

KIRKWORDS

May
2012

Volume 9 Issue 3

1545 Kirkwood Drive, Geneva

A Newsletter For and About the People of Kirkwood

KIRKWOOD HOMEOWNERS MEETING

The meeting began at the Clubhouse at 6:30 pm. All the Board members were present, with 10 homeowners and three guests.

Financial: There is about \$5K to be paid out in bills, but otherwise we are in good shape. The KHA is recouping costs in past due assessments. By end of 2012, there should be an estimated \$150K in reserves.

Pool: The water is clear and in good shape for opening next month. Aqua Joy should be in the middle of next month to get it ready for the opening. The State of Illinois will be fining more for water quality and other requirements. The water filters need to be assembled.

Landscaping: Tecza Landscaping came a week early than their April 1st contract due to an early spring. There will be a new manager and land crew coming to work in Kirkwood from them. Lots of trees have already been removed.

Declaration Revision Committee: Ginny Miller is head of this committee to review and rewrite Kirkwood's declaration. It was first written in 1976 but it is not in sync with today's laws. They are working with the attorneys to bring them up to date with the new laws. A letter was sent out to homeowners for their input.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were contracts and approvals for the following:
Thunderbolt Roofing-starting work April 23, 2012
Tecza landscaping
Care of Trees

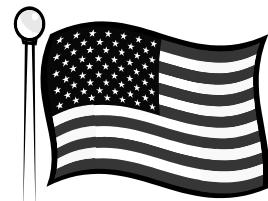
NEW BUSINESS:

Rental Request: There was a request for an approval to rent out a unit for a year until new owners move in. The Board rejected the rental.
The Board approved a motion to go with a 2" asphalt overlayment rather than a complete replacement for the Kirkwood Clubhouse. There was a discussion how long this would last-about 8-10 years and what would the clubhouse be like then. Cost was \$11,890 versus about \$20K. It was approved to go with the overlay.

Landscaping: Kirkwood (and George Lacina) are working with landscape architects to bring landscape plans and ideas to Kirkwood for a five year plan/stages. They hope to have proposals by next meeting. Adding flowers or some color to the Kirkwood entry sign was mentioned.

Inside this Issue:

Meeting Notes	2
City News	
Neighborhood Notes & News	3
Management Information	4
Calendar	4
Web Site Information	
Insert: 2012 Pool & Landscape Guidelines	



The Next
Board Meeting
Is May 21, 2012
6:30 pm at the
Kirkwood
Clubhouse



(Continue on next page)

Page 2 **Kirkwood Homeowners Meeting** *continued*

A Spring Cleanup is planned to remove dead branches out of the center and Kirk Road areas, and to mulch trails.

The pool strapping event may be scheduled for June 2 or 9.

Tennis Courts: Sandy Smith had a proposal to resurface the tennis courts. A discussion followed on where to find the funds, to check on heavy equipment needed to do this, and to check scheduling conflicts with the clubhouse drive-

way project and to get it done after postponing this project for several years.

The Disability Act for Swimming Pool Access has a 90 day moratorium which may be extended for 6 months.

Real Estate in Kirkwood: In the last 14 months, 6 units have sold. Currently, seven units are on the market with four under contract.

Social Activities: Pending ideas are Cooking Demo, cookouts after Kirkwood activities with maybe live entertainment.

The next Book Club will meet at 1533 Kirkwood at 7 pm and the book is *The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society* by Annie Barrows.

Kirkwood Garage Sale with the City of Geneva is April 26 &27.

Meeting adjourned at 8 pm.

***Thanks to those of you who gave a response to our letter regarding our Declarations and By-Laws.
The committee will continue to work with our attorney on this project.***

FYI: From the City of Geneva:

Sump pumps are designed to take rain water away from the foundation of a home. The discharge of the water should go onto the lawn or into the storm sewer. Many times homeowners connect sump pumps to the sanitary sewer. Sanitary sewers are sized to take household waste, not sump pumps. Excess flows from sump pumps are a major reason why sanitary sewer overflows occur. Take for example the rain we had over the weekend of April 14th and 15th. This $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch rain event increased the flows at the Wastewater Plant from 3.8 million gallons to 5.8 million gallons. We know illegal sump pump connections are out there! Please do your part to control costs associated with wastewater treatment and sanitary sewer overflows by making sure your sump pump is not connected to the sanitary sewer. If you need assistance in checking your sump pump, the water and sewer department is happy to assist. You can contact us at (630) 232-1551 for assistance.

GenevaTaxFACTS Provides Video Access to School Board Meetings.

GENEVA, March 26, 2012—GenevaTaxFACTS, a volunteer group of Geneva residents, announced today that it is posting videos of Geneva school board's semimonthly meetings on its website GenevaTaxFACTS.org. Currently, they are only available on the city's website in an inflexible format and Comcast Public Access Channel. Since March 1, videos of meetings have been available on-demand in user-friendly format to anyone with internet access.

"Taxpayers want instant access to this information," said Steve Sheehan, spokesman for GenevaTaxFACTS. "Not everyone can attend the semimonthly meetings, but they have a right to see and hear the proceedings so they know how their money is spent."

Currently, videos of school board meetings

are posted a week after the meetings at inconvenient times on the City of Geneva website and on Comcast. The format does not allow viewers to advance the videos to find topics of interest or review a segment without having to view the entire video. Some neighborhoods, including Mill Creek, do not have access to Comcast. In addition, the videos disappear in less than a week and are no longer available for review.

In order to receive a video copy of each meeting, the school board is requiring GenevaTaxFACTS to file Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Alternatively, citizens are also allowed to video meetings as long as they don't distract. In the case of the March 17 school board retreat, GenevaTaxFACTS created their own video as the board has not previously videoed these meetings.

With the assistance of GenevaTaxFACTS volunteers, coding is used to create fast links to video content. Also, the group is archiving

the videos on its website so a more historical record is accessible. Access to the videos is free.

"Our mission is to monitor spending to make sure our money is spent wisely," Sheehan said. "Our school board is facing some hard choices in the next few years in order to address \$305 million in bond debt, potential teacher salary increases, increasing operating costs, and legislative reform that will put more burdens on local taxpayers to contribute to school pensions."

The school board oversees annual operating expenditures of \$86 million plus debt repayment. For the Geneva taxpayers, this comprises 69% of their property tax bills.

Contact:

Steve Sheehan, Publicity
GenevaTaxFACTS
(630) 457-1060
stevenjsheehan@gmail.com



Welcome to the Neighborhood

We've had lots of new neighbors in the last six months:

- 1531: Lee Cuomo
- 1535: Donna Manzella
- 1537: Scott Healy & Natalie Pierce
- 1565: Matthew & Nancy Chura
- 1572: Tamara & Bruce Wilhelm

There are currently 6 homes on the market. They range from \$149800 to \$259000. Of those for sale, 4 of the 6 are currently under contract. Within the past 12 months, Kirkwood has had 4 sales ranging from \$171900 to \$249000.

While our prices are still suffering (like so many communities) at least we have activity, nearly 10% of the homes in Kirkwood have had some type of positive 'real estate' action. Kirkwood is still a good place to live.

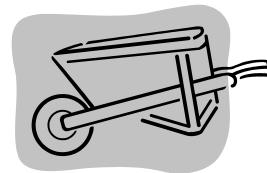
Walking Paths

On **Saturday, May 5th at 8:30am**, we are asking everyone to help spread the mulch that is at the clubhouse on the walking paths that surround the pool and clubhouse area. We have several wheel barrows but need some helping hands. Grab your rake and gloves and join the fun!

This is an annual event here in Kirkwood and we welcome new neighbors. There will be some refreshments and rolls in the clubhouse Saturday morning. Great way to meet everyone.

Also, Barb and George Lacina will be moving on May 15th from Kirkwood. This is your chance to stop in and wish the Lacinas a happy Florida retirement and that we will miss them and all their contributions to Kirkwood's landscaping.

See you on Saturday!



Kirkwood Book Club News

The Kirkwood Book club met at Sandy Smith's and had a good discussion (even though everyone had not read the book) and delicious treats. I think several people might decide to read it now after the discussion.

Our next book is:

[The Guernsey Literary Potato Peel Society](#) by Annie Barrows

Denise Marks will host our meeting at 7pm on Monday, May 14th at 1533 Kirkwood.

We hope to see you all there. Please invite any of the ladies you know in Kirkwood who'd like to join us. Please remember to bring **one** book suggestion so we can compile our list of future books.

A Note from Tecza Landscape:

They have asked that their crews not be disturbed while performing their job here in Kirkwood. If you have an area in the front or back that you want to maintain yourself, please RED FLAG this area. They will have different crews than last year so please don't expect them to remember your bush or perennial that you do not want disturbed. If you have ground lighting, statuary, or fencing that prohibits the crews from moving from one area to the next these will be removed at your expense. The objective is to be able to have them keep Kirkwood looking its best. Please help with this objective.

As always thank you for your continued help and cooperation in making Kirkwood the best place to live! If you have any questions or concerns please forward them to the Kirkwood Number 630-557-5200.

**Kirkwood
Management Phone:
630-557-5200**

**2012
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President
Connie Porter
Secretary
Chuck Pedersen
Treasurer
Chuck Marks

Directors

Bob Jelinek
Ginny Miller
Sandy Smith
Doug Van De Mark

Committees

Clubhouse Rental:
Connie Porter
Landscape: Sandy Smith
Pool: Chuck Pedersen
Newsletter/Website:
Denise Marks
Welcome:
Heidi Hunter
Insurance Compliance
John Bray

Kirkwood Online/Mobile
Check out Kirkwood's website.
Get the latest information, print
out your landscape/architectural
forms, look up the Rules &
Regulations and more.

Log on to
www.kirkwoodhomes.org

Does the Board have your
E-Mail address on file?
Be informed faster about events/
actions happening in Kirkwood.
Contact a Board Member.

Do you have an upcoming event,
or special occasion that you
would like us to post? Just drop
it in the Red Mailbox or e-mail
to Denmarks923@aol.com.

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Notes:	1	2	3	4	5 Mulch 8:30 am 	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 KHA 6:30 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31		

2012 NEIGHBORHOOD SALE



Seven
Kirkwood
neighbors
participated in
Geneva's
city-wide sale
the weekend of April 27 and
28, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.



**We're getting
ready for
summer!**

We would like to re-
strap more pool lounge
chairs and will be looking for volun-
teers to help. Look for more informa-
tion on this project soon!





**Missy Donovan
Photography**

newborn - maternity - child
family - seniors - couples
weddings - sports

www.missydonovanphotography.com
630.362.8364