

*Barrington Cottage Homes*  
*Property Owners Association, Inc.*

*Newsletter*

*May 2019*

Spring....Spring....Spring at last!!! Our first mowing and spring cleanup was completed on April 15th. We have a new lawn service provider this year. Vargas Brothers, the same company that provided the snow removal this past winter, was awarded a one year contract for lawn maintenance. Their crew did an excellent job on snow removal as well as the spring cleanup and we anticipate receiving the same quality of service throughout this mowing season. Please bear in mind, there may be a learning process involved for the new crew as to areas that require special consideration due to obstructions, limited access and poor drainage.

Our entrance stone survived the winter but several plants around it did not. If anyone would like to volunteer to help keeps the area looking good by weeding and watering, please let Stephany know. We would like to turn this over to a committee who has "green thumbs".

We have another new vendor, Lake and Pond Biologists, who will be putting in and taking out our pond fountain. We put the fountain in the pond a little earlier this year than in the past to help mix all the spring rain water we have been getting which in turn should help curtail the algae growth.

Pre-emergent crabgrass preventer and early spring fertilizer was applied on April 10th. This first treatment does not kill weeds or dandelions. It only helps to prevent crabgrass and get the lawn started growing again. A second treatment will be applied in the near future that does address the weeds. A word, the pre-emergent also prevents new grass seeds from germinating for those wanting to seed and fill in the bare spots. If you intend to reseed, you need to scratch the ground, apply a thin layer of topsoil and then seed on top of it to get new grass to germinate and grow. The pre-emergent will not stop the new grass from taking root but the seeds need to germinate in fresh soil. An alternative is to wait until fall to do your reseeding when the pre-emergent is no longer a factor.

**Our Annual Meeting will be held on June 05, 2019, at 7 pm** at Augustana Lutheran Church located at 207 Kelly St, Hobart, IN. Ratification of the proposed 2020 Budget will be on the agenda as well as an election held for board members. Our board is comprised of 5 members with an election held at each annual meeting to re-elect or replace 2 members one year and 3 members the following year.

This year's election will be for 3 board members. Beth Evans, (current secretary), Gene Reisinger (current Treasurer) and Keith Hall have listed their names as candidates. If you would like to serve on the board, please call Stephany to have her place your name on the list of candidates. An updated interested candidate list will be posted on our Website on June 1st prior to the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

\*\*\*Included in this mailing is the official notice of the meeting date, proxies for each residence including an addressed stamped return envelope, the proposed 2020 budget and a copies of last years (2018) and this years 2019 expenditures to date. **Please bring your copies of the Budget information to the meeting for discussion.**



As we have done for the past 3 years, we again ask that every residence, regardless of your intent to attend the meeting, send in their proxy. This is your community. Your vote does count. For those of you that are new residents, all Proxies remain unopened and will be returned at the door to any owner in attendance in exchange for voting ballot prior to the start of the meeting. The proxy simply insures that we get a majority representation for any matters requiring a vote in the event you are unable to attend.

Please remember an architectural request form needs to be submitted for any landscaping projects or changes to the exterior of your home. Most changes are approved within 2 to 3 days. Our covenants include architectural control to help insure that an alteration that would be objectionable to the majority of homeowners not be done and thus preserve the property values for all homes in the development. Forms are not required for interior changes and/or repairs. In the event that you do proceed with a change without approval, the association has the authority to force you to remove it and/or have it removed at your expense.

Also remember that homeowners are responsible for maintaining their yard. The association is only responsible for mowing and fertilizing the lawns. Weeds need to be removed and shrubs and trees need to be trimmed. Last year, an amendment to the covenants was adopted that require all shrubbery in front of windows be maintained at no more than 1/3 window height and no plantings with exception of trees, shall exceed eave height. The Board will be canvassing the neighborhood checking to see if everyone is in compliance with a clean appearance in accordance with the new amendment. So please get those weeds pulled and shrubs pruned. If you are unable to do your own yard work, our new lawn vendor Vargas Bros. does contract with homeowner's on an individual basis for pruning, trimming, and most landscape work.

Your POA Board was invited to an informational meeting regarding the changes to Bracken Parkway this summer. The City has received a grant from the government to pay for half of the cost (estimated at \$700k dollars) to renovate Bracken Parkway from its entrance at Grand Boulevard to its end at Hobart Road. Work is anticipated to begin on or about August 15th. New pavement, Tree removal/replacement, Sidewalks, Handicap accessibility curbs and additional median crossovers are included in the scheduled improvements.

## **Barrington Cottage Homes Property Owner's Association Inc.**

### **Board of Directors**

Jim Maness	President
Beth Evans	Secretary
Keith Hall	Member
Gene Reisinger	Treasurer
Tom Worthington	Member