

Lake Erie Shores Newsletter July 2009

Painesville Twp, OH



Chuck Hillier - Volunteer Trustee

We had a board meeting the night of June 23rd and discussed numerous issues, most of which involved resolving minor hiccups due to the transition in management companies. The monies from our accounts have changed hands and minus several minor discrepancies, things all look good and accounted for. The meeting was a long one, roughly four hours long as we met with the property manager Bob Guarino and their CFO, Bill Pender.

Good news to report on the Basin line item. We budgeted \$10,000 for cutting of the basins which was based on actual expenditures in 2008. The Landscaping Committee was involved in the process as we sent bids out to five different companies and the lowest bid received back and accepted was from Yardmaster for \$4,200. All five of the basins just received their first cut of the season as it was delayed due to contractual issues but since this was the first cut and the grass was so high, we agreed to a higher charge rate for this cut. However this pans out, it's safe to say that the amount budgeted for this line item will come in way under budget by the end of the year.

On a more somber note our legal expenses YTD are on pace to eclipse last years totals. We understand people are having a rough time getting by but as an Association we have expenses also and when members don't pay, we have to pursue legal action which ultimately costs us money up front. It's a necessary part of our job and protects us all in the long run because if we don't pursue the delinquent accounts then no one would have any motivation to pay.

I present the following information to help you better understand the magnitude of our delinquent account situation. For 2009 we projected income based on maintenance fees of \$167,280 (492 households paying \$340 each). As of May 18th, we still had 139 households delinquent totaling over \$47,000 in delinquencies for 2009 alone (over \$62,000 including past years).

Finally, at the urging of both our management company and our legal counsel, we have adopted a "Collection Policy" pertaining to our annual assessments. This was done so we could standardize our collection practices and ensure that our membership

clearly understands the annual assessment due date and the dates at which additional fees/liens will be implemented.

Beginning January 1, 2010:

- Annual Fees are due January 1st each year.
- If the fees are not paid in full by March 1st, a \$25 late fee will be assessed to your account and again on the 1st of each month subsequent that the account is delinquent.
- If the account is not brought current by July 1st, the Association will instruct our legal counsel to place a lien on the property and we will transfer those costs to your account.

For all accounts delinquent for 2009 ONLY:

- If the account is not brought current by August 1, 2009, a \$25 late fee will assessed to your account.
- If the account is not brought current by September 1, 2009
 - o A lien will placed on the house
 - We will transfer the costs of the lien to your account
 - Your account will be assessed a \$25 late fee on the 1st of each month subsequent the account is delinquent

For all accounts delinquent for years **PRIOR TO 2009**:

- If the account is not brought current immediately, a \$25 late fee will be assessed to your account on the 1st of each month subsequent that the account is delinquent.
- We will be instructing our legal counsel to place a lien on your property and we will transfer those costs to your account.

If you have any concerns, ideas or feedback, please feel free to contact me at home 350-1640 or preferably via email (avcmcchi@sbcglobal.net). See you in the neighborhood.

When we seek to discover the best in others, we somehow bring out the best in ourselves. William A. Ward

John Guinan - Volunteer Trustee

We are in the process of putting together a "Rules Book" for our Association. With the help of our management company, (First Realty Property Management Ltd), we will be replacing some of the detailed legal terminology in the Master Declaration and Code of Regulations and rephrasing it with everyday common language that we all can understand. Every Owner will receive a copy once it is completed.

In lieu of a Rules Book, I thought I would touch on a few things that are pertinent today. Please keep an eye out for any behavior that is illegal, disruptive or a nuisance and contact the Lake County Sheriff as applicable. Remember that we are all entitled to quiet enjoyment and as many residents tell me, often it's not just outsiders that are causing issues in the neighborhoods. One issue very near and dear to my



heart and I want to raise the level of attention to is the apparent chronic increase of speeding in our development. It's summertime and with school out it appears there is an even greater amount of little ones running (literally) up, down and across

the streets. With that being the case, I ask all of us to be a little more cognizant of our speed limit in the development; please slow it down. FYI: the Sheriff's department has been awesome in going to the home of speeders if you give them their license plate number.

Another issue I'm hearing a lot about is the lack of common decency of some people for not picking up after themselves or their guests in the



common areas. Picking up after yourself should be more than self explanatory, this is OUR neighborhood, please be considerate and a good neighbor.

Thank you, and again, to all the volunteers! Have a great Fourth everyone, and a safe summer.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of U-Verse - by Mark Koestner

I remember seeing the big, tan boxes being installed on the corner of Blaise-Nemeth and Bacon Roads over a year ago. My life has not been the same since.

My sister, who lives on the west side, explained to me back then that the boxes were for something called AT&T "U-Verse," a new fiber-optic television service that can also provide home telephone and Internet connections. She ordered the service as soon as it was available, and was enjoying more channels, better picture quality and better digital video recording options than ever before.

She was also paying LESS for her TV, phone and Internet, bundled together. "Wow," I thought to myself back then, "it doesn't get any better than that."

So I noticed when new big, tan boxes were put in further north along Bacon Road. I noticed with even greater interest when new big, tan boxes were installed along Lake Road near the entrance to North Shore Estates. On my way to vote last November, I noticed new big, tan boxes were installed on Hardy Road.

Side note: The real name for the big, tan boxes is "Video Ready Access Device," or VRAD for short. I looked it up. Not that I am obsessed or anything.

Anyway, noticing all these VRADs popping up around Lake Erie Shores, I got excited about the prospect of U-Verse being available IN Lake Erie Shores. I mean, who wasn't?

I started researching the service, learning about all the packages and options you can get. I started adding up the money I would save and dreaming about the day when I could watch the same DVR in up to four rooms of my house. I noted all the HD channels that would soon be available to me, ones I do not have now, and I read more about the great picture.

I was Ralphie in "A Christmas Story." U-verse was my Red Ryder BB gun, and Christmas couldn't get here soon enough. With all those boxes popping up, all of Lake Erie Shores would soon be able to enjoy the glorious U-Verse experience, right?

Wrong.

Most LES residents cannot get U-Verse. I know some of you can, because the AT&T Web site allows you to check availability by typing in an address. You people near Lake Road, I have typed in many of yours and know you can get it.

Curse you.

I stayed patient for a while, checking availability at my own home only once a week or so, and goodnaturedly clicking on the "Yes, notify me when it's available" button every time. Ahh, to re-live those days, when checking availability wasn't a daily must-do for me, when pounding the mouse's left click on the "Yes, notify me" button was an act of hope and not of frustration. Oh, to have back the time spent calling and emailing AT&T, only to find out nobody can tell you anything about when the service becomes available in a particular area.

"The VRADs are a good sign," I was told once.

"I might run into the VRADs with my car," was my response.

Side note: If I DO take out a VRAD with my vehicle, it will be the one on Lake Road, since I know some of you LES residents up there get U-Verse. And, well, curse you.

I heard a rumor from one neighbor that it was coming to all of LES on May 15. May 15 came and went with no U-Verse. And, thanks to some restraint on my part, that neighbor still lives.

I got a little worked up when a DirecTV guy was going door-to-door, remembering having read that AT&T doesn't reveal availability for certain areas because it puts them at a competitive disadvantage. The cable and satellite companies would bombard that area with enticing contract offers right before U-Verse could get launched. I thought it was maybe a sign. It wasn't.

I got excited recently when the U-Verse Web site changed, when there were extra steps on the interface before it just told you "AT&T U-Verse is currently not available at this location." Now I think they changed the site just to mess with me.

I'm pretty sure I will never have AT&T U-Verse at my house. It just must not be in the cards for me. I'm kind of resigned to this fact now.

In fact, my blood barely boils anymore at the thought of my neighbors right up the street from me, sitting back and enjoying great TV, high-speed Internet and phone service while I suffer away down the road – NOT EVEN A HALF-MILE AWAY! – with this old, worn-out technology that I have to pay MORE for! I hope you people know how lucky you are!

Curse you.

Swim, bike and run (for fun of course) – by Jim Sorenson

Swim, bike, run. A triathlon is an event where the participants swim (and hopefully do not drown), bike (and hopefully do not crash)



and then run (and hopefully do not drop dead). Last year I witnessed my first triathlon in person and the

participants ranged in gender (male and female), age (12 to 70+ years old), weight (under 100 to over 350 lbs) and skill (first timers to veterans).

There are multiple triathlon events near our community and some of the events that are close to us are as follows:

- 1. Sunday, July 26: 17th Annual Pirate Triathlon Kayak /Triathlon at Fairport Harbor Beach. [http://www.lakemetroparks.com/programs/Triathlon_Kayak-Triathlon.shtml]
- 2. Sunday, August 2: Cleveland Triathlon held in the downtown Cleveland area [http://www.pacificsportsllc.com/cleveland/athlete.html]
- 3. Sunday, August 9: 2009 Greater Cleveland Triathlon at Headlands State Beach in Mentor [http://www.greaterclevelandtriathlon.com/]

You can rest during any portion of the race (such as walking vs. running). Last year I did my first triathlon event - I signed up on a whim and completed it without (sort of) any divine intervention even though I had not trained for it. There was some intervention though because I had to be towed in from the swimming phase as I could not swim the entire length of the course. I also had to walk during the middle segment of the running phase.

Deed Restrictions: DID YOU KNOW?

Article VII, Section 16u: Rubbish hauling for all homes and townhomes to be handled and arranged by one company for simplicity and cost effectiveness.

• The homeowners association has negotiated a low and fair price with Major Waste Disposal Services

(254-4929) to be the sole provider of waste disposal services in Lake Erie Shores.

- By selecting one company, we help reduce the number of times/days outsiders enter our development looking for "discarded goods" in our trash.
- Be selecting one company, we get our trash picked up on our Common Areas free of charge, thus saving us money annually.
- By selecting one company, we reduce the number of times rodents and wild animals visit our neighborhood scouring for food and also reduce the mess they leave behind.

Please, if you haven't already made the switch to "Major", please do so now. It's a Deed Restriction that truly works for you in many ways.

Yard Waste Drop-off

Yard waste can be taken to the Painesville Township Road Service Garage on Wednesday's [730 AM to 300 PM] and Saturday's [1000 AM to 200 PM]. The location is 558 Fairport Nursery Rd and hours of operation were taken from the latest Township newsletter.

Painesville Township Recycling

The Township currently offers three recycling dropoff locations: (1) Fire Station #1 – 55 Nye Rd, (2) Recycling Center – 141 Bowhall Rd and (3) Near the Service Garage on Post Rd. There are containers for: (1) paper and (2) "everything else."

Resident Articles Wanted

Thanks to the few residents who have already submitted articles to the Lake Erie Shores newsletter. We would like to have more written article input from residents in future issues. Please submit your ideas to newsletter@lakeerieshores.net — articles must be received by the $20^{\rm th}$ of the month in order to be included in the next newsletter.

Contact Information



Lake Erie Shores Web Site www.lakeerieshores.com

Home Owners Association Committees

Welcoming Committee

(welcome@lakeerieshores.net)

Covenants/Restrictions Committee Chair – Bruce Buffie (buffie723@att.net)

Financial Committee Chair - Randy Van Buren (rcvanburen@sbcglobal.net)

Landscaping & Beautification Committee - Dave Spall (davidspall@sbcglobal.net)

Recreation Committee Co-Chairs - Jonathon Adkins (jonsuzannaadkins@sbcglobal.net) and Cory Wertch

Volunteer Coordinator - Paula Haumesser (paulahaumesser@sbcglobal.net)

Newsletter Committee Chair – Jim Sorenson (newsletter@lakeerieshores.net)

Board of Trustees

John Guinan Chuck Hillier aliashenry@aol.com avcmcchi@sbcglobal.net 1575 Clipper Cove 926 Pebble Beach Cove 440-358-1424 440-350-1640

Michael DiSanto

Lake Erie Shores Management Company

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LES Property Manager is Bob Guarino rguarino@firstrealtypm.com