardship, or other reasons, please contact the Board or Baum Property Services (our new management agent) and we will work something out.

Chesterfield Neighbors

CHESTERFIELD
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION

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Baum Property Services
P.O. Box 46
Aurora, IL 60507-0046

PHONE:
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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Eric Eichelkraut
Marian Samuels
Brian Beatty
Melissa Beatty
Jim Biggs
David Lindsay
Barbara Young

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com

Beanbags, Baggo, Bags...We're forming a league

Eric Eichelkraut

No matter what name you know this game by, it's a lot of fun! Many of you have played beanbags before in somebody's back yard (maybe mine). Others have never heard of this game.

"Bags" is a game played with two teams of two players each. A member of each team stands next to a raised and slanted wooden board with a hole in it. The boards are placed 30 feet apart, facing each other. The object is to toss your beanbags either onto the board (1 point) or into the hole (3 points). The game itself is easy to learn, and takes only a few games to get the swing of things.

Bags is becoming a popular league sport with park districts, clubs, bars



and associations, where most charge a fee for playing.

Here in Chesterfield you won't have to pay! The bags league will start on Sunday, July 15 in the park across from Graham Rd. Bring your cooler, bags and boards, or just bring yourself. The first round starts at 6:30pm.

Kane County Cougars Game – August 30

Who's up for a Kane County Cougars game? Don't be a cicada. Get out of your house and get to know some of your neighbors at the Thursday, August 30 game (6 pm start time).

We have two options for tickets, depending on how many people would like to attend. With 50 or more people, the Cougars provide a tent and food for about \$26 per person. If we have fewer than 50 people, we can request grouped seats at \$10 each, but you're on your own for food.

If you're interested in attending, please let us know by **July 15** at board@chesterfieldhomeowners.com. Tell us how many people would like to attend and include a phone number where we can reach you. When we determine how many folks are up for the game, we'll hammer out the specifics. Cicadas are welcome!

Make this YOUR newsletter!

Chesterfield Neighbors welcomes articles from all Chesterfield homeowners and residents.

If you have some interesting information you'd like to share with your neighbors (gardening tips, recipes, local information of general interest), send your submission to communication@chesterfieldhomeowners.com or mail it to our management agent (see box at left) marked "Chesterfield Neighbors newsletter."