

# THE ACACIA TIMES

*A Monthly Insight into the Happenings at Acacia*

**November 2022**

## **In this Issue:**

**Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thanksgiving**

**Food Drive**

**Visit with Santa**

## **SBC Garbage Pickup**

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

Next Blue Bag delivery is 11/18

## **New Office Hours**

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

The Office and Shop will be  
closed November 24 and  
25 for Thanksgiving

## **Acacia Association**

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

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

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

## **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**



Americans love Thanksgiving! It's a special time to gather with family and friends, share a delicious meal, and watch countless hours of parades and football. We hope you will join us in our Food Drive to help others less fortunate enjoy a bounty this holiday season.

Please note that the Office and Shop will be closed on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, and garbage pickup for Thanksgiving week will be on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

**From all of us at The Acacia Association, we wish  
you a bountiful Thanksgiving!**

Next Up...

Acacia Association Food Drive  
Thursday November 17

Visit with Santa  
Sunday, December 4

## Upcoming Events:

### **Thanksgiving Food Drive Thursday, November 17 from 8:00am – 6:00pm**

Acacia will again be holding our annual Food Drive

Tables will be outside of the clubhouse. Please stop by anytime during these hours to donate food, baby items such as diapers, and/or paper products. Pasta, coffee and jelly seem to be in short supply lately.

The donated items go to the “Share Food, Share Love” food pantry which serves residents in 15 western suburbs of Cook County. Let's make someone else's Thanksgiving a happy one!



### **Visit with Santa Sunday, December 4 from 10:00am - noon**



Coming up! We will be bringing back the “Visit from Santa” at the Acacia clubhouse on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon.

Bring the kiddies for crafts and cookies, and to see the big guy himself!

Bring a wrapped gift (please tag with the child's first and last name) to the clubhouse by Thursday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.

RSVP: 708-246-2400 by Tuesday, Nov 29th  
Please provide the number of children and adults attending.

## **Acacia Social Committee Meeting**

Acacia is starting a social committee to organize holiday parties and fun events for the clubhouse. Please call the office if you would like to help out and join the social committee. **Our first meeting will be on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm to decorate the clubhouse for Christmas.**

## **Pet Sitter for Hire!**

We have had a response to our ad for Pet Sitters!

A lovely young woman came into the clubhouse to say she would be interested in offering her pet sitting services to the residents at Acacia. She is a local resident and has experience with dogs and cats at all stages of life. She is passionate about animals and assured us that she would treat your pets as family.

Please call the office if you would like her contact information.

## **Calling All Snow Shovelers!**

### **Do you want to earn some extra cash?**

Acacia has a number of residents who are interested in snow removal in addition to what Acacia provides., mainly shoveling front and back steps, and keeping walkways clear. If you're interested, please call the office at 708-246-2400.



## **What Exactly is Under Acacia Drive?**

Finally! We all survived the Acacia Drive reconstruction project and Acacia resident Jerry Buttimer has generously provided us with some fun footage of the entire process. Check out the [Announcements](#) page on the Acacia website to view.

About 50 retention boxes were installed before rebuilding the street. The boxes weigh about 16,000 lbs each and interlock for a continuous system. It required a large excavator, front loader, trench box for safety and truckloads of gravel to set the boxes properly and support the new roadbed.

## The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting November 9, 2022

The Board of Directors Meeting of November 9, 2022 was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Amy Eckert.

**Directors in attendance were: President Amy Eckert, VP Peggy Rose Kwiatek, Treas. Diane Voyles, Directors Ben Boyd, Tom Herley, Joe Consolo, and Patti Chiappetta. Late: Jennifer Cione. Absent: Lyn McMillin**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting. Moved by: **Joe Consolo, Ben Boyd- 7/0/2 motion passed.**

### **Treasurer's Report – Diane Voyles**

Income	\$96,070.00	Assessments, late fees, closing fees, etc.
Expenses	\$98,088.04	
Capital Expense	0.00	None this month
Transfer to Capital	<u>6,000.00</u>	
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>-\$8,018.00</b>	

#### **As of October 30, 2022:**

Operating Accounts	\$385,328.76
Capital Reserve	\$291,588.87

At the close of October there are 21 accounts past due for a total of \$7,160.97 due to missed assessment payments, late fees and fines. Two accounts are in attorney's hands. These 2 comprise over half of the outstanding debt.

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.

The preliminary budget was mailed to homeowners the week of October 24 as planned. We now need to vote on the HOA increase to \$254.00. The final budget must be approved at the December board meeting.

I move to approve assessment amount for 2023 of \$254.00 per month beginning on January 1, 2023. Diane Voyles, Joe Consolo 7/0/2

## **Treasurer's Report, continued – Diane Voyles**

The Financial Committee met on October 19 and decided to invest in a U.S. treasury I-Bond for \$10,000 which is the allowable limit. At the time of the investment the interest rate was over 9%.

We also agreed to invest 200K in a 15-month CD at Evergreen Bank paying 3.6%. The last Acacia Financial Committee meeting this year is scheduled for November 16 and we will decide what action to take with the CD expiring on November 26, 2022 and if any action should be taken on the remaining CD earning only 1.5% interest that expires in 2024.

I believe we will end the year on track to double our interest income in 2023 (over 2022). This will be due to wiser investing along with the increase in offered interest rates.

I move to accept Treasurer's Report as prepared by staff. Ben Boyd, Peggy Rose Kwiatek 7/0/2

## **Clubhouse Director's Report – Peggy Rose Kwiatek**

There were 4 clubhouse rentals in the month of October.

Acacia will again be holding it's annual Food Drive on Thursday, November 17 from 8 am to 6 pm. Tables will be outside of the clubhouse. Please stop by anytime during these hours to donate food, baby items such as diapers, and/or paper products. Pasta, coffee and jelly seem to be in short supply lately. The donated items go to the "Share Food, Share Love" food pantry which serves residents in 15 western suburbs of Cook County. Let's make someone else's Thanksgiving a happy one!

Bunco night was held at the clubhouse on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm. We had two hostesses who supplied food for everyone. There is a sign-up sheet for hostesses for each month of bunco nights. Please join in and sign up for one night. Bunco meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Don't worry if you are new to bunco. We will teach you how to play. Players bring \$5 for prize money and their own beverage.

Acacia is starting a social committee to organize holiday parties and fun events for the clubhouse. Please call the office if you would like to help out and join the social committee. Our first meeting will be on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 pm to decorate the clubhouse for Christmas.

Coming up! We will be bringing back the "Visit from Santa" at the Acacia clubhouse on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon. Bring a wrapped gift (please tag with the child's first and last name) to the clubhouse by Thursday, Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. **RSVP: 708-246-2400 by Tuesday, Nov 29th Please provide the number of children and adults attending.**

## **Recreation Facilities Director's Report – Amy Eckert**

Courts will be closed, and nets taken down the week of Thanksgiving.

## **Grounds Maintenance Director's Report– Joe Consolo**

Since the last Board meeting, We completed 18 grounds service requests.

Grounds crew personnel processed 31 stump holes from earlier this year.

Tru Green applied their Fall application of fertilizer and weed killer.

Grounds crew personnel began moving leaves to the curbs for the leaf cleanup program.

We purchased \$233.52 in gas for the truck.

We purchased \$458.45 worth of gas for the lawn machines and carts.

One seasonal grounds employee left for the year

Blue Bags are provided by SBC to be used for recyclables. SBC delivers blue bags the first and third Friday of the month. Please call when you are getting very low. We have blue bags in the office, if you run out until SBC is able to deliver them. We hand out a few at a time to get our residents by until SBC can get them delivered. Blue bags may be requested from SBC by phone or email. SBC tracks all requests on their computer which is why they ask that requests be made by phone or email. Please identify yourself as an Acacia Resident, since we are the only customers SBC provides blue bags for.

When calling SBC for a bulk pick up, please identify yourself as an Acacia Resident. The person taking the call does not always recognize your address as being in Acacia. Our contract call for free bulk pick up and no stickers. Other areas in Indian Head Park have to pay such fees.

Thursday, November 24, which is Thanksgiving Day, is the next major holiday that will cause garbage pick up to be moved back a day. Garbage pick up for that week will be Saturday, November 26, 2022.

I move to accept proposal from Tru Green for 3 lawn treatments in 2023 in the amount of \$8,400. Joe Consolo, Ben Boyd 8/0/1

I move to accept the contract with Schwartz for snow removal in the amount of \$185 per hour. Joe Consolo, Amy Eckert 8/0/1

I move to accept proposal form Beary Landscaping for pre-emergent treatment and mulch for all common area in the amount of \$52,100. This will be paid for from Operating Reserve funds. Joe Consolo, Amy Eckert 8/0/1

## **Townhome Maintenance Director's Report – Ben Boyd**

Completed 43 townhome service requests

Seasonal needs picked up at Menards and Home Depot

Wood from Standard Lumber prepped – I just signed a bill for \$7,539.78 for a delivery of lumber on November 4, 2022. With maintenance completed why did we need to order more lumber?

Carpenters completed paint cycle work last week of October

Stucco repairs completed last week October

Painters are at 55 to 63 Westwood – 15 more to be painted (Inside Out is going to send over extra crew to finish job before cold weather sets in.

Coping project is at 21 to 27 Elmwood – coping can be done in cold weather

4 Acacia Carpenters have left for the year!

Phase 3 next year has 55 Townhomes to repair, paint, and cope – I would suggest that we have Inside Out contracted to have a maintenance crew join our crew to get the 55 townhomes ready to be painted. The painting and coping are delayed because of our one maintenance crews' inability to finish before the end of October. Jose has tried to hire more for the carpenter crew but has not succeeded. Painting applied when temperatures drop below 34 degrees is not ideal for paint adhesion.

Next year we have four of the 55 Townhomes already coped and we can reduce the number to be coped to 51 and provide us a cost savings.

What is our inventory of lumber and paint going into next year? We should re-examine our ordering practices to run a leaner inventory of paint and lumber running a just-in-time inventory system. Lumber prices have dropped more than 60% this year and have room to fall even further. Paint prices are projected to keep rising.

## **Architecture and Landscape Director's Report – Jen Cione / Tom Herley**

**Projects approved to start = 7**

**Projects completed and inspected = 8**

### **Decorations on Townhomes**

Holiday decorations may be placed on townhomes or surroundings no earlier than 30 days prior to the holiday and must be completely removed no later than 7 days after the holiday, except Christmas decorations, which may remain in place until February 1.

## **Village Relations Director's Report – Patti Chiappetta**

**LIFE SAVING AWARDS--OFFICERS KISSANE AND VERBER:** Mayor Hinshaw requested that we move Item A of the agenda to the beginning of the meeting so as to give preferential acknowledgment to Police Officers John Kissane and Rob Verber for their recent heroic feat. On the evening of September 1, Officers Kissane and Verber were dispatched to the Walgreen's on Joliet and Willow Springs Road. They discovered an unresponsive subject in his car. Narcan was applied; the subject was revived and delivered to LaGrange Hospital where he made a complete recovery. Officers Kissane and Verber were presented pins and certificates for their intervention.

**Wolf Road Update:** We are still working with the County and our Village engineering firm Strand on the public meeting comment responses. The new updated goal is to have the newsletter and letters ready for the November Village Board Meeting. The overall process for the release of all the comments and letters is that we wait until all the comments, responses, petitions, etc., have been submitted to IDOT in the Draft Project Development Report before making the comments public. Strand is still working with the county to get the general amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) prepared, which will include the new addition for the work of the public involvement subconsultant. The new updated goal is to have the amended IGA and contract ready for the December Village Board meeting. After that, it would go to the County Board for approval at their January meeting. After the County approval of the general amendment to the IGA, we would begin preparing the Public Involvement Plan ((PIP] and coordinating with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). After the PIP has been approved by IDOT, the updated plan today is that we will hold the first Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting in 2023 to gather more community input. In this last Wolf Road update, the County will begin the resurfacing of Wolf Road from Plainfield Road north to 31st Street. This, of course, is not in the Village of Indian Head Park.

### **Sidewalks: Main Areas in the Village's Sidewalk Master Plan:**

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. Joliet Road: This is a County road. We are waiting for the state approval to begin Phase 1 for a sidewalk along Joliet Road.

Acacia Drive Update: This project is 99% completed. We are working on a punch list of remaining items. Per IDOT, bushes and trees will not be planted at this time due to weather, rather this will occur in the Spring. We have received many compliments that the road, retaining walls, and sidewalk look great.

**I-294 Tollway Update:** Noise walls along the tollway remain on schedule for completion by the end of the year with the exception of an approximate 200-foot section just south of Sacajawea Park. There will be overnight work planned for the end of October for the Plainfield Road bridge beam work. A resident notification letter was recently mailed to alert residents to the upcoming overnight work. We will be working to get any feedback on the trees and landscaping back to the tollway by the end of the year.



## Welcome Baskets Report – Peggy Rose Kwiatek

One welcome basket was delivered to a new resident at 184 Cascade. Acacia's guidelines and amenities were explained. The new resident expressed her appreciation for the basket of goodies. Two other new residents were contacted, but were not moved in yet. They will contact me when they are settled. Remember, if you have recently moved to Acacia, you may contact the office for a welcome basket visit.

## Acacia Office Report – Amy Eckert

The office and shop will be closed on Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

TMC2 completed an initial evaluation of our computers (3 in total) and after they finished, they recommend the following for Acacia – replacing the computer in the Accounting Office with the following and updating the office computer. (Note: we priced purchasing the computer through CDW and we could purchase one for less but there would be additional costs to purchase and install hardware and increase to 16gb - so price would be about the same. And the new computer has a longer warranty.)

HP Pavilion Computer	\$899.00
16gb DDR 4 RAM	
Windows 11 Pro	
512GB Solid state internal drive	
Labor to install and migrate data	\$225.00
Subtotal	\$1,124.00
Office License per year, per computer	
(2) x \$150	\$300.00
Labor to install and migrate email data	\$300.00
Subtotal	\$600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,724.00</b>

I move to accept the quote from TMC2 to replace 1 computer, purchase Office license for 2 office computers and the necessary labor to install and migrate all data in the amount of \$1,124.00. Amy Eckert, Joe Consolo 8/0/1

We are looking for a part time bookkeeper (working flexible hours) to replace Judy when she retires at the end of this year. They should have accounting/bookkeeping experience and know QuickBooks. If you know anyone that might be interested, please have them send a resume to the office – [acaciaihp@gmail.com](mailto:acaciaihp@gmail.com).

**We need 3 board members to volunteer to help with interviews for this position.**

## Acacia Office Report – Amy Eckert

Our Financial audit is complete and copies will be available in the office by the end of next week. We also need to approve contracting with Mugnolo & Associates for next year so that it can get started sooner in 2023. We have a letter of engagement from him for his service in the amount of \$5,500.

I move to contract with Mugnolo & Associates for the 2023 audit in the amount of \$5,500. Amy Eckert, Patti Chiappetta 8/0/1

## Homeowner Forum

Acacia resident at 65 Westwood brought photos of his front lawn which is in very bad shape. He has spent a significant amount of money over the last 12 years trying to sod and re-seed this area only to determine that the soil quality will no longer support any growth except creeping Charlie. He requests a landscape architect review the area and make recommendations, recognizing that the solution may be to rip everything out, add nutrients to the soil, and start over. He also noted that the new paint colors for Acacia look very good and thanked the crew for their hard work.

Judy on Cascade said the crew needs to be a bit more careful when blowing leaves that they don't also blow mulch out of the beds.

Maureen on Cascade thanked the board for the time they donate.

Diane was wondering if there was a way to have some sort of well-being check on neighbors that might not have family or close friends nearby. Things discussed included having a well-being phone call, letting residents request a well-being phone call, just knocking on the door of neighbors if concerned and also that the IHP police department do a well-being check. If you have concerns, call them and ask for one.

Ward on Westwood thinks Acacia should not be involved in well-being checks on our residents as we are not equipped to do so. He suggests we leave this to the police and the professionals.

## **New and On-Going Business**

### **New/Ongoing Business:**

There has been damage to garage from toy dart or pellet guns - parents please tell your children that they are not to shoot anything at any of the buildings, equipment, or items in the playground. While these are considered toys, they can and do damage to whatever they hit. Also remind them that we have cameras and if they are on camera damaging our property, we will expect them (you) to pay for the repairs.

We need a board member to volunteer to head the Election committee. Responsibilities include forming a committee of at least 2 others (don't have to be board members), working with committee to make sure all announcements regarding the election of board members are published on time, solicit residents to run for the board in February and be responsible for supervising the counting and reporting the results the night of the Annual Meeting.

Board members terms that are up in 2023 – Patti Chiappetta, Lyn McMillin, Diane Voyles.

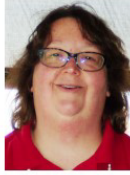
Question for the board: the past 2 years we have mailed ballots to owners so they arrive close to February 1<sup>st</sup>, and they can be returned any time up to 8:00pm on the day of the Annual Meeting. Do we want to do that again this year? We can discuss at the December Board meeting.

## **I move to close Open Session and go to Executive Session.** Amy Eckert, Peggy Rose Kwiatek 8/0/1

## **Return to Open Session**

In Executive Session board member Ben Boyd resigned from the Board effective November 9, 2022.

## **I move to close Open Session.** Amy Eckert, Patti Chiappetta 7/0/1



**SHARON KALINOSKI, CPA**  
**REAL ESTATE BROKER**  
**708.805.0675**  
**herculesUS@yahoo.com**  
Indian Head Park (Acacia)  
Homeowner Since 2009



## **FOR A FULL SERVICE REALTOR IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WHO KNOWS WHAT ATTRACTS BUYERS TO ACACIA, CALL SHARON**

I go above and beyond to help people with their real estate needs.  
My experience prioritizes trust, loyalty, and confidentiality.  
Please call me if you are thinking of selling your home!



This is not a solicitation for  
business if your property is  
currently listed for sale.

**Acacia townhomes'  
Dearborn & Adams models  
are in high demand now!**

# 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!



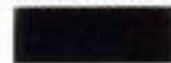
Interior  
Wood  
Grain  
Dark  
Oak



Interior  
Wood  
Grain  
Light  
Oak

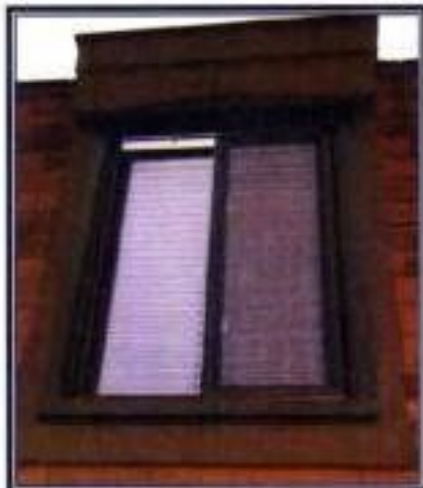


Exterior Bronze



Other color combinations  
available upon request

Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project  
Photos

