



notes and news to all who dwell in Birnamwood

BIRNAMWOOD WINDS

July 2010

President's Corner

Donna Cooke

Everyone who thinks that the Birnamwood Homes Association has too many rules and regulations please raise your hand.

I would not be surprised if the response to this question totaled 100%. This comment is uttered by almost every new home owner in Birnamwood – myself included when I purchased my town home in 2003.

Birnamwood's Declaration, By-Laws, Rules & Regulations, Architectural Standards and Landscaping Guidelines are provided to all realtors who sell a property in Birnamwood. The realtor is required by law to present the documents to all prospective buyers and if a Purchase Agreement is signed, there is also an Amendment that buyers must sign that states they were given these documents to

read (this protects the realtor). The realtor also has the buyer sign Birnamwood's Resale Certificate Receipt, which states that the buyer has read the documents listed above (this protects Birnamwood). Plus, the BHA Welcome Committee contacts new home owners and provides them again with these documents. Now, whether the prospective buyers actually read this thick packet of documents in the excitement of purchasing a new home is neither the realtors' nor Birnamwood's responsibility. That responsibility solely rests with the home owner. Isn't home ownership grand?!

When I purchased my town home in 2003, I seriously considered 5 different town homes and I read 5 different sets of

governing documents. Birnamwood's documents were by far the most comprehensive and specific. And, as I later learned, have evolved over 40+ years of self-governance by 100% volunteer Boards and Committees. These detailed governing documents allow the natural and progressive turnover of Board and Committee members to appear fairly seamless to the community as a whole. As voluminous as they are, Birnamwood's governing documents provide the solid foundation on which our community rests.

You are more than welcome to offer input and improve on these documents by considering serving on Birnamwood's Board of Directors. (See more about this opportunity inside this issue of the WINDS).

Board Meeting Notes

The Board met on Wednesday, July 21, 2010. First order of business was to amend the June 16th motion regarding cost of front entry sign to include an additional \$1,500 for lighting and electrical.

Second, the board authorized the automatic renewal of both the Buckingham Waste Management contract (for an additional 2 years) and the Suburban Services contract (for an additional 1 year).

BHA's contract with F&N Management for accounting services will end December 31, 2010. Dave Griffith has informed us that he is retiring and, therefore, would not be offering a bid for 2011. The Board is in the process of obtaining bids for accounting services from other vendors. As a side note, Dave Griffith has provided accounting services to BHA since 1983. He says he's really looking forward to doing more fishing and playing with his grandkids in 2011. Can you blame him? Birnamwood has been fortunate to have Dave as a long-time vendor and friend and we wish him all the best in retirement.

Next Board Meeting: August 18. Burnsville City Hall

Finance Update

For the last several months, Ave Pearce (BHA's Treasurer) has been researching options to earn more interest on the Association's cash balances than the .01% we are currently earning.

After reviewing options presented, the Board voted to do the following:

Move \$300,000 of BHA's Reserve Replacement Fund (current balance at 6/30/10 = \$518,632) held in a money market account to a CD Ladder structure that will earn interest at a 3-year weighted average of 1.258% - approximately \$8,152 - over that 3-year period. Birnamwood earned a measly \$171 interest on our Reserve Replacement Fund (RRF) in 2009. We are not moving the funds to a different financial institution - they will remain with American Century Investments. The Board's goal is to have our large RRF balance work for us. As we move through the current real estate slump, the additional interest will off-set assessment income losses the Association expects to incur due to foreclosures.

Treasurers Report by: Ave Pearce

Balances:

	<u>31-May-10</u>	<u>30-Jun-10</u>
Checking	\$107,228.09	\$75,657.98
Savings	\$108,296.90	\$106,782.56
Savings - Capital Improvement Fund	\$38,696.70	\$40,739.03
Replacement Reserve Account	\$510,917.78	\$518,631.78
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	\$765,139.47	\$741,811.35

DELINQUENT ACCOUNT ANALYSIS

	<u>31-May-10</u>	<u>30-Jun-10</u>
Past Due Accounts (1-3 mos past due)		
Balance	979.28	3,110.83
Number of Accounts	6	14
Past Due Accounts (4+ mos. past due)		
Balance	7,472.50	7,098.70
Number of Accounts	6	4
Past Due Accounts (with legal)		
Balance	20,154.75	21,224.60
Number of Accounts	5	5
TOTALS:	28,606.53	31,434.13
	17	23

Birnamwood Residents:

Please join us

National Night Out

August 3, 2010

6:00 p.m.

Pool Pavilion

Root Beer Floats will be served by your Board Members

Upcoming Events

August 3 – Ice Cream Social/National Night Out
 August 18 – Board Meeting (Burnsville City Hall)
 August 20 – Submission Deadline for the August WINDS

Recreation Report

by Barb Piculell

Pool

The pool is getting good use. The pool workers are doing a great job in keeping the pool looking fabulous! Please remember to sign in. REMINDER: There is NO smoking in the pool, pavilion and play areas. Please be respectful of your fellow residents and guests.

Tennis Courts

The tennis courts were resurfaced the week of June 21st. New nets were installed. The cracks are getting harder to fill. We will plan to have the cracks filled professionally the fall of each year to help the preservation of the courts.

Pavilion Reservations

Please call Marg Struve at #882-1228 to reserve the pavilion for your event.

Sport Courts

Please clean up after yourself and lock the gate after using the sport court.

Social

Lois Sweeney resigned from the social committee. The committee members are Kathy Jacobson, Rita Gutenkauf, Mary Mertz and Barb Piculell. Please contact us with any suggestions or to volunteer.

Home Maintenance Update by John Carlson

Painting Update:



The scheduled painting for this year is off to a good start. Units 10 -20 were completed as of July 21st. The next units up for painting are units 35 thru 38, and then on to 29 thru 34. The pool area will be painted after the painting of all units has been completed, which may well be after the pools scheduled close date for the season. Hopefully, this change will minimize or eliminate any disruption to pool use painting may cause. As a reminder, Dave Jones is again coordinating the painting activities, and can be reached at 952.890.5539 with any questions or concerns.

Architectural Update:

As a reminder, any change to the exterior of units, including SATILITE TV DISHES, must be approved in advance. Requests for change forms can be found on the association web-site.

Reminder on Bike Riding on Sidewalks

There have been a number of complaints regarding children riding their bicycles on the interior sidewalks of Birnamwood. Per our Rules & Regulations, Section II-A-2: ***The riding of bicycles, skates, skateboards, rollerblades and other such recreational devices shall be prohibited on sidewalks, steps and lawns. They will be permitted on driveways only.*** As inviting as these sidewalks are, they are for walking only, so parents, please instruct your children accordingly. Thanks for your cooperation.

ELECTION CHAIRPERSON NEEDED



Every well-run organization depends upon interested and involved members for its success. Each new volunteer brings fresh and differing perspectives for the Association. Therefore, recruiting volunteers is a top priority. With the November Annual Meeting fast approaching, we need a Chair for the Nomination Committee. This person creates a team of people to interview candidates for the open Board positions. The three terms that are ending this year are Terri Tharp, Barb Piculell and myself. Although some or all of these folks may be willing to serve another term, at the time of this posting, that has not been determined. Please contact me (Donna Cooke) if you are interested in serving as the Election Chairperson or would like to run for the Board.

See insert titled "Serving on your Association Board of Directors".

Units for Sale: 25, 105, 115, 116, 153, 220, 224, 231, 232

Welcome new Birnamwood residents:
Unit 121 - Gregory & Helen Stutzman
Unit 150 - Richard Swenson & Todd Teschendorf

BIRNAMWOOD DIRECTORY

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Unit#</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Donna Cooke	President	129	707-8846	cooke@comcast.net
Terri Tharp	Vice President	108	736-3767	tharp@epi.umn.edu
Ave Pearce	Treasurer	87	952-649-1560 (cell)	eagangal@msn.com
Tom Daly	Secretary	134	952-994-4312 (cell)	tommer2000@comcast.net
<u>Directors</u>	<u>Liaison</u>	<u>Unit #</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Kurt Hinrichsen	Architectural	152	454-6895	khinrich3@gmail.com
Barbara Piculell	Recreation	120	890-5230	bpiculell@comcast.net
Richard Phillips	Facilities	73	882-0379	p51dman2@aol.com
Kirk Johnson	Grounds	138	612-743-8225 (cell)	captainabbey@yahoo.com
Jonathan Carlson	Home Maintenance	145	984-5554	jon_carlson@cargill.com
Tom Daly	Welcome	134	952-994-4312 (cell)	tommer2000@comcast.net
<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Unit #</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Dave Piculell	Architectural	120	890-5230	bpiculell@comcast.net
Gary Streich	Grounds			
Terry Sarazin		80	707-1102	terrysarazin@gmail.com
Barb Piculell	Social	120	890-5230	bpiculell@comcast.net
Dave Jones	Security	130	890-5539	dave.jones66@gmail.com
Dave Jones	Birnamwood Website	130	890-5539	dave.jones66@gmail.com
<u>“The Winds”</u>	<u>Duty</u>	<u>Unit #</u>	<u>Home Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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<u>Name</u>	<u>Unit #</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Unit Coverage</u>	
Carol Moe	33	890-7954	Units 10 - 20	
Gary Streich	28	890-9132	Units 21 - 59	
Shirley Holden	71	894-4393	Units 60 - 94	
Jane Hixon	121	894-7589	Units 95 - 198	
Barb Lager	215	882-8171	Units 199 - 216	
Dave Jones	130	890-5539	Units 127 - 198, Tennis Courts, Swimming Pool & Paddle Court	

Official Association Notices

Association Monthly Fees - are due on the first of each month. Send payments to F&N Management Services – 4980 Dodd Road, Eagan, MN 55123. Phone Number: 651-423-1011.

Architectural Stipulation – any change, alteration, addition or replacement made to a townhouse exterior must be recommended by the Architectural Committee and approved by the Board of Directors. All homeowners are required to comply with these requirements.

Applications for Exterior Changes – must be submitted no later than the 20th of the month to be acted upon by the Architectural Committee and placed on the Board’s agenda for the next monthly meeting...

FHA & HUD ID# for Birnamwood – NDF1

Birnamwood Website – birnamwoodhomes.org

Editors Notes: Your comments and suggestions are welcome. If you would like to view the Winds in color, please visit the Birnamwood website. If you would like to help save a tree or two and receive your future Winds electronically, please email me and let me know. Your email version will come in a colorful PDF version. This also helps our association save money on printing.