

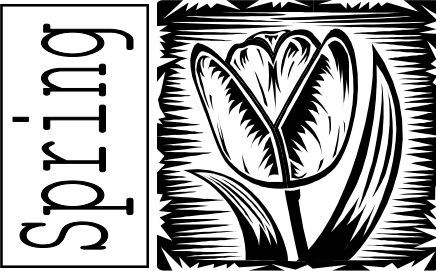
# KIRKWORDS

1545 Kirkwood Drive, Geneva, Illinois 60134

*A Newsletter For and About the People of Kirkwood*

Volume 3 Issue 2

April 2006



## Happy Easter

2006

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Ferguson	232-0401
Chuck Marks	845-9935
Chuck Pedersen	262-9796
Bill Schaeffe	232-2198
Bill Studnick	232-6269
Jim Van Spankeren	232-0003
Dave Wechter	208-0012

### Committees:

**Clubhouse:** Sharie Pedersen  
262-9796

**Welcome:** Barbara Yeh 208-1174

**Social:** Patricia Mauer 208-7850

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## Memorial Fund

Your Kirkwood Association is asking for donations to purchase a park type bench in memory of our past Kirkwood President Jerry Sivertsen . We do not normally seek donations for such items but we feel he was a very special person in that he devoted most of his own time trying to improve Kirkwood and helping his neighbors. Jerry changed the direction of the siding issue and brought it to completion, saving us homeowners a substantial amount of money. Even towards the end when he was confined to his home, Jerry felt obliged to share his thoughts on a number of Kirkwood issues and how we should care for them. He was a very special person indeed.

Approximate cost for a weatherproof park bench, plaque and material to keep it from swimming in the pool or going for a walk is about \$350. Labor of course, will be donated by volunteers already lined up. Location will probably be in the area of the tennis courts.

Since there is no way to determine the amount of money we will receive, we thought that if there is any excess, it could be applied to the next club house get together or something that will be for the betterment of Kirkwood. Please do not send cash. Checks should be made out to "Kirkwood Memorial Fund" and mailed to 1545 Kirkwood Drive or given to any Board member by May 31st or sooner. A full accounting of all money received and spent will be published in the news letter and on our new website.

*Thanks in advance for your contribution.*

*Jim VanSpankeren*

## Skylight Information by Jim VanSpankeren

We have received a number of inquires regarding skylight replacement. So we thought it a good idea to inform all the home owners as to what they are responsible for, and what the Association is responsible for.

**Homeowner's Responsibility:** Cracked glass, cracked Plexiglas, fogging or clouding and broken or separating frames.

**Association's Responsibility:** Leaks caused by improper flashing installation or deterioration of either the flashing or roofing.

If in doubt please call your representative and we will come over and let you know what the problem is.

**The next Board Meeting is April 17th at 7 PM.  
All Homeowners are welcome— your involvement is  
important to this board**

## **FYI: Energy Tax Credits for 2006**

This information is for all the Kirkwood Homeowners who are remodeling their units. Take advantage of this tax credit for all your improvements—hang on to your receipts. For more complete information go to the IRS website.

Beginning in 2006, there are two new residential energy credits available: the non-business energy property credit and the residential energy efficient property credit. The credits are available for the following types of energy-efficient property: exterior doors; heat pumps; water heaters; central air conditioners; furnace or hot water boilers; fans used in natural gas, propane, or oil furnaces, insulation material or an insulation system specifically and primarily designed to reduce the heat gain or a dwelling unit; exterior windows (including skylights); qualified property for producing solar electricity; qualified solar water heating property; and qualified fuel cell property.

### **Treasury and IRS Provide Guidance for Energy Credits for Homeowners**

IR-2006-34, Feb. 21, 2006

WASHINGTON — The Treasury Department and the IRS today have issued guidance (Notice 2006-26) on the certification that homeowners may rely on when they claim credits for purchases that make their homes more efficient.

During 2006, individuals can make energy-conscious purchases that will provide tax benefits when filling out their tax returns next year. The credit will also be available for purchases in 2007. Manufacturers offering energy efficient items such as insulation or storm windows can assure their customers that their energy efficient items will qualify for the tax credit if certain energy efficiency requirements are met.

A recent tax law change provides a tax credit to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes. The law provides a 10 percent credit for buying qualified energy efficiency improvements. To qualify, a component must meet or exceed the criteria established by the 2000 International Energy Conservation Code (including supplements) and must be installed in the taxpayer's main home in the United States.

The following items are eligible:

- Insulation systems that reduce heat loss/gain
- Exterior windows (including skylights)
- Exterior doors
- Metal roofs (meeting applicable Energy Star requirements).

In addition, the law provides a credit for costs relating to residential energy property expenses. To qualify as residential energy property, the property must meet certification requirements prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury and must be installed in the taxpayer's main home in the United States.

The following items are eligible:

- \$50 for each advanced main air circulating fan
- \$150 for each qualified natural gas, propane, or oil furnace or hot water heater
- \$300 for each item of qualified energy efficient property.

The maximum credit for all taxable years is \$500 – no more than \$200 of the credit can be attributable to expenses for windows.

Additionally, the new law makes a credit available to those who add qualified solar panels, solar water heating equipment, or a fuel cell power plant to their homes in the United States. In general, a qualified fuel cell power plant converts a fuel into electricity using electrochemical means, has an electricity-only generation efficiency of more than 30 percent and generates at least 0.5 kilowatts of electricity. Taxpayers are allowed one credit equal to 30 percent *(continued on the following page)*

of the qualified investment in a solar panel up to a maximum credit of \$2,000, and another equivalent credit for investing in a solar water heating system. No part of either system can be used to heat a pool or hot tub.

Additionally, taxpayers are also allowed a 30 percent tax credit for the purchase of qualified fuel cell power plants. The credit may not exceed \$500 for each .5 kilowatt of capacity. These items must be placed in service after Dec. 31, 2005 and before Jan. 1, 2008.

**Landscaping News** by Dave Wechter

The Landscape Committee met and decided on not having a spring clean-up but having a spring work day instead. The Committee will be walking the grounds soon and will decide on an area that needs some TLC. Also we will have some of the Volunteers clean up debris and fallen timbers along Kirk Rd.

The Landscape Committee is working on a list of desirable plants, trees, and groundcover for homeowners to use in their personal areas. Please remember that any changes to your front yard besides flowers, must get Board approval. (Submit Landscape Application form to the Red Mailbox) This includes **side yards** that are visible from the street.

The Landscape Committee will also be conducting a walk-around, looking for yard decorations that are not appealing to the look we would like to have here at Kirkwood. We will also note down any other violations, and will make recommendations to the board. As of last year the Board had removed the limit of decorations, but added that it was at the Boards discretion to enforce the natural rustic look that we have here in Kirkwood.

The new Kirkwood landscaper, Accurate Edge is certainly putting the edges in Kirkwood giving it a clean sharp look. If you have a dog, please make sure you clean up your yard area and/or walking areas of any droppings. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated by other homeowners and the landscaping crews.

*Any questions on what to do?? Contact the Landscape Committee....they are full of great ideas.*



**2006 Kirkwood Housewalk**

*I've had many requests for another 2nd Kirkwood housewalk. Last year was put off due to "unfinished" projects. So hopefully now we can get 4-5 of our neighbors to open up their lovely homes for this year's tour.*

*The tentative date will be Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. The time will be from 6-8 pm.*

*Further information will be sent out when I get our home volunteers.*

*If you would like to be one of our gracious hosts, please fill in the form sent out earlier and put it in our mailbox. (1574) Once I get 4-5 volunteers to participate, I will be sending out additional information.*

**Let's all participate and make this as successful as the first one!**

Thanks, Patricia Maurer



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Clubhouse Rental
16 <b>Easter</b>	17 <b>7 PM Homeowners Meeting</b>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 Pool Fence Repair Day
30	<i>Notes:</i>					



**Kirkwood Neighborhood Sales**  
**Friday and Saturday**  
**May 19-20th**

*Don't forget to turn in your green sign up sheets. We already have several families signed up.*

*For more information, contact Karen Ambler or Denise Marks*



**Kirkwood's New Website**  
*Need to know what's happening in Kirkwood?*

Check out Kirkwood's new website thanks to Scott and Beth Ferguson. Get the latest Information, print out your landscape/architectural forms, look up the Rules & Regulations and a whole lot more.

**Log on to**  
**[www.kirkwoodhomes.org](http://www.kirkwoodhomes.org)**  
*(User ID & Password have been distributed in mailboxes)*

**An Important Notice from the Kirkwood Treasurer:**

Please **do not** drop off Your Kirkwood monthly assessment checks in the Red Mailbox or 1545 mailbox. **All checks need to be mailed to the PO Box address on the coupon which goes directly to the bank.**

**Neighborhood News Briefs:**  
**Welcome to the neighborhood:**

- 1553 The Bonas
- 1555 Vitaly Sladkov
- 1563 Gretchen Leider

*Do you have an upcoming event, or special occasion that you would like us to post? Just drop it in the Red Mailbox.*