



Prairie Hills Homes Association

SPRING 2008

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

A Newsletter published for the residents of the Prairie Hills Homes Association

WHAT'S INSIDE

MARK STILES - KEEPER OF THE HILLS	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	2
MAKE EARTH DAY DIFFERENT	3
ISSUES FOR OLDER BURBS	3
NEW NEIGHBORS	3
2008-2009 BUDGET	4
2008 BALANCE SHEET	5
WHO'S WHO IN PRAIRIE HILLS	5

FLIP OVER FLAPJACKS AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

This year's annual meeting represents several "firsts" for Prairie Hills Homes Association. For the first time ever, the event will:

- Be offered free to all Prairie Hills residents, including children.
- Take place at the home of one of our neighbors, Cherokee Christian Church.
- Provide a magician to entertain the young or young-at-heart attendees.
- Feature an all-you-can-eat pancake brunch cooked up by Two Guys and a Grill.

Here are the details for the annual meeting:

Date: Saturday April 19th

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Place: Cherokee Christian Church,
7457 Cherokee

The meeting will give you an opportunity to:

- Approve the budget for the 2008-2009 year. (See pages 4-5.)
- Elect new board members.
- Hear about new activities slated for the coming year.
- Have a say in shaping your neighborhood.
- Get to know your neighbors.

Help us reach more firsts by setting records for attendance. RSVP to HACCD at 816.523.2440 or email Loring Leifer at leifer@sprintmail.com.



IMPORTANT DATES

April 12
SME Earth Fair

April 19
Annual Meeting
at Cherokee Church

April 19
Large Item Pickup

June 7
Annual Picnic
at Windsor Park

WALKING GROUP TO RESUME AS WEATHER WARMS UP

Winter has come to an end and if you are feeling at all like us then you are eager to get outdoors and breathe some fresh air. The Prairie Hills walking group is gearing up to resume the weekly walk.

The path is approximately two miles long. Though it is not a long walk, it is a good opportunity to meet neighbors and take in

the great neighborhood in which we live.

If you are interested in participating, meet at Belinder Elementary School every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. If the temperature is over 90 degrees at 6:30 p.m. then the walk will be postponed until the next week. Dogs are welcome as well.

MARK STILES ~ KEEPER OF THE HILLS



Mark Stiles is easy to spot. You can often find him on one of our 15 islands. He's the one hoisting mulch, setting stone pavers, pushing a tiller, trimming trees, and planting glorious gardens of his own designs. The islands are only one area where Mark has made his mark on Prairie Hills.

Whenever something breaks, Mark has been there to fix it. He's repaired fountains, painted signs, installed

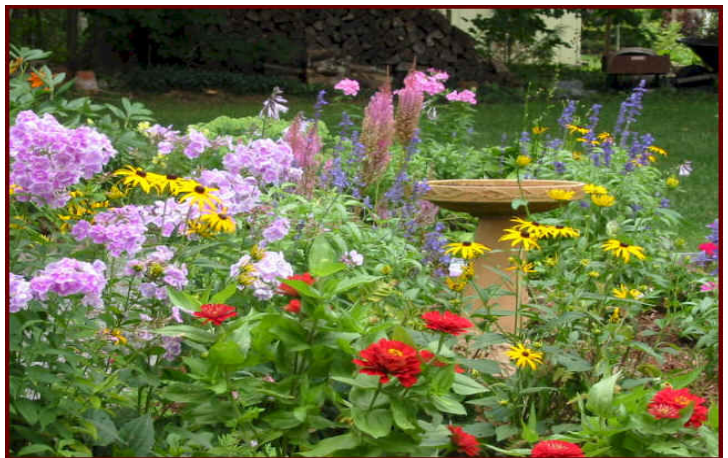
spigots and hoses. For several years, he's also acted as our Webmaster, designing and maintaining the Prairie Hills Web site (prairiehillshomes.org). He's also the one who reviews plans for additions and new construction to make sure that they comply with deed restrictions. And he finds time to help cook burgers and brats at our picnics, too.

Mark, who works as an engineer for Black & Veatch, has led our homes association in other ways. In 2003, he joined the Prairie Hills Homes Association Board of Directors and served as president for two years. His tenure was characterized by efficiency and effectiveness.

In keeping with his no-nonsense style, when he faced a work travel schedule that would keep him away from meetings, without fanfare, he tendered his resignation in January. But, in keeping with his devotion to this neighborhood, he asked to keep most of his duties.

According to his official notice, "...I would like to keep the Islands, Asset management (fountain cover, statuary, signs, etc.), picnic cook, and the Web site as part of my duties." And he advised us to "consider a combined committee like Asset Maintenance or some other clever title which would include taking care of those things the residents see each day."

So, we've appointed him our Treasured Keeper of the Hills. And we all look forward to encountering him taking care of those things the residents see each day.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ~ PANCAKES AND POSSIBILITIES

I'm happy to report that the average age on the Prairie Hills Board of Directors has gone in the last couple of years. Some younger residents have stepped up to serve the neighborhood. With them have come new ideas and new energy. You'll see them reflected in programs designed to attract younger families. Our younger directors wanted a less formal event for our annual meeting, for example. And they wanted to take advantage of the hospitality of our neighbors. So, this year the annual meeting will be a free pancake breakfast at Cherokee Christian Church, which has graciously provided free space for us.

This year has seen the mark of youth in other ways, as well. Wesley Piercy launched the wildly successful leaf-raking service and was almost swept away the

response. Craig Johns and Cory White started Movie Nights in the park, which you'll see more of this summer.

We hope you'll take advantage of the new offerings or at least let us know if we're focusing our energy in the right direction. Both the younger and the not-so-young board members have the same objective: to use our resources—your dues—to provide the services that will provide the most benefit to the most residents.

So let us know how you like the changes—by attending events, signing up for our services or just dropping us a note.

—Loring Leifer, president
PHHA Board of Directors

MAKE EARTH DAY DIFFERENT - SMALL CHANGES MEAN A LOT

To celebrate Earth Day, make a few small changes in your daily routine:

1. Leave your car in the garage and take a bike, bus or subway to work.

You'll help reduce smog, tone your abs and calves, and improve others' health, too. During the 1996 Olympics, Atlanta slashed traffic by providing more mass transit and restricting car use. The number of people hospitalized for asthma attacks plummeted.

2. If you have to drive, set up a carpool. Leaving your car at home just two days a week can reduce your carbon dioxide emissions by 1,590 pounds per year.

3. Pack your lunch with reusable containers, cloth napkins and silverware. Americans throw out about 4.4 pounds of trash every day - nearly twice as much as in 1960! Reusing items helps reduce the need for landfills, cuts trash-handling costs and conserves energy.

3. Wash clothes in cold water and hang them to dry. If you do this for a year, you'll save money on your energy bill and prevent the release of half a ton of carbon dioxide, a global warming pollutant.

4. Buy energy-efficient light bulbs. Stop by the store on Earth Day, and

stock up on compact fluorescent bulbs. Next time you change a bulb, you can start saving 500 pounds of carbon dioxide and \$30 a year!

And, share this list with your friends and family.



NEW COALITION IDENTIFIES ISSUES FOR OLDER SUBURBS

The principal issue facing first suburbs is the age of public and private infrastructure. First suburbs are where a majority of the housing was built shortly after World War II with limited undeveloped land.

This not only presents maintenance problems, but also even well-maintained buildings are often obsolete in terms of modern standards.

To continue to attract and retain families and

businesses, first suburbs need to find ways not only to maintain their housing, business structures and utilities, but also to renew and revitalize these facilities for the future.

The First Suburbs Coalition has identified three key issues:

- Modernizing housing stock.
- Attracting and retaining businesses.
- Maintaining and

upgrading an aging public infrastructure.

The First Suburbs Coalition created the **First Suburbs Handbook** to identify some tools and resources available to first suburbs and to identify examples of first suburb communities successfully using these tools.

You can get a copy of the handbook online at marc.org/handbook.pdf

NEW NEIGHBORS IN PRAIRIE HILLS

Joshua Byrd
3705 W. 71st St.

Matthew Clayton
7437 Cherokee Dr.

Courtney Daly
3003 W. 71st Terr.

Audrey Davis
7353 Canterbury

William & Christina
Gautreaux
2314 W. 71st St.

John Gray
7208 Cherokee Dr.

J.A. & M.C. Lichty
3704 W. 71st St.

Jeffrey & Jean Pieheler
2704 W. 71st St.

Jeff & Carla Preuss
2921 W. 74th St.



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for details.**

PRAIRIE HILLS HOMES ASSOCIATION 2008-2009 BUDGET

	Proposed 2008-09	Approved 2007-08	Estimated 2007-08	Income Statement Terms
INCOME				
Base Assessment	\$16,300.00	\$16,300.00	\$16,277.14	Dues collected from members.
Interest on Investments	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,646.67	Interest earned on invested funds.
Interest on Assessments	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$424.20	Late fees assessed from past due accounts.
Other Income	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	Income from event charges or for special services such as reviewing house plans.
Annual Meeting Income	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	
Total Income	\$18,450.00	\$18,450.00	\$18,348.01	
EXPENSES				
Administration	\$5,463.12	\$5,304.00	\$5,463.12	Fees paid to the Homes Association of the Country Club District for administrative and office services.
Annual Meeting	\$1,200.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,308.77	Funds used to defray cost of sponsoring the PHHA Annual Meeting.
Computer Services	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$626.18	Fees charged by HACCD for use of computer, such as printing labels.
Insurance	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$184.00	
Legal Services/Taxes	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$40.00	Fees to maintain our not-for-profit status.
Island Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,772.90	Costs of island upkeep and improvement, including plants and statue maintenance.
Capital Improvements	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	Permanent improvements made to the neighborhood.
Postage	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,371.07	
Social Activities	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$702.66	Costs for the garage sale, board meetings, and other PHHA activities.
Annual Picnic	\$1,000.00	\$800.00	\$922.97	
Directories	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,459.38	Directory of residents published every other year.
Newsletters	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$724.46	Costs to print the newsletter. Volunteers do all the writing, layout, and design.
New Neighbor Meetings	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	
Holiday Tour	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$576.20	Costs associated with board and HACCD meetings
Stationary/Supplies	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$200.00	
A/R Written Off	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$26.26	
Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12.06	Uncollected interest on assessments.
	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$62.75	Miscellaneous expenses may arise, including photocopying and other unanticipated expenses.
Total Expenses	\$18,213.12	\$18,654.00	\$21,452.78	
BALANCE	\$236.88	-\$204.00	-\$3,104.77	

PHHA BALANCE SHEET FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

	FY Ending March 2007	FY Ending March 2008
Assets		
Cash in bank	\$15,568.92	\$11,651.08
Certificate of deposit	10,500.60	11,365.76
Accounts receivable	1,870.19	2,211.24
Deposits with HACCD	3,300.00	3,300.00
Total Assets	\$31,239.71	\$28,528.08
Liabilities		
Accounts payable to HACCD	<u>\$2,177.34</u>	<u>\$1,915.22</u>
Total Liabilities	\$2,177.34	\$1,915.22
Reserves		
Retained earnings	\$29,585.55	\$29,062.37
Current earnings	<u>\$-523.18</u>	<u>\$-2,449.51</u>
Total Reserves	\$29,062.37	\$26,612.86
Total Liabilities & Re-serves	<u>\$31,239.71</u>	<u>\$28,528.08</u>

PRAIRIE HILLS HOME SCAN

- 29 Properties have sold in the past year.
- The highest sales price was \$720,000.
- The average sales price of the 29 homes calculates to \$222,435.
- The average number of days on the market has been 80 days.



WHO'S WHO IN PRAIRIE HILLS

Board of Directors

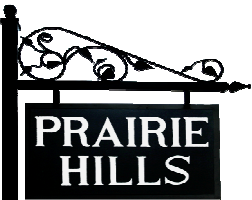
President	Loring Leifer, 831.7272 leifer@sprintmail.com
Vice President	Wesley Piercy, 488.0566 wesley@wesleypiercy.com
Secretary	Colleen Duggan, 236.4851 plazaart@hotmail.com
Treasurer	John McMahon, 831.6192 jmcMahon@primary.net
Directors	Marsha Bjerkan, 362.2136 bjerkan@aol.com Craig Johns, 362.5444 craig@craig-sara.
Alt. Director	Cory White, 831.2829 coryawhite@hotmail.com

Committee Chairs

Communications	Loring Leifer
Holiday Homes	Jane Argotsinger, 789-8125
Islands/Maintenance	Mark Stiles, 384.3095 stilesmp@aol.com
Directory	Loring Leifer
Newsletter	Wesley Piercy
New Neighbor Welcome	Bev Vyhanek, 362.7397
Garage Sale	Marsha Bjerkan
Volunteer Coordination	Greg Colston, 722.0165 gcolston@kclife.com

Meeting Schedule

The PHHA Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the Prairie Village Municipal Offices, 7700 Mission Road. All meetings are open to PHHA residents.



**PRAIRIE
HILLS**

HOMES ASSOCIATION

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www.prairiehillshomes.org



**Wesley
Piercy**



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