

**Dec. 2008  
Issue 7**

# Chesterfield Neighbors

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***Annual Homeowners Association Meeting and election of Board:***

Monday, December 15  
7:30 pm  
Valley Community Bank  
75 S. Randall Rd.  
North Aurora, IL

**Note date and time change!**

*Published by the Chesterfield Homeowners Association, North Aurora, IL  
For up-to-date information, see our web site at [www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com](http://www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com).*

## President's Report

**Brian Rominski**

It is always nice to be able to take a step back at this time of year and reflect on our accomplishments and achievements and, if you're like me, think about what can be improved on for the coming year.

The Board is very pleased with the accomplishments of the past year. Delinquent accounts have dropped to an all-time low of \$2,950, of which approximately \$1,700 is assessments and the remainder is legal fees and fines.

The long-term contract extensions that we negotiated with Baum Property Management and Acres Landscaping ensure that we will be able to keep yearly

assessments to a minimum. The Board also made a commitment to managing the wetlands in a manner that fits within our annual budget. I'm sure the results will be evident in the coming years.

Although the window of opportunity for tree replacement at the main entrance slipped past, the Board is planning on combining our 2008 and 2009 budget line item for tree replacement and completing this work as weather permits in the spring.

Hope everyone has safe and fun holidays.

## Rules & Regulations Corner

**Brian S. Rominski**

As a reminder, wood piles, garbage cans, yard waste and recycling bins are no longer allowed on the front and sides of your property. Thank you to all the residents who have been cooperating with these new rules.

Please remove your holiday decorations in a timely manner later this winter.

Out of courtesy to your neighbors, please move all vehicles off the street during snowfall so the streets can be plowed thoroughly.

## Treasurer's Report

**Brian Beatty**

As of October 31, 2008 the Chesterfield Homeowners Association has \$95,795.83 total assets, of which \$61,785.83 is in reserves and \$34,009.98 is in checking.

There are approximately \$2,950 in delinquent assessments and fines.



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## Wildlife in my own backyard

### Denise Vancil

Sometimes the wildlife from your backyard gets into your house.

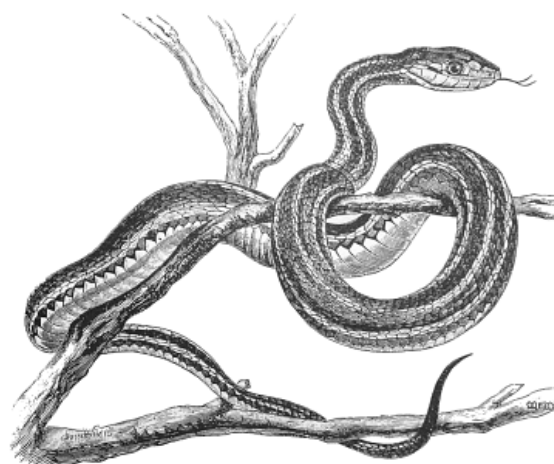
One morning in July, I shuffled downstairs to my office in the “cave” (unfinished basement, gray walls, cobwebs and all) as I tried to wake myself up for the day. As I did a quick check of email before heading back upstairs to get a cup of tea, I noticed an odd shape near my bookcase, a mere five feet away. When I looked closer, the shape moved! Oh my, it was a snake.

I gasped, but calmly walked upstairs and said to my husband, “Ted, I need your help. There’s a snake in the basement heading for my computer!” Back in the basement, we both spent some time crawling on the floor trying to catch the snake, with little success. (“Oh fine, dear. You’ve just chased it behind the bookcase.”) I had work to do and was not about to move a ton of books and magazines if the snake was safely out of sight, but all day I kept looking over my shoulder.

Later, in the afternoon, I was busy typing away at my computer when I heard a rustle of noise about six feet away. I casually looked up and saw that the snake was back. He had managed to crawl up the nine-foot basement wall sometime during the day without my noticing. The snake was just trying to get out of the basement the same way he had come in but had lost his balance on the ledge and landed on some dried tree branches we had perched on a desk. He was casually coiled on those branches, staring at me and sticking his tongue out as snakes do.

I promptly marched upstairs and said “Ted, I can’t work under these conditions, with snakes coming and going. This has got to stop!”

We went back down the stairs with bucket and towel in hand. Shaking a bit inside, I gently picked up the tree branches and dumped the snake into the bucket, covering it with the towel. Then I ran like heck upstairs, out the



back door, through the backyard (in the middle of a thunderstorm) and dumped the snake over the hill.

After the snake was removed from the premises, we looked it up on the Internet and found out that it was a garter snake. Because of the similarity in the sound of the words, combined with where people often see them, they are sometimes called garden snakes or gardener snakes. They vary in color, but this one was black with yellow lengthwise stripes. It was almost three feet long, with a belly about the size of a quarter dollar.

Garter snakes are not poisonous, but they do have teeth and will bite if provoked. I know this because a second garter snake that made its way into our basement bit my husband and held on tightly. Ted is still with us, so their bite is not lethal, but it can get infected. If you’re bitten by a garter snake, clean and take care of the wound as you would any other deep cut.

So the next time you think your neighbors who work from home have it “made in the shade,” think again. Their office may be in the darkest, dampest part of the house, where all forms of wildlife find their way in. I’ve had voles and chipmunks in the window wells, two tree frogs, a giant bumble bee, assorted mice, and the above-mentioned two garter snakes. I just keep on working because I like working from home despite the conditions.

**Chesterfield Neighbors**

CHESTERFIELD  
HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com](http://www.chesterfieldhomeowners.com)

**Annual Meeting Reminder**

The annual meeting of the Chesterfield Homeowners Association will be held on December 15th at 7:30pm at Valley Community Bank in North Aurora. Please note that this is a change from the previously published date.

**Cheese Ball Razzmatazz****Denise Vancil**

2 ½ cups sharp cheddar cheese (New York sharp cheddar is best)  
1 cup mayonnaise  
3 Tbsp. green onion, finely chopped  
2 dashes Tabasco sauce  
¾ cup pecans, chopped  
1 jar Robert Rothchild Farms Hot Pepper Raspberry Preserves  
(can be found at Le Gourmet Chef in Chicago Premium Outlets, Aurora)

Chop up cheese in a food processor or grate it by hand. Dump it into a bowl and add the remainder of the ingredients except for the preserves. Mix with a fork or spoon. Press mixture into a dish lined with plastic wrap or form into a ball and chill for a couple of hours or more. Unmold and spread preserves on top of the cheese. Serve with crackers, chips or crusty Italian bread.

Chesterfield Homeowners Assn.  
c/o Baum Property Services  
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