



# Hawthorne Park Post

October 2009

## Hawthorne Park Community Newsletter

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## Introducing Yard of the Month!

Hawthorne Park is undeniably one of the most beautiful additions in the northern Fort Wayne area. Our residents obviously take pride in keeping their homes and yards well manicured and this certainly benefits all of us by keeping our addition a much sought-after neighborhood.

Our Board has launched a new "Yard of the Month" recognition program where the residents can nominate a yard that deserves a little "kudos" from the residents.

On your drive through the neighborhood, do you pass by any beautifully landscaped yards? Do you marvel at the combination of annuals and perennials that seem to brighten their yard throughout the year with a fresh display of seasonal color? Is there a home that delights the children with holiday charms or perhaps a garden railroad with miniature vegetation?

If you do have just the home in mind, please consider nominating the owners for our up-

coming neighborhood **Yard of the Month** contest. Send a note that contains the address to Michael Smyth. Once a month from spring to fall (and periodically in the winter months), the Yard of the Month committee will choose a yard to recognize in the monthly newsletter! Maybe the owner will be willing to share a few tips, too! *During holidays, the committee will especially be on the lookout for creative holiday decor.*



## Next Board Mtg

Tues, Nov 3

7 p.m.

Maplecreek School



## Solicitor Concerns

Recently, it seems we have seen an increase in door-to-door solicitation. This concern has been raised to the Board and new signage is being ordered for installation at all entrances.

With the economic challenges we face, more people are driven to working door-to-door. We've received knocks on our doors to buy meat, children's books, and vacuum cleaners in the last few months.

The most surprising was the children's books for sale, however, as this salesman had the names, ages, and schools attended by many children in our neighborhood. His selling approach was to gain familiarity by "dropping" names and facts of children who lived on your street and claiming that these families recommended he stop by your home as your children would be good candidates for his materials.

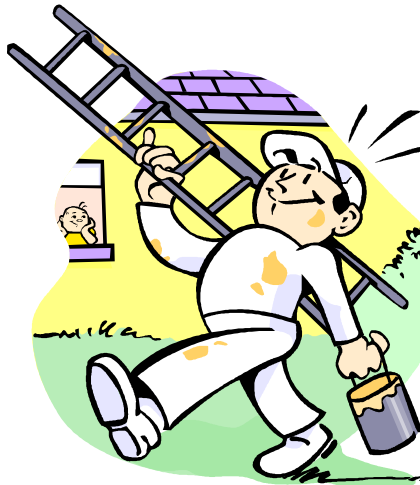
We can never do enough to protect our children from harm. Providing strangers with your children's personal information is certainly your right, however, we would discourage it and certainly sharing details on your neighbor's children would be inappropriate. If you feel they would like the service, offer to take the salesman's information and share it with your neighbor. Let's keep our children safe!!

## Activity and Architectural Policies

Wanting to add a basketball hoop to your front yard? Or maybe add a fence to keep the dog from roaming? If you do, a request needs to be sent to the Chairperson of the Architectural Committee and approval received prior to initiating any construction. This request must contain:

1. Sketch of proposed layout
2. Type of material to be used
3. Color of materials, and
4. Height

The Architectural Control Committee will reply within thirty (30) days.



Projects that will need approval include, but are not limited to, the following:

fences, swimming pools, hot tubs, playground sets, structures, communication equipment, basketball posts, etc.

*Each month, we'll highlight an excerpt from the Hawthorne Park Activity and Architectural Policies.*



## Be A Good Neighbor

Occasionally, complaints are brought to the attention of the board and while not violating a covenant, they can affect the appearance of our community.

- Unsightly weeds and unmowed grass.
- Garbage cans left at the curb for days
- Dog walkers who don't pick up their pooch's poop
- Late night and loud parties
- Cars parked in the street creating a driving hazard

## Message from the Newsletter Editor

Welcome to our new newsletter! Communication between the board and the residents is key to ensuring we are meeting your expectations as well as focusing on the issues and concerns that matter the most to our community. This newsletter will be issued periodically to bring you timely and important information concerning Hawthorne Park.

Refer to this newsletter to find out what happened at the last HOA Board meeting, gather news and updates from the property management company, who's having a yard sale, and who the available babysitters, pet sitters, or lawn care providers are in the neighborhood. If you have any news to share or a service to provide, please contact me via email for the next issue.

Sincerely,

Tricia Niebuhr

## Board Officers

### President

Michael Smyth  
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### Vice-president

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### Secretary

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### Members At Large

Cheryl Felger  
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482-4383

Tricia Niebuhr  
615-7645  
Tricia.niebuhr@verizon.net

## Summary of October 6 Hawthorne Park

### Board of Directors Meeting

Members Present: Mike Smyth, Dorin Cindea, Nancy Alberding, Brian Publise, Jim Lancia, Larry McChesney, Cathy Byrd, Stephanie Coppolino, and Matt Kelley

President's report—Reviewed current pool insurance coverage.

Newsletter: The professional newsletter company did not respond, therefore, the board will issue a newsletter monthly beginning with October 2009 release.

Architectural Control Report: Jim discussed concerns regarding lot 178.

Maintenance/Pool Report: Pool closing activities underway

Old Business: Yard of the month committee is: Mike, Matt, Cheryl and Victoria. They are working thru the details and more information will be distributed shortly. During the colder months, the committee will especially be looking for some great holiday outdoor décor.

Cathy will be the new Treasurer starting in October. She will start training soon.

New Business: Neighborhood Website (Dorin has graciously volunteered to do the Website for Hawthorne Park all this for free. Thanks Dorin)

The Board discussed signage for do not solicit in the front of the addition and the entrance from Sorrento into Hawthorne in the back. Options for signage under review.

Christmas decoration committed will be headed up by Stephanie Coppolino. The kick-off meeting will be held on November 22 at 1:00 p.m. at the entrance of Drayton Parkway. Mike, Nancy, Matt, and Larry will assist (Cathy, too, if she is in town). Brian volunteered to bring beverages to help the decorating crew stay "warm" and "toasty"! Please feel free to join the party and show up at 1:00! All help will be most appreciated.

## Get the Newsletter by Email!

Please ensure we have your email address on file so that we can send you this newsletter by email. Advantages of receiving this electronically are 1) get it early, 2) see it in color, 3) save the association money in copying costs, and 4) stay abreast of neighborhood news even if you are away from home. Send your email address to Matt Kelley at [kathmatt1@verizon.net](mailto:kathmatt1@verizon.net).

## Youth Classifieds

To place your ad, email [tricia.niebuhr@verizon.net](mailto:tricia.niebuhr@verizon.net). The deadline is the 15th of each month.

### PET SITTING/WALKING

Keegan McLay, age 13, or Logan McLay, age 16.  
[cmclay3@comcast.net](mailto:cmclay3@comcast.net)

Eric Niebuhr (age 15) or Brian Niebuhr (age 12), 480-2533

### MOWING/SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES

Keegan McLay, age 13, services snow removal or Logan McLay age 16 services snow removal, [cmclay3@comcast.net](mailto:cmclay3@comcast.net) or 471-1598

### BABYSITTING

*Babysitter Service* by Courtney Christensen, age 13, completed Red Cross Babysitting Training. Call 484-5390 or email [JChris-tensen6692@msn.com](mailto:JChris-tensen6692@msn.com).



## Fun Recipes

### Halloween Apple Bites



#### Ingredients

- Apples
- Slivered Almonds
- Red Fruit leather

Just quarter and core an apple, cut a wedge from the skin side of each quarter, then press slivered almost in place for teeth. Cut fruit leather to make a tongue!

TIP: If you're not going to serve them right away, baste the apples with orange juice to keep them from browning.

Recipe: Family Fun Magazine

### .LOOKING FOR THINGS TO DO?

Sep 19-Jan 10—Art Morth—Combining art & Science—Science Ctrl  
Oct 16-31 Great Zoo Halloween, Fort Wayne Children's Zoo  
Oct 28-Nov 2-Old Fort Cluster Dog Show, Memorial Coliseum  
Nov 3—Taste of Home Cooking Show, Grand Wayne Center

## Halloween Festivities

It's that time of year again when the neighborhood turns into our own version of "ET's trick or treating scene"! The homes are decorated with ghoulish characters and the kids are thrilled to dress up as their favorite witch or hero! Halloween falls on a Saturday this month! Remind your children to be respectful of their neighbor's yards and stay on sidewalks.



Nov 25-Dec 1—25th Embassy Festival of Trees, Embassy Theatre

## Damage to our East Guard House!

The east entry guard house was damaged by an unknown vehicle, perhaps a black truck. The impact significantly damaged the stone work, pushed the door into the structure itself and will require more than our \$1,000 insurance deductible to repair. We are going to have this repaired in the next few weeks through the insurance company's approved vendors. Please watch for any vehicles that are driving erratically or other suspicious behavior and report to the police.

## Remember to Lock your Doors!

Hawthorne Park is normally a very quiet neighborhood where we can enjoy our walks and visits with the neighbors. We rarely are troubled by vandalism, however, recently nearby neighborhoods have seen an increase in home vandalism.

Apparently, many of the break-ins were made easier by residents leaving cars unlocked and garage

doors open. So please keep your eyes and ears open and report any suspicious behavior and if you do see your neighbor's garage door open at night, go ahead and call them! They'll appreciate keeping their belongings safe.

