



Autumn 2012

SOMERSET NEWS

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Somerset Property Owners Association

Ames, Iowa Est. 1997 www.somersetames.com

NEW PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

You received a letter from our president the first part of September explaining a significant change in Somerset Property Owners Association management. This change was necessitated by the final decision by the developers to no longer manage for us. Katie Swalla has admirably been the go-to person, which now will be Chris at Property Service Agency.

You will no longer be able to contact the Clubhouse for any SPOA issues. In addition, payments can no longer be placed in the drop-box at the Somerset Clubhouse. There will be no SPOA presence in the Clubhouse at this time.

This change is only for the Somerset Property Owners Association to which you pay annual dues. It's not related to any other association including the Townhouse-Rowhouse, Commercial, or Apartment Associations to which you pay monthly dues.

Use the contact information below for payments or inquiries regarding SPOA. This information is also available on the website, www.somersetames.com.

If you have any questions, contact a Board member. Contact information is on the website.

SPOA Management

Questions and Concerns, Payments and Collections:

Property Service Agency

Somerset Property Owners Association

PO Box 5

Ames, IA 50010

psa@psames.com

515-233-1922

www.psames.com

Thank you to all the residents who paid their annual dues promptly. Our finances are in better shape because of you.

AUTUMN SOCIAL PLANNED

Sunday, October 28

The Board invites you to a party! Come meet your neighbors. Join us on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28, FROM 4-6:30 at the Clubhouse. We'll have pizza and games for the whole family! Bring a dish to share if you like. Come in costume and win a prize!

ANNUAL MEETING HELD MARCH 15

The second attempt annual meeting of the SPOA was held on March 15. Approximately 5 resident members plus the Board were in attendance. The number of votes with proxies met the requirements for a quorum and the meeting proceeded.

Rosemary Bulman resigned her position on the Board. Nick Lauter and Marc Peterson's terms were up and they chose not to stand for re-election. New Board members are Jake Talbott, Mandi Anderson, and Jen Brekke. They join Tom Carey, Mike McCoy, John Stafford, and Louise O'Donnell. Marc Peterson presented the budget for 2012, which designated 10% of the income to go into the reserve.

The 2012 officers are President, John Stafford; Vice-President, Mike McCoy; Secretary, Louise O'Donnell; and Treasurer, Mandi Anderson.

SAVE THE DATE

Our 2013 Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

Consider being a Board member. Participate in Somerset's direction and future.

Somerset Social, 4 - 6:30 p.m., Sunday October 28, at the Clubhouse

www.somersetames.com includes:

Maps, Covenants, Meeting Dates, Member Directory, Newsletters, Volunteer Opportunities, Meeting Minutes, Social Events, Fence Guidelines, Grounds Care, Links, and 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, a business, or a club that would be interested in using the website, please contact us. Use the website contact list.

SCHOOL LAND SOLD

The Ames School District recently auctioned off the land along George Washington Carver adjacent to Somerset. It had been planned for a new elementary school, but the District decided not to build on the land earlier this year.

The land was purchased by Heartland Investment LLC, represented by local realtor Kurt Friedrich. The 11.1 acres can accommodate roughly 30-35 housing lots. Right now the land has the same zoning as Somerset, which means the buyer would have to apply for approval to build. This means there will be public meetings with the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council. The SPOA will be notified of such meetings as well as owners of properties within 200 feet of the boundary of the parcel. The District will take action on the sale during the month of October.

Notice the 7 new signs in our parks reminding pet owners to clean up after their animals. Also notice our 8 new trees, planted by volunteers.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The City of Ames offers Neighborhood Improvement Grants (NIP) meant to strengthen a neighborhood's appearance with the addition of permanent physical improvements and to promote a greater sense of community through resident participation in a neighborhood project. To be eligible, the project must include a match of \$1 in cash or in-kind labor for each \$1 received in City funds. If you have an idea for a suitable project consider NIP. The Board would make themselves available to assist you.

Grant applications can be picked up at the City Clerk's Office or can be mailed to you by calling the Clerk's office at 239-5105. Info is also on line at www.cityofames.org.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

We continue to build our email address file. Occasionally we send out bulletins and updates to those addresses we have available. If you email your address to us we will also automatically register you on our website. Send your email address to Bruce Bonestroo, bbonestroo@yahoo.com.

AROUND SOMERSET

Lake Somerset is thriving. In the battle against pond scum, the Board authorized the installation of 4 aerators and the regular application of natural chemicals to keep the algae at bay. The Board also hired a service which thinned out the scrub trees on the west side of the path. If you walk by, notice the newly installed signs at each side of the Pavilion, informing visitors that the lake is for residents only, there is no swimming, and catch and release fishing is all that is allowed.

The Pavilion, the structure beside Lake Somerset, has been freshly water proofed. In addition, the large sign on Stange at the entrance to Somerset has been freshened with a new coat of paint.



CYRIDE STOPS

The Board recently inquired of CyRide about the possibility of covered bus shelters in Somerset. We were informed that there are no plans at this time to install shelters.

MULCH AVAILABLE

We have mulch available for anyone who wants it. We also have tree stakes. Just stop by at the empty lot at the east end of Lake Somerset's path. See the map.

