



Blackbird Farms

Homeowners Association - P.O. Box 2776 - West Lafayette, IN 47996

2014 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

BBF NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE—AUGUST 23—8:00 a.m—2:00 p.m.

As usual, our annual garage sale will be held the Saturday before classes begin at Purdue. Making your surplus treasures available the weekend thousands of new apartment dwellers are trying to furnish their new homes and families with growing kids are trying to outfit them for the school year has proven to be a winning formula. Start gathering your clutter now and on August 23, turn it into cash! You set up your own sale, and spread the word about what's happening here on 8/23 to your friends. BBFHOA will place ads in the Journal & Courier, signs at the front entrance, and an announcement on our website.

BBFHOA 2014 ANNUAL MEETING—MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Please mark your calendars for this important event which will take place Monday, November 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Blackbird Farms Apartment Clubhouse. Included on the agenda will be a review of the past year, a discussion regarding current needs and ideas for the future, adoption of the 2015 budget, and election of the BBFHOA officers and board members for the coming year. Additional information regarding the meeting will be sent in October.

2014 COMMON AREA ACTIVITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS

2014 has become the year of the tree.

---13 ash trees in the common areas were inoculated this spring to prevent damage or further damage from the emerald ash borer.

---All of the low hanging branches on the common area ash trees have been trimmed up by thoughtful neighbors and a Board member. Shortly, those branches in these trees that hang low over the street also will be trimmed up.

---Arrangements were made with volunteers from Tree Friends of West Lafayette to help identify and tag ash trees in front and side yards throughout the neighborhood. In conjunction with this, educational materials were obtained and distributed to all homeowners to help you explore the alternatives available for dealing with the emerald ash borer invasion.

--6 large 20+ year-old infested, overgrown, or dying trees were removed from the following areas: Kestral common areas (2), front entrance (1), and the Sandpiper Drive parking island (3).

---Three new red oak trees replacing the overgrown pines were planted on the Sandpiper Drive parking island.

---The sucker shoots and undergrowth around the Kestral maples and pines as well as among the trees in the common areas next to the front entrance walls were removed. Unfortunately, all of the wet weather this spring has encouraged much of this unwanted vegetation to reappear .

Non-tree related activities and improvements include the following:

---Arrangements were made with Metronet to return and repair the damage done last fall to common area as well as homeowners' landscaping when their fiber optic cable infrastructure was installed.

---Electric controllers soon will be installed on the front entrance irrigation system replacing the current 20+ year old plastic gear-driven control mechanism.

---The grass on both the Sandpiper Drive parking island and the front entrance center island will be reseeded this fall.

TREE LIMBS TOUCHING ROOFS

One of the defining characteristics of Blackbird Farms is our abundance of mature trees. A drawback, however, is some limbs may grow close to or even rest on roofs. While these offer wonderful shade, they also provide squirrels, chipmunks, rodents, and bugs easy access to your house via the chimney, laundry vent, etc. Moreover, limbs resting on roofs also can cause damage to the latter. Given some of the stories Board members have heard, if you have trees growing close to your home, we encourage you to check your roof. Should any limbs be touching it, you might want to consider cutting them back.

ANIMAL WASTE LEFT ON OTHERS' LAWNS

West Lafayette has an ordinance that includes a fine for pet owners not cleaning up waste their animals leave in other homeowners' yards. If you are an offender, please carry a plastic bag when you walk your dog, and pick up his/her feces. Even though you will be denying the City of West Lafayette a source of revenue, your neighbors will be most appreciative!

MAIL BOXES AND POSTS

When distributing BBFHOA Newsletters, we usually find several rusty mailboxes and wobbly posts. Should either of yours need to be replaced, please remember that all posts must be constructed of wood. Lowes carries them with a decorative top similar to those originally installed by the developer. Posts with an angular top can be found at Home Depot, Lowes, and Menards. These three stores plus Ace Hardware all carry the regulation size large (not regular) black metal boxes used in BBF.

TRASH, TRASH CANS, ETC.

I've yet to prepare a BBFHOA Newsletter without requests from homeowners to include a message or two related to trash, trash cans, etc. This time, you've ask me to include the following:

---Please do not to put trash or recycling out before Tuesday evening. If the trash includes garbage and it is being put out in a paper or plastic sack rather than a closed container, please do not put it out until Wednesday morning. Especially after dark, animals like to raid sacks containing garbage, and invariably, they create a mess.

---Please remind people, per the BBFHOA Covenants, other than on collection day, they need to store their trash and recycling bins out of view of other homes and the street. (An idea—clear out a place for these bins in your garage and sell what previously had been in that space in the 8/23 BBFHOA Garage Sale. It's a win-win. You'll be richer and your neighbors will be happier!)

Hope you are having a good summer!

Carolyn Jones, President

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