

ACACIA TIMES

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

September 2021

What's Inside:

Upcoming Events

Important Reminders

Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Next Acacia Regular Board Meeting October 12, 2021

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

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Acacia Office 708-246-2400

Acacia Maintenance Office 708-784-9295

Village of Indian Head Park 708-246-3080

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events:

- September 18th - Pleasantview Fire Dept. Safety Day (on Plainfield Rd.) 10-1:00.
- September 19th – Village of IHP car show 1:00 – 6:00 parking lot at Wolf and Joliet Rd.
- September 21st - The IHP Women's Club first meeting of the new club year at village hall, at 4:30pm. Come and meet our friendly group! We will discuss plans for monthly programs and events.
- September 25th – Movie and picnic in Blackhawk Park – movie, Luca – starts at dusk.
- October 5th – Bunco in the clubhouse at 6:30. More details in the minutes.

Reminders:

Masks are required in the clubhouse – please make sure you put one on and that it covers your mouth and nose **before** you enter the building.

The pool is closed for the season – **please remember to keep your ID** – you will need it to renew next year.

The courts are open – come out and enjoy playing on the new surfaces.

Outdoor signs except under special circumstances as ruled by the Board of Directors are prohibited. Children's sports signs are allowed only during that sports season. Contractor signs are allowed when work is being done on your home. Only during the day when they are working. Any sign should be close to the home and not in the way of the crew when doing any grounds or townhome work.

Acacia Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30-11:45, 12:15-3:30

ALCC forms and Service Request forms are available on the Acacia website.

Next Acacia Board Meeting is Tuesday, **October 12, 2021** at 7pm at the clubhouse.

**The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting
September 14, 2021**

The Board of Directors meeting of Tuesday, September 14, 2021 was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Eckert.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed to honor those impacted by September 11th 2001.

Directors in attendance were: Pres. Eckert, V.P. Kalinoski, Polacek, Boyd, Consolo, Kwiatek, and Voyles.

Directors absent: McMillin

A representative from Beary Landscaping gave a short presentation offering different proposals for weed control and mulch application in Acacia. The options are for common areas only and homeowners could potentially contract with Beary Landscaping to have similar work done on their private grounds.

Approval of Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting. Kwiatek, Kalinoski. 7/0/1 Motion passed.

Homeowners' comments/questions: Judy from Cascade suggested that there be an amount budgeted next year for the restoration and maintenance of the signs at the entrances to Acacia. The board will take this into consideration and see how the construction will impact these areas.

Treasurer's Report: John Polacek: For September 2021, the Acacia Association Treasurer's Report shows:

Assessment Collection	\$86,370		
Other Sources	\$2,126	Total Collection	\$ 88,496
Total Expenses			\$ 102,221
Net Ordinary Income			\$ -12,726
Capital Reserve Transfer			\$ 6,000
Net Income			\$ -18,726

We are now spending some of our Operating Reserves to balance the expenditures. This is normal every year.

As of August 31, 2021, the Accounts Receivable stands at \$6,918.

17 of 387 members have Past Due Accounts. We continue to do all the law allows to collect the outstanding balances. The previous month, 10 members had late payment fees and/or interest applied.

As of August 31, 2021, 241 members use the ACH, automatic bank withdrawal. ACH insures no late payment fee and no interest charge. ACH also saves the office time and money. Please consider this. 62% of Acacia Homeowners use it. Join the crowd! There really are no dangers. Acacia withdraws only the Assessment on the 20th of the month. If there are other charges, you receive a separate statement. When members do not pay on time, there is a cost of collection. Therefore, a \$25 fee is charged the first time you are late escalating to \$50 thereafter. Avoid those charges with ACH.

Overall, we are in good financial condition.

We have two funds –	Reserve Fund	\$303,109
	Operating Fund	<u>\$590,985</u>
	Total	\$894,094

I move that we accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Polacek, Kalinoski 7/0/1
Motion passed.

John stated that the committee creating the formal payment plan agreement is meeting to finalize the form next week and will then present it to the board.

Clubhouse Director's Report: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: There were 2 clubhouse rentals in the month of August.

On August 27th, we held our first blood drive in Acacia's clubhouse. Nine people signed up ahead of time. 2 people had to cancel, but we had 2 walk-ins. The employees of Versiti Blood Centers of Illinois did a great job and made everyone feel comfortable. They brought some prizes for the people who donated. If you donated blood and didn't receive a prize, you can still pick one up in the office.

After discussion concerning cancellations of parties at the clubhouse, we will be giving the assigned party attendant the \$50.00 non-refundable deposit if the party is canceled within 2 weeks of the party date. If canceled outside of 2 weeks, \$25.00 of the deposit will go to the party attendant and \$25.00 will go to the clubhouse. Any cancellations due to Covid related issues, the \$50 deposit will be returned to the resident.

Bunco will be starting again in the clubhouse on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30. Tuesday, October 5th will be our first bunco game night. For now, we will be wearing masks and following safety guidelines of the CDC. Please call the office with your name and email address if you would like to be included in the first bunco game of the season!

Recreation Facilities Director's Report: Amy Eckert: **Pool:** The pool is closed for the season – we had a great season and by the number of residents and guests visiting each day it was a popular place to be. We had a difficult time getting the chemicals needed to

keep the water swimmable and costs went up due to this shortage. Thanks to Jose and Tim for keeping the water safe and the guards for keeping swimmers safe.

REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR POOL ID IN A SAFE PLACE – YOU WILL NEED IT TO RENEW FOR NEXT YEAR

Electronic motion was made to accept proposal from A&M Fence to repair a section of the pool fence in the amount of \$1590. Eckert, McMillan 7/0/1. Motion passed

Courts: The grand reopening was held on Sunday, August 22nd and since then it has been nice to see the courts being used again.

The lights are still being worked on so only 1 is on every night. Jose is getting bids on replacing the light fixtures or just replacing the bulbs. Due to the height of the light fixtures, we will need a lift to safely perform the work.

Sharon asked about the practice wall – it will be replaced as soon as there is time to do this. She also asked about having the courts open later in the season than October 15th.

You need a key to access the courts so if you need one or both stop in the office during business hours – you will need to bring an ID showing you live in Acacia and a \$10.00 deposit for each key – you keep the key and when you turn it in you will get your deposit back.

Rules for the use of the courts are included in the newsletter and have been added to the Acacia website.

Several residents expressed an interest in learning and playing Pickleball – we have a list of the residents and their contact information. If you would like to be included, please contact the office, and leave your name, email address and phone number. The list will be shared with anyone interested in setting up games. Many residents said they are interested in lessons so I contacted Bill Voigt to see if he would consider teaching Acacia residents and he said he would. As of right now he does not know when he will be available, but details will be shared when he is available to schedule a class for us.

We also have a few residents that are looking for tennis players. Please call or email the office if you would like to meet some new tennis players. We will send the names, emails and phone numbers to everyone that is interested so you can set up games.

Playground: Over the past few weeks, we have noticed several things in the playground that need to be addressed:

- Dogs in the playground – this is not allowed. I do feel that we need to be specific as to what we consider the playground. The Recreation Committee recommends that it

be defined as the entire area past the sign – including the grassy area on both sides and between the equipment and the courts. The majority of the board agreed. A new sign will need to be ordered and put in place.

- Playground being used after sunset. There are no lights directly in the playground area and this is a safety issue – so please don't use the playground after the sun sets.
- Litter – PLEASE make sure that you pick up after yourself and your children when you have a snack. There are garbage cans in the playground area for trash. Be considerate of others that are using the area and our crew that picks up when those using the playground don't.

Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Joe Consolo: Since the last Board meeting, we completed 26 grounds service requests. We continued the grounds trimming cycle.

The end of the year crew party is scheduled for October 1, 2021

We purchased \$624.16 in gas for the mowers and carts, and we purchased \$90.17 in gas for the truck.

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Ben Boyd:

- Completed 19 townhome maintenance service requests.
- Oversaw the replacement of 16 driveways.
- Oversaw the completed five buildings on the paint cycle.
- Power washing and carpenters are currently working on 28 townhomes on Stonehearth Lane and Square.
- Painting has been completed on 27 of the 55 units that are in the 2021 paint cycle. The maintenance crew has experienced a lot of rotten wood that has slowed the maintenance cycle and that in turn has slowed the paint cycle.
- Met with Inside Out Construction to begin measuring for coping of newly painted townhomes.
- Parking lot sealcoating will be completed in September.

Joe asked Ben if the amount of rotted wood would be an issue when going to a 7-year paint cycle. Ben stated he is interested in looking at different types of siding that would go over the wood so rot would not be an issue.

Village Relations Director's Report: Sharon Kalinoski: Report on Aug. 12, 2021 IHP village board meeting. The mayor and 2 trustees were absent. The board and employees followed CDC guidelines and wore masks indoors. Covid cases in IHP increased to 323 as of Aug. 31, up 10 cases since Aug. 8.

A resident from the west side of Wolf Rd. complained about the destruction of more than 40 trees in Acacia due to the road construction project. Amy mentioned that that number is not accurate. It was less than 40 trees.

Brief mention that construction hours allowed Monday-Friday are 7am to 7:30pm.

IHP will get \$505K from the American Rescue Plan; half in Sept. and half next year. Funds must be tracked and spent by the end of 2026. Allowed uses are for infrastructure and economic development. Brief discussion on potential uses such as stormwater management: need clarification on what is allowed, can't be used for roads.

Planning & Zoning approved a new 2 story office building on Joliet Rd. west of Wolf's Head Inn.

Owner of Driftwood Lounge submitted a request to allow outdoor dining & beverage service. No details of this request were discussed or voted on during this meeting.

Report on Sept. 9, 2021 IHP village board meeting:

Most of Board present with one trustee absent. All inside village hall wearing masks. Several audience members removed masks while speaking, thus defeating the purpose of masks. Covid cases in IHP increased to 335 as of Sept. 13, up 12 in the past 2 weeks.

Mayor's report: Acacia Drive sidewalk project southern half being done now, northern half next year.

Wolf Road reconstruction alternatives should be available in early 2022 for review and public comment.

The plans will include a Tree Study. There is discussion with Countryside regarding a sidewalk on the south side of Joliet Rd. The Joliet Rd. ramp to 294 N. should be done in November. The mayor encourages everyone to get the Covid vaccine.

A new police officer was sworn in, due to an IHP officer with long term Covid who is unable to return to work.

Engineer from Strand thanked village for patience on the Acacia Drive project. He explained delays due to Nicor work pushing back construction several months. Northern portion will be completed next year. New trees will be planted in 2022. Mayor added that the board is committed to making Acacia Drive look good.

Board approved plans for a new 2 story office bldg. on Joliet Rd. at Vine St.

Board approved \$60K stormwater management study.

Upcoming events: Pleasantview Fire Dept. Safety Day (on Plainfield Rd.) Sat. 9/18 10am-1pm

Car Show Sunday 9/19 at corner of Wolf & Joliet, 1pm to 6pm

Movie "Luca" in Blackhawk Park on Sat. 9/25; food served at 7pm, movie at dusk.

Proposal to publish Smoke Signals monthly, trustee Farrell-Mayer asking for submissions for content.

Architecture and Landscape Director's Report: Diane Voyles: For the month of August there were 19 requests for new projects and 8 inspections of completed projects.

Five warning letters were sent.

Sharon asked about children's sports signs being up out of season and 2021 graduate signs still being up. It was explained that many sports seasons are longer than some may think. 2021 graduate signs should come down.

Welcome Baskets: Peggy Rose Kwiatek: One welcome basket was delivered to new residents from 7 Deercrest at the clubhouse. The guidelines and amenities were explained and the resident's questions were answered. They were very appreciative of the basket. Another meeting was scheduled with a new resident, but they did not show up. They will be rescheduled.

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: Our insurance policies renewed on September 11th. Our insurance agent was able to switch our Workmen's Comp. insurance to Travelers and this will save us almost \$4000.00 for 2021-2022.

In late August we celebrated Javier Herrera as he is completing 30 years of working for Acacia. Congratulations Javier from all of Acacia.

Homeowner Forum: Gus from Westwood asked if the greater amount of rotted wood is because of the paint cycle being extended in the past? Jose said he can't say if that is the reason for sure when the paint cycle was extended from 4 to 5 years. Ben stated that wood rots from rain, heat, and moisture buildup. The new paint Acacia is using has a better UV protection that should help prevent wood from rotting as fast.

Michael whose mother lives on Cascade Drive asked about correcting water infiltration around window in back and door in front - wanted to know if Association would add overhang over the window and if that would work. This is not something the Association does and if the homeowner wanted to do this, they would need to request approval through the ALCC before they did any work. For the front door it was suggested that he look at the stoop to see if it needs to be mud jacked so it does not need caulking every year. This is something the homeowner can do without ALCC approval. He mentioned there may be some issues with the foundation of the house. Again, this would be something that the homeowner would need to address as the Association does not fix foundations.

Melissa from Cascade asked what the outdoor lighting rules are? Amy stated that the outdoor lighting rules are listed in the Rules and Regulations on the website.

New, Ongoing, or Other Business: Acacia Drive Update: After delays due to utility work the village reports that excavation of the south end (south entrance to just before Acacia Circle) should begin by the 20th of this month. The plan is that the work will be done before winter. There may be temporary road closures, but everyone will be able to get in and out of Acacia during construction.

Due to the late start all landscaping will be done next year. All the trees that were planned to removed have been taken out. NiCor is responsible for replacing/repairing and cleaning up the areas where they were working. They said they will seed and lay straw in the fall. There are also areas where bushes were either taken out or ruined that will need replacement.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session: Eckert, Kalinoski 7/0/1 Motion passed.

Motion to return to Open Session: Eckert, Polacek 7/0/1 Motion passed.

Motion to close Open Session – Eckert, Kwiatek 7/0/1 Motion passed.

JAVIER HERRERA

Thirty years ago, Javier Herrera had no wife, no children, no job, but he did have a good head of hair. Since that time, he wed his wife Ilda and they have raised two children who are now 26 and 23. And, by the way, he has worked for the Acacia Association as a seasonal employee for the entire time.

Having come from the small town of Huandacareo, Mexico about five years earlier, Javier had been employed in the hospitality industry but was on the lookout for a better opportunity. A friend of Javier's told him about the position at Acacia, and after meeting Charlie, the original property manager for Acacia, he was quickly brought on board to join the crew. At that time Javier was hired to be a painter, because at that time the painting was done in house. Since that time Javier has done a myriad of jobs for Acacia, almost exclusively for the townhome maintenance group, but also as an extra hand on the grounds crew when he was needed. Javier currently is the main finisher for the carpenter group. In this role he comes in after the carpenters and stucco have been completed, caulks, and does paint touch up where needed. He also is skilled in pool care and can regularly be found vacuuming the pool to keep it crystal clean. If there is a job that requires delicate attention to detail, Javier is the man called on most of the time.

Javier has seen many personnel changes during his time as an Acacia employee, but he says the job is still pretty much the same. The biggest change he sees is the amount of work that is required by the townhome maintenance carpenters. He sees a lot more work being required on the townhomes as they age, and that has slowed the process considerably over the years.

When asked about the most memorable experience he has had at Acacia, Javier admits it was the sad events surrounding the death of Jose Silva in 2016. Jose had been a carpenter for Acacia who worked alongside of Javier and who died while on the job. Javier has fond memories of Jose, and he will never forget the man or the accident. On a lighter side, one of the other crew members mentioned a story involving Javier which was much funnier to the crew. At the time Javier was a painter and he climbed a ladder to move a bird's nest which was in the way of the painting. An Acacia resident saw Javier trying to get to the nest and felt the birds should be left alone. She came running out of her house with a broom, screaming at the crew to "Leave the birds alone." Javier quickly retreated from the house and left Charlie to deal with the woman and relocation of the bird nest.

Javier is a hidden asset of the Acacia crew, humble, quiet, and skilled at his trade. He comes in daily, does whatever is asked of him and does it at a high standard. When asked about the future Javier admits that every fall he thinks to himself that this could be the last year for work at Acacia. Let's hope it's not this fall. If you see Javier out on the street, please consider giving him a "Thank you" for the job he has done for all these years.



GRAND REOPENING OF THE COURTS

The weather was hot but sunny and many residents turned out to check out the newly resurfaced basketball and tennis courts.

The tennis courts are lined for both tennis and pickleball.

Our thanks to Leslie, our resident tennis player/teacher, Bill Voigt from the Pickleball Association and RJ for testing out the courts.



The Acacia Association

TENNIS/BASKETBALL/PICKLE BALL COURT RULES

- Use of the courts is limited to Acacia residents and their guests. Resident must remain with guests at all times
- Courts may not be used for instruction unless all participants are Acacia residents
- Gate keys for tennis/pickle ball and basketball courts are available at the Clubhouse during normal business hours - residents may get a key for a \$10.00 deposit per key and proof of residence in Acacia
- Keys are not to be loaned to others whether they are residents or visitors
- Tennis/pickle ball and basketball courts are available on a first come basis. If residents are waiting players must relinquish the court after one hour of play
- Tennis/basketball shoes are required. No other type of shoe is acceptable
- No food is allowed in the court areas. Water in unbreakable containers only. NO GLASS is allowed
- No roller skating, skateboards, roller blading, cycles, scooters, toys, etc. allowed on the courts
- No animals/pets allowed in the court areas
- Court lights are turned on and off automatically
- Please lock court gate upon entry and departure



& THE VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

PRESENT

MOVIE at the park

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

SEPTEMBER 25

SHOWING

Disney · PIXAR

LUCA

**DOORS OPEN AT 7:00PM
SHOWTIME AT SUNSET**

**BLACKHAWK PARK
INDIAN HEAD PARK, IL**

FREE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

You're Invited!

The Village of Indian Head Park and SEASPAR invite you and your family to a showing of a family-friendly movie on a jumbo screen under the night sky. Movie at the Park is free and open to the public. Snacks and refreshments are provided. Picnic blankets and chairs are recommended.



TREATS GALORE!

Guests of Movie at the Park will be treated to grilled hot dogs, fresh popcorn, cotton candy, side dishes, and dessert complements of the hosts.

Disclaimer

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Sharon Kalinoski CPA, Broker

FOR SALE :

**LaGrange Park 4 BR house w/ 3 full baths + fam room + office + sunroom
3 car garage, beautiful 1/3 acre corner lot. 838 Beach Ave. \$410,000**

**For Rent: Wilshire Green 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo avail. by Nov. 1. \$1800/mo.
Coming soon: Ashley Woods (Westchester) 2 BR townhome for sale**

I have buyers looking for:

**Acacia ranch model (Adams) or Dearborn model townhomes
Wilshire Green condos 2BR or 3BR, Burr Ridge Carriage Way 3 bedroom**

Please call me for a free market analysis if you are thinking of moving.

**Sharon Kalinoski CPA, Broker *Indian Head Park (Acacia) resident* 1-708-805-0675
ASAP Realty Inc. main office Lockport IL herculesUS@yahoo.com**



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Interior
Wood
Grain
Dark
Oak



Interior
Wood
Grain
Light
Oak



Exterior Bronze



Other color combinations
available upon request

Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project
Photos

