

PRAIRIE WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

PO Box 771168
Wichita, KS 67277

February 2006

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Contact Information for your Board

- Sherry Irsik, 10005 Prairie Woods Ct., 729-5735
- Harold Walker, 10033 Prairie Woods Ct., 773-3108
- Dana Plagman, 10018 W Haskell, 729-8212
- Bruce and Debby Werth, 2201 S Westgate Circle, 620-770-2000
- Dustin Jackson, 10117 Haskell, 729-7138
- Marlene Miles, 10205 Prairie Woods St., 773-9340
- Peggy Bennett

2006 Association Dues

Please don't forget to send in your 2006 Homeowner's Association Dues if you haven't already. The deadline for dues was **December 31, 2005**. Second notices will be going out soon. Know we'd rather spend Association money on neighborhood amenities than filing property liens so consider sending them in quickly!

And the Winner is...

John Goethe (10034 Haskell) won the drawing for the \$50 gift card for getting homeowner's dues in on time. There were quite a few to draw from and we appreciate everyone who got them into us in a timely manner.

Upcoming Activities

Following is a list of upcoming activities for 2006.

April 15, 2006 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt. More information will follow as the event gets closer.

May 20, 2006 and October 14, 2006 - Association Clean-Up Events.

- Both events include clean-up of common areas. We'll be asking for assistance from local boy scout and girl scout troops. The Association will also ask the City to leave large

dumpsters (perhaps in the Church Parking Lot) so residents can clean out and toss their unwanted items. The Board President is also working with another nearby Association, and if possible, we may be able to arrange for curbside pickup.

- The Spring Clean-Up Event will include morning donuts for everyone arriving to clean up before 9 a.m.
- The Fall Clean-Up Event will include a hot dog roast at the Pawnee Park Shelter. Clean Up would again start at 9 a.m.

June 8, 9 & 10 - Neighborhood Garage Sales

August 1, 2006 - National Neighborhood Night Out

Watch for more information as time gets closer.

Trees, Trees, Trees in Our Neighborhoods!

The Board would like to remind homeowners that there remains a \$10 reimbursement or "reward" for homeowners who plant a tree. Simply mail a copy of your tree receipt to the Homeowner's Association and we'll reward you \$10 for planting a tree. Each home in our Association is eligible for 2 - \$10 reimbursements.

Prairie Woods is a Covenant Community!

Hopefully you are all aware that Prairie Woods is a covenant community. Because we are all proud of where we live, covenants have been established and we're asking each homeowner to abide by those covenants. If you are having any problems that involve your neighbors, we encourage you to **talk** to your neighbors before you call us. There just might be a reason that what is bothering you isn't being taken care of. Or your neighbor might not even

know it bothers you. So don't be shy, get to know your neighbors, and open communication!

2006 Survey Results

Thank you to the 39%+ of the homeowners who returned their surveys. Congratulations to **Stephanie Daas** (10603 Haskell) and **Edd & Cheri Downey** (10322 W. Stafford) who won the drawings from the surveys which were submitted on time and had their homeowner's association dues refunded for this year.

We learned a great deal from respondents. A summary of information gathered includes:

- The majority of our homeowners have lived in their homes for 5+ years and the majority plan to live here for more than 5 years. This gives us all an incentive to keep our neighborhoods as nice as they look today.
- 53% are happy with what the Association is doing.
- 42% have come to an Association meeting. Of those, more than 19% have come five times or more. Conversely, 57% have never come.
- Reasons for not attending include: time of meeting (23%), no real interest (25%), not knowing where or when they are (10%), and childcare being needed (9%).
- The most common item homeowners said they wanted was a website for the Association.
- The most common complaints from homeowners were trash carts that were not out of sight, lawn maintenance problems, and RVs and other trailers parked on the street. According to our covenants, RVs and trailers cannot be continually parked on any street and trash carts are to be kept out of sight. Please be considerate and abide by these covenant items.
- Homeowners whose property backs up against Lark are encouraged to mow and trim areas behind their

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fences. Also, homeowners who have corner lots - there is a little more to mow than some of us. Know yards look nice when it's all mowed and trimmed. If you need assistance with mowing or trimming, we do have some young mowers included on this page you could give an opportunity to.

- Just a couple of things about pets as well. Consider paying attention to how much your dogs bark. What is acceptable to you might not be acceptable to your neighbors. Also, if you're walking your dog, be considerate. Many of your neighbors don't appreciate your dog's "droppings" in their yard. Dana Plagmann takes the plastic bags her newspaper comes in with her while walking her dogs, slides her hand in, picks up the "item" and rolls the bag off her hand (inside out) and traps it. When she gets home she tosses it. I thought I'd share her idea.
- The Board will be offering child care at upcoming Association meetings. We will check with individuals on this page for their interest & availability during upcoming meetings.
- The Board is looking into a website. **If you live in the Association and have an interest & knowledge to do this for us on a volunteer basis, please contact Sherry.**

Neighbors also reported they would like more neighborhood activities and we're working on it. But there's only a few Board Members and a whole lot of you. Know you can throw impromptu activities in your own neighborhoods. Open up your garage, roll out your barbeque grill and invite the neighbors! Nothing in our covenants prevent those activities!

We've also had a request to set up a program to notify neighbors of births, deaths, hospitalizations, etc. so neighbors could provide meals or other

items/activities that would help a family out. If there is anyone out there who'd like to help with this, please let Sherry know. We can help start something if someone is ready to take it over and run with it.

Lastly, we enjoyed the note from the five-year-old who wants to be an ice cream man!

Association Directories are Available.

Individuals who participated will automatically receive a directory. Anyone else interested in one can get one from Debby. We plan to add this to our welcome baskets. Please remember to contact Sherry if you see someone moving into the neighborhood.

More Survey Information:

Part of what we asked within the survey was a question to identify young people in the area who were looking for productive things to do. What follows is a list of young members in our neighborhoods who would like to help you out should you need some assistance in their specific areas of expertise:

Erin Blitz
2305 S. Crestline
729-8032
Babysitting

Logan Evans
10210 W. Haskell Ct.
721-5506
Mowing, various yard work

Brittany and Ashley Foss
2323 S. Stoney Point
773-6211
Babysit, odd jobs, pet sit

Brittany Joseph
2316 S. Westgate
721-5833
Babysitting

Briana & Robert Heimerman
2213 S. Westgate Circle
260-8112
Babysitting, mowing, shoveling snow, collecting newspapers while residents are on vacation, etc.

Emilee and Sarah Irsick
10005 Prairie Woods Court
729-5735
Babysitting, pet sitting, mowing, etc.
Note: Sarah needs to co-sit with Emilee

Community Officer

Once again we have a new community officer. Officer C. Davidson. Homeowners needing his assistance can either email him from the following site (<http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Police/FieldServices/West/18beat.htm>) or contact him at Patrol West at 337-9400.

Entry Island Lights

The Board has arranged to have the bulbs changed in the Entry Island lights to a brighter bulb. They will be installed on a temporary basis. If the light is too bright for nearby homeowners, they'll be taken back out. We're hoping they will work out as homeowners have asked for additional lighting near those areas.

More Communication

As a result of the survey, Debby Werth has attempted to follow-up with homeowners who wanted specific information within the survey. If Debby has missed anything that required a response to, please feel free to email me at onedstratus@hotmail.com or call 620-770-2000 (cell).

One Final Thought...

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are. ~Theodore Roosevelt