Norton Hills Estates Recreation Association

August 2011 Newsletter

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

Neighborhood Board Changes, More Changes Coming

Jennifer Christman, who was elected vice president at the 2010 annual meeting, succeeded to president this month after Scott Sewick resigned.

At that annual meeting in September 2010, residents elected Scott as president, Jennifer as vice president, and Jason Maginty as secretary, and re-elected Tom Sanocki as treasurer.

After Scott's resignation, the Board of Directors asked me to fill the vacancy at vice president, and I agreed to do so until this year's annual meeting.

That means we'll need at least a new vice president this September. There's also a vacancy for a block chair for Bloomfield Court after Rachael Ernvall and her family moved out of town.

Soon you'll be asked to approve a change in the structure of the neighborhood board. If that change passes, we'll also be looking for people to lead the new Maintenance and Shareholders committees.

The Maintenance Committee will be responsible for securing lawn care services for the park and other common areas each spring, responding to any maintenance issues that arise, and obtaining bids for any special projects that may come up.

The Shareholders Committee will be responsible for welcoming new residents to the neighborhood; ensuring they get copies of the neighborhood directory, bylaws and rules; and arranging the annual meeting.

Only a small time commitment is needed to serve on or even chair either committee. Please contact Jennifer to volunteer for either committee, or as block chair for Bloomfield Court if you live there; you can reach her at pres@nhera.org or 747-7222.

Garage Sale, Chili Cook-off, Block Party, Board Meetings Fill Neighborhood Calendar

The second neighborhood garage sale of 2011 is set for Saturday, Aug. 13. As always, your neighborhood association will place ads in the Muskegon Chronicle and put up sale signs in the area, and will arrange for a charity to pick up donations at your curb on the following Monday, Aug. 15.

On Sunday, Sept. 25, the Activities Committee plans a combination block party and chili cook-off starting at 4 p.m. Favorites from past block parties will be back, including a bounce house, sidewalk games and more, and the best cook will win a prize. Watch for details in the coming weeks.

The Board of Directors plans to meet Tuesday, Sept. 13, and Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Tom and Diane Jones, 2311 North Hilltop Drive. Residents are welcome to attend; please contact Diane at 780-0273 or northhilltop@nhera.org to let her know you're coming. Board meetings for 2012 are set for March 13, June 5 and Sept. 11, all Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m., tentatively at the Joneses; watch future newsletters for any changes.

The annual meeting is Sept. 28; see back for details.

Most Residents Paid 2011 Dues on Time; 2 Still Unpaid

Most residents paid their annual association dues for 2011 on time, and all but two paid dues and late fees before the final deadline. Thank you for your support!

The Board of Directors has waived part of a late fee for one family whose check was postmarked on the due date but arrived several days later, and is exploring options to collect from one family who has ignored repeated notices and phone calls.

If you spend winters elsewhere, please be sure the Board knows where to send your dues notices, which are mailed out in late January each year. You're also welcome to pay your dues ahead of time, with a post-dated check if you wish.

The Board reminds the tiny fraction of residents who think we don't need a neighborhood association that without one, none of us would have beach access or a park and playground. Those amenities enhance the value of every homeowner's property by a lot more than $70 a year, and they come with some responsibilities like paying taxes on and insuring and maintaining them.

Review the financial statements published in every newsletter to see where your money goes. If you truly believe you don't get $70 worth of value a year from your neighborhood association, please don't take your frustration out on our volunteer treasurer. Come to the annual meeting and convince your neighbors to lower the dues.

Speaking of our treasurer, a reminder that it is a federal offense to put things in a mailbox to avoid paying postage on them. If you need to hand-deliver your dues or any other correspondence, please ring the bell.

Join Us for a Free Dinner: Annual Meeting Sept. 28

We'll return to House of Chan for our 2011 annual meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Dinner is free to all residents in good standing, including one drink. A cash bar will be open for additional drinks for those not driving.

You must tell us you're coming by Sept. 25 so that we can provide an accurate count to the restaurant. Contact Secretary Jason Maginty at 738-6354 or secy@nhera.org to RSVP.

The meeting room will open at 6 p.m. for socializing. Dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the meeting will start at 7 p.m. and end no later than 9 p.m. On the agenda:

- Setting dues for 2012
- Election of officers and, tentatively, committee chairs

2011 Finances

Through July 27

Income	
Dues	$10,429.61
Interest	112.84
Total Income	**$10,542.45**
Expenses	
Depreciation	570.00
Lawn care	381.00
Post Office Box rental	44.00
Printing and Reproduction	65.11
Total Expenses	**$ 1,060.11**
Net Income	**$ 9,482.34**
Cash Balance	**$15,247.86**
CD Balance	**$14,290.84**

Board of Directors

President
Jennifer Christman – 747-7222, pres@nhera.org

Vice President
Stan Miller – 780-9219, veep@nhera.org

Secretary
Jason Maginty – 310-738-6354, secy@nhera.org

Treasurer
Tom Sanocki – 780-5406, treas@nhera.org

Activities Committee Chair
Deanna Vander Ploeg – activities@nhera.org

Block Chairs
Bellaire: Brent McCarthy – 780-0476, Bellaire@nhera.org. **Blissfield:** Jenny Opfermann – 780-4786, Blissfield@nhera.org. **Bloomfield:** Vacant. **Dunecrest:** Barb Miesch – 780-4099, Dunecrest@nhera.org. **Dunes:** Sue Schuiteman – 780-5427, Dunes@nhera.org. **Lower Norcrest:** Herm Zuidema, 780-2012. **Upper Norcrest:** Deanna Vander Ploeg, 780-2072, UpperNorcrest @nhera.org. **North Hilltop:** Diane Jones, 780-0273, NorthHilltop@nhera.org. **Pleasant Hill:** Ken Taylor – 780-9482, PleasantHill@nhera.org. **South Hilltop:** Deb Minner – 780-1182, SouthHilltop@nhera.org.

Briefly

Leave the beach clean. Please bring your trash back up from the beach and dispose of it properly. Remember that your neighborhood association and the Hathaway Court association share only 50 feet of beach, and that property lines on the beach are not easy to recognize; please be considerate of the neighbors north and south of our property.

Watch and report. Please be alert to any suspicious activity and report it promptly to the police. Trouble in our neighborhood is quite rare, but it pays to be vigilant, especially with a few vacant homes in the neighborhood. Simple steps like closing your garage door and locking your doors can eliminate opportunities for mischief.

Bids wanted for improvements. The Board of Directors is seeking bids and estimates for resurfacing the tennis court, and for building stairs on the path at the end of Bloomfield Court. If you know someone who works in concrete resurfacing or in deck building, please contact a board member.

Bylaws proposal upcoming. Watch your mail or doorstep for a proposal to amend the bylaws to shrink the Board of Directors to a more manageable size and clearly define who is responsible for some neighborhood tasks. This is an important step toward ensuring timely completion of some jobs that were delayed this year and ensuring that no one volunteer has too much to do. Please return your ballot promptly once you receive it.

Questions or Comments? Contact President Jennifer Christman at 747-7222 or pres@nhera.org, or see your neighborhood directory or www.nhera.org to reach other officers or your block chair.