

# KIRKWORDS

December  
2013

Volume 10 Issue 6

1545 Kirkwood Drive, Geneva

A Newsletter For and About the People of Kirkwood

## KIRKWOOD HOMEOWNERS MEETING

November 18, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 and six Board members were present. Three homeowners were present.

**Financial:** There is \$105,087.63 in account as of Oct. 31. There are outstanding bills of about \$20K for roofs, and \$11K in drainage bills. \$60K was spent in roofs alone this year.

**Pool:** The winds from the storm on Sunday blew the floaters around the pool. They will be fixed.

**Maintenance:** Connie Porter will send out an email to homeowners to contact their insurance company if there is any storm damage to their units. There was a discussion on whose responsibility is what. This is an insurance issue for storm damage, not a Kirkwood maintenance issue.

**Landscape:** Waiting for plans from 1503 and 1531 has given a verbal approval for their plan.

**Old Business:** Approved and discussed.

**New Business:**

Ginny Miller not present for dryer vent update from the city.

By-laws will be discussed at annual meeting.

Rules & Regs. are being revised, no final draft yet.

2014 Snow contract (Pat White Construction) was voted and approved with small increases from last year.

2014 Landscape contract (Accurate Edge) was approved with a cover letter written for better communication about clean up, pruning, etc. for next spring.

Denise Marks agreed to be Landscape Committee chairperson for next year.

Review on 2014 Budget

**Real Estate:** Six homes sold in 2013 compared to ten last year. The average price for units is \$226,500. 1598 sold for \$140K and 1561 for \$142,500.

Reports are needed for the Annual Meeting at the library on Dec. 8, 2013 at 1:00:

Pools, Roofs, Goals and Accomplishments

Clubhouse will be closed Nov. 19.

**Christmas Decoration Discussion:** What is acceptable? Nothing is to be attached on siding or trim, we need to uphold the landscaping rules established this summer and in the past.

Driveway stakes will be installed after Thanksgiving for all units.

The next Board meeting is March 17, 2014 and Board members will call if a January or February meeting is needed.

Meeting adjourned.



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**Annual Meeting**  
**December 8, 2013**  
**1:00 Geneva Public**  
**Library**  
**The next Kirkwood**  
**Homeowners Meeting is**  
**March 17, 2014**  
**at the Clubhouse.**



Life is about moving on and so after almost 10 years of writing this newsletter, this is my last Kirkwords issue. Thank you for your kind comments through the years about the paper keeping this great neighborhood informed. If anyone is interested in continuing this publication, you may contact me at [Denmarks923@aol.com](mailto:Denmarks923@aol.com). I would be happy to help you in any way.

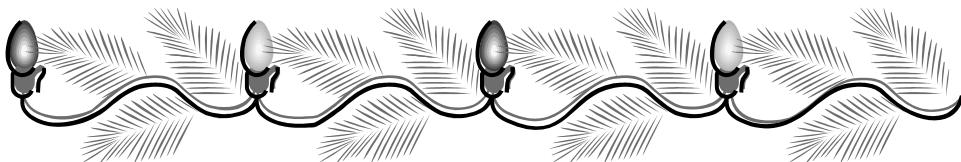
## Kirkwood 2013-2014 Winter Reminders



- Snow plowing will begin after 3" of snowfall. Any questions regarding snow removal can be directed to the Kirkwood phone number **630-557-5200** and press #3 to leave a message.
- To help the snow plows, all Kirkwood residents have markers on their driveways. Without them, the snow plowers will not be responsible for tearing up the lawns.
- During snow falls please **do not park in the street**. The city plows cannot adequately plow and the City wants all vehicles off the street after a snow fall. Tickets will be issued along with the fact it is not safe. Kirkwood's snow removal contractor needs to be able to maneuver their plows, too.
- **Cars parked where plowing is being done will not have that area plowed. The plows do not come back after the homeowner decides to move their vehicle. They will have to shovel their area themselves.**
- Please slow down during the winter season in Kirkwood and NO PARKING on the curves! The school buses cannot get through with vehicles parked on the curves.
- We can send a notification via email when the snow plows have been called if we have your email address.
- Parking at the clubhouse for Kirkwood owners and/or guests must be reported (630-557-5200) and a phone number given so that you can be notified if the drive needs to be cleared of vehicles during the snow season or the vehicle (s) will be towed.
- Please check on your neighbors' units if they are gone for the winter and report any problems.
- The Clubhouse has been closed for the winter.
- Notices will be placed on the mailbox information boards of Board meetings.

### 2014 Assessment Coupons

The 2014 Homeowners Association assessment coupons for those who do not have Auto Debit will be in your mailbox sometime in December. If you would like to start Auto Debit Assessments, please fill out the form (included with the coupons) and return to the Red Mailbox. There is no need for any action for those homeowners who already have auto debited assessments.



### *Finally, a word on Holiday Decorations (taken from a 2008 Newsletter):*

- Under the Rules & Regulations, holiday decorations may be displayed from after Thanksgiving and must be removed no later than January 15 of the following year.
- Lights or other decorations may not be nailed to the exterior of your home and lights and/or decorations should be limited to trees and shrubs.
- Inflatable or plastic displays are prohibited in front yards or on any other common areas.
- If any holiday decorations are deemed excessive, offensive, unsightly or cause a nuisance to community standards, the Board reserves the right to require the removal of such decorations.

**2013: Please be aware holiday decorations will not be allowed on your unit's siding regardless of existing nails or hooks.**

*Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out again on our Clean Up Day in November. Why are we clearing out the buckthorn trees? Here are some articles about buckthorns that explain our goals and to educate Kirkwood residents.*

## Tree Lovers vs. tree lovers

*Chicago Trib October 30, 2013*

*A restoration project focused on the removal of some vegetation along the North Branch of the Chicago River near Horner Park has been in the works for about a decade.*

*The following are excerpts from this article:*

The greenery that whispers and sways along its banks isn't all good. Some of the plants are buckthorn, a beastly species that erodes riverbanks, blocks sunlight from reaching native plants and degrades wildlife habitat. Yes, there is such an icky tree, and buckthorn is an example.

The Army Corps. of Engineers plans to restore a section of the riverbank in an area.....twelve acres are on the list for a makeover that includes ripping out the buckthorn and other invasive plants

along the west bank of the river.

But wait—there's another problem. The residents on the other side of the river like the thick greenery. It offers a pretty view...and it gives them privacy. Why jeopardize the natural setting? Why mow down the loveliness? Is it necessary?

The issue is pitting tree lovers against...tree lovers.... The restoration project has been in the works, on and off, for more than a decade. The buckthorn needs to come out to mitigate more environmental damage to the riverbank.

Losing a tree can be heartbreaking, as anyone knows who has seen the devastation of Dutch elm disease or the emerald ash borer. But restorative projects like this one are the Corps' area of expertise, .....It's time to start the work.



## Buckthorn an aggressive pest

*November 29, 2012|By Tim Johnson | Special to Tribune Newspaper*

***My neighbor told me that I have a lot of buckthorn in my garden and that I should remove it. The plants are healthy, and I do not understand why this would be a good idea.***

The buckthorn growing in your garden is a serious threat to forest preserves and other natural areas near your home. Exotic species of buckthorn that come from Europe and Asia are invasive, meaning they outcompete native plants for space, sunlight and nutrients, upsetting the natural balance. Buckthorn produces fruits that fall, creating a dense understory of buckthorn seedlings. Birds also eat the fruit, which is how the problem spreads from gardens to prairies, forest preserves and other woodlands.

**Gardeners are encouraged to remove exotic buckthorn shrubs and trees from their landscapes to prevent damage to natural areas.**

It is likely that the shrubs you have in your garden are common buckthorn. It is a shrub or small tree that can grow up to 22 feet high with a trunk 10 inches or more in diameter. It is easy to identify in autumn because it tends to hold green leaves late into the fall after the leaves of other trees have turned color or fallen.

The Chicago Botanic Garden has an online list of invasive plants often found in gardens in the Chicago area, with suggested alternative plants that would be good replacements ([chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive](http://chicagobotanic.org/research/conservation/invasive)).

Small buckthorn plants can be dug or pulled out, but this becomes more difficult as the plants get larger. Simply cutting back the buckthorn will not be a permanent solution because the stumps readily re-sprout. New sprouts would need to be cut back annually for several years to kill the root system. Managers of natural areas who fight buckthorn get good results by cutting it to a stump and promptly painting the stump with an herbicide that is absorbed into the root system to kill the plant.

Now, while the green leaves make buckthorn easy to spot, is a good time of year to cut your buckthorns down and treat the stumps with an herbicide. Treating stumps will work in winter if the proper techniques and herbicides are used.

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

Please call this number so that all of the board members will hear any messages. This way your message will be on record and not be over looked.

**2013 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**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](http://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.

# December 2013

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



1504: Brad Thomas & Jill Frister  
1532: Michael & Jennifer Walker

## Kirkwood Pig Roast

### About 30 people attended Kirkwood's Pig Roast last month.

Many thanks to those who helped set up, brought appetizers and desserts, and cleaned up afterwards. When enough people get involved, it makes light work for everyone and we all had fun.

