

# ACACIA TIMES

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

January 2020

Holiday Decorations Removal Date

Acacia Board General Election/Annual Meeting

Resumes for Board of Director Candidates

Email Sign-Up Form

Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Next Acacia Regular Board Meeting, February 11, 2020

Acacia Association 111 Cascade Dr., Indian Head Park, IL 60525

Website: [acacia-ihp.org](http://acacia-ihp.org)

Email: [acaciaihp@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaihp@gmail.com)

## **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IMPORTANT DATES:** February 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas decorations must be taken down.

February 1<sup>st</sup> Voting begins.

February 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting/Election.

### **ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION:**

February 1<sup>st</sup> voting for Board Member begins. You can vote throughout the month of February up to and including February 25, the day of the meeting. Voting takes place at the clubhouse during regular business hours. One vote per household.

**FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup> at 8pm is the Annual Meeting and Election. PLEASE VOTE!**

We have a total of 4 open Board positions. **Three** - 3-year terms and **one** 2-year term to fill.

We **need volunteers** between 3:30pm-8pm to hand out ballots. We also need volunteers to count the ballots and report the results of the election. Please call the Acacia office to volunteer 708-246-2400.

**Absentee voting**-see attached "Yearly Election Notice" for details.

Christmas decorations should be **removed by February 1**. On that date, homes with specifically Christmas decorations will be issued a reminder letter. *Lights, angels, Christmas trees, Santa, reindeer, wreaths with red bows, etc. will be considered **Christmas Decorations**.* Snowmen, ice skates, pine cones and other winter themed items will **not** be classified as Christmas decorations. However, **ALL WINTER DECORATIONS** should be removed by **March 1**.

New 2020 **coupon books** have been mailed to home owner's that pay by personal check each month. If you did not receive your coupon book, please call the office 708-246-2400. If you pay for the whole year at once, pay by ACH or send a check directly from the bank, you were **not** mailed a coupon book.

When parking in the Acacia lot for snowplowing, please park on the north end of the lot closest to Acacia Drive.

**Our new Rules/Regulations for Rental Units** went into effect **January 1, 2020**. Please see complete Rules and Regulations for Rental Units which is posted on Acacia Website (acacia-ihp.org) under Association Documents.

Next Acacia Board Meeting is Tuesday, **February 12, 2020** at 7pm at the clubhouse.

**The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting  
January 14, 2020**

The Board of Directors meeting of Tuesday, January 14, 2020 was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Eckert.

Directors in attendance were: Pres. Eckert, Sec'y Brandush, Tres. Polacek, Kwiatek, Murray, Boyd and Voyles.

V.P Kalinoski was absent

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion (Polacek, Boyd) to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2019 Board of Directors Meeting. Motion passed. (7/0/0).

**Home Owners comments/questions:** No comments.

**Treasurer's Report:** John Polacek reports on the Treasurer's Report Page, we see that the assessment collection was \$89,088 with other sources giving a total income of \$90,767. Expenses were \$37,317 leaving a net ordinary income of \$53,450. We are starting to see the net for the month building the fund balances for next year.

The accounts receivable currently stands at \$3,991.66. 13 members have past due accounts. We continue to do all the law allows to collect the outstanding balances.

We had 8 members with late payment fees and/or interest applied to this month. Currently 227 members use the **ACH**, automatic bank withdrawal and 160 do not. **ACH** insures no late payment fee and no interest charge. **ACH** also saves the office time and money. Please consider this. 58.7% of Acacia Homeowners use it. Join the crowd! There really are no dangers. Acacia withdraws only the Assessment. If there are other charges, you receive a separate bill. When members do not pay on time, there is a cost of collection and a fee is charged. Avoid those charges with **ACH**. Overall, we are in good financial condition.

There has been a request for information about our Fund Balances. We have two funds – Reserve fund Balance and Operating Fund Balance. These will start to grow as the crew is no longer here. We are starting to build the balances for next year.

They now stand at:	Reserve Fund Balance	\$228,055.49
	Operating Fund Balance	\$584,270.87
	Total	\$812,326.36

## FINANCIAL DISCUSSION

If you would look at “Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual”, please.

Starting with the **income section**, we see a decrease in late fees and fines. Clubhouse and Pool were over budget.

In the **expense section**, we see under budget in payroll in spite of being short of employees and adding in overtime.

- Contract Services ran \$11,200 over. Due to Tree Service, Pool Management, snow Removal and Painting. We are addressing this in the 2020 Budget.
- We will be reducing Expenses by \$3,150 by not mailing the newsletter.
- Repairs and maintenance went over \$9,890 due to Driveway and Equipment maintenance.
- Supplies went over \$11,000, due to lumber costs being over \$18,000.

In the Other Income/Expense section, we have a \$4,900 increase in interest income.

This gave us a loss of \$30,221. However, when we remove the Depreciation of \$57,600, we end up with a cash net of \$26,379. You also see a net increase in the Reserve Account of \$49,992.70.

After we have the Reserve Account study completed, we will review our action or lack thereof in this area.

I have given you a sheet showing our end of the years Balance from 2011 to now. As you can see it is relatively steady over the 9 years. This is spite of significant Reserve expenditures. There was a property tax incident in 2018-2019. We had no loss but it did screw up our balances.

Our judgement on Assessment increases should be tempered by expected cost increases and Reserve Account needs.

Motion (Polacek, Kwiatek) to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion passed (7/0/0).

**Clubhouse Director’s Report: Loretta Murray reports** effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 the new clubhouse agreement went into effect.

The total rental cost is \$200.00 of which there will be a \$30.00 REFUND within 2 weeks of rental date if the facility is left in original condition.

All assessments and fines must be current to allow rentals.

If a resident’s assessment / fines are past due it must be brought current by cash or cashier’s check.

**Recreation Facilities Director's Report:** Amy Eckert nothing to report.

**Grounds Maintenance Director's Report:** Jack Brandush nothing to report.

**Townhome Maintenance Director's Report:** Peggy Rose Kwiatek has nothing to report from this past month. I did receive an email asking if we were considering changing our townhome colors to a more modern color. After some discussion, we would like to put together a volunteer group of residents to research options. Please let the office know if you are interested in serving on the panel. We are also looking for resident volunteers who enjoy gardening and would like to serve on a panel for improving the look of our Acacia entrances.

**Village Relations Director's Report:** Sharon Kalinoski reports (read by Amy Eckert) Dec. 12, 2019 IHP village board meeting:

294 update: In 2022, the Wolf Road exit ramp south of Joliet Road will be closed during construction.

Animal Control Ordinance revisions: Now limit of 4 animals (cats/dogs) per home. Defined dangerous animal as one who has a propensity to make a person feel threatened.

Village portion of property taxes increased approx. 2% will be between \$16 and \$48 per home.

The overwhelming majority of residents who spoke during the public forum were against allowing recreational cannabis sales in IHP.

Resolution to allow residents to vote on advisory referendum on whether or not to allow the sale of recreational cannabis: failed. Mayor Hinshaw broke the tie vote, preventing a referendum.

Ordinance to have a 6-month moratorium on a cannabis facility: Failed, Mayor Hinshaw broke the tie vote, preventing a 6-month moratorium.

Ordinance to prevent certain cannabis uses in village: Failed, again Mayor Hinshaw broke the tie vote.

Ordinance to regulate cannabis uses via special use zoning control passed unanimously.

**Amy Eckert Reports on January 9<sup>th</sup> Village Board Meeting:**

Acacia Drive Project -Phase I has been sent to IDOT – the document is at Village Hall if anyone wants to see it - and now Phase II will be completed and submitted.

Wolf Road – Phase I Engineering Study (cost not to exceed \$1,381,839,53 which will be reimbursed by Cook County) is being worked on – looking at complete road from Plainfield to 79<sup>th</sup> Street (includes center turn lanes, sidewalk or pedestrian path on both sides where possible), total cost \$13-\$14 million – 7 years to complete

I-294 – no updates

Draft Village Goals were introduced: Trustees will look at and Board will determine final Village Goals

- proactive marketing of Triangle property
- façade update of property in Triangle
- entrance to Village upgrades
- Heritage Center upgrades
- Community Events
- Infrastructure improvements
- \_Security cameras at entrances to each neighborhood

**Architecture and Landscape Director's Report:** Diane Voyles reports for the month of December there were 2 requests for new projects and 4 inspections of completed projects. Seven recently sold homes were inspected as part of the new standardization checklist.

**Decoration reminder:** Christmas decorations should be **removed by February 1**. On that date, homes with specifically Christmas decorations will be issued a reminder letter. Lights, angels, Christmas trees, Santa, reindeer, wreaths with red bows, etc. will be considered Christmas Decorations. Snowmen, ice skates, pine cones and other winter themed items will not be classified as Christmas decorations. However, ALL WINTER DECORATIONS should be removed by March 1.

**Welcome Baskets:** Peggy Rose Kwiatek reports that one new welcome basket was delivered this past month to a new resident at 168 Cascade. I delivered the form from the Architecture and Landscape Control Committee, and explained our guidelines and amenities. She was very happy to have found her new home here in Acacia.

If you have recently moved to Acacia and have not received a welcome basket, please call Peggy Rose at 708 505-4733.

**Office Report:** Amy Eckert reports that we have made some changes/updates to the website to make it more user friendly. We added a section for new/potential homeowners, added a calendar of upcoming events and moved a few things around as well as renamed some of the main headings. Lisa is currently working on getting us a spot where we can post pictures.

This is the first month that we are NOT mailing the newsletter out. The newsletter will be emailed to residents that have asked and given us their email address, it can be read online at our website, [acacia-ihp.org](http://acacia-ihp.org) or it can be picked up at the office. It will be available for pick up after 2pm, the third Tuesday of the month (one week after the Board meeting) at the clubhouse.

**If you want to sign up to have the newsletter e-mailed to you please fill out the E-mail Sign Up form which is included in this newsletter or it can be found on the website under Association Forms or stop in the office.**

The updated Rules and Regulations were reviewed and agreed to by the Board. They will be typed and posted to the Acacia website within the next week. These updates override previous ones.

**Homeowner Forum:** No comments.

**New Business:** If closing is two weeks or less, seller must pay assessment in cash or cashier's check.

Jack Brandush made the Board aware of an abandoned car in Acacia. It has expired plates and an expired sticker. It has been ticketed by the police but the car has not been moved. What can Acacia do about this car? Jack will draft a letter to mail to the homeowner.

**Ongoing Business: Amy Eckert reports** that the election of Board Members is in February. Resumes were due January 10, 2020. We are electing three (3) for a three-year term and one (1) for a two-year term. Directors to be elected, not officers. Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

Motion (Eckert, Murray) to adjourn to Executive Session. Motion passed. (7/0/0).

Board returned to Open Session - nothing to report from Executive Session.

Motion (Murray, Eckert) to close Open Session. Motion passed. (7/0/0).

FYI: On January 14<sup>th</sup> representatives from Interfaith Community Partners and Independence 4 Seniors were at the clubhouse to explain the services that they offer – driving you to appointments, shopping, personal care, assistance with daily living activities and lots more. Both organizations work with seniors to help them continue to live as independently as possible – whether staying in their own home, living with family member or in an assisted living setting. If you would like any information, we have brochures and contact information in the Acacia office.

# YEARLY ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following information has been prepared to assist you in electing a Board of Directors for The Acacia Association. We hope we have anticipated all of your questions.

**ANNUAL MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 8:00 P.M.

**LOCATION:** The Acacia Association Clubhouse, 111 Cascade Drive, Indian Head Park 60525.

**PURPOSE:** To elect three (3) for a three-year term and one (1) for a two-year term. Directors to be elected, not officers. Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Chairman John Polacek.

**Everyone needs to vote. To have the election be official, we need a quorum of voters.**

**ABSENTEE VOTING:** If you will be **OUT OF TOWN** for the month of February and unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may request an absentee ballot from the Acacia Office. We can email, fax or mail you the request form. Your ballot will be mailed to your **OUT OF TOWN** address after February 1, 2020.

If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote beginning February 1, 2020 at the Acacia office during regular business hours. You must sign the register and vote on the premises. Such ballots will be counted with all the others after 8:00 pm on February 25, 2020.

**Association office hours are:**

Monday –Friday 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.\*

\*closed 11:45am-12:15pm.



## **CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR THE 2020 BOARD:**

Hi, my name is **Keith Hale**. I have enjoyed living in Acacia with my wife Cathy for almost 3 years now. We have made great friendships at the pool and I would love the opportunity to become more involved with the community by joining the Board. Thank you for your support.

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Hello,

My name is **Anita Holub**. I have lived in Acacia 7 years now and enjoy the Acacia community very much. I would love to be more involved with the community by joining the Board. Acacia has so much to offer and I would love your support to continue to make Acacia the best place to live.

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My name is **Sharon Kalinoski** and I have served on the Acacia board for the past 2 years. I have been a CPA since 1995, with a MBA, and licensed real estate broker for 5 years. I helped our association greatly increase our interest income, and helped to keep our 2020 assessments the same as 2019. My current board position as Vice President/Village Relations Director involves attending Village Board meetings and writing reports. If elected I will continue to keep the best interests of the association members as a guide for decisions. Thank you.

## **Diane Voyles**

I have lived in Acacia for over 4 years and have participated on the Acacia board during the last 2 years, on the Architecture and Landscape Control Committee.

I am running again for the board because I would like to continue to contribute to the future of our community. As a current board member, I championed increasing income revenue from sources other than homeowner assessments. I worked to standardize and modernize our existing ALCC forms. I lead the team in an overall assessment of the Acacia property in an effort to ensure the continued upkeep and overall appearance of the homes in Acacia.

I have over 30 years of experience in the business world where I am employed as a computer programmer. I have extensive experience in project management, team building and customer service. I also serve on the board of the Chicago chapter of DAMA, a non-profit professional organization dedicated to the advancement of data asset management concepts.

Thank you for your consideration.

**I'm Jack Brandush and I have been an Acacia resident for 43 years, currently living at 1 Cascade Drive. I have three adult children, all who have grown up in Acacia.**

**I am retired from Electro-Motive Diesel, Inc. and was an Environmental Engineer, managing air and water pollution control, hazardous waste and materials, energy and water conservation, recycling, and employee safety concerns for 40 years. I am a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Illinois and a Certified Hazardous Materials Manager.**

**I currently serve on Acacia's Board of Directors as Secretary, as Grounds Director and an ALCC member. I have been on the Board for the last nine years and have also served as Recreation Director, and Director of the Architectural and Landscaping Control Committee.**

**If reelected, I would work with the current Board and use my engineering expertise and Acacia experience to continue to look for cost savings ideas, control costs, and keep the assessment as low as possible, while continuing to give Acacia residents the services that have made this townhome complex a great place to live. I will serve in any capacity that is most needed by the Board and the community.**

My name is **Lynda McMillin** and I have an interest in being on the Acacia Board of Directors. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education and also a license in Health and Life Insurance. I taught for 25 years during which time I was Building representative for 4 years and Secretary of our Union for 6 years. After retiring from teaching, I was a para-educator in the Special Education Department at Lyons Township High School for 13 years. During this time, I was Secretary of our Para-union for 6 years. I am able to work well with people and feel that I have always tried to contribute to all activities I've been involved with whether it be Highlands School, St. Cletus, LT Booster Club, Highlands Woman's Club or Brookfield Zoo.

Thank you

## E-MAIL INFORMATION AND PERMISSION

Effective January 1, 2020 we will no longer be mailing the Acacia Times to residents. It will be published on our website, [acacia-ihp.org](http://acacia-ihp.org), we can e-mail it to you or you can stop in the office and pick up a copy.

We will also add you to our e-mail list so that you will receive information from Acacia about upcoming events, notices (snow plowing, etc.) and information from the Village of Indian Head Park.

**We will never use e-mail addresses for advertising purposes nor will your e-mail address be shared with anyone else.**

If you want to be on the e-mail list please complete the form below and return it to the office. If you have any questions please give the office a call.

**You only need to return this form if you currently receive Acacia Times in the mail.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we would like the newsletter and information sent to the e-mail listed below

\_\_\_\_\_ I/we will read newsletter and information on Acacia website

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up a copy at the office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail address (please print clearly)

JOIN US FOR THE 8TH ANNUAL

# SHAMROCKIN' FOR A CURE

CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION

PRESENTED BY  
HINSDALE NURSERIES



THE OFFICIAL KICK-OFF TO THE st. patrick's day SEASON!

WE WILL BE CELEBRATING ALL THINGS IRISH WITH DRINKS, FOOD, BAGPIPERS & MORE.  
THIS AMAZING EVENT WILL ALSO FEATURE LIVE MUSIC AND A PREMIUM SILENT AUCTION.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH 7PM-12AM  
COUNTRYSIDE BANQUETS, 6200 JOLIET RD. (COUNTRYSIDE

TICKET IN ADVANCE:  
\$65 (\$34 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)  
TICKET AT THE DOOR:  
\$85 (\$54 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)

DRINKS, DINNER, &  
ENTERTAINMENT ARE  
INCLUDED!

IRISH EYES WILL DEFINITELY BE SMILING AS WE TAKE ONE STEP CLOSER  
TO MAKING CF STAND FOR CURE FOUND!



TEAM O'CONNELL

OMEGA



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

For details about sponsoring this event  
or donating an auction item,  
please contact Tyler Reinert at  
773-782-1124 or email  
[treinert@cff.org](mailto:treinert@cff.org)

*Important Note on Attendance at Foundation Events: To reduce the risk of getting and spreading germs at CF Foundation-sponsored events, we ask that everyone follow basic best practices by regularly cleaning your hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand gel, covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your inner elbow and maintaining a safe 6-foot distance from anyone with a cold or infection. Medical evidence shows that germs may spread among people with CF through direct and indirect contact, as well as through droplets that travel short distances when a person coughs or sneezes. These germs can lead to worsening symptoms and speed decline in lung function. To further help reduce the risk of cross-infection, the Foundation's attendance policy recommends inviting only one person with CF to an indoor Foundation-sponsored event at a specific time.*

# Serving the Acacia Community Casey Window

(773)392-5569

## Window & Door Installation

- ✓ Quick, Free, no hassle estimates
- ✓ We offer window craftsmanship at its best, that exceeds Acacia window replacement requirements
- ✓ We have satisfied Acacia references to support our work record
- ✓ We stand behind our work with a limited lifetime material warranty and 1 year of at home service labor warranty
- ✓ We provide only the best custom made vinyl and wooden windows
- ✓ And all this at a great price!



Interior  
Wood  
Grain  
Dark  
Oak



Interior  
Wood  
Grain  
Light  
Oak



Exterior Bronze



Other color combinations  
available upon request

Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project  
Photos



