



The Thorough-Read News

Steeplechase Resident Homeowners Association, Inc.

Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2011



Steeplechase Board 2011

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hey, happy end of the year to all our neighbors in Steeplechase. We trust your Thanksgiving was a good one and wish everybody the merriest of Christmases. Remember, it's not about how much, how big, how many or how often. It's not about decorations or presents, or parties, or food. It's not even about getting together with family and friends. It's about celebrating a day that gave Christianity to the world along with a reason for people everywhere to believe. So, whatever you do at this time of year, do it in remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ and in observation of what His birth means to all of us. If you don't, then you're really not celebrating Christmas.

On November 17 several neighbors sucked it up in some pretty chilly conditions to attend the 2011 SRHA Fall Open Member Meeting held in the pool pavilion. Since there wasn't anything very controversial on the agenda, the evening was quiet, calm and over in less than 2 hours. We're happy to report that there was no blood, injuries or reported deaths and only lots of neighborly camaraderie. Overall it was a very refreshing and enjoyable get together and should be used as the benchmark for such gatherings in the future.

Topics discussed at the Meeting included Garden Club accomplishments and 2011 Board position overviews along with a brief review of some of the many events and highlights of the past year. Also, the 2011 Budget was examined and appears to be on track to end our fiscal year in the black. We feel the entire Board has done a wonderful job in their financial responsibilities to Steeplechase and should be recognized for securing more income than forecasted and spending less of it than anticipated. Additionally, and still considering the Budget, it was brought up that although funding had been set aside to add a key fob entry pad to the pavilion, that task had not yet been done. Without going into all the details, the 2011 Board has had several discussions on this subject but has been unable to develop a plan to accomplish it. We are confident that the 2012 Board will continue to pursue this until a viable end result is developed.

Continued on p. 5

Go to page 5 to see a complete listing of all our new 2012 Board Members.

FROM THE 2012 CHAIRMAN

It's the most wonderful time of the year! The last of the falling leaves are getting raked, the holiday lights are going up, folks are tidying up their homes before company arrives, and Steeplechase looks great. I am thankful I get to live my life here. I hope each of you have joy and special blessings this season.

And I am especially thankful that we have 11 people willing to serve on the Steeplechase Board this coming year. Thank you all for agreeing (albeit with some kicking and screaming) to take time out of your lives to keep your neighborhood going strong.

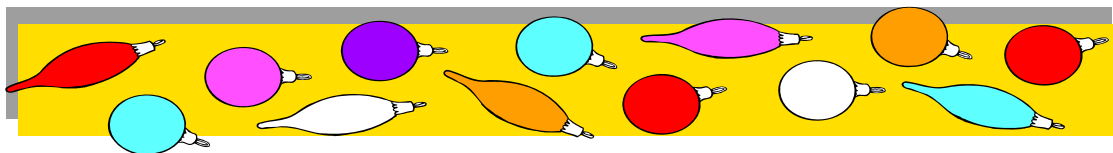
And thank you to everyone who worked so hard on the Board this year. Each member stepped up and helped in every way they could, and a lot of good things happened in 2011. We had wonderful holiday celebrations all year, the entrances looked sharp and well maintained, the Facility operated efficiently while providing hours of fun, our kids had a ball on swim team, new folks joined our tennis teams, the newsletter provided helpful information each month, and it all happened because we continue to have so many members who care about our community.

Thank you to everyone for taking the time to read this newsletter, to attend our membership meetings, to come to the workdays, to help out with the parties, to clean up after your pets, to drive safely, to give suggestions on how to make SRHA better, and most of all to be the wonderful neighbors you are.

And my Christmas wish is for everyone to find some way to be involved in our neighborhood in the upcoming year. So eat drink and be merry. We'll get back to you in January with all our wishes and plans for the New Year.

God bless us every one!

Peggy Boydston



FROM THE FACILITY PRESIDENT

It's that time of year again, Happy Holidays everyone. Thanks to everyone who's helped make Steeplechase a great place to live this year. We've accomplished a lot but there's even more to do, so let's keep it rolling.

I want to WELCOME our neighbors who were elected to the Steeplechase Board at last month's meeting. They have volunteered to donate something NONE of us have enough of, their **time**. Speaking of time well spent, I was disheartened with the low turnout for the November SRHA meeting.

For those of you who missed it, I will be sending out an e-mail asking whether or not you were able to attend & just decided not to or were unable to attend. I will then be asking for suggestions from those who could have attended but decided not to. *What can we do to increase neighborhood participation in Steeplechase??* Steeplechase has over 400 homes. We need more than just 30 families (who showed up at the meeting) deciding the direction of our

neighborhood. If you have any ideas to increase participation or want your e-mail address on our "work crew" distribution list, please contact me.

If you're interested in hosting or attending a New Year's Eve party at the end of this month, let me know & I'll see what I can do. We will also be holding a few tennis fund raisers (mixers) this month. We will do them on Saturday or Sunday afternoons so it's as warm as possible for the people not on the court. Please come out & play if you're available. If you're not available, it's primarily a fund raiser (\$10/player). You can still participate simply by donating to the event.

I love you all & hope we all have a safe holiday season,

Jose

FROM THE FACILITY SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Farewell from your Facility Social Director

Wow, this year flew by for me (I guess one reason is that I started this position in March!!). After serving 2 years as secretary, taking a year off, and being involved with the garden club, I wasn't sure that I would have time to devote to another board position. But with all the help of so many neighbors, we enjoyed our Memorial Day Cook Out, July 4th Barbeque and fireworks (although the fireworks had to wait a couple of days), Movies on the Green and our Adult Party. We had great attendance at all events and had a lot of fun!

A huge thanks to all who helped and came to our events. Without you, we would not have had near the fun that we had!

We are fortunate to have Molly Brooks as our facility social director for 2012. She served as secretary for the past 2 years, and has lots of great

ideas for next year. I'll be passing down my list of volunteers to her, so be ready to say "YES" when she calls for help. I know I will!

I've enjoyed getting to know some of you that I didn't know before, as well as working with wonderful neighbors this year. I hope you enjoyed our events and am looking forward to even more fun in 2012. *Hint* – the more members we have, the more money we'll have for even more fun things. So please join the facility; you don't want to miss out next year and we don't want to miss you!

May you have a joyous Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! Looking forward to a great 2012!

Sally Campbell

FROM THE SWIM & TENNIS DIRECTOR

Greetings to all! With the cold weather upon us there's not much going on outdoors, though many of us are still playing tennis whenever possible. Here are a few things we're working on:

Saturday, Dec 10th: Steeplechase Tennis Social / Mixer - Time TBD.

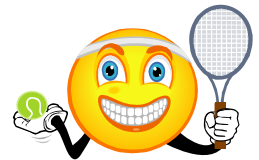
Come out and play on our newly renovated Courts #1 and #2; more details to follow so be sure to check your neighborhood E-blasts.

SET Tennis Tournament Update

Mark your calendars for May 17-20th, 2012.

We are just in the planning stages for our 2012 tournament. If you would like to get involved in the planning, or simply want to volunteer some of your time, talents, or offer suggestions, please contact committee@friendslovetennis.com. Stay tuned over the next few months for updates and more information as it becomes available. You can also visit www.friendslovetennis.com.

Happy Holidays,
Bryan Schroeder



FROM THE COMMUNITY PRESIDENT

Greetings Everyone,

I have enjoyed serving on the board as your Community President. For those of you that have not had a chance to serve, please consider doing so in the future. The things that happen around and with this community don't happen on their own. There is a face behind all the activity and repair that make this community a desirable place to live.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Scot Sherwin

FROM THE COMMUNITY SOCIAL DIRECTOR

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas Steeplechase friends. Boy has this year flown by!! *What did we do?* Here's a recap of what we did: we kicked off 2011 with a **snow storm** that resulted in a week long case of cabin fever! Here at the Cryan household, we decided to make batches of chicken soup that all sledders on Steeple Run got to enjoy. One small text to a friend turned into a karaoke party with all that could sled onto our driveway.

In March, we had our annual **Easter Egg hunt/Party**. We got to meet many of our wonderful new neighbors. A HUGE thank you to Meg Lovejoy, Kelly Forrest, Sally Campbell, the Cryan girls and many more who helped. My apologies for not remembering everyone.

In May we opened the pool with our annual **Cinco de Mayo festivities**. *Yes, WE ALL know that it is NOT Mexico's Independence Day.* But, do we really have to have an official Holiday to throw down and party? Kids enjoyed the frigid temperatures of the water and actually swam! No doubt local pediatricians had a rush of Steeplechase peeps needing to cure their cold. May 30th kicked off our summer activities with an **AMAZING Memorial Day parade and party**. The rain held off and the balloon fight proved you are never too old to play with water and balloons.

Our amazing swim coach, **Kent Julian** received the honor of being named **SWIM COACH OF THE YEAR!!**. Neighborhood swimmers Celine Decatrel and Jill Blackmon swam into 5th position in county in the Medley & Free Relay, John Baumgart took 5th in free, Brody Shcroeder also took 5th place in his age group for Free style and last but definitely not least, Julia Reda got 10th place in her relay. Congratulations Stingrays!! Thank you Kent, for all your selfless work and dedication to our team and neighborhood swimmers.

August proved to be one of the hottest months of the year. Our annual **Back to school Ice cream social** was a scrumptious event! Kiddos got to choose an array of different fruit, cookies and sprinkled toppings to start their first day of school all sugared up.

The last event of the year I decided to go all out. After a few mishaps with stolen decorations, neighborhood clean-up activities and some unavoidable glitches, our annual **Halloween Party** and hay ride turned out **spooktacular!**

Thank you to all that came to my rescue to help with the last minute decorations without any complaints. I know many of you are busy moms and dads that juggle parenting, running a household, carpooling for your kids' extracurricular activities and jobs as well. Your selfless dedication to our community is proof why people love this neighborhood so much. The party was well attended by over 60 kids! Winner for the costume contest in his age group was Shea Emmett. Musical chair winners were Nathan Cross and Mary Thérèse Cryan. Some of our winners for guessing the mystery items were Jenna Lister, Ally Forrest, and Ian Tippet. However, I neglected to keep the list of all winners so please send me an email so I can give you the additional gift card I promised you guys.

If I may add an additional shout out to my two older girls Katherine and Bethany Cryan. After a year of shin splints and hip issues, Katherine, as senior at Peachtree Ridge, persevered and competed against other senior girls from Virginia, North and South Carolina, Texas, Florida and Georgia in the Foot Locker race this past Thanksgiving weekend. She not only beat her best time but, dropped 4 plus minutes off her original time. Bethany, a freshman at Peachtree Ridge, also ran and came in 33rd place out of all the freshman girls. I am so proud of you girls!!!

This is my last newsletter as your Community Social Director. The baton has been passed on to Meg Lovejoy. Meg is a busy wife, mom and school teacher but, most of all, she brings lots of experience of fun ideas and activities. I know you will be more than pleased of the dedication she brings with her.

Thank you for all your support in my two years serving you as your community social director. I have decided to switch positions as your new Community President. I get to continue to serve our neighborhood behind the scenes and help make your thoughts and ideas known. As always, I look forward to hearing from you on how I can help our community be a place you are proud to call home.

I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and many blessings for the New Year. Take care. See you guys around "The Hood."

CRISTINA CRYAN



WISHING YOU A VERY *GREEN* HOLIDAY SEASON!



This season, give planet Earth the best gift of all: **Recycling!** Here are some ideas and tips for you:

Drop off your Christmas Tree for Recycling

Gwinnett Clean and Beautiful in partnership with Gwinnett County will host the annual *Bring one for the Chipper* event. Drop off your undecorated trees December 26—January 15 at various locations. Trees will be chipped into mulch and used for County Parks, facilities, etc. Unless you have a yard waste with your hauler, note that trees will not be collected curbside. Click here for more info and a list of locations: www.gwinnettcountry.com .

Recycle after the Parties and Holidays. You may not be aware of the many items that can be recycled:

- Boxes: gift boxes, toy boxes, shipping boxes
- Plastic toy shells (you know, the ones that are so hard to open...!)
- Greeting cards and envelopes
- Gift Wrap and paper gift bags, tissue
- Aluminum baking tins, foil, cans
- Glass bottles, jars
- Plastic cups and plates, paper plates
- Retail catalogs, coupon books



FROM THE CHAIRMAN (Cont.)

Speaking of the 2012 SRHA Board, as unanimously voted on near the completion of the Meeting, the Members are as follows:

- Chairman (Chairwoman? Chairperson? Madame Chair?) – Peggy Boydston**
- Secretary – Pat Wagner**
- Treasurer – Nicole Lister**
- Community President – Cristina Cryan**
- Communications Director – Sandy Parris**
- Community Social Director – Meg Lovejoy (*Poor Jon*)**
- Webmaster – Dan Gustavson**
- Facility President – Jose Gonzalez**
- Facility Social Director – Molly Brooks**
- Facility Operations Director – Nate Orrico**
- Facility Swim & Tennis Director – Brian Schroeder**

We want to congratulate all of next year's new Board Members on election to their positions and thank them for stepping up to help our neighborhood. We also want to thank the 2011 Board Members who are returning to serve in 2012. They have all worked very hard the past year and our neighborhood is fortunate that they are bringing their expertise back for another go around. For those Board Members who will not be returning next year, Klarissa Reese, Sally Campbell and Scot Sherwin we applaud you all for your passion, hard work and enthusiasm. We could not have had the successes we had this past year without each of you doing what you did and we are grateful for your contributions.

In closing we want to remind everyone that we, as residents in Steeplechase, are all in this together. For our neighborhood to continue to be a great place to live we need each other to do their fair share, pitch-in when necessary, get involved and take responsibility for their stuff. Let's all go into next year understanding that in Steeplechase it's "all for one" and "one for all." Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thanks
Al

GARDEN CLUB CORNER

As I think back to the rejuvenation of our garden club in 2009, I can hardly believe we're still going 3 years later. We've taken small steps, and slowly but surely our grounds are improving. In 2010 we planted flowering shrubs on the hill by the pool.

This year we added azaleas on the hill between the volley ball pit and the pond and planted hollies next to the pavilion. Thanks to all who helped!

Hopefully next year there will be some additional funds to add some perennial plantings at the entrances. **Our entrances can either welcome potential homebuyers or turn them away.** We need everyone's help to ensure that our entrances reflect that we care for this wonderful neighborhood.

We are somewhat hesitant to change very much at the entrances as the walls are getting older and will need replacing in the near future. This can only be done with money, so please be sure to pay your dues for 2012.

This month's seeds of garden wisdom:

- Add lime to gardens and lawns, if needed, to raise soil PH, since it takes all winter for it to react with the soil. Pellet forms of lime are easiest to apply. If your soil needs magnesium as well as lime, work in dolomitic limestone.
- Mulch acid-loving plants such as blueberries and rhododendrons with pine straw. Apply sulfur fertilizer, if needed, to lower the pH to a level where these plants will thrive (6-6.5pH range.)
- Ornament cabbage, kale and pansies provide great fall color. Pansy flowers and cabbage and kale leaves also make great garnishes for salads and platters.
- Protect outdoor furniture from harsh weather by moving it into a shed or garage, or protecting it with secure, waterproof covers.
- As you rake or blow your leaves, remember to keep them away from the base of your trees. If they are left piled against the tree, they could choke the tree. It is best to put leaves into a compost pile (away from your tree) for next year's plantings.

There is no Yard of the Month for December, but we'll be selecting the January Yard(s) of the Month based on Christmas Decorations. We'll be checking out the lighted decorations **on Thursday, Dec. 15 between 7-9pm.** If you have unlighted decorations and would like your yard reviewed please email us at gardenclub@steeplechase.org.

Wishing you the happiest of holidays!

We hope you'll join us next year!



HOLIDAY SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS

Holiday Lighting

- Keep candles away from decorations and other combustible materials, and do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.
- Carefully inspect new and previously used light strings, and replace damaged items before plugging lights in. Do not overload extension cords. Don't mount lights in any way that can damage the cord's wire insulation. To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples--don't use nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove them.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use. Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with ground-fault circuit interrupters to avoid potential shocks.
- Make sure all the bulbs work and that there are no frayed wires, broken sockets or loose connections.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

Decorations

- Use only non-combustible and flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel and artificial icicles of plastic and non-leaded metals.

Holiday Entertaining

- Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the U.S. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on the range.
- Provide plenty of large, deep ashtrays, and check them frequently. Cigarette butts can smolder in the trash and cause a fire, so completely douse cigarette butts with water before discarding.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of sight and reach of children (preferably in a locked cabinet).
- Test your smoke alarms.

Trees

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "fire-resistant."
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches, and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators and portable heaters. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- Cut a few inches off the trunk of your tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep your tree from drying out and becoming

a fire hazard.

- Be sure to keep the stand filled with water, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.
- Make sure the base is steady so the tree won't tip over easily.

Fireplaces

- Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers and other decorations from fireplace area. Check to see that the flue is open.
- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Children and Pets

- Poinsettias are known to be poisonous to humans and animals, so keep them well out of reach, or avoid having them.
- Keep decorations at least 6 inches above the child's reach.
- Avoid using tinsel. It can fall on the floor and a curious child or pet may eat it. This can cause anything from mild distress to death.
- Keep any ribbons on gifts and tree ornaments shorter than 7 inches. A child could wrap a longer strand of ribbon around their neck and choke.
- Avoid mittens with strings for children. The string can get tangled around the child's neck and cause them to choke. It is easier to replace a mitten than a child.
- Watch children and pets around space heaters or the fireplace. Do not leave a child or pet unattended.
- Store scissors and any sharp objects that you use to wrap presents out of your child's reach.
- Inspect wrapped gifts for small decorations, such as candy canes, gingerbread men, and mistletoe berries, all of which are choking hazards.

Shopping

- Don't leave a store alone in the dark; ask an employee for assistance when possible.
- Hide your packages in the trunk

Security

- Use your home burglar alarm system.
- If you plan to travel for the holidays, don't discuss your plans with strangers; don't announce your plans on social networking sites.
- Have a trusted friend or neighbor to keep an eye on your home.

Planning a Party? Rent the Pool Pavilion!

The pool pavilion is the perfect place for all your special gatherings and events!

Host your next gathering there and avoid having to clean your house.

The pavilion is great for family potlucks, birthdays, sports parties, or any other reason to celebrate.

Rental fee is \$35 *plus* a \$50 refundable security and cleaning deposit and is open to all paid Facility members. Extra fees may apply for parties of 20 or more and for outside guests. For more details and to book, contact Molly Brooks at

770/546-7459 or at secretary@steeplechase.org

INTERESTED IN JOINING A PLAYGROUP?

There's been some interest by neighbors and also residents of neighboring communities to join a playgroup for mothers and fathers of preschoolers in this area.

If you're interested in joining a playgroup, or if you're currently in a playgroup and would like to reach out to other parents, please send a note to the newsletter editor at communications@steeplechase.org or Call me at 678-427-4867.

Thanks!

Sandy Parris



The 2011–12 Community Directories are Here!

Finally, the Steeplechase Community directories are printed and ready for distribution to all Community and Facility member households. In the next couple of week, a friendly neighbor will be stopping by your home to drop off your copy—so be on the lookout!

One copy per household, please. THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE!



NEW ADVERTISING PRICING INTRODUCED FOR 2012!

As introduced during the November General Membership Meeting, we're introducing a new advertising pricing structure for 2012, aimed at rewarding our repeat **Thorough-Read News** advertisers! Read below for the pricing tiers as well as new guidelines. For the first three months of the year (January—March), the newsletter will be distributed to the entire neighborhood—430 homes, in addition to being sent via E-blast. In April, we will begin our regular E-blast distribution unless you've indicated a preference for the printed version.

Ad Size	Ad Cost /insertion	3 insertions <i>10% disc.</i>	6 insertions <i>15% disc.</i>	12 insertions <i>20%disc.</i>
Business Card	\$ 5	\$ 13.50	\$ 25.50	\$ 48
Quarter page	\$15	\$ 40.50	\$ 76.50	\$144
Half page	\$30	\$ 81	\$153	\$288
Full page	\$60	\$162	\$306	\$576

Classifieds—Free to all paid members; may not offer business services. Members 18 and under may advertise services for free.

Advertising Guidelines:

Format: Color or B/W, camera-ready in either .pdf or .jpg formats. Photos are highly encouraged!

Deadlines and payment: All finished artwork and payment must be provided to me by the 20th of each month prior to the upcoming issue. Checks should be made out to SRHA and delivered to my mailbox (Sandy Parris) at 2208 Sandown Drive. **Ads not paid for in advance will not run (sorry!).**

NEW: For multiple insertions, any changes to the original ad must be submitted electronically to Editor prior to next deadline.

**** If any ad provided requires additional revisions not provided by advertiser, Editor may charge an additional typesetting / layout fee; to be discussed prior to any work being done.**

Questions? Contact Sandy Parris at communications@steeplechase.org or at 678-427-4867.

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Gift Ideas



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Contact Ashley for details or to schedule your appointment. 678-714-5683 or bohemians@peacelovendpottery.net Find us on Facebook for more inspiration!

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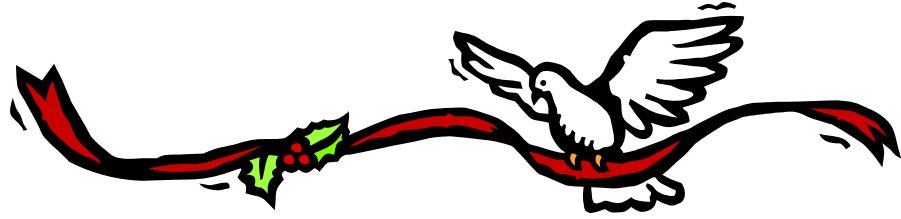
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HOLIDAY SEASON FILLED
WITH LOVE, JOY,
LAUGHTER AND HEALTH!

ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF ALL
THE WONDERFUL
HOLIDAYS CELEBRATED
THIS TIME OF YEAR!

