
WEST NEWS

An Official Publication of the Shadywood West Homeowners' Association

April 2010

Welcome our new SWW neighbors

By Becky Stauffer

Take time to welcome our new neighbors:

Sam and Cindy Moore
6134 SW 34th Terr.
Children: Cord, Connor, Lauren,
Nadia and Madeleine
Phone: 783-2448 Cell: 316-213-8312
sammoore4@cox.net

Everyone should have received your new directory for 2010. If somehow you have been missed by your Block Captain in the hand delivery process please notify your Block Captain or call me, Becky Stauffer 273-4455. Also notify me of any corrections that should be made in the directory.

Shadywood West Dinner Club Update

By Bridget Woods

Please give me a call if you are interested in participating in our neighborhood dinner club. It is very casual and a nice way to get to meet your neighbors. We only meet a few times a year and it has been fun getting to know some new people. Give me a call - Bridget Wood at 273-6035 or send me an email at ebkbs@aol.com if you would like more information.

Annual meeting of Shadywood West Homeowners' Association

7:30 PM, Thursday, April 29, 2010
YMCA Southwest Branch
Teen Meeting Room

Business Meeting Agenda

Introductions

Call to Order

Establishment of a quorum (10% of members entitled to vote)

Adoption of Agenda *

Approval of previous minutes as distributed

Committee Updates:

- President's Comments
- Treasurer's report/budget
- Secretary's report
- Architecture Committee Chair report
- Grounds Chair report
- Senior Block Captain/Directory report
- Dinner club activities

Old Business:

New Business:

- Nominating committee discussion
- Other business from the floor

*The president requests the right to change the order as a courtesy in the event there are guest speakers.

SHADYWOOD WEST HOMEOWNERS' ASSN

Officers

President: George Webb

6024 SW 37th St, 273-0840

Vice President: Dave Holthaus

3636 SW Stonybrook Dr, 272-6124

Secretary: Marianna Nothern

3647 Stonybrook Dr, 228-9606

Treasurer: Mark Burghart

6000 SW 34th Terrace, 273-3822

Committee Chairs

Architecture: OPEN

Directory: Becky Stauffer

3418 SW Alameda Dr, 273-4455

Grounds: OPEN

Webmaster: Matt Harader

6102 SW 34th Terrace, 783-2854

West News Editor: OPEN

Block Captains

Wanamaker Road: Linda Ives

3339 SW Wanamaker Rd, 271-9246

East 34th Terrace: Rosilyn Martin

6026 SW 34th Terrace, 273-9832

Brandywine Ct: Pam Oroke

3443 Brandywine Ct, 228-1050

West 34th Terrace: Sandy Kirk

6216 SW 34th Terrace, 228-1287

North Alameda Dr.: Tom Ballou

3347 SW Alameda Dr, 271-9330

Mid Alameda Dr: Mary Kopp

3419 Alameda Dr, 213-0520

South Alameda Dr: Sue Meyer

3513 SW Alameda Dr, 228-2489

No. Stonybrook Dr: Lois Wages

3518 SW Stonybrook Dr, 272-8694

South Stonybrook Dr: Julie Pope

3644 SW Stonybrook Dr, 271-0711

Stonybrook Ct: Norma Schroeder

6014 SW Stonybrook Ct, 273-3985

36th Street: Lisa Stubbs

6026 SW 36th St, 272-6103

36TH Street Ct: Brenda Forster

6018 SW 36th Court, 271-9155

37th Street: Rita Webb

6024 SW 37th St., 273-0840

President's Comments

By George Webb

SWWHA President's Comments (Spring 2010):

Here's hoping the snow has stopped for the year, but after this winter and spring, one never knows. Keep your fingers crossed. It's time for the grass and tulips to explode out of the ground.

We have scheduled our semi-annual meeting for Thursday, April 29th at 7:30 pm. We will again meet at the YMCA. It was more than adequate last fall, and the price is right. Please come to be involved in your neighborhood and your association.

I don't need to tell you all how trying the snow situation has been for Topeka this winter – particularly over the Christmas weekend. Many thanks to all the good neighbors who pushed stuck cars and shoveled when the plows weren't there. We had a good dialogue electronically – much of it post mortem – so let me review the situation.

- This snow storm clearly taxed the City's resources. Major thoroughfares understandably received the emphasis. After an appropriate time on those, the City leadership was responsive to my request for clearing our neighborhood.

- Our budget does not cover snow removal. It could, if we raised dues and all members paid them. There has been no sentiment for doing that. To the contrary, members who responded do not want us to take this on regularly. Therefore, it is the Association's position that snow removal remains a city responsibility.

- In a truly exceptional or emergency situation, however, the board has agreed that it could authorize snow removal if we have uncommitted funds. It would not be cheap, but we could probably do it once by going into our reserves. We have names of some snow removal candidates that we will assess so we can be ready if need be.

- If we encounter a major event again, don't be afraid to send reports on what you see (by email or phone) to members of the board so we have visibility.

Mark Burghart reports that most residents are getting their dues in. Remember that dues run from October to the next September, so if you haven't paid them for this FY, please do. Members must be paid up to be eligible to vote on Association activities. We know it can be hard to remember, so to help everyone out, we'll have a color coded map posted on the Web

site before the next meeting. You'll be able to tell if you're "in the green."

Many of you have taken advantage of the burn pit that Tom Ballou set up near the dam. Tom won't be able to oversee it in the future, so we're going to have to shut it down. Please don't drop off your burnable "stuff," because it will just collect there.

The board has asked Bridget Wood to participate in the newsletter. She's been very proactive in the social activities of SWWHA, and we are most grateful.

A few words about association positions. We're going to need some volunteers to fill in behind a number of dedicated people.

- Tom Ballou has told us that he likely cannot continue to serve as the head of the architectural team. I know there are a number of good folks who are interested in this area, so please give us a call. Tom has done this – and also served as Association president – over a period of many years.

- Cyd Schmidt has run our grounds committee for several years, and she would like someone to take over ... or at least give her some help. You can have a direct influence on how the neighborhood looks.

- Both the president and secretary positions are due for election this fall. Marianna Nothern was kind enough to fill the unanticipated vacancy for secretary last fall. As another former Association president, she has great experience. Our bylaws require an election at the end of the two-year term. And the neighborhood will also have to elect a new president this fall. As with all of the four directors, the president serves a two-year term and cannot serve more than two full consecutive terms. Since I started this

position, I believe, in 2004, I'm clearly pushing the envelope as laid out in the current bylaws.

Therefore, a major agenda item for the spring meeting will be to start the process of a nominating committee. However, if someone would like to stand up and volunteer well, that would help. The good news is that vice president Dave Holthaus and treasurer Mark Burghart "reenlisted" for another two years and were unanimously accepted.

Finally, I think we're on the cusp of some really good electronic information capabilities in the neighborhood due to the efforts of Webmaster Matt Harader and Senior Block Captain Becky Stauffer. Keep plugged in.

I'll close with a huge thank-you to the great volunteers who make Shadywood West such a great place to live. We couldn't be that without their care and concern. Thanks to you all.

George Webb
SWWHA President



In our last newsletter I mentioned that our terrific Grounds Coordinator, Cyd Schmidt, was giving us a year's notice so we could seek a replacement. If anyone is interested in helping to keep Shadywood looking good, please give Cyd a call and ask her about it. It is not our intention that the Grounds Coordinator become the neighborhood gardener. But we do need someone who can work with the landscaping and tree care companies who can do the work. If you can help out with this important position, please call George Webb, 273-0840.

Thank you, Cyd!
Thank you, Cyd!

Neighborhood Watch

We have a good set of resident email addresses and an alert board of directors, especially Becky Stauffer. That gives us the capability of electronic notifications (for crime, vandalism, break-ins, strange vehicles, lost pets, etc.). It isn't immediate like a texting service, but it is as quick as people get their emails. To get something out quickly in this manner, notify Becky and Matt by e-mail. They will forward the message to all.

Becky's e-mail is
kymoore560@aol.com

Matt's e-mail is
mattandjenn17@gmail.com



Groundskeeper Update

After this past winter, we are ready to welcome the sunshine and warmer weather. Of course yard work goes along with this! I am still looking for a neighbor to pass the baton on the SWW Groundskeeper job. It has been simplified by hiring out to the group that we had last year. Any interested people please give me a call.

In the meantime, we encourage our wonderful SWW neighbors to keep their property groomed to maintain home values and for our viewing pleasure! Thank you for taking pride in your homes!

Call me if you have concerns or ideas for the neighborhood landscaping.

Cyd Schmidt, 272-3606
3617 SW Stonybrook Dr.

WIND CHIMES: Beautiful Music or Irritating Sounds?

The summer is nearing and chances are you have probably encountered patio and outdoor spaces that are decked out to the nines. Wind chimes are a common outdoor adornment that come in a variety of styles and are made of various materials.

These outdoor fixtures are though to be good luck and Feng Shui in certain parts of the world and are intended to be played by the wind to create pleasant sounds. But when it is a windy Kansas day, the constant ringing can become an irritating noise to some example, high and low decibels of wind chimes can be bothersome to dogs, people with dementia, some older adults and people sensitive to certain pitches. It can be like someone playing the flute outside your house all day and all night. After awhile it loses its appeal.

We all have different tastes and experiences. Please consider these differences when hanging wind chimes. If the chimes bring you relaxation, you might consider taking your wind chimes outside when you want to relax, and bringing them in when you are finished. Please be courteous to your neighbors.



Architectural Committee

From the outgoing Architectural Committee Chair: No news at this time. Continue to look at rewrite of siding rules. Roof replacements continue. Sidewalks still need work. Anyone interested in taking over the Committee, please let a board member know. Thanks for allowing me to be of some help.

Tom Ballou

A Friendly Reminder: A friendly reminder on cleaning up after your pets, please. There have been reports that some dog droppings appear at night -- presumably when the offending pooch and owner might not be spotted. While it can be challenging to pick up the dropping in the dark, please do so. Thank you!



TREASURER'S REPORT

by Mark A. Burghart

The Shadywood West Homeowners' Association has a balance of \$36,772.05 in checking and savings as of March 26, 2010. Since October 1, 2009, we have collected \$10,900 and spent \$2,278.95. As you would expect, most of the Association's expenses will be incurred during the spring and summer months. Dues are used to fund the mowing of common areas, the maintenance of the roundabouts and the payment of utilities.

One hundred and two homeowners have paid their dues for the current fiscal year which extends from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. There are 30 homeowners who have not paid their dues. Reminder notices were mailed on March 31 to those who have not paid. Please remember that many lending institutions and title insurance companies require that dues be current when refinancing or selling a home. Thanks to those who have already paid. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions regarding your payment status.

Checks should be made payable to:

Shadywood West Homeowners' Association, Inc.
Mark A. Burghart, Treasurer
6000 SW 34th Terrace
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 273-3822

22.7% of Shadywood homeowners have not paid their dues. At \$100 each, this totals \$3,000, which could certainly help our neighborhood. Please write your check today! Thank you!

Minutes: Shadywood West Homeowner's Association, October 29, 2009

After call to order a quorum was established and agenda was approved. Minutes of the April 29, 2009 meeting were approved. Dallas DeHart from Home Improvement Gallery presented window and siding and deck options for our consideration. We are looking at neighborhood restrictions to be sure we keep our property values up. Dallas will send a list of addressed of houses that have used some of the suggested materials for us to look at as a committee. It was advised, if a homeowner is considering siding, they check with the architectural committee first.

Committee updates:

- Newsletters were sent out and none came back this time.
- You cannot refinance or sell your house if your homeowner's dues are not paid.
- We are still looking for someone to take over the grounds committee from Cyd.
- The city no longer has sidewalk funds and sidewalks are homeowner's responsibility.
- Tom Ballou has the permit to burn and will e-mail us when he starts the "burn-pile" and neighbors can come socialize. Just come and follow the smoke. He may start Oct 30th through Saturday.
- There was an update on the coyotes.
- New Business: After some discussion of the budget, it was approved.
- The VP, Dave Holthaus and Treasure, Mark Burghart, were re-elected by acclamation.
- The Facebook and blog are both set up.
- Next meeting will be in April 29, 2010.

by Marianna Nothern, Secretary

WEBSITE REPORT by Matt Harader, Webmaster

Spring is here and even though you may be spending more time outside and less behind a computer, I want to remind you of what our association has to offer online.

Website: <http://www.shadywoodwest.org/> This is where you can access contact information (for the board and block captains), newsletters, maps and the current restrictions and bylaws.

Blog: <http://shadywoodwest.blogspot.com/> There has not been much activity here yet, but we hope to use it more in the future. To make the blog a little more useful, I have added links to the different website pages so you can get to everything on the website from the blog. Anyone can view the blog but if you want to make a comment, you will need to have a Google account. To sign up for a Google account, go to www.google.com and click "Sign in" at the upper right corner. On the next page, click "Create an account now" which is below the sign in box. Follow the instructions there. This will create a Google account for you and allow you to sign in and post comments on the blog.

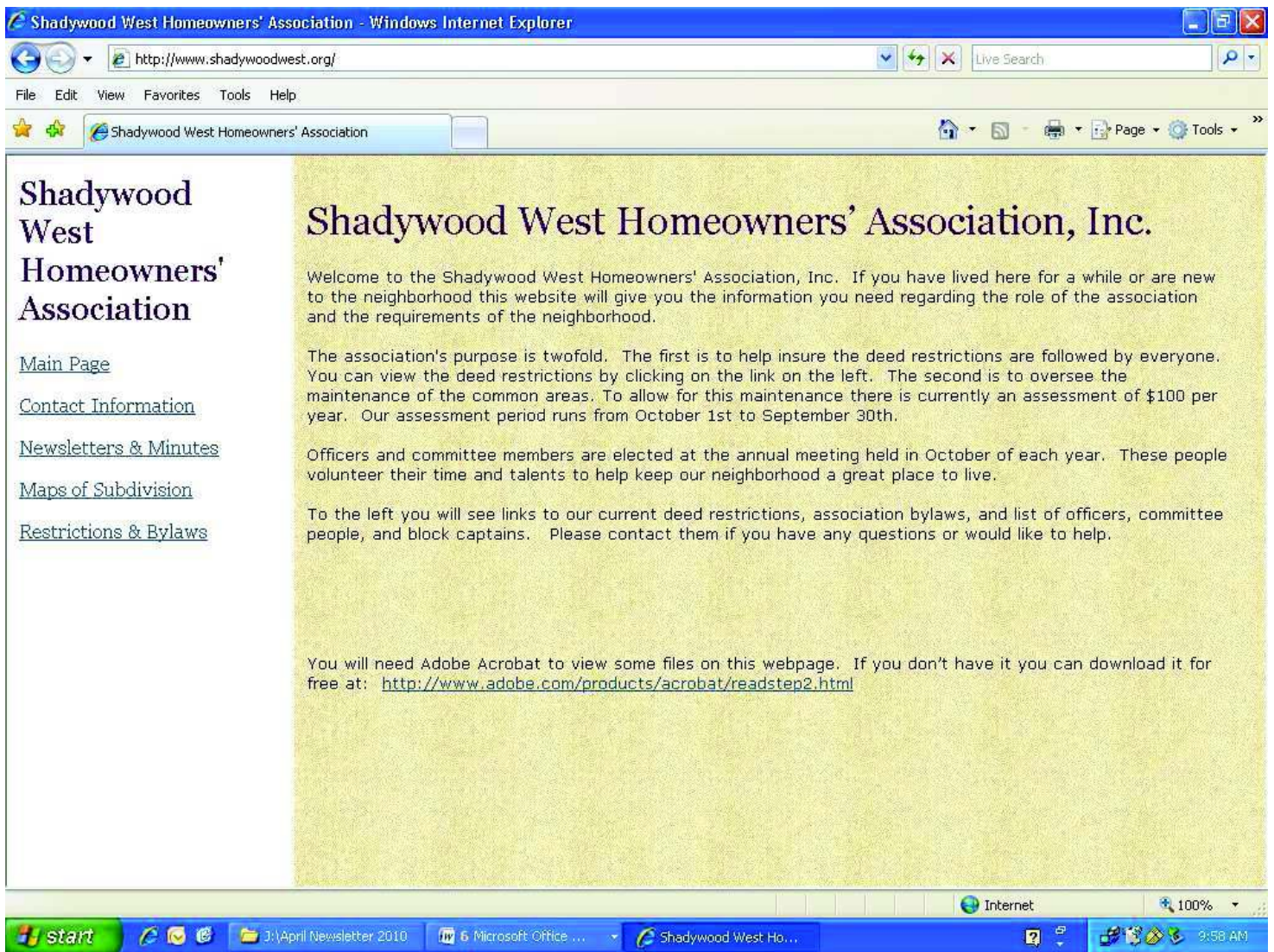
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=163757558147> Facebook is a social networking site with over 400 million members worldwide. If you are not a member of Facebook, you can join by going to www.facebook.com and filling out the form there. All you need is an email address. The above URL is to our group page on Facebook, "Shadywood West Homeowners' Association." It is a new group and needs members! You can join by invitation or by requesting to join from the group page. To see more details and confirm this group invitation, follow the link below: http://www.facebook.com/n/?group.php&gid=163757558147&mid=2180c00G23cee325G460aec2G6&n_m=dholthaus%40kec.org We decided to make this a closed group so that only members can view and participate in discussions.

As always, let me know if you have any ideas about how to make our web presence more useful or easier to use.

www.shadywoodwest.org

www.shadywoodwest.org

Here's a screenshot of our website:



**Annual meeting of
Shadywood West Homeowner's Association**

7:30 PM, Thursday, April 29, 2010

YMCA Southwest Branch

Please consider helping Shadywood West as a volunteer.

We need a:

- President
- Grounds Chair
- Architecture Chair
- Shadywood West Newsletter Editor

Shadywood West News is your newsletter, published spring and fall before meetings.

West News, April 2010

Dave Holthaus, Editor
3636 SW Stonybrook Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66614