



Summer 2010

SOMERSET NEWS

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Somerset Property Owners Association

Ames, Iowa Est. 1997 www.somersetames.com

Annual Meeting Held March 9

After a scheduled annual meeting on January 26 failed to meet quorum status, a second meeting was held March 9. A quorum was achieved and board members were elected for the coming year. Bill Dreyer submitted his resignation and Mike McCoy was elected to fill his spot. Louise O'Donnell and John Stafford were re-elected to fill new 3-year terms. Officers were then elected by a vote of acclamation. Bruce Bonestroo remains as President, Nick Lauter is the new Vice-President, Louise O'Donnell will serve as Secretary and Marc Peterson as Treasurer. The remaining board member is Mark Knuth. A 2010 budget was adopted by a unanimous vote of the attending members. In conclusion, President Bonestroo stated that the goal of the Board this year is to improve communication and bring the Somerset community together. Full minutes of the meeting are posted on our website.

We have a new assistant in the Clubhouse. Katie Swalla handles our paper work and answers our phone as well as interfacing with the Somerset residents on all manner of questions. Katie's number is 292-0183 or email somersetclubhouse@hotmail.com.

Did you know....there are currently 291 residences in Somerset? That does NOT include the condos and apartments. We are a village!

Our Directory is Up!

Go to www.somersetames.com and view our directory. Over 250 residences are listed. Access is restricted, so to view the directory follow the instructions after you click on the *Forgot Password* button. Look over your directory information and contact somersetames@yahoo.com if anything requires correction.

We are emailing this newsletter to all Somerset email addresses we have available. If you did not receive an email please contact somersetames@yahoo.com.

What's Up? The corner of Stange and Northridge...3 new buildings are going up. One will house Pearle Vision, another Salon 7, and the third TBD. Now you know!

www.somersetames.com includes:

Maps, Covenants, Meeting Dates, Member Directory, Newsletters, Volunteer Opportunities, Meeting Minutes, Social Events, Fence Guidelines, Grounds Care, more.

The website has been designed to allow for groups and associations to be able to add data and information. If you have a group, business or club that would be interested in using the website, please contact us...go to the website and its contact list.

Block Party July 18, 4-8:00 P.M.

The Somerset and Taylor Glenn Neighborhoods are having a block party Sunday, July 18, from 4-8 p.m., with the **potluck** beginning at 5 p.m. Come to the Crescent Lawn (at the south end of Somerset Drive). If you live in an odd numbered house, bring a salad or dessert. If you live in an even numbered house bring a main dish. Also bring your own drinks and lawn chairs. Table service will be provided. We have reserved the City of Ames **Street 'n' Greet Block Party Trailer** that's full of fun and games. If you would like to help with set up or clean up, please contact Jessica Loecke at jjloecke@gmail.com. In case of rain, the party will be at the Somerset Clubhouse. If you have questions, contact Jen Brekke at 292-8663 or Jessica Loecke at 292-3298.

*Somerset Clubhouse
2400 Aspen
Ames, Iowa 50010*

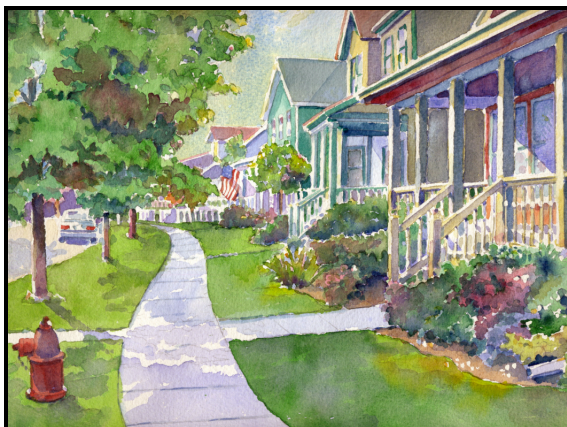
Somerset and Taylor Glenn Block Party July 18, 4-8 p.m., Crescent Lawn!

Trees, Trees, Trees

Somerset Property Owners Association is responsible for nearly 1100 trees! When Somerset was planned, the idea of tree-lined streets was included in the master plan. The home builders plant the new trees, but after warranty has expired, trees in the parkways and green spaces are the responsibility of SPOA and the homeowner.

We are planning to do some major tree planting for all parkway trees that have died and been removed in previous years, as well as adding new trees along trails and in parks. If you have had a tree die and it has not been replaced contact us at somersetames@yahoo.com. Right now we are reserving the weekends of October 16th and 23rd for the planting. **If you can volunteer to help, let us know!**

Be aware we will be planting a variety of trees. We are attempting to limit the possibility of disease ravaging large tree populations. For example, the large number of ash trees used throughout Somerset is vulnerable to the emerald ash borer, which has recently invaded Iowa. SPOA will work with the homeowner to choose trees appropriate for the planting sites. They also obtain the required permits from the City, which has an approved list of species. In our green areas we introduce variety, in fact in the last 2 years we have planted 31 different species. Join us in October if you can!



American Side Street (Camden)

Delinquent Dues Update

Our tremendous thanks to our treasurer, Marc Peterson, and to Katie Swalla for her assistance in diligently and conscientiously pursuing the large number of homeowners who were delinquent in their dues. At this time only 8 residents are outstanding. Liens will be placed on the residences of those owners who have not made arrangements for payment. Thank you again, Marc.

Notice: Many homeowners have not paid the optional Clubhouse dues. If your dues are not paid, you will lose your privileges to the Clubhouse amenities.

Mailboxes

Many single family homes have individual mailboxes. Sometimes those mailboxes are damaged and need repair or replacement. To facilitate that process and maintain a cohesive appearance in the neighborhood, SPOA has stocked mailboxes and replacement parts. These are available at the Clubhouse for cost. Call 292-0183.

Welcome to Newcomers

The SPOA Board is planning to assemble a packet of information about Somerset which would include information about local businesses and hopefully some special offers, contact information for local schools, churches, and businesses, and more. If you are interested in assisting, email somersetames@yahoo.com.

If you see groundskeeping items that need to be done in Somerset, please contact somersetames@yahoo.com.

It would be helpful if homeowners would visit and reread Somerset's covenants, which are available on the website. For instance, there is a covenant regarding trash bins – "No rubbish containers shall be visible from the street except on pickup day and one day before and one day after pickup day". Remember, the covenants are in place to protect our property values.