
Spring Meadows / Long Lake Meadows Homeowners Newsletter

Web Site: www.lismha.org

April 2010

Members of the Board:

President, Sandy Paci 248-813-1611
E-mail - president@lismha.org

Vice President, Faris Qussar 248-250-9172
E-mail - vicepresident@lismha.org

Secretary, Mary Tsacoumangos 248-879-2369
E-mail - secretary@lismha.org

Treasurer, Ken Risko 248-879-3483
E-mail - treasurer@lismha.org

Trustees (alphabetical order):

Terry Belter, Joyce Entrekin, Tom Field, Matt Kukla, Greg Larson, Alex LaVoie-McGregor, Lisa Nalette, Roberta Masters, and Barb Vleko

MEET THE BOARD



FRONT ROW:

Left to right: Mary Tsacoumangos, Sandy Paci, Faris Qussar, Ken Risko

BACK ROW:

Left to right: Roberta Masters, Joyce Entrekin, Terry Belter, Alex LaVoie-McGregor, Tom Field, Lisa Nalette, Richard Kruszewski, Greg Larson

NOT PICTURED:

Matt Kukla, Barb Vleko

CHANGES IN BOARD / LEADERSHIP

The LLSM Board has had some changes in leadership. We would like to thank Lisa Nalette (former President) and Roberta Masters (former Treasurer) for their hard work over the past six years in bringing the Association back to life. Their hard efforts are appreciated by the new officers and trustees and we continue to lean on their experience to insure a smooth transition. Roger Labataille resigned from the Board in October 2009 and Richard Kruszewski resigned in April 2010. Thanks to Roger and Richard for all their hard efforts over the years. If you would like to volunteer for the Board, please contact one of the officers.

BY-LAWS AND BUILDING USE RESTRICTIONS UPDATES

Please look in your mailbox in the May / June timeframe for further information on the revisions to the documents for the Association. We are targeting having ballots and updated documents along with some questions and answers based on feedback received from the Homeowners who attended the annual meeting last fall. After the last annual meeting, we had several homeowners step forward to join the Board and we have been working diligently on the documents. Please note that we are all working to protect the Association and insure that we continue to live in a beautifully maintained subdivision. The Board has had some emotionally exhausting conversations as we are a passionate group of individuals working for all Homeowners.

ACCOUNT STATEMENTS

We still have a few Homeowners who have failed to pay their account statements for the past couple of years. Please contact us and let us know if there is anything we can do to help in payment arrangements. Our goal is to work with everyone. We understand that these are especially trying times and Association accounts will often take a backseat to more personal, important issues.

As a reminder, please allow sufficient processing time of at least one week to clear all files for bank closings. Thank you for your assistance.

2009 HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

The following three families won the 2009 Holiday Decorating Contest:

- 1st Place: Mark and Alex Ignasiak – 5358 Standish
- 2nd Place: Brad and Susanna Robinson - 5206 Saffron
- 3rd Place: Brian and Dianne Bonnici – 5377 Standish

Thanks to all in our community who decorated for the Holidays! We continue to be amazed at the decorations and we know it brings a smile to everyone!

NEW NEIGHBORS IN OUR ASSOCIATION? WELCOME HOME!

Several houses have been sold over the past few months and we are excited to see this level of activity in the area. Please let the Welcome Wagon (welcomewagon@llsmha.org) know if someone moves in next to your home or even down the street so that we can welcome our new neighbors. If you are new, WELCOME to a great neighborhood! (Please refer to the section in the Newsletter on “*Neighborhood News*” for additional information regarding the Welcome Wagon.) If a home is empty near you or you are aware that the home is now in foreclosure, let the Board know so that we can keep “an eye” on the property.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Fences and sheds - One of the very nice things about our neighborhood is that 99 percent of the homeowners follow the Building and Use Restrictions 99 percent of the time. Only a few homeowners who “slipped under the wire” many years ago when the Association was formed violated the Use Restrictions with a fence around their backyard or with a free-standing shed. Some homes have wrought iron fences surrounding their pool. This is due to the city ordinance for fencing around pool structures which overrides the rules of our Association. This is the only exception. Please continue to honor your Building and Use Restrictions so that we may all continue to enjoy living in a beautiful subdivision free of barriers and unattractive structures.

New to the neighborhood - *Welcome!* Documentation related to the rules of the Homeowners Association (the By-laws) as well as the Building and Use Restrictions were signed for by the original home buyers at the closing with the developer. It is then the responsibility of the homeowner to pass on this paperwork to any future homebuyer upon sale of the property. If you are new to the neighborhood and did not receive this paperwork, please e-mail the secretary who will make arrangements in providing you with the requested information. Also, please be sure to provide our webmaster at register@llsmha.org with your contact information; i.e. name, address, home phone number, and e-mail address so we can update our records.

Welcome Wagon - Through the volunteer efforts of Becky Garity and Sandy Paci, a community Welcome Wagon is available. Questions or comments regarding the Welcome Wagon can be directed to welcomewagon@llsmha.org. The Welcome Wagon delivers miscellaneous documentation pertaining to the Association.

Keep eyes and ears open - Please continue to monitor the “box” under the postal mail box by insuring that the box is cleared from flyers, advertisements, newspapers, etc. An empty box will alert those driving or walking in the subdivisions that homeowners want a safe neighborhood--all part of the “neighborhood watch.” If one of these unattended mail boxes is in your cluster, perhaps a knock on the “guilty” home will alert them to oversee the box.

Moving out - Please note that if you are selling your home in the Spring Meadows / Long Lake Meadows subdivision, at closing your real estate agent may require a document from the Board indicating that your annual Association dues have been paid. This is commonly referred to as “proof of assessment payment for sellers.” If you require this documentation for your home sale, please contact the treasurer. Please provide at least a week to turn around the request to insure that your closing is not delayed.

Door-to-door sales people - Please be aware of the “fly-by-night” individuals soliciting the work they “do”; for example, windows, roofing, tree service, etc. Do your homework before you sign any contract or payment as it may save you agony and disappointment in the long run.

Lawn maintenance - We have resourced our lawn maintenance in the pond area and common areas to a new vendor for 2010. The new provider has given us a very competitive price which is saving the Association money from the previous provider. We are excited to be working with this professional landscaping company, Decorative Lawn Care. Please provide any feedback to the officers.

WEB SITE UPDATE

Our Association web site continues to grow. If you've never viewed it or it's been a while, please take a moment to click through the many “pages.” The web site is intended to provide several functions to our community: a means of keeping up on current events, a reference for homeowners needing information about community functions and documents, a link to the Board of Directors, and a resource of providing a historical archive of the community.

Please review the online archives for our community. If you find that you have Association documents that are not listed on our site, please contact the Board so we can insure they are added to our archive as well.

We are always interested in providing more value to our community through the web site. If you have any suggestions to add content or improve the homeowner's experience, please let us know via e-mail at webmaster@llsmha.org or contact a member on the Board.

WEB SITE UPDATE (continued)

Register your e-mail - The number of homes registered to date is 31 percent and the goal is 100 percent. Please help us reduce our mailing costs by registering your e-mail address at register@llsmha.org. Your e-mail address will only be used for Association updates and newsletters and will only be available to members of the Board for use in distributing mass mailings. The communication of dues, annual meetings, and other official Association business will continue to be done through the U.S. mail. Provide your name and full home address as this information will save time and money. If your e-mail ever changes, send an update to register@llsmha.org.

Advertise with us - Please consider advertising your own business or service on the community web site. For \$10 a year (\$5 for kids) you can add your information with a link to our Marketplace. Babysitting, lawn care, home repair, whatever it may be, get the word out through us! Be sure to support our community by checking regularly for local merchants and service providers at http://www.llsmha.org/Community_Marketplace.html.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Beautification day - Whether you have or don't have a green thumb, put on your dungarees and join the Board at this year's beautification day -- Saturday, May 22. Mark your calendar and join your neighbors in an effort to improve the entryways and islands in the cul-de-sacs. Bring your tools and garden gloves and meet the "landscape artists" at 8 am at the pond entrance on Crowfoot Drive. The more people who show up, more tasks can be accomplished in a shorter span of time. With just a couple of hours work, the community will have beautiful landscaped areas to enjoy year around! Beverages will be provided to those who come. Direct your questions to Sandy Paci.

Patriotic parade - On Saturday, July 3, at 10 am the parade begins at Wass Elementary School and winds through the subdivision to celebrate America's birthday. Wear your true American colors -- red, white, and blue!!

Ice cream social - The date for this year's ice cream social has not been confirmed. Details will be posted on the web site as soon as they become available.

Homeowners annual meeting - This year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, at 7 pm, location to be announced as soon as possible. The meeting will give the Board the opportunity to look back at the past year's accomplishments, review expenses over the past year, detail the Association's full financial picture, and answer questions or concerns. Feel free to reach out to a member of the Board with your inquiries. Hope to see you there! Updated information regarding the annual meeting will be posted on the web site and in your mailbox as the date approaches.

Halloween parade - The parade has not been scheduled yet. Additional details will be posted on the web site as soon as they become available.

Holiday decorating contest - The date for this year's holiday decorating contest has not been confirmed. Details will be posted on the web site as soon as they become available.

MISCELLANEOUS

Remember, the web site will contain the latest information regarding the activities noted above as well as new ones. If you don't have access to a computer, don't be bashful in calling a member of the Board and inquire as to the "*what's happening in the subdivision.*" As always, the Board welcomes the input and assistance of the entire Association. Feel free to reach out to the Board through the e-mail address listed on the first page of the Newsletter or give them a call.

