



Newsletter

Board Votes to go with DTE Street Lighting

Inside this issue:

Goose Control	2
Website Update	2
Boats and Trailers	2
Directory Update	2
Lake Treatment Notice	3
Social Chair	4
Lot Cutting Schedule	4
Park Gate	4

Heather Lake Estates Board of Directors

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- Director: Frank Granett (248) 391-9059
- Community Manager: Sue Marcus (248) 935-5394 smarcus515@aol.com

At the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Heather Lake Estates HOA , residents voted overwhelmingly to move forward with a plan to install streetlights at the intersections within the subdivision. The primary motivation was the safety of children waiting for their school buses in the morning.

The Board has actively been investigating two ways to procure the street lighting system: one, where the system is privately owned by HLHA; the other, where DTE Energy owns it. In either case, HLHA would be responsible for the cost to install the system.

The Board initially considered utilizing a DTE street lighting system, but didn't like the fact that DTE doesn't allow the bills for their systems to be paid directly by a homeowner's association . They require the local municipality to pay their bills because DTE doesn't trust the longevity of homeowner's associations. It is also the only way to receive DTE's lowest electrical usage rate . While paying through a municipality sounds easy, Heather Lake Estates sits on the border of Orion and Independence Townships so it quickly gets complicated. Each township will require the establishment of a Special Assessment District (SAD) to re-

cover DTE's bills by adding the appropriate allocation to each homeowner's Winter Tax Bill. Establishing a SAD is a very lengthy, bureaucratic process.

DTE's flat rate billing charge eliminates the need for (14) electrical meters. If HLHA were to own the system, the electric meters would be mounted on pedestals in homeowner's front yards. DTE's installation cost estimate is 30% below the lowest bid received from private electrical contractors (well below the authorized budget), and provides the (20) streetlights in the HLHOA's original plan. Best of all...DTE becomes totally responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of HLHA's streetlights. This includes everything from changing burnt out bulbs, to completely replacing the system at such time it should become necessary. Future Boards would not be burdened with street lighting responsibility.



Given the above, the Board voted to go with the street lighting system from DTE. It should be noted; one drawback in going with DTE is timing. It may take up to two years to complete everything. With a HLHOA privately owned system, installation would have been completed this year. Board President, Russ Fielding is currently working with officials from both townships in an effort to form a joint committee to expedite the HLHOA/DTE street lighting project.

Subdivision Garage Sale

The Subdivision Garage Sale is scheduled for May 30th and 31st between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. To participate, just tie balloons on your mailbox and open your garage. Happy sales! Our thanks to Karen Redick for organizing this event.

Goose Control Program Continues



The Board of Directors approved the Flight Control Program for this season.

Flight Control is a chemical repellent that is applied to the turf and causes digestive irritation to the geese when they feed. It makes the turf inedible so if the geese can't eat, they have no reason to stay.

The results have been very good at the green space in the park. Unfortunately, the product is not effective on beach sand.

The product is being applied by Natural Way of Lake Orion.

The Association continues to participate in the DNR's nest destruction program. Our volunteers, John Hakala and Tom Fifelski, were successful in removing (18) eggs this year. Thank you!

Website Update!

Please check the Heather Lake Estates website for copies of the 2008 Board Meeting Minutes. The Minutes will be posted each month after being approved by the Board of Directors.

Thank you to Gary Werschler, Webmaster, for volunteering your time to keep our subdivision current!

Future website improvements include gathering residents' email addresses to send news bulletins and keep residents up to date on the happenings within the subdivision.

Are you guilty of...

Storing your boat, trailer or RV on your driveway or behind your garage or home?

Please remember that the Covenants and Restrictions strictly prohibit the storage of these vehicles outside of your home.

Each year the Board continues to deal with residents who are in violation. Specifically, the Covenants and Restrictions only allow these ve-

hicle to remain for 24 hours at a time. It's reasonable to take several days to get ready for a vacation and then to unpack afterwards. However, there are residents who have extended these days into weeks and sometimes months.

To those who are keeping boats, trailers and RV's, your neighbors are complaining.



It's time to find a storage facility.

Directory Update Enclosed

Please insert the enclosed Board of Directors update into your blue Heather Lake Estates Community Directory.

Visit Oakland County's website at

www.co.oakland.mi.us





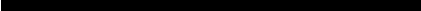
HEATHER LAKE ESTATES
 HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION
 WWW.HEATHERLAKEESTATES.COM

P.O. Box 515
 Lake Orion, MI 48361

Community Manager
 Sue Marcus
 (248) 391-2773
 Email: smarcus515@aol.com



The park gate has been repaired and is operational. If you did not pick up the new pass last year please call Sue Marcus and arrange to get your pass.



Searching for Social Committee Chair

The Board of Directors is looking for a volunteer to head up the Social Committee and plan neighborhood events. If you are interested, please contact a Board Member.



Preferred Rubbish Companies

In order to limit the number of trucks driving through our subdivision, the Board encourages all residents to choose one of the following (2) rubbish companies, Smiths Disposal or Washington Disposal. These two companies offered the best service for the best price.

Smith's Disposal ~ (248) 625-5470

Washington Disposal ~ (248) 391-3244

Keeping Our Neighborhood Beautiful

Owners of vacant lots and lots under construction must maintain their property. Please note the following dates for mandatory lot cutting:

May 26, 2008

June 16, 2008

July 7, 2008

July 28, 2008

August 18, 2008

September 8, 2008

Many thanks to those residents along Clarkston Road and Baldwin Road who maintain their yard and easement to the road. It improves the curb appeal of our subdivision.

Please help keep the entrances looking great. Do not place garage sale signs or "for sale" signs in the landscaped areas.

Last summer, Joanne Gunabalan volunteered to plant the flowers at our entrances. The red begonias were striking and received many compliments. We're looking forward to Joanne's plans for this season!



SUMMER !