

ERIE VILLAGE NEWSLETTER



December 2009

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

79th Issue, Volume 2

5900 North Burdick Street

Suite 107

East Syracuse, New York

www.ErieVillageHOA.com

Jean DeSantis, Editor Jdesant9@twcny.rr.com

Dick Sparrow, President rsparrow@twcny.rr.com

November 30th Board Meeting Highlights

Treasurer/Finance Committee

Ed Bangel reviewed the financial statements for the 10 months ended October 31, 2009.

Finance Committee reviewed Budget for 2010. Committee recommended to the Board a \$10 increase in the monthly fee. The monthly fee is to be \$205 beginning January. The Board adopted the budget for 2010 and approved the fee being increased to \$205 per month as recommended by the finance committee.

Letters announcing the new fee will be mailed to residents later this week. The January newsletter will contain details regarding the budget for 2010.

Some residents have yet to complete a Contact Information Request Form. A blank form will be enclosed with the letter announcing the fee increase for those residents who have not submitted a Contact Information form.

Managers Report

There still are a few residents who have not complied with our request for smoke detector inspection or replacement.

Dick Sparrow will be sending letters to these residents this week assessing a \$25 fine and requesting the inspection and/or replacements be completed in the next few weeks.

Please note that residents that do not maintain a land line will be assessed a \$100 fine.

A number of incidents of vandalism have been reported in the area. Dick Sparrow has contacted the Town of Manlius Police Chief requesting additional patrols of the village. We were notified that two persons were arrested December 1st in connection with a number of car break-ins in the area, including Erie Village. Hopefully this will end the vandalism. Residents are reminded to keep their outside lights lit as a deterrent to vandals.

We continue to meet with the Town of Manlius regarding their official adoption of additional sections of Parkington, Oarlock, and Midlake as town roads. Progress is being made relative to Oarlock and Parkington. The Town has some issues regarding Midlake because of the parking island in the back section (units 85-118).

The fire hydrant on lane V has been relocated and at no cost to Erie Village.

Monthly Board Meetings

Each month the board of directors meets to discuss issues, concerns and the normal day to day activities of Erie Village. The meetings are held on the third Monday of the month beginning at 6:30pm at our office in the basement of the medical center 5900 N. Burdick, Suite 107 next to DOOW Lumber. All residents are welcome to attend.

If you have an issue that you would like to discuss with the board, we ask that you submit it in writing ahead of time so that it can be added to the agenda.

Reflectors will be put on the big rock by the mail boxes on Oarlock.

Residents need to understand that the mail boxes are not designed for drive up retrieval. You should park safely away from the mail boxes when picking up your mail.

Windows – broken weather seals. A broken weather seal is considered a broken window and therefore, repair and/or replacement is the responsibility of the homeowner, not EVHOA.

Snow Removal - Vandyke Property is reading for the inevitable snow that will come our way! Residents are reminded to be sure to have your garage light lit as this is a great help to the snow removal equipment operators.

Street Lighting – The committee met. They determined not to pursue a lighting district at this time but will focus on what can be done to get residents to keep their exterior garage lights lit.

Insurance/Risk Management – We should receive our renewal proposal about mid December. We have been assured by our agent that there will be no surprises in the proposal.

Web site – Please visit us at www.ErieVillageHOA.com.

Nominating committee – There still are openings on the nominating committee. The committee expects to be fully staffed by the end of December.

The following committees gave the board brief updates as to continuing issues relating to their activities Architectural, Environmental, Painting, Paving, Rubbish Removal, Grounds Maintenance, Erie Links liaison, and Covenants.

A number of concerned residents have reported beaver activity along the lake path near the Parkington end. The Board is aware and is addressing the issue.

The Board would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

Grounds Maintenance

Emerald Lawn Care Services provides lawn and tree fertilization, weed, and lawn pest control services to the village. Paul from Emerald Lawn Care Services presented to the Board a summary of the current lawn and tree maintenance program.

He stressed the following –

Over the past 5 years we have reduced the number of chemical applications by 25%. Fertilizer applications contain no phosphorous, only nitrogen and potassium. Weed control chemicals are applied only on weed infested areas. This significantly reduced the quantity of chemicals being applied.

Grub control is applied to limit grubs to 15 per square foot.

Again this reduces the quantity of chemicals being applied while effectively controlling the grub population.

Chemical applications are typically performed over 3 day periods to allow residents to have access to lawn areas in other parts of the village during the chemical application process.

The yellow signs indicating a chemical application are to remain in place for 24 hours per NYS regulations. However, many of the chemicals used by Emerald allow use of the treated areas much sooner than the 24 hours.

Trees are fertilized in the spring to help them cope with Japanese beetle and other insect infestation.

Emerald prides itself as being environmentally responsible in the use of chemicals.

Questions regarding Emerald's services provided to the association can be referred to the Board.

Erie Village "GO GREEN" Initiative

Please consider receiving the monthly newsletter via email. It's as simple as sending a quick email to your editor referencing in the subject line EV-GO GREEN at jmdparkev@juno.com

If you would like to have your newsletter mailed to you while you are away, please provide self addressed stamped envelopes and we will make sure you are kept up to date on any news. Drop them off at 35 Parkington Circle.

Maintenance Corner

Lighting is a constant issue in Erie Village. We ask almost monthly that you please leave your outside lights on to better illuminate the area. The newer units have outside light sensors. Many of the older units have timers installed. For those residents who do not currently have sensors or timers, another inexpensive alternative is light sensor adaptors. For the candelabra fixtures, you can purchase a three pack of sensor adaptors for around \$6.00 at Lowe's. They just screw in and the bulb screws into the adaptor. Even with the newer fixtures you can purchase adaptors for regular size bulbs. Unfortunately, they do not accommodate the GFE bulbs.

Vacation mode for Heat—Many residents head for warmer climates during the winter months. It is important to make sure you turn off your outside faucets to prevent any freezing or broken pipes while you are gone. In addition, it is recommended that you leave the heat on low (around 55) to keep your unit's internal pipes safe from freezing.

Everyone should regularly check washing machines, taps, showers, baths, dishwashers, etc., for leaks. Even a few drops of water can cause rotting and dampness.

You should also know where gas and electricity supplies can be turned off and where your stopcock is, as speedily shutting off the water in an emergency could prevent a great deal of damage.

Make sure all electrical holiday decorations have tight connections. If possible, use 3-prong plugs and cords. The use of 2-prong adapters, which permit 3-prong plugs to be used in 2-prong outlets, doesn't always provide grounding to protect against shock. Unplug decorations when not in use. Use of extension cords should be temporary. To help reduce the chances of overheating, electrical cords, including extension cords, should never be bundled together or run under rugs and carpet.

Test all ground-fault-circuit-interrupter (GFCI) outlets. These need to be tripped and reset once a month. If they do not trip or reset, have the outlet changed by a qualified electrician. These types of outlets are required around wet areas like bathrooms and kitchens to offer protection against shock. Only a qualified electrician should make changes in your home's electrical system.

Have your wood burning fireplace chimney and flue inspected each year and cleaned if needed. Open the flue and use a sturdy fireplace screen when you have a fire. Burn only untreated wood; never burn paper or pine branches—pieces can float out the chimney and ignite your roof, a neighbor's roof, or nearby trees.

Keep sidewalks clear of ice and snow buildup. If you are unable to clear your walkway, there are always a number of individuals who advertise in the newsletter offering that service. Also, you should clear any remaining snow left by the plows in front of your garage door. Because of snow melting on the roof, water drips off in these areas and makes them extremely slippery. Spread some "ice melt" or other similar product in these areas to prevent additional ice buildup.

Drive slowly through Erie Village especially at night. This is not only for your safety but for the safety of others both driving and out walking.

Please pick up after your Pet

A concerned resident asked that pet owners be reminded to please pick up after their pets when they are out walking in Erie Village. The resident had just come in from picking up 5 piles near their home and as a responsible pet owner felt it necessary to have the message once again be conveyed in the newsletter. It's easy to carry a small plastic bag while you are out walking to pick up your pet's lawn deposit. Please don't leave your mess for someone else to clean up. Thank you to all our residents who do act responsibly.

Want to place an ad in our Newsletter or do you have any items of interest or suggestions for our monthly newsletter?

Looking for someone who can provide items of interest and ideas for our newsletter.

Your editor welcomes articles and helpful hints on just about any topic, from maintenance to gardening. Even the occasional human interest story. Please submit information to Jean DeSantis, 35 Parkington Circle or email and reference Erie Village Newsletter in subject line to jmdparkev@juno.com. Checks for ads should be made payable to EVHOA. For questions call 637-0018.

Conversation Café—Still Meeting!

The signs are still out for the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Meet your neighbors down at Panera Bread from 2-4PM for a cup of coffee and conversation.

ERIE VILLAGE BOOK GROUP DISCUSSION NEWS

For the holidays, we will be meeting for dinner at 6:00 pm at the Olive Garden on Erie Boulevard on Wednesday, December 9th.



Our meetings for the first three months in 2010 are as follows: Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm at the Casciano residence, 411 Summerhaven to discuss Fallen Skies by Philippa Gregory; Wednesday, February 10 at 7:00 PM at the Payne residence, 330 Summerhaven to discuss The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows; Wednesday, March 10 at 7:00 pm at the Clark residence, 144 Summerhaven to discuss The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson.

If you have any questions, or would like to come to any of the gatherings, please call Janey Pajak at 637-1761 or email at jpajak@twcny.rr.com. The Erie Village Book Discussion Group encourages and warmly welcomes new members.

Want to feel happier? Pick up a book.

According to a 2009 survey from the Pepsi Optimism Project, 88 percent of Americans surveyed said that reading books helps them to feel more optimistic.

Happy Hour Now at Kirby's



The Wednesday night get gatherings have now moved back indoors and are being held at Kirby's in Fayetteville. Drink prices are reasonable, the food is good and the company is great! Come out and join the group 5PM on Wednesdays.

If you'd like to be added to the email notifications, contact Tom Callendar at tcallend@twcny.rr.com.

Board Members

Dick Sparrow—Pres.
Tom Callendar—V. Pres.

Dick Clark
Richard Lelong—Secretary
Jim Kraus
Sally Oot
Helen Buck
Millie Sitnik
Paul Franklin
Chuck Owen
Marj Schaff
Ed Bangel—Treasurer

Report Concerns to our Office

All residential concerns should be reported to 656-5148. Please leave your name, unit number, and a daytime phone number so that we can contact you. Also remember that all written notification should be mailed to the Erie Village Homeowners Association, 5900 N. Burdick St, Suite 107, E. Syracuse, NY 13057.

Wynn Collins—Maintenance Mgr.

EVHOA@cnyemail.com

Website: www.ErieVillageHOA.com

Committee Chairpersons:

Architectural: Helen Buck & Sally Oot Co-Chair
Covenants: Marj Schaff
Elections and Snow Plowing: Chuck Owen
Environmental: Millie Sitnik
Finance and Erie Links Liaison: Jim Kraus
Grounds Maint.: Bart Solenthaler
Painting: Wynn Collins
Risk Mgmt. / Insurance: Ed Bangel - Paul Franklin Co-Chair
Roads & Driveways: Tom Callender & Dick Sparrow Co-Chair
Rubbish: Tom Callender
Website: Marj Schaff Decks: Millie Sitnik
Lighting District: Jim Kraus
Garden Committee: Barb Whitney

“Movies and More”

The Erie Village “Movies and More” group is having a great year. We have been to various movies, on day trips, attended fashion shows, the theatre and luncheons. A little bit of everything to make for interesting get-togethers for our Erie Village members.

The new year looks to be another great year for our group and we have started planning some interesting activities for 2009 – 2010.

If anyone is interested in joining the “Movies and More” group please give a call to Barb Forth 637-5156.

Since we do not have the ability to provide for those with special needs it is up to the participant who requires special assistance to have a friend or family member accompany them.



Are you interested in an Erie Village post holiday get together in January? If you would like to try and revive our past holiday party please contact Ro Day at 637-3742 or email her at rodayhome@aol.com

Tentative date January 20th 2010

Lost and Found

Found: Ladies watch on N. Summerhaven in October. Contact Millie Sitnik at 637-1370 to claim.

Found: Small change purse along the lake trail in November. Contact Jean DeSantis at 637-0018 to claim.

For Sale:

Harden solid cherry rectangular coffee table with shelf and 2 drawers—\$80.00.

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Call Rosemary at 637-0021.

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For Sale:

Small In-Home Gym—Vectra 1270. Looks like new. Stations include: Bench Press, Military Press, Curls, Lats Station, Crunches, Rowing Station and more. 7 years old/barely used. Kept in our carpeted spare bedroom. Asking \$475.00 or best offer. Contact Rick at 637-5364.

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