

Acacia Times

Monthly Newsletter of The Acacia Association

January 2015

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General Announcements

Official Notice of Acacia Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors consists of volunteers from the Acacia community. Without a resident homeowner Board to manage our affairs, management costs would rise considerably. Please read the Official Notice in the Newsletter.

Absentee ballot form is in this Newsletter and also on the Acacia Website. You can vote at the office starting February 1. If you will be out of town during the month of February, fill out the absentee ballot form with your out of town address and return it to the office.

If you are interested in running or know of anyone who is, please turn in your resume at the office.

Acacia office will be open on Saturday, February 14th from 10am to 2pm and on Sunday, February 22nd from 10am to 2pm.

Resumes of Candidates standing for election.

Snow Plowing: Please read the snow plowing maps in the Newsletter. Do not put garbage bags on the driveway on Tuesday if snow plowing is to be done. They are in the way of the snow plows. Put garbage bags on the grass. We do not plow until there is 3 or more inches of snow. If the Village plows snow into the end of your driveway blocking from getting out, call the Village 246-3080.

Phone books are here. Residents can pick one up at the office.

If you plant flowers around tree, please clean them up in the fall.

WEBSITE: Acacia now has a Website. You can access this at acaciaihp.com or acacia-ihp.com or acacia-ihp.org or acaciaihp.org. We encourage everyone to start using the Website for info about the Association as well as forms, minutes, newsletters, snow plowing timing and schedule.

The next Board of Directors Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Meetings are at 7:00 p.m. at the Acacia Clubhouse.

OFFICIAL NOTICE - ACACIA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The following information has been prepared to assist you in electing a Board of Directors for the Acacia Association. We hope we have anticipated all of your questions.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at 8:00 P.M.

LOCATION: The Acacia Association Clubhouse, 111 Cascade Drive, Indian Head Park

PURPOSE: To elect three (3) directors for three-year terms. Directors to be elected, not officers. Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

Candidates should submit a brief written resume to the Nominating Committee at the Acacia Office before January 20, 2015. These resumes will be published in the January issue of the Acacia Times Newsletter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman – Jack Brandush
Members – Sharon Kyzivat and Karen Sendra

ABSENTEE VOTING: If you will be **OUT OF TOWN** for the month of February and unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may request and submit an Absentee Ballot form – available from the Acacia Office, on the Acacia Website or in the Newsletter, beginning February 1, 2015. Bring in your request or mail to the office. Your ballot will be mailed to your **OUT OF TOWN** address after February 1, 2015.

If you will be in town but unable to attend the Annual Meeting, you may vote by absentee ballot beginning February 1, 2015 at the Association office. You must sign the register and vote on the premises. Your ballot must be in a sealed envelope and placed in the locked ballot box. Such ballots will be counted with all the others after 8:00 pm on February 24, 2015.

Association office hours are:

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.*

***closed Noon to 1 P.M.**

Acacia Association

ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 24, 2015

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

This request applies **ONLY** if you will be **OUT OF TOWN** during the month of February and unable to attend the 2015 Acacia Association annual meeting and wish to vote for directors by absentee ballot.

Please mail my ballot with instructions to the **OUT OF TOWN** address below.

NAME _____

OUT OF TOWN
ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Signature _____

Acacia address _____

Date _____

This request form must be returned to the office immediately. Your ballot will be mailed at that time to your **OUT OF TOWN** address ONLY. Your ballot must be returned before February 23, 2015 to be counted.

Peggy Rose Kwiatek

My name is Peggy Rose Kwiatek and I have been living in Acacia for almost two years now. I truly love it here, and want to get involved and do my part to keep Acacia a wonderful place to live by running for the Board of Directors of the Acacia Association.

I have owned my own business, Peggy Rose Academy of Dance and Acrobatics, in Berwyn for the past 39 years. I have served on the Board of Directors of the Berwyn Development Corporation for the past 6 years. I have been a member of the Berwyn Kiwanis Club for the past 27 years, serving as President in 1992-93, and am now serving on the Kiwanis Board of Directors.

If elected, I will devote my time and energy to keeping Acacia a promising, successful and happy community.

Amy Eckert

I have served on the Acacia Board of Directors for the past 6 years and been a resident for over 15 years. Currently I'm serving as the Vice President, Director of Townhome Maintenance and back up person for the Clubhouse Director. In the past I had the responsibility of working on the Architecture & Landscape Control Committee (ALCC) for a few years.

While serving on the Acacia Board I've learned a great deal about how the association runs and what it takes to keep Acacia a great place to live. I've also gotten involved in our bigger community, Indian Head Park, attending the Village meetings and being part of the neighborhood watch program. This has allowed me to stay apprised of changes happening in the community and sharing them with the Acacia residents.

As a Board, all members work well together and we have been able to implement changes and improvements that we hope benefit all our residents. Some of these improvements include driveway replacement and seal coating more often, changes in the paint cycle due to use of improved materials, updating the landscaping and the changes that are occurring now in the 4 Season Room. These changes have been made with minimal increase in our monthly assessments and lots of work on the part of the Board of Directors.

I would like to continue to be able to work with the Board and would ask that you consider electing me for another term.

Remember this is your association and your input is always welcome – please remember to vote in our annual election.

2015 Election Resume

John T Polacek (Incumbent)

My wife, Carole, and I have lived in Acacia for the last 6 years. We grew up and have lived in Lyons Township most of our lives. We enjoy Acacia for its friendly residents and lovely grounds. I am completing a 5th year as a member of the Board of Directors. The last 3 years I have served as the Treasurer. It has been a pleasure to serve on a very collaborative Board that looks to provide the best services possible at a reasonable cost. Although the Board does not agree on everything, they keep their eye on the ball, "Do what is best for all the members, long term."

During the last several years we have seen improvements in the grounds and facilities without an increase in monthly assessments for 3 years. This was accomplished in part by moving to a 5 year painting cycle, changing the phone system and going to a payment book for the assessment. We have seen increases in costs from salaries, snow removal, equipment maintenance and energy so this year we had to raise the assessment \$6.00 per month. It is important to be careful with the Acacia funds.

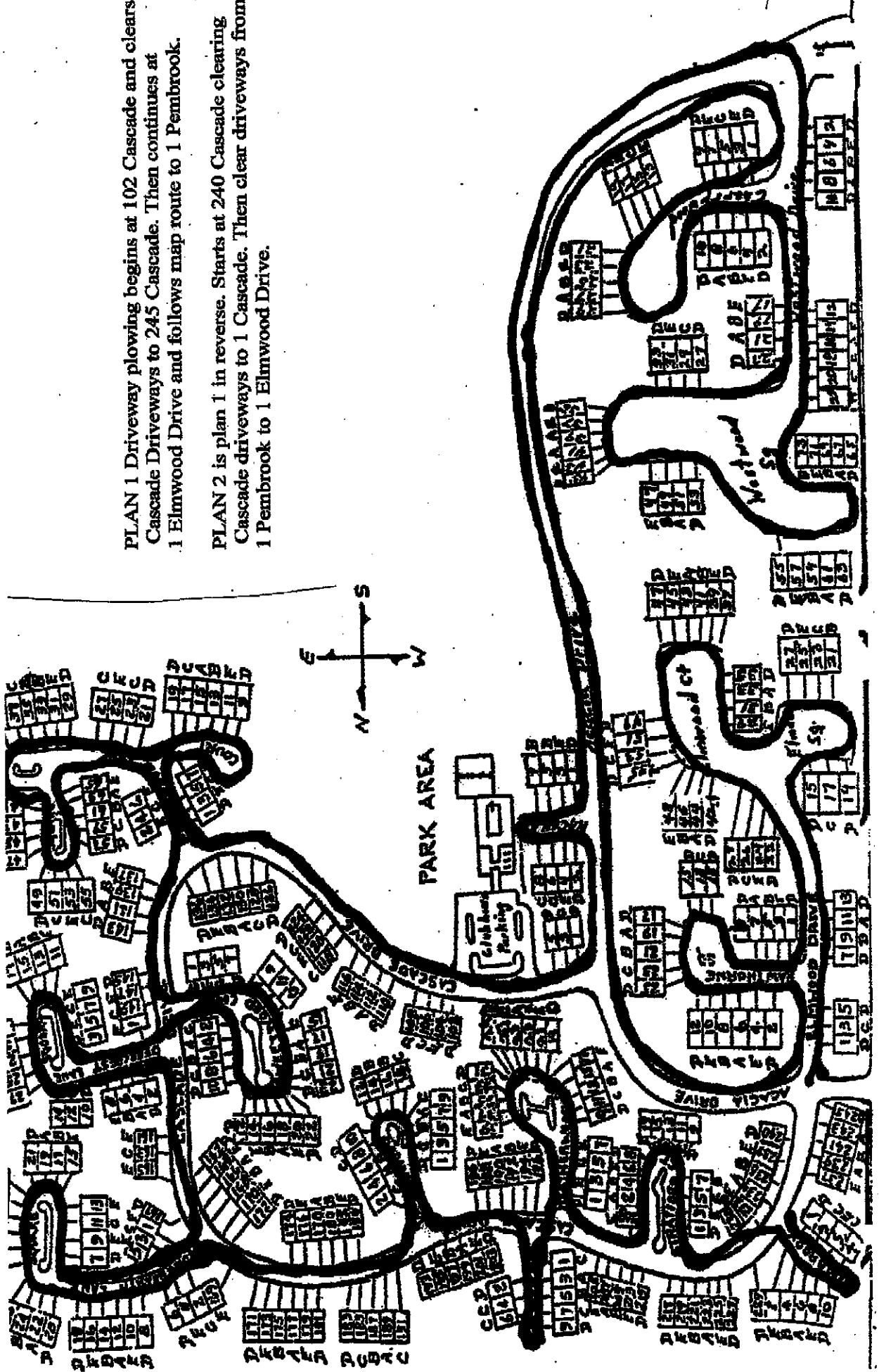
If elected I will continue to work with all the board members to continue to improve Acacia, continue our efforts to collect all assessments due, care for our financial well being, maintain the infrastructure of Acacia and respond to members needs and requests.

Thank you for your support.

Remember to vote in the election, there are a minimum number of votes needed.

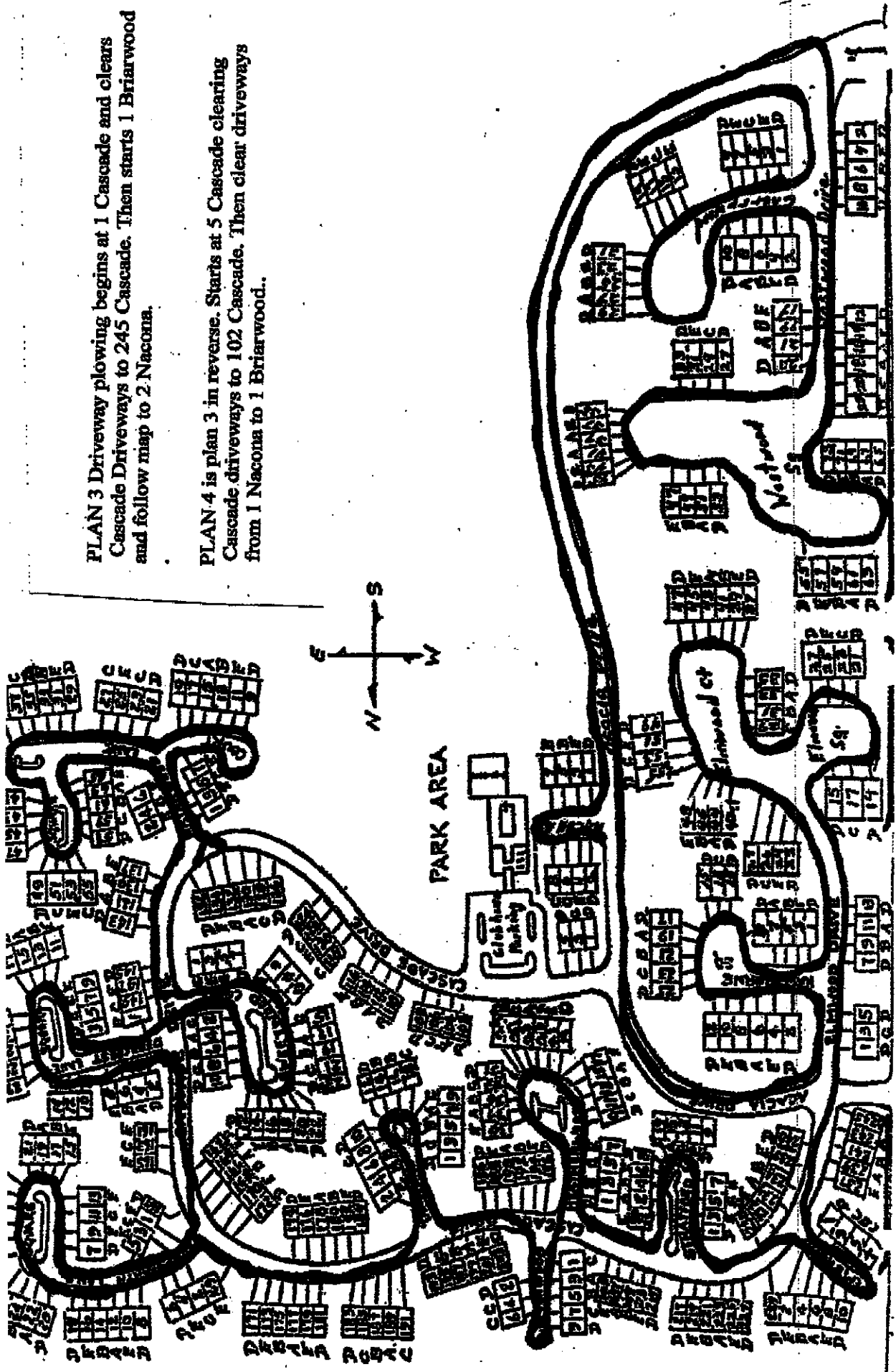
PLAN 1 Driveway plowing begins at 102 Cascade and clears Cascade Driveways to 245 Cascade. Then continues at 1 Elmwood Drive and follows map route to 1 Pembroke.

PLAN 2 is plan 1 in reverse. Starts at 240 Cascade clearing Cascade driveways to 1 Cascade. Then clear driveways from 1 Pembroke to 1 Elmwood Drive.



PLAN 3 Driveway plowing begins at 1 Cascade and clears Cascade Driveways to 245 Cascade. Then starts 1 Briarwood and follow map to 2 Nacona.

PLAN 4 is plan 3 in reverse. Starts at 5 Cascade clearing Cascade driveways to 102 Cascade. Then clear driveways from 1 Nacona to 1 Briarwood..



The Acacia Association Board of Director's Meeting

January 13, 2015

The Board of Director's Meeting of January 13, 2015 was called to order by Pres. O'Connor at 7:00 p.m.

Dirs. in attendance were: Pres. O'Connor, V.P. Eckert, Treas. Polacek, Sec'y Brandush, Bersin, Creed, Murray and King.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion (Polacek, Eckert) to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2014 Board of Director's Meeting. Motion passed. (9/0/0).

Treasurer's Report: John Polacek reported that on the Treasurer's Report page we see that the assessment collection was \$82,328 which is \$5,315 over the base with other sources giving a total income of \$84,383. Expenses were \$37,761 leaving the Net Ordinary Income of \$46,622. This is normal for this time of the year.

The Past Due accounts showed a reduction of 2 accounts but some members are continuing to miss their payments. Demand letters have been sent and some will be sent to our lawyer. It is curious that some do not seem to see our statements of non-payments month after month but do see our demand letter. We have started to put a red stamp on all billing envelopes in the hope that members will open the envelopes and look at them. A lot of them are just small payments that are fines. Some have come down significantly and the big ones are still there with the attorney.

When we look at the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual, the actual amount over budget is \$29,952. Keeping in mind that we did not spend the \$52,000 for driveways, we were actually \$32,048 over budget. Snow removal \$17,842 and payroll \$25,000 were the culprits.

The Capital Expenses (Ash Trees and The Atrium) will reduce our Capital reserve fund over \$120,000.

We are in good financial shape and the increase in the monthly assessment to \$205 will help cover the increases in costs and help replenish the Capital Reserves. Motion (Polacek, Eckert) to accept the Treasurer's Report as prepared by staff. Motion passed. (9/0/0).

Clubhouse Director's Report: Loretta Murray said that the Atrium is stalled again. After we had been cleared by the Fire Dept. they came back and said we need 3 additional sprinkler heads. This was a change after the plans had been approved. She doesn't know who is going to pay for this or if a quote has been given. She will contact them to see if additional funds are needed. Apparently there is an e-mail from Pleasantview Fire to Chicago Metro Fire saying there needs to be 3 more sprinkler heads. This is a new law. We need to have a copy of that e-mail or a letter from the Fire Dept. saying this. Loretta said they are working together and she can go back to Chicago Metro and get the e-mail conformation and call Pleasantview Chief and find out when had the law changed. If it was just changed in January then why aren't we grandfathered in for 2014. There was discussion about whose problem this is and who should pay for it.

Last month we had a very successful Breakfast With Santa. There were about 20 kids and what Loretta says she heard was hands down the best Santa (John Shepley) we've ever had. The kids loved it. John made a very personal to each child. There were 2 children who could not make it to the party because they were sick. So Santa showed up to deliver the packages to the kids. Loretta thanked the committee. Amy did a wonderful job as Loretta had some personal issues going on. Jennifer and Erica Cione were helping Amy.

We had 36 parties this year at the Clubhouse. We had a successful Garage Sale, Breakfast With Santa and we continue to have Bunco. Once we have the Atrium complete she is think about adjusting the deposit for Clubhouse rentals.

Recreationl Director's Report: Jack Brandush said the pool cover is still alright so far with snow on it. Jack said he would like to order some pool furniture. He has a

quote from Dorsey Associates who represents Telescope Furniture. We have done business with them before. He'd like to get 6 stacking chaise lounge chairs at \$284 each and to replace some of the arm chairs at \$148 each. We need to purchase 25 or 30 items to get their 15% discount. Loretta wants to look at the catalog. As least for now motion (Jack, Polacek) to purchase 6 lounge chairs for \$1,704 and 4 stacking arm chairs for \$592 for a total of \$2,296 plus shipping would be another \$15. That's \$2,640. To purchase from Dorsey Associates. Motion passed. (9/0/0). Jack said he is hoping people keep their pool ID's and we will just put a sticker on them. He will not be taking pictures.

Grounds Maintenance Director's Report: Bill King said that there were just 2 Service Requests that were completed.

Motion (King, O'Connor) to approve \$1,550.00 for stump removal with A&B Tree Service. Motion passed. (9/0/0). Since the stumps were removed people may notice that as the snow melts and it rains it's going to start to sink. In the spring we will put soil and plant grass at those spots. Can't put a tree where one was taken out.

Bill wants to do a complete assessment of our trees with the arborist. He will go around with the arborist to see how many Ash trees we have left. There are maybe 15 left. We are not sure if all of them are on our grounds. Some may belong on adjoining grounds of our neighbors. Bill also wants to know if there are any others trees, not Ash trees, that need to come down. Next is to go around with him about tree trimming. We have been doing that on a 5 year cycle. Bill wants to know if that's alright or not. And then of what trees we are going to plant in the future. He wants to do a complete survey of the grounds with the arborist.

We had our first trial of the new snow removal plan. They started at 8am. The weather forecast said the snow would be over about 6 or 7 when it had actually ended by about 4am. We could have started a bit sooner. This is a trial system of doing Cascade first. When we started on Cascade the Village was still doing cul-de-sacs. We are doing Cascade first and don't want the Village coming through again after the driveways are cleared. We pay to have our driveways cleared and

also pay for the streets to be done. If people see their driveway plowed in, call the Mayor and leave a message that you want a call back. If he gets enough complaints maybe they will start to listen to us. 246-3080.

Do not put garbage in the driveways if we are plowing on Tuesdays. Put it on the grass, not in the way of the snow plows. We start plowing first in the parking lot. People can then move their cars out of the driveways. We do not plow driveways with cars in them. They could be damaged. There were a lot of cars in driveways this last time. People need to be very careful of the snow plows. People are racing around the plows. The driver cannot always see a car coming. John is nearby with the warning lights on the truck. We plow when there is 3 inches or more. Check the Acacia Website.

Townhome Maintenance Director's Report: Amy Eckert said there was only 1 Service Request this month. Jose is in the process of collecting bids on everything we have to do coming up. Jose mentioned there are some concerns with the truck. The truck is going to need front tires and speakers. The next thing will be driveways of how many are we going to do. Frank said we take a good look at the driveways before we decide. The driveways will need seal coating.

Village Relations Director's Report: Bob Bersin said that the water bills will be going up 54 cents per 1,000 gallons as of the first of the year. The minimum is 12,000 gallons. It will probably go up again in May when Countryside raises their rates. The Village talked about replacing water meters which will probably not happen. Will cost about \$200,000.

The phone books are here. Resident can pick one up.

Jack said that in Smoke Signals it says that homeowners in multi-dwelling houses are to display their address on both front and backs of homes and be clearly visible from the road. They should be 4 inches in height and the colors should be in contrast from the background. The Board thinks this is meant for apartment buildings or condos.

Architectural & Landscape Committee Report: John Shepley said it is a slow month and we are caught up on everything. One complaint he had was that

someone is a cul-de-sac planted flowers around trees in their cul-de-sac. It was nice but in the fall they didn't clean it up. If your going to plant flowers please clean it up in the fall. A couple of people had gazebos up after Nov 1. He spoke with them.

Jack Brandush said one resident put in windows without approval. There is a fine. We are still waiting on one homeowner where there was a request for a couple of boards to be replaced on their deck. They were then replacing the whole deck without a permit from the Village. The Village is still requesting info from them before they get approval.

Christmas lights should be taken down by the end of the month.

Jack said that we are waiting for nominees to put their resumes in. He has made some phone calls. There are 3 positions to be filled and we are still looking for one. The deadline for resumes is Jan 20. The Official information is in the Newsletter regarding the Annual Meeting. There was some discussion about absentee ballots. We had sent everyone the request for absentee ballot in the mail. This information is also in the Newsletter and will be on the Website. We generally only get maybe 3 or 4 people who return the request. Residents can vote at the office starting Feb 1. They must vote at the office. You cannot take the ballot with you. We need your vote. We need to have a quorum.

Amy said that the Fire Inspector that was here this morning was talking about registering your info with the Fire Dept in case of emergency.

Motion (Eckert, Murray) to adjourn the Board of Director's Meeting to Executive Session. Motion passed. (9/0/0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Return to Open Session. Report that employee reviews and compensation were discussed and passed in Executive Session. The being no new business to discuss motion (Eckert, Creed) to close open session. Motion passed. (9/0/0).

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Vintage Doctor's Scale \$50

Hanging Tiffany Style Light

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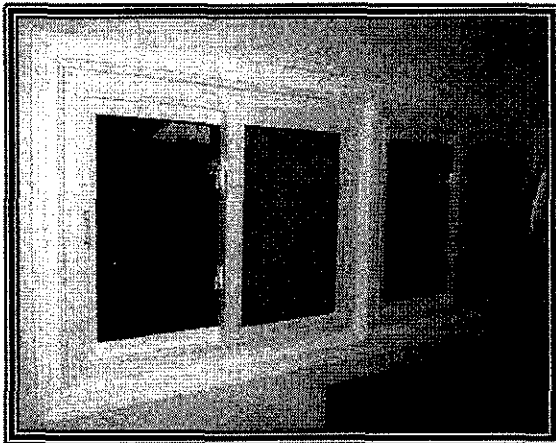
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Grain
Dark
Oak



Interior
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Grain
Light
Oak

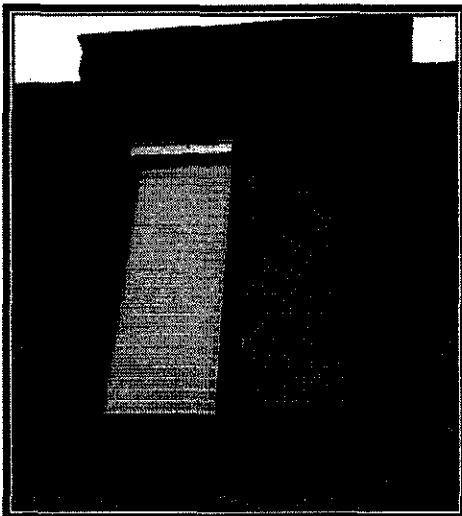


Exterior Bronze

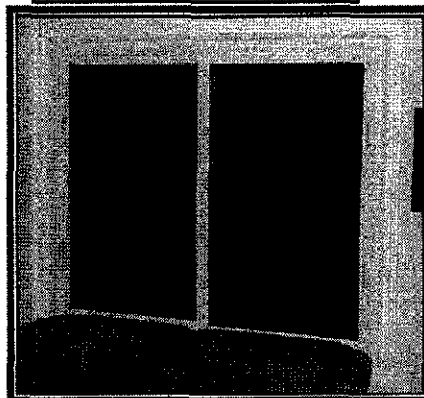


Other color combinations
available upon request

Exterior Cocoa



Actual Acacia Project
Photos



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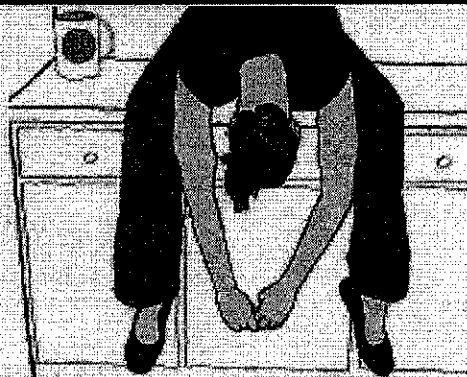


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