

## YOUTH CORPS PROGRAM

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful seeks High School Youth to help preserve and maintain trees this summer.

Contact Nate Faris at 317.264.7555 x111 or nfaris@kibi.org for more details!

The Youth Corps is a ten-week program, running from June 2-August 7.

Participants will receive a free lunch each work day, and will earn seven dollars per hour for their work! The Youth Corps members will work 20 hours a week as a team to preserve and maintain trees, working outdoors to water, mulch, prune, and stake trees. Youth Corps applicants must currently be enrolled in high school to participate.

Who?

The 2008 Youth Corps is a select group of Indianapolis high school age youth with adult leaders.

What?

The purpose of the Youth Corps is to grow the potential

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Caveat Emptor!  
(Let the buyer beware!)

of local youth through ecological preservation. Specifically, we work in the outdoors to water, mulch, prune, and stake trees. The Youth Corps also trains at an adventure course, takes a wilderness camping trip, receives job skill training, learns financial management skills, and rafts on the White River.

Where?

The Youth Corps works in the Indianapolis area.

When?

June 2-August 7: Work Days (Mon., Tue., Wed., Thur.) 8am-1pm

June 13-14: Wilderness Camping Trip

Application Process:

Step 1: Challenge Day

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) will hold a two-hour Challenge Day for all those interested in joining the Youth Corps. Through a series of fun obstacles, you will be challenged to prove your desire to work hard and get your hands dirty.

Date: March 15, 2006

Time: 10am-Noon

Location: 1305 Central Ave.

If you plan to come to the Challenge Day, call or e-mail **Nate Faris** (contact info below).

Step 2: Volunteer

After you have attended the Challenge Day, your next step is to volunteer at a KIB spring tree-planting project. A list of spring projects will soon be available on our website at

[www.kibi.org/programs/education\\_youth/youth\\_corps.htm](http://www.kibi.org/programs/education_youth/youth_corps.htm)

Step 3: Interview

After you have completed steps 1 and 2, we will invite you to the KIB office for an interview. We will hold interviews during the week of April 21-24.



Have you visited the Crystal Pointe web site lately?

News, information, and neighborhood communications are all posted to the web site. Stop by today!!

<http://www.crystalpointe.org/>

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS IS A PUBLICATION OF THE CPHOA

Feb. 2008, Volume 10, Issue 1

Published and edited quarterly (Feb., May, Aug. & Nov.) by the CPHOA board members. Homeowners are encouraged to contribute articles, photos, ads, etc. and to help with the newsletter. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month before the publication

month. Classified ads are a free service for Crystal Pointe homeowners/residents only.

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February 2008

Volume No. 10, Issue No 1

## CRYSTAL POINTE SEEKS PRESERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT

by John Francis

If you attended the January 2008 meeting or read the annual report on that agenda, you are aware of some of the new initiatives that are taking place at Crystal Pointe.

An ongoing project is to continue to add trees to the neighborhood. The annual sale for homeowners added more and Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB) made a big difference along Carroll Road. This year KIB has been asked to help again, this time with pines to fill in gaps along the berm on Carroll Road. The goal here is to increase homeowner privacy.

As reported at the meeting, the neighborhood is taking preventative measures to protect our lake (see separate article).

Another initiative involves rebuilding the entrances for two reasons: The walls, unprotected by a capstone, are beginning to deteriorate and the entrance trees, some 24 Austrian pines, are dying. Last year homeowners approved \$1,900 to remove the trees at the north entrance since these are in the worst shape.

Another major undertaking has been the Capital Improvement Committee's plan to celebrate our community. These included sponsoring the first Curb Appeal Awards which took place in July. For this

event homeowners spruced up their property and a team on non-residents (a real estate broker, a landscaper, an architect and a nurseryman) judged which homes had the most curb appeal. Prize winners received up to \$150 in gift certificates donated by various area merchants and cash

Similarly, the Committee held its first Holiday Lighting Contest in which children from the neighborhood toured the neighborhood and selected what they thought were the best for Christmas displays. (See related article).

On a less exciting note, Crystal Pointe has undertaken a long range plan to insure the health of the pond. According to visiting experts to a special Lake Committee meeting, ponds silt up over time. Though a suggested time frame for ours was 25 years, that is not a certainty. What is certain is that over time the pond degrades thanks to erosion, silting, chemical additions, and other matters. Before matters progress too far and remediation becomes too expensive, the committee plans to research several problems, take bids on projects, and plan that the work be spread out over the years to avoid hopefully the need of any special assessment.

Many of these and other ideas were put forth by homeowners at meetings. Like these homeowners, you can make a significant difference in our community by giving a little time.

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## DUES REMAINS AT \$200

CPHOA has been able to maintain dues at \$200 for another year. Despite ever rising prices, expenses for the year proved lower than anticipated. The biggest money saver is last year's small snow removal bill. While \$10,000 is budgeted for a worst case scenario (several winters ago we passed that amount which resulted in a dues increase), there was money left from that to cover increases in other expenses. Of course, it is understood, that should snow in one year reach the \$10,000 mark, dues would rise the following year.

A source of concern, however, is the number of homeowners who haven't paid dues. The number of foreclosures has increased slightly; however, it does not equal the number of delinquencies. Therefore, the time table for dues collection will be more closely monitored and the lawyer will be more quickly notified about delinquencies. Also, at each meeting the treasurer will provide a more detailed accounting of operations, e.g., number of homeowners paid, number not paid, major bills paid, impending large bills, etc.

To share some of the problems the community faces with dues collection. A few days after the last meeting, the treasurer from 2000-2003 handed me a check for \$372.93. The check was sent to him instead of the current treasurer because the bank just settled the matter. The check was for back dues and late fees.

Interestingly, there was no address for the property on which the dues was for. And, the check came from Milwaukee!

## LAWN NOT GREEN?

### NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN TO REVIVE YOUR LAWN

By Ken Lee and John Marlatt

Areas in your lawn that did not green up during the fall are going to need some help.

Below are six steps to reviving your lawn:

1. *Rake*: Gently rake to remove dead turf,
  2. *Aerate*: Aeration removes cores of dirt reducing soil compaction and improving water movement, which helps develop deep grass roots. All lawns benefit from aeration. This should be done during March or in the fall.
  3. *Overseed*: Upon completion of the above, spread the grass directly onto the soil within the existing lawn,
  4. *Fertilize*: Apply a starter fertilizer to the lawn area being over-seeded.
  5. *Water*: Water regularly while the new grass seen is getting established.
  6. *Mow*: Mow when the new grass is about 4-5 inches tall. Do not mow shorter than 3 inches. This promotes a thicker lush lawn, chokes out weeds and is better able to withstand the hot summer months.
- Regarding weed control: when over-seeding, DO NOT apply weed control or a pre-emergent to your lawn. Weed control can resume after one or two mowings.

The Architectural Review Board (ARB) of Crystal Pointe would like to help you get your lawn back. Please contact us with any lawn questions you may have.

Ken Lee @ 823-0897

John Marlatt @ 826-7870

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING EVENT

by John Marlatt

The Capital Improvement Committee thanks everyone for lighting up the neighborhood and making the first annual Holiday Lighting Contest a success. In keeping with the spirit of the season, ballots were distributed to all homes so that neighborhood children could place their top four choices.

Many of you drove around and around the neighborhood taking your children back and forth until they could make a decision on the homes they thought were the best decorated, not an easy decision. Hopefully everyone enjoyed the hours of hard work spent by neighbors in brightening up Crystal Pointe for the Season.

Many homes in the neighborhood received votes and some were very close. The top four winners received evergreen swags with ribbons and pinecones on their mailboxes along with a cash gift.

The top four winning addresses were:

8364 Bent Oak Circle  
8357 Bent Oak Circle  
12542 Tealwood Drive  
12364 Geist Cove Drive

Once again, the Capital Improvement Committee is grateful to the residents of Crystal Pointe who made the 2007 Holiday Lighting Contest successful. We hope everyone is looking forward to another great Holiday Lighting Contest in December of 2008 at which time notices will go out earlier and homeowners can better prepare for the event.

City of Lawrence Common Council meetings are held at the Government Center on the 59th Street Government Center at 9001 E. 59th Street, Public Assembly Room. Upcoming meetings:

March 3rd, 6:30 PM Council Meeting  
April 7th, 6PM Council Meeting

## HORNING'S NURSERY IN ASSOCIATION WITH CPHOA

is pleased to announce a SPECIAL on LAWN AERATION. If you, like many others, suffered lawn damage caused by last year's drought, you may need to aerate and overseed.

### SERVICE

Aeration @ \$10 per 1,000 sq ft, plugs and double pass;  
Overseeding @ \$10 per 1,000 sq ft  
Starter fertilizer @ \$4 per 1,000 sq ft

### HOW TO OBTAIN

Determine what your lawn needs,  
Contact Horning's at 335-3556,

Horning's will measure your property to determine the cost. The work will be done in March. If you overseed, you will be warned against using ANY weed control this spring as this will defeat the overseeding.

## YARD LIGHT MAINTENANCE

by John Francis

The *Covenants* require that the yard light (except for those who have carriage lights on timers) be on each night. Over the years, many of these lights have fallen into disrepair and in some places several homes in a row are without the proper lighting.

Several ways of fixing the problem present themselves:

1. The most obvious is - change the bulb! However, you might want to change it for one of those new energy efficient bulbs. I use one and it is great. Also, you can use higher wattage for more light at less operating cost!

2. Replace the photo sensor. This is on the front of the pole and attached to it by two screws. Ace Hardware sells them for a few dollars and they are easy to replace. However, you must remove the light fixture (not bulb) at the top so as to disconnect and re-connect the photo sensor.

The above are two common problems, but there are others. For this you will need an electrician. For example, I experienced a more complicated problem which was diagnosed as a too long electric wire not delivering enough voltage to the bulb. *Chris Navaiux* from our community was able to help. If you call him at 823-0475, he might be able to help you.

There will be more updates on the yard light drawing in your mailbox.

## LAKE MAINTENANCE

by Rick Sutherlin

There are no natural lakes in central Indiana. Ponds are placed on the landscape and represent a modification of the local hydrology for the purpose of helping flood control.

This intervention, however, leads to some consequences which much be addressed. Specifically, sediment, chemicals and nutrients build up in retention ponds if left unattended. Since the Crystal Pointe Pond was dredged (c.1993), there has already been one foot of silt deposited on the lake bottom (measured 11/07). If left unattended, the lake will ultimately become a wetland or swamp.

*Where does the silt come from?*

Storm sewers increase surface runoff with an accompanying increase in the volumes of sediment, nutrients from lawns and chemicals from the street into the lake, creating deposition and a friendly environment for algae.

Specifically, silt comes from erosion of land such as the development across Carroll Rd and from homeowners whose lack of plantings along the shore and other drainage areas increases runoff and erosion. Chemicals from soot in the atmosphere which settles on our streets and runs into the lake.

*What can be done?*

Sediment traps create a basin for silt to settle thereby keeping it from entering the lake. They also filter nutrients entering the lake which reduces algae. This helps promote clearer water.

A particular kind of silt trap, coir-logs, are impregnated with vegetative seeds which will sprout and make an attractive addition to the pond. These logs also come with water lily baskets and dark green bullrush baskets further enhancing their appearance. These logs, unlike stone barriers, stop at least 90% of the silt entering the lake and need to be serviced every few years, i.e., the trapped silt must be removed.

*What of the cost?*

At the present time, the CPHOA has one bid to set silt traps at all 8 inlets to the lake. The cost is \$7,760.25. Of course, additional bids and technologies will be investigated.

The Lake Committee urges you attend the next few business meetings because a decision has to be made, e.g., do we do all the work at once or spread it out over a two or three years? The impact on dues for such a project is nil since it would be paid for out of the capital fund; however, if homeowners want to pay for it out of operating expenses, then that is possible.

The Lake Committee will be holding future meetings with guest speakers about how best to control erosion, nutrient discharge into the lake, and what plants work best in promoting a healthy lake. Look for flyers in your mailbox announcing these meetings.

## YOUTH CORPS LEADER SUMMER 2008

Keep Indianapolis Beautiful is seeking adult leaders for the Youth Corps. We are seeking applicants who have experience in working with youth and love working in the outdoors. We seek applicants who are self-motivated, able to work without supervision, and willing to learn about tree care.

The Youth Corps is a group of 8 high school students who work together to preserve and maintain NeighborWoods trees in Indianapolis. KIB's maintenance need is a great opportunity for growing the potential of local youth. Group activities such as a high ropes course, a mid-summer camping trip, and daily calisthenics contribute to a positive group experience.

Youth Corps leaders will lead the high school students in their daily maintenance activities. Leaders report to a KIB staff member. Applicants must be 18 years old or older and a high school graduate. Leaders must also have a valid Indiana Drivers License.

Leaders work 4 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) from 7:30 am to 2:00 pm starting at the end of May through early August. Compensation for this position is \$10 per hour. Those hired

## LUMINARIA

After a spectacular Christmas light show in 2006, social committee members eagerly planned another for 2007. All involved hoped for dry conditions, relatively mild temperatures and an even greater participation rate this year over last. We even tied the lighting in with the holiday lighting contest.

Alas, snow, cold temperatures and a ferocious wind conspired to do us in. Many members appreciated, however, that many attempted to set their lights out even coming up with new ways to display the lights, e.g., up and down the driveway.

We hope that this year's cold doesn't freeze the hearts of all those who volunteered and prevent them from volunteering next year. Thanks to *Chris* and *Holly Simon*, *Karin Bariteau*, *Karen Johnson*, *Frances Goldberg*, *Chris Navaiux*, *John Francis*, *Roz Lee*, *Yvonne Cavallini*, *Janice Hilgendorf*, *Robbie Hall-Dobbs*.

Hopefully, the list above leaves out no one, but, if it does, I apologize.

may also have an opportunity to work on Saturdays in May and August - October.

The Youth Corps leaders' duties include:

- Completing a week of tree-care training with KIB staff.
  - Participating in all Youth Corps activities.
  - Teaching tree care and maintenance to the youth.
  - Undertaking necessary prep work for daily work tasks.
  - Leading the Youth Corps in daily work tasks (watering, mulching, pruning, etc.).
  - Organizing the Youth Corps overnight camping trip.
  - Managing the clean-up after daily work tasks.
  - Keeping records of Youth Corps activity.
  - Driving the Youth Corps Van.
  - Other duties as assigned.
- Interviews begin in February 2008.

For more information, contact:

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