Newsletter – May/June 2012

North Wheatland Township Homeowners Association

Ken Hagenbaumer, 28W487 Leverenz Road ……. 983-7785 ……... **President**

Clint Bull, 10S108 Springbrook Drive ……. 961-0175 ……..…….... **Vice President**

***Rick Peabody**, 28W491 Juanita Drive …… 961-2686 …..……..... **Treasurer**

Linda Woodring, 28W153 Hillview Drive …….. 983-5373 ……**Secretary**

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Scott Bishop, 10S060 Alago Road …….. ……..... 788-9910 …**Roads, Traffic, & Safety**

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***Owen Wavrinek,** 3124 Autumn Lake Drive, Aurora, IL 60504 …… 800-1017 ……. **Editor**

****Lifetime Member***

Dear Neighbor:

Dates to Remember – May/June/July

Sunday, May 13 – Mother's Day
Monday, May 14 – School Improvement Planning Day (NO SCHOOL)
Saturday, May 19 – Dist. 204 Fine Arts Festival, 9-5, at all three high schools
Saturday, May 19, Sunday, May 20 – Civil War Days, 10-4 at Naper Settlement
Sunday, May 27 – Graduation, NVHS Class of '12, 7 p.m., Northern Illinois University Convocation Center, DeKalb
Monday, May 28 – Memorial Day Observance (NO SCHOOL)
Wednesday, May 30 – Memorial Day
Friday, June 1 – LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Thursday, June 14 – Flag Day
Saturday, June 16 – Naperville Jazz Festival, 4:15-10 p.m.
Sunday, June 17 – Father's Day
Friday, June 29 – Naperville Garden Club's Flower Show
Friday, June 29 - Tuesday, July 3 – Ribfest in Naperville
Wednesday, July 4 – Happy Birthday USA
July 11-18 – Taste of Chicago

Dear Neighbor:

WOW, is it really possible that Mother's Day is just a few days away? And high school graduation ceremonies and the last day of school are less than a month from now? The explanation, of course, is that time waits for no one. Nevertheless, we think that most (not all) of us will agree: it's more fun to cut grass and work in our flower/vegetable gardens than to shovel snow – even though we had such a mild winter this past year.

It's great to hear the chirping of that first robin of spring and the blossoming of forsythias and crocus/tulips/daffodils – even though they bloomed a lot earlier than usual this year. Also early to bloom were the lilacs (much to the dismay of those who organize the Lombard Lilac Festival), along with the early emergence of hostas.

In any case, spring has sprung; the annual NWTHA Easter Egg Hunt was well

attended and a lot of fun (no melting chocolate this year); and we're preparing for the summer months ahead.

38th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The 38th annual NWTHA Easter Egg Hunt was held on the Saturday before Easter Sunday this year, which was a first for us (because many were on spring vacation the week before). Nevertheless, the weather was great (blue skies) and about 100 kids were on hand to collect the "eggs" and greet the Easter Bunny at our Knoch Knolls Park hunt site.

As usual, NWTHA Children's Social Chair Adrienne Fleming did a great job (without getting sunburned this year). She and her children, along with Gerry Schremp, Stephanie Steen, and Sue Zielke stuffed about 2,500 plastic eggs with treats. Also, thanks go to Adrienne's husband (Steve Fleming), who was a great Easter Bunny again this year. And thanks to NWTHA President Ken Hagenbaumer, who helped spread the eggs, and to Newsletter Editor Owen Wavrinek for taking photos.

Speaking of the photos, in addition to those posted on the next page, many in color are posted in an album on the NWTHA Facebook page, and about 25 are posted in the photo gallery (see Easter Egg Hunt 2012) at our NWTHA website – ***www.nwtha.com*** or ***www.nwtha.net***

Second 2012 Brush Pick-up Week of May14-18

Don't forget that the Wheatland Township Highway Department will be making its second brush pick-up of the year – in front of your home (roadside) – during the week of **May 14-18**. The next pick-ups are during the weeks of June 11-15, Sept. 10-14, and Oct. 8-12.

Remember that all branches and other brush must be out by the "curb" before 7 a.m. on the first day of each designated week. (But it will continue to be picked up into the following week, if necessary.) Place the brush as neatly as possible – cut ends toward the street and parallel toward each other. [**NOTE:** Do **NOT** cut branches into short pieces; long branches work best. Also, there should be **no evergreens** and **no trimmings, small twigs/snippings, clippings, roots (they can hide stones), bags or cans filled with grass clippings/leaves, or tied bundles.**]

The brush is turned into wood chips, which are available free of charge to township residents – for mulching or other purposes. To place an order (by the truck load only), call **717-0092** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2012 NWTHA Easter Egg Hunt

Sections of Book Road, Knoch Knolls Road to be Resurfaced This Summer

This summer, from June to August, the City of Naperville plans to use state and local Motor Fuel Taxes to fund the resurfacing of Book Road, from 87th Street south to 111th Street. In addition, from August through October, Knoch Knolls Road – from 95th Street and Mayfield Court east to 118 feet west of Seiler Road (near entrance to Knoch Knolls Park) will be resurfaced. These projects are two of many included in the City's 2012 Roadway Resurfacing Program, which is slated for completion by late October.

Designed to provide the City with safe roads, this program identifies those roads that need preventative maintenance – such as patching, microsurfacing and crack-filling or the complete replacement of the entire street-surface layer by resurfacing or reconstruction.

As with any construction project, the City reminds motorists to stay alert, use caution and abide by all traffic regulations when driving through construction zones. For safe driving tips in construction zones, visit the City's website at ***www.naperville.il.us/constructionsafety.aspx***

NWTHA Roads, Traffic and Safety Report

Scott Bishop (630-788-9910) continues to be a very proactive chairman of our NWTHA Roads/Traffic/Safety Committee.

Per the photo on the next page, he has put up signs along Alago and Leverenz in Wheatland View in an effort to slow the traffic on those two streets. As many of you know, cars often travel too fast on these two roads, as well as on Alan Road And West Street, which creates a real safety problem. So, if you would like to have a couple of these signs put up on your street, give Scott a call at 630-788-9910 or email him at ***smovesalot@yahoo.com***

In addition, Scott successfully elicited a quick response from Groot Industries when one of their waste-hauling trucks had a hydraulics problem that left behind a lot of hydraulic fluid on 96th Court and West Street in River Crest. As soon as one of the residents let him know about this situation, he wasted (excuse the pun) no time calling Groot, who sent a crew to clean up the mess on a timely. Kudos to Scott and to Groot.

NWTHA Roads, Traffic & Safety Committee Chairman Scott Bishop

Scott also continues to work on getting the intersection of Douglas and Book Roads restored to an acceptable condition – which means completing the road-repair clean-up and removing the barricades (it should now be safe to do so).

Finally, Scott continues to monitor the standing water in many of your drainage ditches. Giving credit when/where credit is due, he reports that Township Highway Commissioner Dayton Jarnagin responded to calls made to him, and Will County Board Members Susan Hart and Chuck Maher – by taking steps to have a couple sewer lines professionally "blown out" – on Laurel (all the way to 75th Street) and elsewhere, in an effort to try to alleviate some of the runoff-water-drainage problems in our area.

However, Scott again wants to remind you to:

Please rake out your drainage ditch and make sure that the culvert beneath your driveway is not clogged – to avoid creating or further aggravating any drainage problems you may already have.

Wheatland Township Annual Meeting

The Wheatland Township annual meeting (on April 10) was entertaining, although we're not sure all that much was resolved or accomplished. But at least more than 130 Wheatland residents (all registered voters who live in the Township) had an opportunity to ask many questions, even though many of the answers were less than satisfactory or not forthcoming at all.

One of the most popular questions/discussions/questions pertained to Township Assessor Kelli Lord's residence and its relatively low assessment compared to other homes in her neighborhood. Her answers were not particularly revealing, although, as she often does, she chose to blame the school district and its tax rate instead of adequately explaining why her personal property's assessment is so low. She did, however, say that she took her own tax assessment case all the way to the state tax appeals board before she got any relief; and she promised to teach anyone who was interested how to do the same thing for themselves.

Also, Lord's part-time status was questioned – to which she responded that she puts in long hours to order to meet her obligations as assessor (even though that job theoretically is a part-time position). Further, she said that she would be available outside traditional office hours to meet with anyone who had a question about their assessments.

"It was also pointed out that even if everyone were to receive a reduction in their assessment, there probably would be little change in their actual tax bill, since the real estate tax is determined by dividing the total money "required" by all the taxing bodies by the assessed valuation in the township," according to NWTHA Treasurer Rick Peabody, who attended the annual meeting. "Everyone's assessment may get lowered, depending upon the township or county multiplier that is applied, but the required dollars that still get spread across properties in the township, are pretty much the same."

Another popular topic during the annual meeting was the sale (listing) of the property currently owned by Wheatland Township at 103rd Street and Route 59, which must be sold before the Town Board can proceed with plans to renovate the

existing Township Administrative Center (on 91st Street) instead of building a new facility – per the directive approved by Township residents at one of last year's special Town meetings.

One resident suggested that this property be used for a park with ball fields, instead of selling it. Another asked what the Town Board was going to do with the $1.7 million it has collected since 2003 for the proposed administrative facility. But NWTHA Treasurer Peabody reminded everyone that residents attending that aforementioned special meeting directed the Board to use these funds to renovate the existing admin center. (NOTE: *Rick also served on an advisory land-use committee that was formed a year ago to study this issue – whether to build or not build a new admin center, and, if not, how/when the funds collected for this purpose should be spent.*)

Another contention was that the current Town Board (via 3-2 votes) continues to include the construction of a NEW facility in its annual budget – despite the "losing end" positions taken by Town Board Members Karl Karantonis and Joe Hudetz, who believe that this expenditure should not still be part of the budget

Also representing the NWTHA (and himself) at Wheatland's annual Town Meeting was Roads, Traffic & Safety Committee Chair Scott Bishop, who was not particularly impressed by what did and did not occur at the meeting. In other words, there wasn't much transparency exhibited during this event.

However, as Rick Peabody points out, "the annual township meeting is a forum where residents can express opinions; but that does not mean that those who are the target of public comments have to respond or offer any explanation or rebuttal. Although there is no such requirement, the hope is that the representatives of township government will listen to the 'will' of their constituents."

Fine Arts Festivals Showcase Talents of District 204 Students

Just a reminder, the Indian Prairie Educational Foundation (IPEF) is sponsoring a district-wide Fine Arts Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, at each of District 204's three high schools. This annual event is held in order to display and feature the art, music, theater and dance talents – as well as the home economics and industrial technology projects – of District 204 students (all grade levels).

The Festival at Neuqua Valley includes the artistic displays and performances of its own students, as well as those from its feeder schools: Crone and **Gregory**

Middle Schools and six elementary schools – Builta, **Clow**, Graham, Kendall, Patterson, and Spring Brook.

At Waubonsie, the Festival showcases the creative talents of its own students, along with those by students from its feeder schools: Fischer and **Scullen** Middle Schools, and six elementary schools – Fry, Georgetown, McCarty, Peterson, Steck and **Welch –** as well as Prairie Children Preschool.

More than 80 musical performances by bands, choirs, orchestras, and dancers take place throughout the high-school sites, including Metea. And the hallways are filled with more than 12,000 pieces of visual arts, 3-D works, ceramics, computer imagery, and more.

How About a Joliet Slammers Game?

It's that time of year again – when many of us think more and more about baseball. The Cubs and White Sox have started their regular seasons, but there hasn't been much to cheer about and they are not the only game(s) in town.

For those who find going to a major-league game a bit expensive, you might want to consider getting tickets to see the Joliet Slammers, whose first game of the 2012 season is Tuesday, May 22, against the Traverse City, Mich., Beach Bums (starting at 7:05 p.m., with post-game fireworks). If you've never been to a Slammers (previously Jackhammers) game, we think you will enjoy it.

The experience is similar to going to a Kane County Cougars game. But the Slammers – who play at Silver Cross Field in downtown Joliet, near the train station – are closer and they are our "local" professional baseball team since they play in Joliet. As you know, Joliet also is home to our Will County government (where you must go when you need something at the County Clerk's office or have jury duty at the courthouse, etc.), the Rialto Theater, and an auto raceway that's home to NASCAR and other entertaining events each year.

Your NWTHA newsletter editor admits that he is a little biased – because he went to high school with Slammers Manager Bart Zeller (Rich Township H.S.in south suburban Park Forest – Class of 1961). However, going to a Slammers game really is a lot of fun (especially when there are fireworks after select games (every Friday night) – and the price is right:

Reserved box seats (in Sections 101 to 113) are $10 each; reserved general admission box tickets (in Sections 114 and 115) are $7 each; and lawn tickets are $5 each.