

**October 2007
Issue 3**

Chesterfield Neighbors

*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:

- October 29
- November 26
- December 17
(tentative quarterly meeting)

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

President's Report

Jim Biggs

Fall is here and Halloween is just around the corner. Let's make this a great time for our neighborhood children. Remember to be extra cautious when driving and stay alert to children in the streets.

The board and the various committees have been actively pursuing several items these past few months. The Communication Committee has worked hard to bring you another quarterly newsletter. As a reminder we need articles from everyone, so please don't be bashful. Write about anything that interests you.

During the summer, the Activities committee organized a Sunday bean bag game in the park. Thanks to Eric and everyone who helped him put this together. For those who participated it was great fun, and we got to make some new friends.

The Rules and Regulations committee has been working very hard on a new fence amendment and also a set of rules to clarify and supplement our Declarations and By-Laws. As some of you are aware, a few Chesterfield residents do not want to adhere to our current covenants, codes, and restrictions (CCR's). In today's tough real estate market, it is vital that we do everything in our power to maintain our property values and make Chesterfield a desirable place to live. Most of us bought our houses in a community with an association for this very reason: to protect property values and have a clean,

desirable place to live by having rules everyone must follow. I hope as a board we do our best to ensure that this happens and we do not let you down.

The board is settling into our relationship with our new property manager, Baum Property Services. Baum is actively pursuing any homeowners who have not paid their association dues, but they must use the records turned over by our previous property managers. If you receive a notice for payment that is not correct, please contact Kelly Henry at Baum Property Management to help document your payment history. We appreciate your understanding as Baum works to ensure our association is protected and that everyone pays their share. Let me apologize in advance for any misunderstandings that may arise out of this situation.

Our finances are in good shape, as outlined in Brian's treasury report later in this newsletter. I hope that we can continue to be good shepherds for the trust you have given us, and that we can give you tangible evidence of money well spent. Enjoy the fall and please consider donating a little time to keep this newsletter viable, we need your input for the spring issue.

Go Green for Halloween

Brian Beatty



For this Halloween, instead of orange, go green! Here are some tips to help you enjoy Halloween and make it Green!

Whether they are dressed as Harry Potter or SpongeBob SquarePants, children should carry canvas bags or pillow cases to tote treats instead of disposable bags. Using durable bags is a great idea any time of year, especially at Halloween when disposable bags can tear and lead to unhappy trick-or-treaters.

Design pesticide-free pumpkins. You can purchase pumpkins from various sources, but to celebrate an eco-friendly Halloween, think about buying organic or pesticide-free pumpkins from a local pumpkin patch or farmer's market.

Many Halloween costumes available on today's market contain conventional toxic dyes that pollute waterways, and petroleum-based products that require oil drilling. An idea to protect the environment is to make a costume from old clothes instead of buying a disposable one from a store. This way you can scare your neighbors without spooking Mother Nature.

When planning a Halloween monster bash, use reusable utensils, plates, napkins and tablecloths instead of

disposable ones. When you are shopping for Halloween goodies, buy candy that uses the least amount of packaging. Kids may clamor for chocolate and candy corn, but after Halloween's over, wrappers may be as common as tummy aches.

Fall is a great time to start backyard composting. It's a great way to recycle organic materials such as food scraps, leaves, yard clippings and jack o' lanterns. A backyard bin is a lot more convenient than bagging leaves for collection. You get great soil for gardening, and you can compost all winter long even in our cold climate. Check with your local hardware store or garden center for help getting started.

Try to re-use Halloween decorations in the same way that Christmas ornaments are used from year to year, instead of throwing them away each November first. Most of all, use this holiday to think about your everyday habits and actions to reduce waste 365 days a year. The scariest aspect of Halloween may not be the ghosts in the attic, but the waste on the floor. Individual actions can make a huge difference for our future.

Rules & Regulations Corner

Brian S. Rominski

With the exception of those at the main entrance, all parkway trees are the responsibility of the Village of North Aurora. If you have a dead or diseased parkway tree, you can call the Village and ask to be placed on the tree replacement list. If you want to replace the tree on your own, you still need to call the Village for a list of acceptable replacement tree species.

As a reminder, if you are planning to install a new fence or are planning any additions to your property, please fill out the architectural request form found on the Chesterfield Homeowners Assn. web site (www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com) and submit it to the Board.

The dangers of having an outdoor cat

Dr. Patrick Sage, DVM, Animal House Veterinary Hospital

The addition of a new kitten or adult cat to a family is a fun and exciting experience. There are many challenging decisions to make with the new addition: food and treat choices, new toys, and type of litter and litter box choices.

The most important decision to make is to decide if you are going to let your cat outdoors. Unfortunately, outdoor dangers are real and life threatening. Outdoor cats live an average of less than five years, while their indoor counterparts live an average 12-14 years.

The threats cat's face outdoors include:

Cars: Cats are often confused and startled by headlights, so they may not flee an oncoming car. They also run into traffic while chasing prey or being chased by other cats or humans. In our suburban setting, cars are a leading threat to cats.

Dogs/Coyotes: Dogs can kill or inflict serious damage to young, unsuspecting cats.

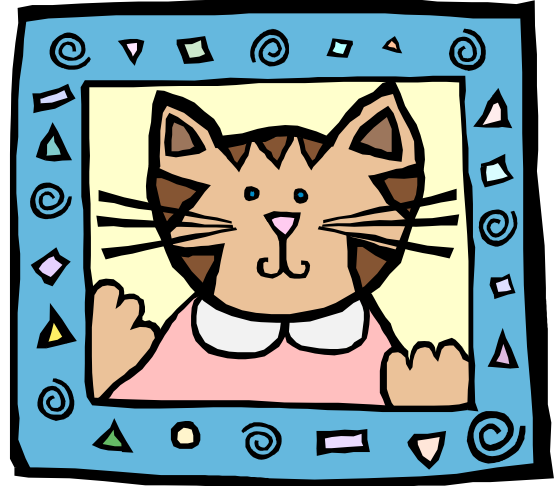
Other cats: Marauding tom cats or strays commonly cause severe bite injuries to other cats. The resulting infections and abscesses can be life threatening. Other cats carry diseases that can be passed by bite wounds, diseases such as feline immunodeficiency virus or FIV, which compromises the cat's immune system similar to AIDS in humans. There is no cure for this virus, which can lead to life-shortening health problems.

Parasites: While keeping your cat indoors will not completely eliminate the risk of fleas, ticks or intestinal parasites, it will decrease the opportunities for infection.

Chemicals and Poisons: Antifreeze and rat poisons are common poisons for cats. After our companion leaves our home, we never know what they might find.

Neighbors/Other people: Keeping cats indoors will protect cats from people who do not enjoy their companionship as much as you. Cats can be the center-point of many neighborhood feuds, and often take the brunt of people's anger and frustration.

There are many dangers that cats can face indoors as well. Chemicals such as fabric softeners, bleach and other cleaners can be toxic to cats. Cats can fall from ledges or windows.



String, plastic bags, pennies, certain plants and slamming doors can also injure cats. However, these hazards are more easily monitored indoors, and injuries are more quickly noticed.

As our cats' environment changes, they can no longer roam, stalk, scratch, or climb as they would in the wild. This does not mean we have to let cats outside for them to be happy. By adding climbing/scratching posts, toys, catnip scents, and interactive playtime, you can safely mimic many elements of outdoor life. Also, outdoor cat enclosures allow your companion to be outside without the dangers.

Purchasing or adopting a new cat is a rewarding, but challenging decision. With love and companionship come responsibilities, costs and decisions. By keeping your companion indoors: you lead to many more years' together, harmony with your neighbors and an opportunity to play and spend more time with your new addition.

Animal House Veterinary Hospital, with locations in North Aurora and St. Charles, has been providing quality veterinary services to the far western suburbs since 1995. Their healthcare philosophy is to focus on what is in each pet's best interest and to treat all pets the way they would their own.

New directory ensures home repairs are “Done Right!”

Free directory helps homeowners find home improvement professionals

Kristi Mendez

Recently, we recognized the official end of summer and the beginning of autumn, meaning homeowners will be making repairs and readying their houses for the long cold winter that’s sure to strike Chicagoland.

As they do, many of them will need to enlist the help or services of a professional – but how do you know who you should call? There’s always the Yellow Pages, but that’s little more than an alphabetical listing. There are online lists, but how do you know who’s really writing the recommendations? Now there’s another option: the Done Right! Directory.

A truly unique directory, the Done Right! Directory (available in printed format or online) contains hundreds of Chicago area home service professionals in more than 100 categories, including a number of professionals that serve the North Aurora area and our neighborhood. All of the pros have been rigorously reviewed, so much so that Done Right! even guarantees their work – going well beyond a simple online post with a few kind words.

If there’s a problem, Done Right! acts as mediator to facilitate a solution. Should the situation not be recoverable, Done Right! will pay for another pro to do the work correctly or will reimburse the customer up to \$500.

The Done Right Directory was recently distributed to more than 750,000 homes in Chicago and the surrounding areas in the Sept. 16th *Chicago Tribune* and the directory is also available online at www.doneright.com.

“It used to be that we all lived in a tight-knit community and we knew exactly who to call for plumbing repairs or to paint the house,” says Paul Ryan, CEO and co-

founder of Done Right! “Today, this is rare, making it difficult to get a good recommendation about who to hire to do home repairs. Done Right! simplifies this process by conducting the research that most consumers don’t have the time or resources to do themselves. And, thanks to the Done Right Guarantee™, consumers can rest assured knowing they’re hiring a quality company that will do the job right the first time.”

The directory is searchable by the type of home improvement service you’re looking for and zip code. Every home improvement pro in the directory is scrupulously researched and reviewed on an ongoing basis – including the status of their licenses, insurance coverage and history of complaints with the State of Illinois and the Better Business Bureau – to ensure the best and most up-to-date directories for consumers and their local communities.

Additionally, Done Right! pros must also garner recommendations from Realtors, home inspectors, civil engineers and other related professionals in order to be backed by the Done Right Guarantee.

Done Right!’s directory and its guarantee remove the worry and anxiety normally associated with finding and hiring a home improvement pro.

“Our directory, along with our unique guarantee, is precisely what homeowners need when hiring someone for their home improvement projects,” adds Ryan. “They need a good recommendation and a guarantee that the work will be done correctly. A lot of other directories and websites offer opinions and reviews, but none of them guarantees the work and the professionals being reviewed.”



Done Right!™

Meet Your Neighbor: Lew Samuels

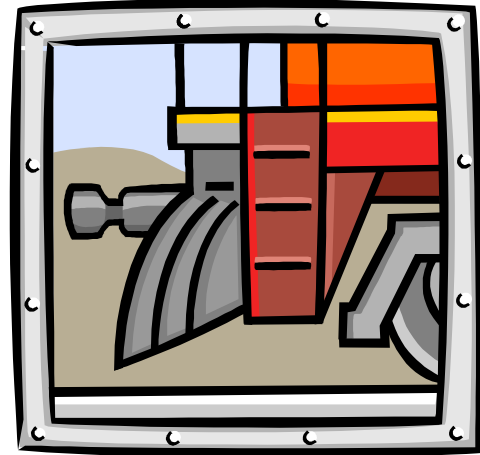
Marian Lombardi

In each newsletter we will be featuring a Chesterfield resident so we can all get to know some of our neighbors.

In this issue we would like you to meet Lew Samuels. Lew moved into his new Chesterfield home in 2001 and is happy with his home and the community.

After graduating from Western Illinois University with a major in Law Enforcement, Lew joined the police force for the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad. He worked there for 23 years, until they merged with the Union Pacific 11 years ago, and stayed on with the UP for a total of 34 years.

As a police officer for the railroad, he handles theft in the rail yards (including one incident in which someone tried to steal a stove, thinking it was a television), trespassing, rail crossing incidents, and sometimes even a homicide. He is commissioned the same as federal and state officers and goes through regular training and qualifications as required. Lew is based in Chicago, but his area of responsibility



includes other areas of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Lew enjoys his work (why else would he stick with it for 34 years?) but is looking forward to retiring in the near future and to be able to go boating and fishing whenever he wants.

Treasurer's Report

Brian Rominski

As of September 24, 2007 there is \$73,993 in cash assets in the bank. The Board is actively pursuing approximately \$14,500 in delinquent assessments, which will be turned over to collections in the next few weeks.

The Board has secured a contract to cut down the large dead tree on the common property behind 501 Chesterfield, along Butterfield Road.

The Board has secured a contract to perform sprinkler system shut-down for the winter.

The Board is currently requesting proposals for cleaning the pond.

Lost cat: Have you seen Buddy?

Buddy, a long-haired orange and white Persian cat, has been missing for several weeks. He has no claws, is very meek and never ventures outside, except this one time.

His owners have notified Kane County Animal Control but would like any information which could lead to his safe return.

Someone in the neighborhood may have found and adopted him, as he has no collar.

If you see Buddy, please contact :
Pat Homa and Janet Ashby
729 Stewart Avenue
630-202-1068 or 630-202-2492

Chesterfield Neighbors

CHESTERFIELD
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION

MANAGEMENT AGENT:
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Baum Property Services
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Marian Samuels
Brian Beatty
Melissa Beatty
Jim Biggs
David Lindsay
Barbara Young

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com

Baum Property Service Update

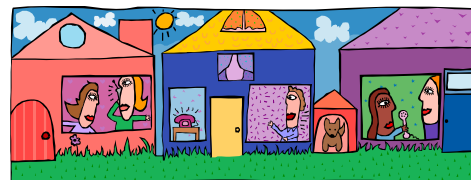
Kelly Henry

Baum Property Services has been working on obtaining bids for:

- Dead tree removal on Butterfield
- Doing a spring burn of the wetland area
- Shut off of the irrigation system

In addition to obtaining quotes, BPS has been working on collecting delinquent assessment payments and working with the landscaping firm, Acres, to make sure the common areas are being properly maintained.

A BPS inspector will drive through the community monthly. Some of the items the inspector will be checking for are:



- Lawns that need mowing or weed removal
- Homes that have many items stored outside that should be inside the garage
- Homes that are in need of general maintenance

Kelly Henry is our property manager at Baum Property Services. You can contact her at 897-0500 ext. 26 or by e-mail at kelly@baumprop.com.

Fermilab presents world-class entertainment

Why travel to downtown Chicago for your cultural “fix” when you only need to make a 10-minute drive? Fermilab’s Ramsey Auditorium hosts an assortment of music, dance and dramatic performances throughout the year, as well as a Friday night film series where you can view classic and international movies for only \$5.00.

Recent Fermilab performances included Buckwheat Zydeco live and a showing of the Bill Murray film “The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou.” Coming up this fall and spring are Spanish Harlem Orchestra, the Wailin’ Jennys, and a performance of Reduced Shakespeare’s “All the Great Books (abridged).” Upcoming films include “The Great Dictator,” “Memento,” and “Spellbound.”

For more information, contact the Fermilab box office at 630-840-2787 or view all the Arts and Film Series offerings at www.fnal.gov/culture.

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.”