

THE ACACIA TIMES

A Monthly Insight into the Happenings at Acacia

March 2023

In this Issue:

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- Election Information
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- IHP Recycling Event

SBC Garbage Pickup

Residential@
SBCwastesolutions.com
- or -
312-522-1115

Next Blue Bag delivery is 3/17

New Office Hours

On Board Meeting Days the office will be open from Noon – 5:00pm.

Acacia Association
111 Cascade Drive
Indian Head Park, IL 60525
708-246-2400

www.acacia-ihp.org
acaciaihp@gmail.com



The Acacia Election Results Are In!

The 2023 Election concluded with a total of 189 votes cast.

See inside for Officer positions

Patricia Chiappetta - 54	Ben Boyd - 127
Bill King - 128	Joe Consolo - 135
Melissa Allison - 128	Anita Holub - 42
Mary Kay Kelly - 52	Jennifer Cagney - 50
Wayne Dubin - 122	Diane Voyles - 52

Write-in Candidates: Meghan Tyrrell - 1 | Patrick Ferguson - 1

POLITICAL SIGNS - Village Elections

Please be aware that our Rules & Regulations allow for political signs one week prior to the election so for our purposes you may display political signs from **March 28 thru April 5**. Thank you!

Next Up...

Acacia Easter Party
Saturday, April 1

Village of IHP Election
Tuesday, April 4

Upcoming Events:



Acacia Easter Party!

Saturday, April 1 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Bring your children and join us at the Clubhouse for the Acacia Easter party! Games, crafts, music and snacks will be provided.

Please R.S.V.P. to the office by March 24 and let us know how many adults and children will be in your party.

Upcoming Events:



Village of
Indian Head
Park
ILLINOIS

2023

**Paint and Electronics
Recycling
and Shred Event**



Saturday, April 15th

9:00 am-1:00 pm

at Public Works 11308 70th Place



***Must be an IHP Resident**

Upcoming Events:

Village of Indian Head Park Elections



Early Voting for Indian Head Park

March 20 - April 3
Hodgkins Village Hall
8990 Lyons St
9:00am - 5:00pm

April Bunco on Monday

Bunco is moved to Monday April 3rd due to the Clubhouse being used for the Village election on the 4th.

Ladies'
Bunco
Night for fun & friendship!



Village Easter Egg Hunt!



Did you know that Acacia supports The Lions Club?

Acacia resident, Marlene Chaney, volunteers for this wonderful organization by performing vision testing and collecting personal items in support of the organization. We have offered our Clubhouse as a collection point for used eyeglasses, hearing aids, ink cartridges, cell phones and pop tabs. All of these items help to provide humanitarian services for those in need.

If anyone would like more information regarding our Clubs or wish to donate in various ways, please do not hesitate to contact Marlene at marchaney@sbcglobal.net or 708 275 6316.

The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting March 14, 2023

The Board of Directors Meeting of March 14, 2023 was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Amy Eckert.

Directors in attendance were: President Amy Eckert, Directors, Jennifer Cione, Peggy Rose Kwiatek, Tom Herley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion: I move to accept the electronic motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2023 Board of Directors Meeting. Moved by: **Amy Eckert Diane Voyles - 5/0/2 motion passed.**

The new Board of Directors was sworn in and accepted their Oath of Office. The new Directors are Joe Consolo, Ben Boyd, Melissa Allison, Bill King, and Wayne Dubin.

Homeowners Forum

Patrick Ferguson – Elmwood Court

Patrick states that at the Annual meeting it was disclosed that we sold a riding mower. He asks who we sold it to; Amy responds that it was a private individual but not someone who works for Acacia. Patrick states that he spoke to Tim Rost about his resignation and thanked him for his hard work on behalf of Acacia. When he asked Tim when his last day was Tim told him to ask Amy. Amy responded that information will be shared in Directors reports during the meeting.

Joe Diorio – Elmwood Court

Joe asks when the nets will be installed for pickleball. Amy responds April 1-15 depending on the weather. Joe asks who decides when the weather is good enough and he would like them up on April 1st rather than the 15th. Joe also asks about getting a port-a-john on the property for the summer months. Amy responds that the village will not issue a permit for a port-a john. Joe asks if the village were to issue a permit, would Acacia permit it. Amy responds that they would take a board vote in the event the village approved a permit. Finally, Joe asks if we will ever heat the pool to 87degrees as we did a few years ago.

Betty Sloan – Elmwood Drive

Betty asks if Acacia will host another food drive in April. Peggy Rose agrees and will work with Betty to find a date.

Homeowners Forum

Jerry Buttimer – Hawthorne Lane

Jerry introduces himself and gives a short demo of his Axipod product which he uses to film our board meetings. He relates that his YouTube channel with the Acacia board meetings posted has been well-received and is a good vehicle for transmitting information to the community. In that vein, he would like to donate an Axipod and a Canon digital video camera to the Association to be used for filming board meetings.

Motion to accept the donation of one Axipod and one Canon Vixia HFR600 digital video camera. Moved by: Ben Boyd, Joe Consolo 9/0/0

Gus Stamas - Westwood

Gus asks when the painting will be completed as his house was one that did not get finished prior to the cold weather, Amy responds that painting will resume once the weather is good,, but she does not have a specific date.

Treasurer's Report

Income	\$100,494.00	(assessments, late fees, closing fees, etc.)
Expenses	\$ 37,778.00	
Capital Expense	0.00	
Transfer to Capital	\$ 6,000.00	
NET INCOME	\$ 62,716.00	

As of February 28, 2023:

Operating Accounts	\$202,884.06
Capital Reserve	\$281,329.61

At the close of February 2023 there were 27 accounts in arrears for a total of \$14,835.31. 4 of the past due accounts are with the attorney – these 4 total \$9,571.75. The remainder of the accounts are due to missed payments, rejected ACH payments, fees and fines.

Now is a good time to bring your account up to date – any homeowner owing the Association money will not be allowed to renew or receive a Pool ID until all monies owed are paid.

Residents are encouraged to enroll in ACH – automatic payment – for monthly assessments. This avoids any chance of missed payments and late fees. Currently 65% of residents use ACH. There is no charge for ACH and the assessment amount is withdrawn from your account on the 15th of each month.

MOTION to approve the Treasurers Report as prepared by staff. Amy Eckert, Ben Boyd 9/0/0

There was a fraud attempt on our Operating Checking Account that Sharon caught. To protect our account, we could close the account and open a new one or we could have Fraud Protection added to the current account. It was decided to add the Fraud Protection. This requires the Treasurer to respond to emails daily by a certain time if needed.

Initial contact with the auditor was made. He sent a list of items that he needs to begin working on the audit and Sharon and Liz are working on gathering the documents requested. I explained to him that we have a new bookkeeper and that it was unknown who the Treasurer would be until the meeting on March 14th. He asked me to let the board know that it may take additional hours due to working with new board member and bookkeeper and we could incur additional costs.

Clubhouse Director's Report – Peggy Rose Kwiatek

There were 5 clubhouse rentals in the month of February.

Bunco night was held at the clubhouse on Tuesday, March 7th at 6:30 pm. Our hostesses Amy, Janice and Phyllis planned a St. Patrick's Day themed spread of food, and a good time was had by all. Our next Bunco night will be moved to Monday, April 3rd because of elections on Tuesday, April 4th. Adults, age 21 and over, are invited. Don't worry if you don't know how to play Bunco. We will teach you!

Clubhouse Director's Report, cont'd – Peggy Rose Kwiatek

A new panel of patio shades that had been damaged was ordered for our Clubhouse Great Room.

The Social Committee met to plan an Easter party for the children of Acacia. The party will be on Saturday, April 1st at the clubhouse from 1 to 3 pm. There will be games, crafts, music and snacks. Please call the office to let us know how many children you will be bringing to the party. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Recreation Director's Reports – Amy Eckert

- The new robotic pool vacuum will be delivered this week
- In the next month we need to order the chemicals to get the pool open and also the mulch for the playground
- Reminder to look for Pool IDs so you have them for renewal. Further information on renewing IDs will be shared at the April 2023 Board meeting and after the meeting it will be posted on our website.
- We have been unable to get a 3rd quote for resurfacing the pool at this time. I suggest we table this for now and work to get updated quotes. My suggestion is that we get quotes early summer so we can decide who will do the work and get on their schedule for spring 2024. This is considered a capital expense so the monies would come from the Reserve/Restricted account.
- AED purchase – as mentioned I spoke with the pool company and an EMT about what to purchase and where to purchase one. Both had suggestions as to the product we buy and suggested that aedsuperstore.com is a good place to shop. I checked prices there and the cost for an AED is between \$1480.00 and \$1799.00 and both suggested that we also purchase an extra set of adult pads and a set of pediatric pads (as pads can only be used once). I also priced them as a package which includes the AED, adult and pedi-pads and wall mounted cabinet. Those prices ranged from \$1609.00 to \$2038.00 – again the recommendation to also purchase an extra set of adult pads. (Note – our choice might be limited due to lengthy backorder times for AEDs)

Motion to purchase AED package and 1 set of additional adult pads at a cost not to exceed \$2500.00. This was not budgeted for – monies could come from Operating Reserves or Restricted/Reserve account. Amy Eckert, Joe Consolo 9/0/0

Grounds Director's Reports

- 2 Service Requests completed
- Oversaw grinding of 20 stumps. Several others were not able to be ground due to the location of buried utilities
- Purchased \$210.09 gas for the truck

Grounds Director's Reports, continued

Blue bag issues – SBC began charging Acacia for blue bags because they said residents have been requesting large amounts of bags and the cost to SBC was approximately \$6,000.00/year for the bags along with the cost of sending someone out to deliver them. There have also been numerous complaints to our office and SBC that the bags are not being delivered as promised. We disputed the charge because our contract said they would supply the bags for us. Looking at the contract closely it does not say specifically that they would supply them at no cost to Acacia.

SBC is suggesting we start using 20 gallon recycle bins that they would supply for each residence for free. This would save money on the cost of the blue bags and also be more environmentally friendly as the blue bags are NOT recyclable and just get thrown away.

The office will get contact SBC to get more information on the recycle bin size and capacity, as well as how to handle overflow and the costs for multiple recycle bins.

Crew Return dates:

Week of 4-17 for Grounds Crew – 7 grounds crew members

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report

- 1 Townhome Service Request completed
- Met with representative of JC Licht paint to discuss solutions for painting the women's locker room after weatherproofing was done
- 31 Westwood - During townhome prep work this past year a window frame was damaged and the window needs to be replaced. Casey Windows quoted a price of \$920.00 for the window and installation.

Crew Return dates:

Week of 4 -10 – 2 utility crew members

Week of 5-8 – 5 townhome crew members

MOTION to approve hiring Casey Windows to replace window at 31 Westwood for \$920.00 - 9/0/0

Village Relations Director's Report

April 4th – Election – voting is at the clubhouse

April 8th - Easter Egg Hunt – 11:00 – 1:00 – Blackhawk Park
Egg hunt, petting zoo, pictures with Easter Bunny

April 15th – Recycle Day – 9:00 – 1:00 – see flyer in this newsletter

April 29th – Spring Fling – 2:00 – 8:00 - more info in April

August 1st – National Night Out

Wolf Road Update: The Village Board voted on the amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The approved amendment will add the increased community involvement and public meetings that many residents have requested.

Village Relations Director's Report, continued

Pedestrian Access Master Plan:

The 3 Main Areas in the Village:

- Plainfield Road and Wolf Road: Both are County roads, and both are in a Phase 1 Study. The County has stated that they will not be pursuing a 5-lane alternative for Plainfield Road or Wolf Road.
- Joliet Road: This is a State road and the village is waiting for approval to begin Phase I of a sidewalk along Joliet Road. The state budget has over \$4,300,000 allocated to this project.

There have been no discussions, no plans or no direction to have sidewalks installed on the interior streets in the Village.

Village Goals: Next month the Village Board will be working to establish the village goals for the new budget. If you would like to view the Goals they are attached at the end of the minutes on the village website.

Police Report: Chief Kurinec:

- The Department is still waiting for a License Reading equipment permit from IDOT.
- Cook County has provided a Drug Collection box which is now in front of the Village Hall.
- Watch Guard squad car cameras will soon be installed.

Employee Anniversaries: Police Officer Cedomir Bojovic is celebrating 4 years of service with the Village of Indian Head Park.

If interested in a garden plot, there are 2 plots still available. Contact IHP Village Hall.

Architecture & Landscape Committee – Jen Cione

Projects approved to start = 1

Projects completed and inspected = 1

Welcome Baskets Report – Peggy Rose Kwiatek

Nothing to report this month.

Office Director's Report – Amy Eckert

Tim Rost turned in his resignation effective today, March 14, 2023.

Election Director's Report

The Election results were emailed and posted on website

Patricia Chiappetta - 54

Bill King - 128

Melissa Allison - 128

Mary Kay Kelly - 52

Wayne Dubin - 122

Ben Boyd - 127

Joe Consolo - 135

Anita Holub - 42

Jennifer Cagney - 50

Diane Voyles - 52

Write-in Candidates: **Meghan Tyrrell - 1** | **Patrick Ferguson - 1**

- Difficulty counting ballots due to lighting and noise in 4 Season Room
- Comment on one ballot suggesting that if a board member resigns, they need to wait 1 -2 years before they can run again
- Absentee ballots – make sure the office has an address that can receive mail – this year we had one ballot that was not deliverable, and we spent \$48.00 to mail replacement ballot so it would get there in time

Thank you to those who helped with the election: Lyn M., Jen C., Mary F., and Cindy M. for helping on weekends for voting, Jen C. for overseeing ballot counting, Phyllis G., Alice W., Jennifer B., and Bobbette P. for counting ballots.

New/Ongoing Business

There will be a collection box at the clubhouse for Lions Club to recycle used/empty ink cartridges, old cell phones, computers, eyeglasses, pop top tabs. These items are then recycled for people in need. Feel free to drop them off at the clubhouse during business hours. Thank you to Marlene Chaney for supplying the collection box.

From Patti Chiappetta

I would like to start by saying I had an amazing year on the board and would like to congratulate the candidates who won. I examined all the ballots and verified all the counts were accurate. Thank you to ballot counting committee. It was a long night for all.

Patti

Homeowners Forum

Anita Holub – Sweetwood Court

Anita asks how large the recycle bin is form SBC.

Jerry Rizzo – Sweetwood Court

Jerry suggests we get a photo of the proposed bin and let the residents know the size and dimension so they can visualize.

Julie Wright – Westwood

Julie works from home and has shredded paper that she regularly recycles. She asks how will shredded paper will work in the open top bin as she envisions it blowing away. She asks if she can use both the recycle bin and blue bags.

Betty Sloan – Elmwood Drive

Betty asks if we can procure a sample of the recycling tote so residents can view it.

Cleo Walters – Nacona Lane

Cleo asks when residents can start submitting service requests. Amy responds that service requests can be submitted but will be held in the office until the crew is back and weather permits.

Cleo also asks the status of our maintenance supervisor. Amy responds that she does not know, that there is a new board and no decisions have been made.

Mike Rohloff - Briarwood

Mike asks if political signs are allowed on common ground. Amy responds that political signs must be kept on private property, except for the day of the election when we allow political signs on the parkway along the clubhouse.

Mike also asks how we will handle the “blow-away” from the recycle bins and that our crew should expect to clean up the debris on the street. He asks if he is allowed to have a toter for his garbage. Joe Consolo responds that yes, he is allowed to have a toter. He can get prices for the different sizes offered but notes that the cost is borne by the resident.

Homeowners Forum

Patrick Ferguson – Elmwood Court

Patrick states that Tim's last day is today and asks what the Association is doing to protect our assets. Amy responds that she is in receipt of Tim's keys and his debit card.

Patrick also asks about the new recycling containers and asks if he can get a full size toter for his recycling as his family uses 2-3 blue bags per week.

Jack Brandush - Deercreech

Jack asks in light of recent regional bank failures, has the Association looked at our investments to ensure that our assets are safe. Amy responds that the Association has accounts at several institutions and no single account exceeds the \$250,000 FDIC insurance threshold.

Bill Holub - Sweetwood

Bill referenced the Election comments earlier in the meeting and asks who made the suggestion that board members who resign should wait 2 years to be able to run again. Amy clarifies that the suggestion was written on a ballot anonymously. Bill asks how we can change the by-laws to effect the change as suggested. Amy thinks it is a 2/3 vote by the residents to amend the by-laws.

Motion to close Open Session and go to Executive Session – Amy Eckert, Peggy Rose Kwiatek 9/0/0

Motion to close Executive Session and Return to Open Session – Amy Eckert, Joe Consolo 9/0/0

The new board was installed and voted on officers:

Board Member	Primary / Secondary Roles
Melissa Allison	Secretary
Ben Boyd	Townhome Maintenance
Jen Cione	Vice President
Joe Consolo	President / Office
Wayne Dubin	Treasurer
Amy Eckert	Village Relations
Tom Herley	ALCC
Bill King	Grounds
Peggy Rose Kwiatek	Clubhouse / Welcome Baskets

Motion to close Open Session – Jen Cione, Melissa Allison



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VOTE BY APRIL 4TH, 2023

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Meet the Candidate Open House

Tuesday March 28th 7:00-9:00 PM

Acacia Clubhouse

A record of accomplishment for the village

A lifelong resident of the Indian Head Park/Western Springs area, Shawn Kennedy has lived in our village since 2012. Currently a village trustee, he has made important contributions in a short time, particularly in regard to economic development, by helping to expand IHP's commercial footprint and allocating money to update local business facades and signage.



An accomplished financial advisor

A financial advisor by profession for more than 20 years, Shawn provided advice that enabled our village to expand its cash reserves by nearly 300% and to meet budgeting requirements for the repair and replacement of watermains and roads throughout Indian Head Park. This repair program has kept watermain breaks and water loss down to historically low levels.

Endorsed by the current president

For his fiscal responsibility and his other contributions to the village, Shawn is endorsed by our current village president, Tom Hinshaw.

An advocate for families and safety

Shawn is a graduate of both Highlands School and Lyons Township High School. He and his spouse, Julie Morgan, have placed all three of their children in these schools, as well. His long-time association with these schools has made Shawn acutely aware of the need for safe passage for our children to school and of associated issues relating to roads and sidewalks. He also wants to add more neighborhood safety cameras throughout our village.

Generous, open-minded and positive

Those knowing Shawn personally are well aware of his willingness to generously donate his time as a trustee, committee chair or concerned community member. Open to listening to all sides of an issue before making a decision, Shawn has a wonderful, positive attitude and works hard to make our community better every day. Over the past few years, Shawn has put his open-mindedness and positive attitude to good use, working on three village committees for the best interests of residents: public works chair, fences and sheds chair, and economic development member.

A protector and manager of our environment

Committed to preserving the beauty of Indian Head Park, Shawn is committed to enhancing our tree canopy and reducing storm water issues. He has worked with a public works arborist to start a tree farm for the village's use. He is one of the four founding members of the West Suburban Flood Solutions collaboration. This group is working closely with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to create permanent solutions to the recent and ongoing flooding many village residents have experienced. He has developed relationships with Illinois State Rep. La Shawn Ford and U.S. Rep. Sean Casten in an effort to obtain state and federal money to mitigate flooding issues.

Improving the quality of life in Indian Head Park

In collaboration with the Indian Head Park Police Department, Shawn worked to start the first Indian Head Car Show, which has run for three years now, and added four to five cruise nights per year, as well.

A vote for Shawn Kennedy is a vote for a better IHP!

Vote early or on Election Day, April 4, 2023

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