



# DOUGHERTY LAKE NEWS

**Annual Dougherty Lake Homeowners Meeting  
Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 P.M.  
Des Peres City Hall Council Chambers**

## **TREE REMOVAL REMINDER**

The City of Des Peres removes dead or dying trees located in the easement between street and sidewalk. Contact Steve Braddock, Superintendent of Parks, to determine whether the city will take care of a tree removal and stump grinding in front of your property. His phone number is 835-6158 and email address is sbraddock@desperesmo.org.

## **RAINBOW PLAY SYSTEM - CARE AND UPKEEP**

The playground set on Dougherty Lake common ground was purchased and installed in 1996 at a total cost of \$3125.00. Many children and grandchildren in the neighborhood enjoy this set.



Recent renovations of the playground area include:

2004—Replacement of tarp roof and 3 swings, power washing, and painting of play set with wood sealer. (The labor was done by 3 neighbors & 2 trustees.) In addition, the playground surface was renovated by digging out the soil to a 6" depth below grade. Then landscape fabric and 15 cubic yards of playground woodchips were installed to provide protective surfacing. Total 2004 cost was approximately \$1700.

2006—As a result of vandalism, the toddler bucket swing was replaced. As a result of wear and tear, the swivel tire swing was replaced. (Labor was performed by 1 neighbor and 1 trustee.) The playground surface was renewed with the addition of 5 cubic yards of playground woodchips. Total 2006 cost was approximately \$525.

If anyone observes any maintenance needs, please report them as soon as possible to any trustee.

## **WHAT'S NEW IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD? LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS 2004-05**

Landscape beautification adds to our property values. We hope that you enjoy these new shrubs and trees when you are out for a walk in our neighborhood.

A Missouri Botanical Garden Plant of Merit\* is located in Camberwell Court Circle. It is a Persian ironwood (*Parrotia persica*). Persian ironwood is a small deciduous tree that grows 15-30 ft. in height. It is grown for its brilliant autumn foliage display and its showy exfoliating bark. It is virtually free of pests and diseases, prefers full sun, and is drought tolerant once established.

Six dwarf crape myrtle bushes (*Lagerstroemia 'Pocomoke'*) were planted in Hollyhead Drive Circle. Crape Myrtle is an attractive shrub that flowers from July through October. In the fall, the leaves turn purple, red, or bronze. They are very drought-tolerant once established. In Zone 5, which includes much of Missouri, they are susceptible to dying back to the ground in cold winters. Plants will, however, grow back vigorously from the ground. The dwarf cultivars are less than 3 feet tall.

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## LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUED

A storm-damaged redbud was removed from Hollyhead Court Circle. A Carolina Silverbell (*Halesia Carolina*) was planted as a replacement. It is an ornamental tree with showy flowers, good fall color and grows in full sun to part shade. It will eventually reach a height of 30-40 feet and a spread of 20-35 feet. Its bell-shaped, white flowers appear in April. This North American U.S. native is reported to be drought tolerant and recommended for zones 4 to 8.

A butterfly bush is located in Camberwell Court Circle. The scientific name is *Buddleja Davidii* 'Black Knight'. It is a deciduous shrub with an arching, spreading habit. Spike-like dark purple flowers bloom from June to September. The foliage is willowy gray-green. *Buddleja* will grow more vigorously and produce superior flowers if cut to the ground in late winter each year. This sun-loving shrub has no serious insect or disease problems and is drought tolerant. As its name implies, it is very attractive to butterflies and hummingbirds.

A Serbian spruce (*Picea Omorika*) was planted on lake common ground—southeast corner near Beaver Dam Road. The Serbian spruce is a medium sized, slow-growing, evergreen conifer with a narrow, conical crown which will over time grow to 60' tall by 20' wide. The tree requires no pruning to keep the narrow, pyramidal form. Short, graceful branches are retained to ground level for a number of years. Glossy, dark green needles have white bands underneath lending a silvery, bicolor effect. Serbian spruce is said to have better tolerance for hot, humid climates than most other species of spruce.



\*For more information on this program, see [www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/merit/index.shtml](http://www.mobot.org/gardeninghelp/merit/index.shtml)

## MEET SYMMETRY LANDSCAPING

Dougherty Lake is beginning a second 3-year contract with Symmetry Landscaping. Perhaps you would like to know a little more about this company that handles our common ground landscape maintenance. Symmetry was started by its owner, Ted Bergman in 1987. They now have over 100 employees who perform irrigation installation, design/build landscaping and landscape maintenance. They focus on commercial, industrial, and institutional properties.

Mark Shaw is the account manager for Dougherty Lake. He has been with Symmetry for 3 ½ years and is the Maintenance Division manager. The Maintenance Division involves lawn maintenance, fertilizing, pruning, spring and fall cleanup, and planting and maintaining annuals, bulbs, and mums.

Mark has an extensive background in his field. He grew up in south central Illinois on the family farm where he established a certified timber tree farm. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 1986 and after working with his father in residential contracting for several years, began his career in landscape maintenance in 1991. First he managed a lawn care business for two years in the St. Louis Metro East area and then was the Superintendent of Grounds for Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville for 5 years. He became a Master Gardener through the Missouri Botanical Gardens in 1990 and a Certified Arborist in 1991. Mark has managed a wide diversity of commercial landscapes for several companies in the St. Louis market.



Symmetry Landscaping, in their fine performance of landscape maintenance, helps make Dougherty Lake neighborhood an attractive, pleasant place to live!

## DOUGHERTY LAKE GARDEN CLUB UPDATE

The Dougherty Lake Garden Club is up and running. Once again this year, we plan to offer a program for the entire subdivision to attend. Albert Hirson, a Master Gardener, will present "**Lawn Care the Easy Way**" on April 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lodge. Learn how to take care of your lawn with less effort. This program will present horticultural practices and a timetable for lawn maintenance that will help you minimize hours of tedious lawn care. Topics include seed selection, watering, fertilizing, mowing, and pest management. Watch for more information.

If you are interested in more information about the Garden Club, contact Moira Steuterman at 821-8869.

## **STORM SEWERS - NO GUMBALLS OR YARD WASTE**

Our storm sewers, which empty into Dougherty Lake, are designed to handle water runoff and prevent flooding. However, if the storm sewer system is full of leaves, grass clippings, gumballs, and other kinds of waste, then it cannot efficiently drain the streets. Also, when the yard waste eventually gets washed out of the storm sewers into Dougherty Lake, the decomposition process affects the amount of oxygen available in the water for fish and other aquatic life. Dispose of gumballs and other yard waste with Monday morning City of Des Peres Yard Waste Pickup. This will help keep our storm drains operational and keep Dougherty Lake clean and healthy. Remember....whether you do your own lawn care or hire someone else to do it, you are still responsible for helping to keep the streets and storm sewers free of yard waste. Your help is appreciated.



## **WATERING HELPERS**

Many of your Dougherty Lake neighbors have been watering helpers. Newly planted trees and shrubs both inside the neighborhood and along the Des Peres Road easement have needed additional water, especially during the hot, dry parts of the summer. If there is not sufficient rainfall, supplemental watering is needed and may be necessary for 2-3 years after planting.

According to the Kemper Center for Home Gardening; one inch of water per week is the general

rule for newly planted trees and shrubs. They suggest if you are letting the hose run on a newly planted tree, let it run for at least 15-30 minutes to assure deep watering. A local garden center recommends a minimum of five gallons of water weekly for newly planted trees and a minimum of 2 gallons weekly for most shrubbery. It is important that the soil be watered thoroughly to encourage deep rooting. Thank you to those neighbors providing supplemental water for Dougherty Lake's new trees and shrubs!

## **AROUND THE LAKE**

Water condition - Since this past summer was particularly warm, and rainfall was below normal, it was necessary to treat the lake with a strong algaecide 3 different times to kill off the surface bloom of bright green algae. Last year the lake only needed 2 treatments.

The lake was also treated 3 times with a biologic agent designed to increase the amount of "good bacteria" in the lake which in turn digests the dead algae and assists to degrade the accumulated sludge build-up in the bottom of the lake. These treatments are performed regardless of the algaecide treatment.



Aerators - At the beginning of the summer season, the polypropylene rope anchor lines to the aerators were replaced with stainless steel wire rope. This proved to be a wise maintenance move in lieu of the heavy storms that blew through this summer. Those neighbors not living on the lake may be unaware that the lake rose over the eastern tie wall lake perimeter into several back yards during one particularly strong storm.

Wildlife - There were 7 wintering Canada Geese at our lake last winter. A Hooded Merganser showed up briefly during mid-winter. For the second year in a row, an additional 25-30 geese dropped in towards the end of

May and stayed until mid-July. There are 9 Mallard ducks living on our lake right now. 9 Mallard ducklings hatched in early summer, but their number dropped to 4 within one week, 3 by mid-July and only 1 remains. There are 2 pairs of Green Herons living on the lake, one visiting Great Blue Heron, at least one Kingfisher, a nesting Pileated Woodpecker (close to the lake), and at the end of Spring, one very lonely Bull Frog to name a few creatures.

**Please help us keep our beautiful lake clean.**

**Rake your leaves and gumballs into disposable bags for free pick up on Mondays by the City of Des Peres.**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE**

The annual homeowners' meeting will be Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 P.M. in the Des Peres City Hall Council Chambers. There are several important issues that need homeowner input including election (or re-election) of Trustees.

Steve Askren has resigned from the Board of Trustees due to the press of his business. Carel Reynolds has volunteered to run for communications trustee. In addition, Jim Gruenewald and Nancy Shaffstall have agreed to serve for 3 more years.

Please update your directory by adding the following two new families in our neighborhood:

- Sterling and Susan Wallace have moved in at 2310 Hollyhead Drive. They are in the house that for many years was the home of Jim and Jeane Meanor. The Meanors have moved to a retirement residence and will be missed.
- John and Priscilla Murray are at 721 Stump Road, the former home of Jack and Margie Rempe. The Murray's phone is 984-0268. Their email is [pmurray20@yahoo.com](mailto:pmurray20@yahoo.com).

While you have that directory out, please correct the email address for Tim Fletcher. It is [fletcherb@pg.com](mailto:fletcherb@pg.com). If anyone needs a replacement directory or a copy of the subdivision's Restrictive Agreement, please call me at 966-8404.

We have had a couple of vandalism incidents in the subdivision. I encourage you to notify the Des Peres police at 835-6200 if you see or hear anything suspicious, especially if it occurs at night. Our police response time is excellent and they need our support for a safe neighborhood.

Some property owners along Des Peres Road have been piling yard trash, mulch or whatever against the subdivision fence. We had excellent cooperation this summer in clearing the area in order to treat the wood. However, there needs to be clear space under the fence to keep it mold and mildew free. This will prolong the life of the fence and delay an expensive repair or replacement. Our landscape service has done a good job of keeping the outside area clean but we need homeowner cooperation to keep the entire space under the fence clear.

It has been brought to our attention that several residents are neglecting to pick up their pet's waste as they walk the neighborhood. Please be kind and dispose of it properly.

Thank you.  
Jim Harris, President

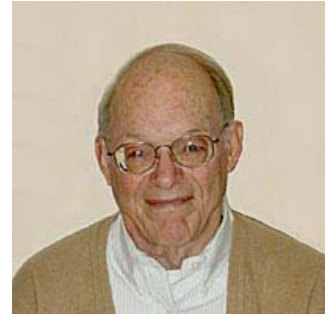
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## **FALL LEAF PICK-UP CHANGE**

We plan to discontinue the curbside leaf pick-up service this fall in order to contain our neighborhood spending to within the amounts allowable by our annual assessments. Since leaf pick-up began in 2003 the costs have doubled from approximately \$3000 to \$6000. Des Peres will continue to remove leaves collected into lawn and garden bags or trash cans.

If you have and questions or concerns regarding this decision, feel free to call me at 761-8229.

Tim Fletcher, Treasurer



**Jim Harris  
President  
966-8404**



**Jim Gruenewald  
Lake/Maintenance  
822-4940**



**Nancy Shaffstall  
Landscaping  
821-9170**



**Tim Fletcher  
Treasurer  
822-5253**