

Fall 2020 News Letter Items

Notes from the President of the Board. I would like to remind all homeowners that it is all of our responsibility to act as good neighbors - keeping our grass cut, snow shoveled off the sidewalks, outside of our homes and lots clean and clutter free and obeying all the local ordinances for Boone County and the City of Belvidere. Violations should be reported directly to the appropriate enforcing authority i.e. police, city zoning officer, etc. The more residents that call the faster the city seems to respond to the issue.

Our subdivision looked pretty good this summer. Many homes had beautiful flowers, shrubs and landscaping. There were a few instances where yards were not mowed regularly and these were usually properties that were in foreclosure. We try to work with the realtor and bank to get this taken care of as quickly as possible.

This year we are going to have our 7th annual Christmas Decorating Contest with the 1st place prize being a \$50 gift card and runner up prize will be a \$25 gift card to a local restaurant. To make the contest more competitive, the same home cannot win the 1st place prize in 2 consecutive years. The judges will tour our neighborhood the week of Dec 15 to select the best decorated home. If you are not decorating your house and would like to be on the judging committee, please contact us. Prizes will be awarded for the most appealing lighting display. As a reminder, please make sure that your lighting and displays are removed after the Holidays as soon as weather permits.

This Summer we had our annual garage sale on August 6th, 7th and 8th. The weather cooperated and we had a great turnout. We will definitely be doing this again next Spring. Watch for the Spring newsletter for the dates.

Neighborhood Watch - We would really like to get our Neighborhood Watch Committee functioning in our subdivision. We need the residents to be involved in ensuring we have safe place to live and raise our families. Officer Blankenship has been invited to attend our annual meeting and answer question about the program. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this very worthwhile project.

Reminder: Many of the homes in our subdivision are around 15 years old. This means that many of the smoke detectors/alarms are at the end of their useful life and should be replaced. This is above and beyond replacing the batteries every 6 months. Current building code also requires that a Carbon Monoxide detector be installed. There are newer models that are available and have a 10 year battery life, so you don't have to worry about forgetting to change out the batteries.

Video Surveillance - many of you may be aware that we have installed a video camera system at the entrance to the subdivision. It captures vehicle and license plate information. Please report any incidents to the Belvidere Police Department . They have access to the camera system's information.

We are looking for someone to help our board member, April, maintain our website and keep it updated on a regular basis. Please make sure you check it often for new updates and announcements. If you have suggestions for future enhancements - be sure to share them. <http://belvidereprairieplace.com>

We want to make sure that all the homeowners realize that we are a volunteer board. We are all still required to pay our dues just like all of you. We donate a lot of time each week and month having board meetings, working with real estate agents & attorneys when properties are sold, filing out various forms and IRS tax returns, keeping track of all the finances and paying invoices for various services, writing newsletters and going to the printer, stuffing envelopes, answering emails and phone calls from homeowners and working with our association attorney to name but a few of the tasks we perform. Our goal is to have a nice, safe neighborhood to live in and keep our property values from deteriorating. %