Norton Hills Estates Recreation Association

October 2007 Newsletter

By Stan Miller – pres@nhera.org – 780-9219

Members Elect Patrick Andress as New Treasurer

Patrick Andress was elected as your neighborhood association's new treasurer at our annual meeting Sept. 25, the first new officer in three years.

Patrick replaces Stacy Sewick, who served five years, beginning just four months after she and her family moved to the neighborhood.

Stacy was instrumental in getting the association back in good standing with the state, and in arranging for regular maintenance of our park and walkway. She also helped arrange all three block parties after we resurrected that old tradition. And she computerized the association's checkbox, even going back a year before her term began, which will simplify Patrick's job and that of future treasurers.

Unfortunately, Stacy couldn't attend the annual meeting, but the ovation she got in absentia there was well deserved. I want to thank Stacy for all she's done for the association, and all she's done for me to make my job as president easier over the years.

Patrick has been club manager of the Muskegon Yacht Club since 2005, where he manages most daily aspects of the club's operations. He's also an ambassador for the Muskegon Chamber of Commerce and has served on committees for the Grand Haven Arts Council and the United Way.

As Patrick's first job as association treasurer, he's agreed to evaluate our insurance on the deck and stairs.

He and Skeeter Parkhouse live at 2241 Pleasant Hill; you can reach him at treas@nhera.org or 740-1928. Thanks for stepping up to fill this important role, Patrick!

Dues Held at $75; Next Annual Meeting to be Wednesday

Residents at the 2007 annual meeting voted unanimously to hold annual dues steady at $75 for 2008.

There was a motion to reduce the 2008 dues back to $50 now that construction of the deck and stairs is complete, but that motion died for lack of a second.

The annual dues notices will arrive in your mailbox in early February. Please pay promptly to avoid late fees and to save your volunteer board members the trouble and expense of following up.

Other Officers Re-elected

Vice President Joe McNarland, Secretary Barb Miller and I as president were re-elected without opposition. Joe starts his seventh term, and I start my fourth term. Barb says this year, her sixth, will be her last.

Bylaws Amended to Move Annual Meeting

Also at the annual meeting, the Board of Directors voted 10-0 with four members absent to amend the bylaws to move our annual meeting to the last Wednesday in September, instead of the last Tuesday. I suggested that change because the Norton Shores City Council meets on Tuesdays, and for two of the last three annual meetings there's been a City Council meeting I should have attended as your president but could not. The conflict also makes it difficult to get the mayor or other city officials to attend our annual meeting, which we'd like to do every couple of years.

The change means that the 2008 annual meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 24.

We do not plan to republish the bylaws booklet for this one-word change. The bylaws on our Web site have been updated; if you'd like to correct your own copy, the change is to section 4.1. If you don't have a copy of the bylaws, please contact your block chair or Secretary Barb Miller at secy@nhera.org or 780-9219.

Poelmans Attend, Discuss Plans for Entrance Pillars Along Driveway to Beach

We invited the four neighbors along the driveway to the deck to attend our annual dinner as thanks for tolerating construction debris, noise and inconvenience. I'm glad Gary and Gloria Poelman accepted; they live in the middle one of the three houses north of the driveway. Mr. Poelman talked about his plans to build pillars and low, sloping walls beside the driveway to make it look more like the private road it is and make the entrance look nicer. Residents at the meeting were supportive, and I spoke in favor of the plans at a city Zoning Commission meeting the next day. The Poelmans aren't sure when work will begin, but he told the Zoning Commission he hopes it's complete this fall.

Software for New Treasurer

Residents also voted to spend up to $250 to purchase computer software to be used by the association treasurer. The software will be licensed to the association, and will help the treasurer maintain the association's accounts electronically.

Legal Work

Residents also voted to spend up to $2,500 to clarify some legal issues surrounding the deck and beach stairs and the driveway to it. This does not result from any problems or complaints, but from a lack of appropriate records.

Finances: Jan. 1-Sept. 25, 2007

Income	
Association Dues	10,537.00
Lot Sales Fees	250.00
Directory Ad Sales	95.00
Interest Income	394.55
Total Income	**$11,276.55**
Expenses	
Activities	1,025.86
Depreciation	760.00
Filing Fees	20.00
Insurance	657.00
Licenses/Permits	50.00
Maintenance	952.68
Post Office Box	40.00
Postage & Delivery	140.01
Printing & Reprod.	404.92
Taxes	525.80
Total Expenses	**$ 4,576.27**
Net income	**$ 6,305.73**
Current Assets	**$ 8,447.83**
Fixed Assets	**$24,802.72**
TOTAL ASSETS	**$33,250.55**

Your 2007-08 Neighborhood Board of Directors

President
Stan Miller – 780-3219, pres@nhera.org

Vice President
Joe McNarland – 780-4394, veep@nhera.org

Secretary
Barb Miller – 780-9219, secy@nhera.org

Treasurer
Patrick Andress – 740-1928, treas@nhera.org

Block Chairs
Bellaire: Brent McCarthy – Bellaire@nhera.org. **Blissfield:** Jenny Opfermann– 780-4786. Blissfield@nhera.org. **Bloomfield:** Rachael Ernvall – 780-0207, Bloomfield@nhera.org. **Dunecrest:** Barb Miesch – 780-4099, Dunecrest@nhera.org. **Dunes:** Sue Schuiteman– 780-5427, Dunes@nhera.org. **Lower Norcrest:** Herm Zuidema, 780-2012. **Upper Norcrest:** Patty Robinson – 780-3328, UpperNorcrest@nhera.org. **North Hilltop:** Fern Anderegg – 780-5101, NorthHilltop@nhera.org. **Pleasant Hill:** Ken Taylor – 780-9482, PleasantHill@nhera.org. **South Hilltop:** Deb Minner – 780-1182, SouthHilltop@nhera.org.

Norton Hills Estates, Hathaway Court to Join Forces for Spring Beach Cleanup; Committee Volunteers Wanted

Neighborhood residents will join residents of Hathaway Court in spring to clean up the beach.

Hathaway Court President Craig Lowe approached me with this idea in September. I liked it, and passed along the suggestion at the annual meeting. Almost half the residents at that meeting said they'd volunteer for the cleanup, so we'll do it.

The two neighborhood associations will provide trash bags and other supplies. And we'll probably provide refreshments, maybe even a picnic lunch.

If you're willing to serve on a small committee to make arrangements for this cleanup, please contact me at pres@nhera.org or 780-9219. The committee will work with Hathaway Court representatives to pick a date, decide how much of the beach to clean, arrange for food and drinks, etc. It shouldn't be a big commitment; I'd expect this committee to meet at most three times between now and the cleanup.

You'll hear more about this in early spring, and I hope you'll come help us clean the beach!

✸ ✸ ✸ Briefly ✸ ✸ ✸

No cars allowed on beach driveway. Several teenagers were seen driving cars up the driveway to our beach this summer and fall. That is not allowed; only residents of the two homes along that driveway are allowed to drive up there. And absolutely no parking is allowed for neighborhood residents anywhere along that driveway. Our neighbors along the driveway are reluctant to call the police about these violations – but I've asked them to call me, and I will not hesitate to call the police and to have parked cars towed immediately at their owner's expense.

Sewer work complete. Thanks to the city and Jackson-Merkey Contractors Inc., construction of a new sewage lift station and accompanying road work at Dunes Parkway and Pleasant Hill was completed ahead of schedule in September. Resident Nancy Rogers, who lives on that corner, reports that the contractors were polite, kept the work site clean, laid new sod to repair the lawn and repaired the sprinkler system inevitably damaged by the work. And I'm pleased to see the new sidewalk extended all the way to the street, with a curb cut.

Please keep sidewalks clear. In several places around the neighborhood, low tree branches force neighbors to duck or detour, and overgrown bushes block sidewalks in several other places. Please trim your trees and bushes to keep your sidewalk clear. Association rules require this, and those rules will be enforced when complaints are received.

New to the neighborhood? Did you receive a welcome packet? If not, contact your block chair or Secretary Barb Miller at 780-9219 or secy@nhera.org.

Questions or Comments? Contact President Stan Miller at 780-9219 or pres@nhera.org,
or see your neighborhood directory or www.nhera.org to reach other officers or your block chair.