

## NPOA Board of Directors 2008

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### Treasurer – Ellen Ignatow

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## Committees

### Deed Restrictions:

[deedrestrictions@northbrookpoa.com](mailto:deedrestrictions@northbrookpoa.com)

### Clubhouse: Lisa Lowenstein

(h) 713-777-7641, (m) 713-202-0861

### Swimming Pool: OPEN

### Hospitality: Earlene Gales

(h) 713-773-3199

### Trash: Pat Gana (h) 713-771-0955

### Traffic & Security: Mark Preslock

(h) 713-416-9106

### Newsletter: Vanessa Collier

(e) [mauiquet@yahoo.com](mailto:mauiquet@yahoo.com)

### Youth Club: Victoria Linares

(h) 713-777-8830

## Change In District Rep.

In December our District Representative, Sophie Wang, had an accident in which she broke her wrist. Sophie's need to recover, combined with her many other volunteer commitments, has led her to withdraw from active participation as District 6 Representative. Fortunately the election runner up, Dan Smith, has offered to step into her place. We wish Sophie all the best in her recovery!

## Community Grants Available

**Neighborhood Revitalization Awards** Six monetary awards ranging from \$10,000-\$25,000 each will recognize exemplary collaboration between community groups and police that yields crime reduction as well as economic development outcomes.

### Special Strategy Awards

Five monetary awards of \$15,000 each recognize exemplary collaboration between community groups and police that yield significant public safety outcomes, including Aesthetics and Greenspace Improvement.

But someone needs to develop a plan and apply by **February 29** on behalf of the Northbrook Association. Please contact Vice-President, Stephen Haslam, if you are interested.

[www.lisc.org/section/areas/sec1/safety/awards/](http://www.lisc.org/section/areas/sec1/safety/awards/)

Visit our Website

<http://www.northbrookPOA.com>

Northbrook Property Owners Association

# Northbrook News

February, 2008

## What To Do With the Pool?

The pool is literally at the center of the NPOA community. This year it will be at the center of our deliberations with budgeting and planning. The Board will be considering some big decisions, but not without your input.

So a meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 16 from 3-5pm to find out what you think about the community pool.

Some of the information and options discussed will include:

- ◆ **Costs:** We'll give an overview of what portion of the NPOA budget is spent to maintain and operate the pool.
- ◆ **Pool upgrades:** Thousands of dollars must be spent to upgrade the pool in order to maintain certification to operate as a community pool.
- ◆ **Lifeguards:** Last year's lifeguards were irresponsible, and did not maintain an atmosphere that made community members feel welcome and safe. Research has been done that shows it is very difficult to find companies who will provide dependable lifeguards at a reasonable price. We will discuss the pros, con, and difficulties of lifeguards.
- ◆ **Swim at you own risk:** Some have suggested operating the pool without



lifeguards, but with a "swim at your own risk" policy. We will present what we have learned about the requirements, and discuss the pros and cons of this approach.

- ◆ **The "shut it down" option:** Because the pool comprises such a large part of the NPOA budget, but is only open for a short time and serves so few community members, some people would prefer to simply shut it down and invest the money to address other crucial needs.

## Who will do the Research?

Here is the question: **Who is going to do the work** of researching these options, and developing a responsible plan? It is only going to happen if those who want a community pool step up to the plate. Please let us know if you are willing to help.

# NPOA Member & Board Meeting: Feb. 19, 2008

## Membership Meeting

For the first forty minutes of the meeting the members met with their District Reps. to understand Member concerns and share valuable information before taking on their Representative role of making decisions.

## NPOA Board Meeting

After a short break Board Members gathered in the center table for the official Board Meeting. Key motions included:

- ◆ Officially installing the new Officers and Committee Members.
- ◆ Increasing the bookkeeper's salary by \$50 a month.
- ◆ Establishing an Executive Committee to work with the President to approve expenditures between Board Meetings.
- ◆ Establishing a Directory committee to develop a plan for updating the Directory.
- ◆ Approving the Greenway maintenance contract bid.
- ◆ Approving a community meeting in February to discuss options for the future of the community pool.
- ◆ Accepting the President's offer to develop and present short-term, 6-month, and long-term goals

regarding the physical standing of the clubhouse, of the clubhouse, before any redecorating is started.

- ◆ The Hospitality Committee received an updated list of new homes from the Treasurer, and will make contact with all new community members with a welcome packet and to answer any questions.
- ◆ Agreeing that oversight of all Deed Restriction issues would be done by the Board of Directors, so that no one person becomes a target by angry community members.
- ◆ Agreeing that each Committee should establish a manual with standard operating procedures that can be passed to each successive Board.
- ◆ Discussing a variety of security options, but making no specific motions or actions at this time.

## The NPOA Board Meeting February 19 Agenda items:

- ◆ Confirm January Meeting Minutes
- ◆ Financial Report
- ◆ Directory Update & Survey Progress Report
- ◆ Trash Report
- ◆ Clubhouse Maintenance Report
- ◆ Pool: Report
- ◆ Security Report
- ◆ Committees: filling empty committee slots.
- ◆ Target Dates: Set dates for reports and action steps.

## Neighborhood Shout Out!



### You Never Have to Worry as Long as We're Neighbors

By Stephen & Myrrh Haslam

A few years ago Mike and Tram Pastorello moved in as our neighbors. Since then Mike and I have helped each other in getting our yard work done. Some weeks I would do the lawn first, some weeks Mike did, and sometimes we worked together.

We planned on working together to knock off some big projects to improve our landscaping. But I damaged a disk in my back, a serious injury that keeps me from bending over, lifting, or doing any yard work. That certainly stopped our plans for collaborating!

Then late one night our dogs were barking at someone who was dragging our trash can out to the street. It was Mike. He just started doing this on his own. Mike and Tram recently had twins and I figured that he was the one who could use all the help he could get. So I was really feeling very guilty about not helping him. Then he sent this note:

*"As for the garbage cans- no worries. It is part of my routine now. I have no problem pulling out your garbage can. So don't worry about beating me to it, I will just take care of it. You never have to worry about it while we are neighbors." Mike*

I hope all of you are lucky enough to have a neighbor like Mike ... or generous enough to be one!

**Please send us your stories, we would love to publish about someone in our neighborhood who is setting a good example for us all.**

## Trash Cans, Not Bags!

A quick reminder--**put it in a can!** You may noticed that if you put your garbage out at the curb in plastic bags it is likely to end up spread out over the street. That's not the garbage man's fault or responsibility. There are many cats and dogs who love to snack on leftovers in the bags. Please be sure to put your trash in a can with a top. It also helps the neighborhood appearance if we don't leave trashcans out or visible all week. Thanks for helping to make our neighborhood a clean environment.

