

# For Members Only



Issue 166

The Oak Brook Club

June 2009

## Fun Facts about the Grounds

By Susan Collins in collaboration with Ron Rossi

There are 2,586 light bulbs on our 25-acre property. Did that get your attention? How about 20,050 tulips, 5,935 square feet of flower beds requiring 589 flats of flowers ranging from 12 – 40 flowers a flat.

The Grounds Committee manages to keep our 25 acres looking beautiful with only a \$49,000 budget, exclusive of the Brickman maintenance contract. As you know, the Grounds Committee is responsible for maintaining and replacing, when necessary, the plants, shrubs, trees and ground cover throughout the common areas, as well as overseeing major outdoor projects.

There are a lot of little fun facts though to help you know where some of your money goes. For instance, taking down one full-size tree can cost \$1000 or more out of our budget with little option as far as ignoring that dead tree.



The tulips planted each Fall require pine boughs to prevent rabbits from dining on the bulbs over winter. Other beds are mulched on a rotating basis, costing about \$6,000 annually.

Flight control – what does that have to do with us? It's a method to Stop the Drop. Flight Control is a safe non-smelly chemical deterrent applied to wet grass. To the goose, the turf appears brown. They want green turf so off they go to settle on some other property. It's called thinking the grass is greener on the other side of the fence.

However, we can still end up with a goose egg or two being laid here. Hovering around this egg (or eggs) will be two zealous and possibly antagonistic parents. By law, we're allowed to dispose of that egg after 6 weeks but we can shake it sooner, and shake it we do which usually results in one less gosling and doesn't cost us a thing. Otherwise, once that egg hatches and that gosling matures, the following year it heads straight back for what it thinks of as home. One more goose for us to control.

Now think about that little emerald ash borer. If one ash tree gets it, we can't quarantine the other ash trees. More than likely we have to take 'em out. And digging out a single stump can cost as much as \$500. We have 42 ash trees. We'd get a discount per tree, but still expensive. Remember that \$49,000 we started with?

Holiday lighting - Not in the Grounds Committee budget, but every year about \$700 is spent for 125-150 new light strings for our display. Total number of light strings – 650 and then there's the 50 nets of lighting.

Are you getting the picture? And the above are just the smaller things. Being tighter than bark on a tree isn't going to do it and keep our home pretty. We really are trying to give you a bang for your buck!

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## Surprise Anniversary Party for Mark & Carol

By Juanita Swatos

In honor of their years at the Oak Brook Club, about 160 residents attended a surprise party organized for Mark and Carol by Susan Collins, Barbara Latini, and Flo Scully. The secret was very well kept, and Mark and Carol were completely astonished. The look on Mark's face was priceless, and Carol's expression ran a close second.

Mark has been our property manager for 20 years and has done a terrific job of maintaining and improving our property. Carol has been in our office for 10 years. As our very capable office manager, she is able to handle anything!

A huge thank you to those whose help was invaluable in delivering invitations and accepting RSVPs in their respective buildings: Barbara Latini, Flo Scully, Sue Rossi, Jeanette Flaningam, Peg Motz, and Carol Spencer. All in all – it was a great success. Thank you, again, Mark and Carol for all you do!

**OAK BROOK CLUB EVENTS****WALKING CLUB**

*Monday, June 1st @ 9:00 am & 7:00 pm*  
Meet in front of the Clubhouse and  
walk with friends - free of charge!

**MOVIE NIGHT**

*1st Wednesday of the month @ 6:30 pm - June 3*  
Clubhouse Lower Level  
Please call Bev Lenell by **Tuesday, June 2** at  
630.279.7123 if you plan to attend.

**COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

*Every 2nd Tuesday @ 10:00 am - June 9*  
*Every 4th Friday @ 2:00 pm - June 26*  
Clubhouse Lower Level

**BRIDGE**

*ALL MONDAYS @ 12:30 pm*  
For information, call Alice Harley - 630.279.1839

**MAH JONGG**

*Friday, June 5 @ 1:00pm*  
Clubhouse lower level. For more information,  
please call Carol Neimark at 630.941.7271

**WATER AEROBICS**

*Monday, Wednesday, Friday @ 10:00 - 11:00 am*  
\$3.00 per session beginning May 27th  
For more information call  
Barbara Latini at 630.833.5425

**MAD HATTER BBQ**

If the aroma of grilled food wafts your way  
**June 24**, that's because an outdoor picnic is being  
planned for Club 6 residents. Mmm Mmm good!

**40th ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW**

*Sunday, June 21 from 11:00am - 6:00pm*  
At the Oak Brook Center

**A Very Special Guest**

From Windhoek, Namibia to Oak Brook is 36 hours, door to door. Brutal as that sounds, Al Ciciora's made that trip 2 times the past 10 years to visit his daughter and her family. The tables were turned this year when Karen, her husband and 8 year old daughter visited here for the 3rd time, stopping to fit in an enjoyable and educational question- and- answer coffee for about 25 residents. We thank you all so much and have a safe trip home.

**COMMUNITY EVENTS****ULTRA REALISTIC SCULPTURES**

by Mara Sijan at the Elmhurst Art Museum.  
*May 23 - June 19*  
Admission is free on Tuesdays!!

**MUSIC IN THE PARK**

*Thursday, June 18 @ 7:00 pm*  
Swing Shift Orchestra - Big Band Swing  
At the Central Park Gazebo - Oak Brook Park  
District at 1450 Forest Gate Road

**SCOTTISH FESTIVAL  
& HIGHLAND GAMES**

*Friday, June 19 @ 10:00 pm*  
*& Saturday, June 20 @ 9:00 pm*  
at the Oak Brook Polo Grounds

**Oak Brook Library 2009 Book Sale**

By Juanita Swatos

What a success! The 2009 Oak Brook Library Book Sale brought in a record amount with a net profit of \$7,500! There were 11,000 items for sale, and any leftover books were donated to various organizations. 60+ volunteers helped to set-up, work the sale, and make the whole event a great success. But no time to waste! Plans are currently being made for next year, as donations for the 2010 sale will be accepted at the Library starting June 1, 2009 through April 15, 2010.

**D-Day: 65 Years**

By Bill Duff

June 6th is the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy signifying the beginning of the campaign to liberate Europe from Nazi domination. Recently the First Division Museum at Cantigny obtained one of the few Landing Craft, Vehicle and Personnel (LCVP) still in existence. It was manufactured in 1943, used on D-Day at Normandy and remained there until recently. After being restored at the North Carolina Maritime Museum, it was obtained by the First Division Museum at Cantigny.

Since June 6th is the sixty-fifth anniversary of D-Day, Cantigny is planning a special event for that day centering on the LCVP. Visitors and especially veterans who served in the European Theater of Operations are asked to arrive at about 10 am for a special Memorial Service to be followed at 11 am by the "official dedication" of the LCVP; other D-Day memorials will continue throughout the day. Veterans are requested to pre-register for special recognition by calling 630.260.8120.

**UWC's End of Year Picnic**

By Betsy Schumacher

10 ants and nothing but fun at the Ultorian Club's May 20 picnic luncheon. The Chafing Dish of Lombard provided box lunches, and with Susan Collins, Sandy Boggess, and Kay Antonio in charge, we had a blast! To top things off, we even played a bean bag toss game with prizes.

Congratulations to our newly elected Board! President: Jane Gagnon; VP/Program Chairmen: Sandy Boggess & Carol Wolin; Treasurer: Fran Balluff, Secretary: Susan Collins; Membership: Cathy Dahlstrand & Sue Rossi; Courtesy: Flo Scully; Publicity: Betsy Schumacher.

**COMCAST INFORMATION**

A little confused on what cable packages and services Comcast has to offer? A Comcast representative is coming to the Oak Brook Club on **Tuesday, June 16 at 6:00 pm** (before the CAT Board Meeting) to explain your options and answer your questions.

**COMCAST SERVICE CALLS**

If you need a service call from Comcast, please call their Technical Operations Supervisors: Marilyn Johnson at 847.366.2423 or Mike Hill at 847.789.0605.

**Citizen Activism Pays Off**

By Jerry Wolin

Electric rates will be going down a little in June!!!! ComEd estimates the reduction at an average of 7.5% for each household.

There are a couple of reasons for the decrease. First, there is reduced demand for electricity because of the recession resulting in excess electricity supply. In addition, the Illinois Power Commission (IPC) made its first purchase of electricity. The IPC was created as part of the lobbying efforts back in 2007 that many of us participated in to get rate reductions after ComEd significantly increased rates, especially for condo owners and those of us with electric heat.

Over time, the IPC will be buying all of the electricity for ComEd. The IPC replaces the Reverse Auction process that ComEd started using in 2007 that resulted in the excessively high rates that many of us lobbied against. At this time, the IPC is only buying 1/3 of total power needs. The IPC will be taking over all electricity purchases in a phased approach over several years and hopefully will continue to help control the cost of electricity.

If you would like to be kept up to date on this other topics of interest, e-mail me at [woling@comcast.net](mailto:woling@comcast.net) and I will add you to my distribution list.

**Glad to be Here!**

By Lucille Raimonde

My husband and I have lived here for 8 years and have enjoyed every minute of it. We love the beauty, privacy, peace, tranquility, safety, etc. I can go on and on. But with the recent additions to the area of newer condos and the amenities they have, I became more aware of why we moved here.



When we first looked at this place, I definitely noticed the outdoor pool with a beautiful gazebo, as I am a summer "pool person". I also noticed a beautiful library and clubhouse. We have a great women's club with great leadership arranging various programs for us to enjoy. Some buildings have their own functions, monthly get-togethers, picnics on the lawn, card parties, etc.

We do have tables and chairs around the pool. We can have lunch at the pool. We can have guests at the pool. We don't need a therapist in our lives because we have "group therapy" when two or more are gathered at the poolside. We can find out about our families and their families after a long, hard, cold, brutal winter. We can play cards or read a magazine or the newspaper and just be quiet. It's all up to us. We have a great group of ladies and gentlemen that enjoy each other's company in the sunshine while soaking up Vitamin D in the shade of the umbrellas or the gazebo.

Come join us and see what I'm talking about. You won't be sorry! Don't forget your bathing suit – that is a requirement along with the other rules posted on the clubhouse door from the pool. They are fairly easy rules to follow and are necessary for everyone's safety and enjoyment. Bring your buddies and your bodies and we'll all have a great time!

**Library offers Services for the Homebound or Visually Impaired**

The library provides service to homebound Oak Brook cardholders who are physically unable to come to the Library due to a permanent or temporary disability (4 weeks minimum). For the visually impaired, audio and Braille magazines and books are available. To initiate either service, an application form must be filled out at the Library.



**FOR SALE**

*BRAND NEW* Black & Decker Workmate 400 (portable work bench). Call 630.279.7818.

**FOR RENT**

2 Garage Parking Spaces in Club West, Building One, for rent. Call 630.832.9789.

**The Mail Ladies**

By Susan Collins

There's a group of women who gather in the bamboo room on the lower level of the clubhouse near the end of every month. Maybe you've seen them. Better yet, maybe you've heard them laughing and chatting. Every once in a while, a man or two can be spotted in there too – a man who knows how much fun they're having, how another two hands are helpful. This group has existed for years with only an occasional change of membership. They prefer to remain unnamed, anonymous though not mysterious. They are the reason you get a "For Members Only" newsletter. They fold it, stuff it, seal it, and hand it back to the Office to get stamped. The Office gives it to the mailman, and the mailman takes it from there. Through that journey, that envelope is not just full of information, but a lot of camaraderie and fun is stuffed in there too. Thank you, ladies!



**FOR MEMBERS ONLY**

**The Oak Brook Club  
Oak Brook Club Drive  
Oak Brook, IL 60523**