THE ACACIA TIMES

A Monthly Insight into the Happenings at Acacia

September 2023

In this Issue:

Board Meeting Minutes Movie in the Park Senior Luncheon Electronics Recycling

SBC Garbage Pickup

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

Want a recycling toter? Call SBC and give them your address – they deliver!

Blue bags are available in the office

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

<u>www.acacia-ihp.org</u>

acaciaihp@gmail.com



The Annual Acacia Crew Party September 15





Friday, September 15 was our annual crew party. The crew suggested we change it up this year so instead of catering lunch, the guys pulled together, preparing and cooking a delicious lunch. Add in music, gorgeous weather, some dice and card playing and the day was complete.

A Big Thank You to the Acacia Crew!





Next Up...

. October 7th – Movie in the Park Ratatouille

October 28th – Village-wide Halloween Event



Bunco at the Clubhouse 6:30pm First Tuesday of the Month

Ladies, join us for a fun night of Bunco on Tuesday, October 3. Don't forget to bring your own drinks and \$5 for the prize pot.

A gentle reminder that this event is for those who are 21 years and older. No children or teens please.

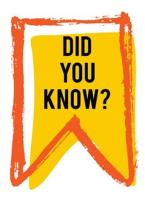


Blackhawk Park October 7th at 5:30pm

The event will begin on October 7 at 5:30 p.m. with grilled hot dogs (one per person), popcorn, and cotton candy.

At dusk, 6:20 p.m., the movie will begin. Bring your own blankets and chairs.





Save the Monarchs

It's that time of year again where we look to help save the monarchs! Get your seedpods free at the Clubhouse and plant them before the first frost.

Blue Bags

Blue bags are available in the office so no need to call SBC – just pop in and pick up a roll.



Indian Head

Thursday, September 28, 2023 1:30 p.m. IHP Village Hall

For reservations please call 708-246-3080 x 196 Space is *extremely* limited - so sign up early

SPONSORED BY: IHP Senior and Family Connections Committee Aging Care Connections and Lyons Township Assessor Office

The Indian Head Park Board of Trustees

has created a committee to provide new, coordinated services to our seniors and families. This committee will provide greater opportunities for seniors to gather and socialize, while at the same time learn about available services in our community.

Aging Care Connections will provide a <u>complimentary lunch</u> served at Village Hall on Friday, September 29, 2023. This local organization is dedicated to improving the quality of life for older adults. A representative from Aging Care will give a brief overview of the many services they offer and answer questions.

Patrick Hynes, the Lyons Township Assessor, and his staff will be on hand to provide valuable information on and assistance in applying for real estate tax exemptions for homeowners over the age of 65.

For those who want to stay around after lunch, BINGO and PRIZES are on the agenda!

COOH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK & RECYCLING/SHREDDING



COLVEY STATE OF LAND

SEPTEMBER 23RD 11AM - 1PM Township of Lyons 6404 Joliet RD Countryside

DAY



IT'S FREE!

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKEBACK

THE COOK COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK PROGRAM PROVIDES A FREE SERVICE FOR COLLECTION UNWANTED MEDICINE FROM COOK COUNTY RESIDENTS

- · COLLECTION IS ANONYMOUS
- PILLS ONLY UNWANTED/EXPIRED HUMAN AND PET MEDICATIONS
- PILLS MAY BE BROUGHT IN PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES, WHICH WILL BE SHREDDED TO DESTROY IDENTITY OR IN UNMARKED PLASTIC BAGS
- LIQUID MEDICATION AND SHARPS
 WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

PAPER RECYCLING: ALL UNWANTED . [REMOVE CLIPS/STAPLES]

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

THE SHERIFF'S RECYCLING PROGRAM DISPOSES OF UNWANTED ELECTRONICS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT & KEEP COMMUNITIES SAFE.

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- · CABLES ALL TYPES
- · CELL PHONES/TELEPHONE DEVICES
- · COMPUTERS/LAPTOPS
- · HARDWARE/MOTHERBOARDS
- · HOLIDAY LIGHTS
- · MONITORS/CALCULATORS
- PRINTERS/FAX MACHINES
- GAME SYSTEMS/STEREOS
- TELEVISIONS LIMIT 1 PER HOUSEHOLD
- TOASTERS/BLENDERS
- TONER CARTS
- UPS BATTERIES/CAR BATTERIES

IT'S FREE! CALL [708] 482 8300 FOR MORE INFO The Association Presidents received this information regarding construction of the Wolf Road bridge. We will keep you updated as we get more information.

Subject: Cook County DOTH Bridge Closure Notification: Wolf Road Bridge

Our office is assisting Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH) to perform repairs on select bridges across Cook County. I am sending this email on the DOTH's behalf to inform the village of Indian Head Park of impending repair work on **Wolf Road Bridge over Flag Creek**. The repair work is minor but immediately necessary to correct degradation of the deck surface on the bridge.

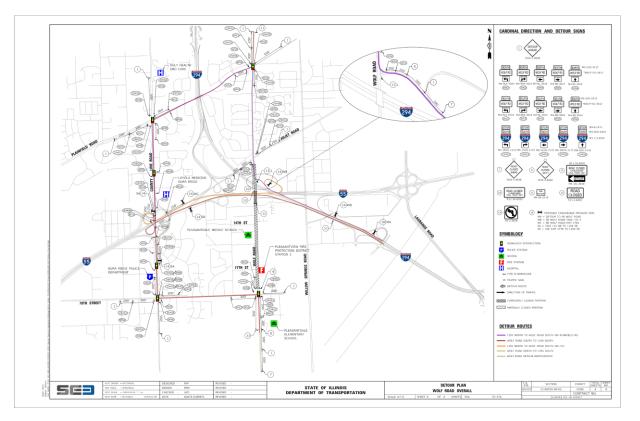
The existing roadway and bridge are not of sufficient width to accommodate staged construction and this repair work will require <u>closure of the Wolf Road Bridge</u> for a maximum of three (3) weeks. Traffic will be detoured during construction. Please refer to the attached PDF showing the proposed detour plan.

•Wolf Road thru-traffic (between 79th St and Joliet Rd) will be detoured onto County Line Road and Willow Springs Road.

•All local traffic will still be able to utilize Wolf Road between 79th St and Joliet Rd. but not cross the bridge during the construction.

The work on this bridge must be completed before winter, so the detour and construction will likely take place in October or early November. We will update the Village when the construction schedule is finalized.

Thank you, **Drew Mullen**, P.E. Structural Engineer, AECOM



The Acacia Association Board of Directors Meeting

September 12, 2023

The Board of Directors Meeting of September 12, 2023, was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Joe Consolo

Directors in attendance were President Joe Consolo, Vice President Jen Cione, Treas. Wayne Dubin, Secretary Melissa Allison, Directors, Ben Boyd, Amy Eckert, Bill King, and Peggy Rose Kwiatek.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023, Board of Directors Meeting. Moved by: Ben Boyd / Peggy Rose Kwiatek 9/0/0

Joe Consolo opened the meeting with an explanation of why Jen Cagney was elected by the Board to fill Tom Hurley's vacancy. Jill Cox responds that the Board went against the will of the people by not appointing the next highest vote recipient to the open seat. Jack Brandush quotes the by-laws noting that in the case of an open seat, the vacancy in any office may be filled by appointment by the Board of Directors with no provision stated for the next highest vote recipient. Amy responds that historically the Board has appointed a replacement because no one else was interested, but in this case the Board did not ask for candidates. Mike Rohloff notes that the position has been vacant for months and if anyone else were interested they should have made their wishes clear. Mike further states that another resident lost an election and was not selected as the alternate when a seat was vacated during that term.

Jennifer Cagney was sworn in on the Board to fill Tom Hurley's open seat.

Homeowner's Forum

Jill Cox – 21 Elmwood

Jill Cox reads a letter from Carol Mason to the board about an incident at the pool whereby Carol's pool privileges were suspended. Jill believes Carol did not get due process before her pass was suspended.

Cleo Walters – 6 Nacona

Cleo asks Wayne if he ever found the missing pump motor. Wayne responds that it has not been found.

Cleo tells the Board about her experience in her role as the pool attendant and her interactions with Carol Mason over the summer. Cleo states that her goal was to provide a safe environment for all the residents to enjoy the pool.

Jill Cox – 21 Elmwood

Jill asks if there is a code of conduct for the pool so that she is aware of any potential infractions. Melissa states we do not need rules in place for kindness.

Ward Shaw – 65 Westwood

Ward adds that he thinks Carol Mason has a right to be upset and that the pool should be closed during class times. He points to Cleo Walters and tells her she is part of the problem at the pool. Wade suggests that Carol file a lawsuit against the Board.

Jen Cione states the decision to suspend a pass is made by the Recreation Directors, and others have had their passes suspended for cause. Jill Cox asks about the drinkers in the corner of the pool as they are bothersome, but she never said anything. Melissa asks Jill why she never reported it; Ben states that this is on her if she does not report troubles to the Board.

Ken Miller – 231 Cascade

Ken states the conversation is going in circles and asks the Board to move on.

Melissa ends the conversation stating that they will review special uses of the pool and how to accommodate such needs next season.

Marshall Clapp – 28 Elmwood

Marshall asks when the driveway replacement project will begin. Ben responds driveways will be replaced in the October timeframe.

Jack Brandush – 15 Deercrest

Jack asks why the Inside Out contractors do not follow OSHA safety guidelines when they are working on our roofs. Ben responds that contractors are responsible for their employees and they provide a COI for our records. Amy says that after our accident a few years ago, we required Inside Out to sign a waiver that acknowledged their responsibility to their employees if OSHA rules are not followed.

Mark Zimmerly – 4 Hawthorne

Mark asks the Board to reconsider his ALCC request to plant a tree. Bill King responds that trees need to be a minimum of 35' apart from each other. Mark finds evidence at Acacia of other trees planted within the 35' minimum.

Ward Shaw – 65 Westwood

Ward states that the grounds look worse than he has ever seen them since he has lived at Acacia. He thinks we are understaffed; Bill King counters with staffing levels and explains that the tree trimming proposal is to be voted on later in the evening. Ward challenges the group saying he thought the grounds looked better under Jose. Many disagree.

Mike Rohloff – 35 Briarwood

Mike states that last year he had to do all the trimming work around his house; this year he has only had to do it once. He states his house looks good, the weeding is done, dead trees and

shrubs have been removed. His perception is the grounds are being maintained and his suggestion to other residents is to say something if they see a problem.

Bill King states that areas of Acacia have been neglected for years and it's a disgrace. The grounds did not deteriorate overnight, and it will take time to get it all completed. Better days are coming.

Diane Voyles – 49 Briarwood

Diane is disappointed that the kitchen remodel was deferred and asked what capital projects the Board plans to complete this year. Amy states the plan was to complete the kitchen and upstairs floor in the clubhouse. Diane asks about pool re-surfacing. She is concerned about the lead time to get this completed. Amy explains that we can't wait to schedule this project as it was recommended that this be completed by next year. Melissa states the long lead-time is news to her. Amy responds that it was in the materials she left for Recreation.

\$ 98,524 Assessments, late fees, closing fees, etc. Income \$106,300 Expenses Capital Expense None this month 0 Transfer to Capital \$ 6,000 (\$ 11,720) NET INCOME As of July 31, 2023 **Operating Accounts** \$465,529 Capital Reserves \$320,707 Total Reserves \$786,236

At the close of August there are 23 accounts past due for a total of \$5,890 due to missed assessment payments. late fees, and fines. Our highest open balance is now under \$600 with the recent collection of over \$3,600 in back fees on a delinquent property. None of our accounts are in attorney's hands.

Despite paying \$52,100 for the mulch which was budgeted to be paid for out of reserves, this year through August we have spent \$74,900 less than last year for the same time period without accessing reserves.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report as prepared by staff: Wayne Dubin / Ben Boyd 9/0/0

Clubhouse Director's Report

The clubhouse was used 8 times in the month of August.

The "End of Summer Adult Pool Party" was held on Friday, August 25th. Around 20 residents attended and brought delicious food to share. Thanks to Alberta Mytys for lending us her fire

Treasurer's Report

table to make smores and to Jim for transporting it to and from her house. Lively games of corn hole were played. A good time was had by all.

Two new hand towel dispensers were installed at the clubhouse free of charge by Stevens Chemical. We purchase our paper products from them. One was installed in the main clubhouse bathroom and one was installed in the women's locker room.

Our first Bunco night of the season was held on Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse. We had a good turn-out with 4 tables of players. Hostesses bringing snacks that night were Kathleen Creighton and myself. Our next Bunco night will be Tuesday, October 3rd. New players are invited.

A trunk-or-treat event is being planned for Halloween in Acacia. Volunteers will park in the clubhouse parking lot and hand out candy to children from their vehicle's trunks on Halloween from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Costumes are encouraged. Please call the office if you would like to volunteer to pass out candy from your trunk.

Melissa asks Peggy Rose about the condition of the locker rooms in the clubhouse, why they have not been attended to, and whether there was ever any discussion to upgrade them.

Recreation Director's Report

The pool officially closed for the season on Thursday September 7th. We will continue to work with the Pool Pass system next year.

Melissa states that 53% of all households used the pool this season, with 3,521 members and 921 guests enjoying the facilities. Early swim time, lap swimming, and water aerobics will all be discussed for next season.

Grounds Director's Report

Entrance sign gardens. We are still going to be planting some flowers in the spring. Some of the flowers that we needed were sold out and won't be available until spring. All 3 signs have the same flowers around them. We are keeping to this plan which means we have to wait to finish the gardens. The good news is that we only paid half-price on some of the other plants as they were reduced for clearance.

Trees. We have a bid for tree trimming. We will be trimming the trees around the houses on the paint cycle. All of those trees were inspected by an arborist. As were a few others that we thought might be in danger of falling. Some of the trees on the paint cycle were taken off our list by the arborist because he said that did not need to be trimmed at this time. We are also trimming the trees along Laurel Avenue our Eastern boundary. These trees have been neglected through the years and are being damaged by trucks on Laurel. The low branches need to be cut off to give the trucks more clearance. We have enough funds in our tree budget to cover the cost of all the trimming.

I move that we approve a contract with Family Tree Works of \$9,755 for tree trimming. Bill King / Ben Boyd 9/0/0

Townhome Maintenance Directors Report

Town Home Maintenance Crew update – The crew is working on the 16 homes on Tanglewood, preparing then for painting and coping. I would be remiss if I did not applaud our THM crew for really stepping up after the accident of one of their crew members on July 26th . John, our THM Supervisor, believes the crew will finish Tanglewood in October. We have discussed with Inside Out the possibility of their needing to finish painting, at the start of next year's paint cycle.

I will have a proposal from House of Doors to replace the bottom damaged garage door panels, and I will be contacting the owners with install timing.

The replacement of the 27 asphalt drives will be scheduled in October. I will inform affected residents when I have a definitive date.

If any resident wants to understand what the THM crew does to get the residences ready for painting you can ask in the Acacia office for the detailed THM Supervisors report that outlines in detail all activity of THM Crew for every TM in this years paint cycle. I will be using this summary report to determine if a cost savings will be realized by having garage walls sided and not repaired by THM Crew.

The job of THM Director, is to research every Acacia dollar spent to drive long-term cost savings for the residents of Acacia.

Ben notes that we have four homes in Acacia that use aluminum siding and it looks identical to cedar.

Village Relations Report

Upcoming Events in the Village:

Saturday, October 7th – Movie and Picnic in Blackhawk Park – IHP and SEASAPAR Watch for flyers for more information on times for this event.

Saturday, October 28th – Village-wide Halloween Event. Currently working on activities to be scheduled. If you are interested in helping with either of these events please let the office know.

Report from the August 10th Village Board Meeting:

Mayors Report

Welcome to Gavin Morgan the new Village Administrator.

Wolf Road Update:

- Met with county, Strand and consultant draft PIP was submitted with suggested revisions.
- CAC 4 of the 5 resident slots will be for IHP residents
- Applications for the CAC should be available soon
- Web site for Wolf Road information should be up soon

New Business

- Established the Committee of the Whole meetings will start in September and be held quarterly.
- Approved Village Clerk and Treasurer positions be employees and that their salaries will be adjusted to reflect new responsibilities.
- Liquor License changes: all owners and servers will be required to have Safety and Accountability training, removed hours for sales of packaged liquor, extended hours for on premise serving.

Trustee Reports

Finance Committee: all cash on hand is now in interest bearing accounts, looking at impact of costs for pump house repairs and upgrade on budget Cook County – our area will be reassessed this year and this will impact our individual taxes.

There is also a bill pending that would allow Nursing Homes to be taxed as residential rather than commercial – this will impact homeowners taxes as it will put more taxes on residential owners. Stay tuned for further information on how to contact the Governor to veto this bill.

Amy notes that we hope to provide a template for residents to use when protesting their objections to the re-classification of Nursing Homes' tax status.

Architecture & Landscape Committee Report

Projects approved to start = 9

Projects completed and inspected = 7

Welcome Baskets Report

No welcome baskets were delivered this month. Remember, if you have recently moved to Acacia, please contact the office for a welcome basket visit.

Office Report

The transfer to QuickBooks Online is complete. Liz is currently reconciling the Positive Pay checking account. When our checking account was hacked prior to March, the previous Board was offered the option of opening a new checking account. They chose not to and as a result this requires additional processing by Bookkeeping. The process is cumbersome time-consuming. We ended up doing the smart thing and opening a new checking account which we are currently transferring over to. The old adage penny wise and pound foolish clearly applied in keeping the old checking account after it was hacked.

Our insurance policy decreased by \$829 for this year. We looked into adding a cyber security policy, but the cost was high considering our account information is already protected. We talked to our insurance agent before deciding against it.

Our Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prevention fire alarm PV monitoring is being raised .75 a month effective October 1, 2023. Our Chicago Metropolitan Fire Protection fire alarm PV radio use and maintenance fee is going up \$1 a month effective October 1, 2023

Our monthly Computer Maintenance fee is being raised \$17.50 a month effective October 2023.

The last information we have on our carpenter Jose Antonio Ambriz who was injured on the job is that he has had wrist surgery and his cheek is slowly healing. The current doctor's report has him off of work until at least 9/18/23.

Clubhouse parking lot. Only passenger vehicle are allowed to be parked in our lot. No commercial vehicles with commercial advertising are allowed in our lot or the Cul-de-sacs overnight. We ask that anyone parking a vehicle overnight please contact the office and give us contact information. We have allowed people to park a moving vehicle in the lot for a day or two if we are told ahead of time. This is a community, and we want to be accommodating. We cannot have everyone parking vehicles in the clubhouse lot at one time.

Old Business

Wolf Road - The sidewalk project on Wolf Road was discussed. Acacia's preference is to integrate the existing sidewalk on Acacia Drive rather than building a new sidewalk on Wolf Rd. Amy thinks we should send a letter directly to the Village offering to connect Acacia's sidewalk to Ashbrook's sidewalk, eliminating any Wolf Road construction.

Motion to send letter regarding the sidewalk construction plans to the Village – Joe Consolo / Ben Boyd 9/0/0

New Business

Solar Energy Policy – Our attorney revised our Solar Energy Policy to align with current Illinois law. The board will review our ALCC forms to modify them as appropriate.

Motion to rescind the Sixth Amendment to Declaration of Protective Covenants and replace it with the Eleventh Amendment to Declaration of Protective Covenants the Solar Panel policy as drafted. Joe Consolo / Amy Eckert 9/0/0

Homeowners Forum

Diane Voyles – 49 Briarwood

Diane states she submitted two service requests in June and was told that they would be addressed when THM completes the paint cycle; she asks when that will be. Ben responds he will check the status of her requests.

Jack Brandush – 15 Deercrest

Jack expresses interest in joining the Finance Committee and asks when it will start up again.

ACACIA TIMES - September 2023

Wayne responds that he will let Jack know when he sets a meeting. Jack then asks Ben if he did a cost savings analysis on the Coping project and what the cost savings were. Ben responds that all townhomes are inspected prior to coping and only the rotted wood is replaced so that is the first savings. Treated wood was used for a period on Deercrest because the cost of cedar was too high. Ben explains that a composite cedar material has been identified which is half the cost of cedar and that is what is being used today on homes being coped. Jack asks why we did not continue using treated wood; Ben explains that we are using materials that are available and all of this is less than the cost of cedar.

Diane Voyles – 49 Briarwood

Diane asks if there will be a Townhome Maintenance committee for the stucco and wood alternatives being considered. Ben says he expects to meet sometime in October after he analyzes the cost of this season's maintenance. Diane suggests we look at cement board options.

Motion to close Open Session and go to Executive Session – Ben Boyd / Peggy Rose 9/0/0

Motion to close Executive Session and Return to Open Session – Ben Boyd / Peggy Rose 9/0/0

The board discussed a request to plant a tree on common ground that was previously denied.

Motion to close Open Session – Bill King / Peggy Rose

Updates from the September 14th Village Board Meeting

Nursing Homes Tax Status: The Governor vetoed the bill that would have changed Nursing Homes to residential properties for real estate taxes. No need to send letters.

Wolf Road update: the website and information on CAC applications should be up and running by the end of September. Information will be sent when dates are firm.



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- AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUAL SALE, or BOTH!
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