

It Takes A Village

It is a reality of our times that many people, especially seniors, are moving from their homes to assisted living centers despite not wanting to sell or lease their homes. They need support and do not have family in the area to provide it. To address this issue and the needs of the residents there is a national effort to take part in the so-called Village movement, which links neighbors together to help one another remain in the homes and surroundings that they love as they get older. A recent AARP survey found that 86% of respondents 45 and older want to remain in their current residences as long as possible.



The concept began in Boston's Beacon Hill in 2001 with a non-profit called Beacon Hill Village and there are now more than 56 Villages with another 120 in development to provide access to services that often force seniors to give up their homes and move to a retirement community. It is sometimes referred to as the "light bulb moment" – a bulb burns out in a hard-to-reach location and the resident cannot change it without help.

Many participants join as a way to give aid and end up receiving aid years later. This typically involves a non-profit corporation to administer the services at an annual cost for those who receive services.

We would like to assess the level of interest in this type of support in Crystal Tree for both providers and users. Please send a note or call Rosemary Schrank at 349-3133 if you would like to participate.

Mark Burns
President, CTHOA



Eyesore No More We Hope

It's been a long, hot summer and for those of us who had to drive by the old country club on a daily basis, it made many of the CT homeowners hot under the collar. The fence was the frosting on the cake. Unfortunately, we were unable to get an answer as to when the structure was to be torn down. As of the writing of this article, we were informed by the contractor that the demolition will start September 12th (we hope). We will try to keep the inconveniences that the demo will cause to a minimum. Here is a list of the restrictions we have implemented during construction.

- 🌿 No parking on Crystal Tree Drive.
- 🌿 Construction traffic will be limited to Crystal Tree Drive only, and no construction traffic will be allowed south of the old tennis courts.
- 🌿 All contractors must be bonded and insured.

The Board will try its best to make this demo/construction as painless as possible.

On a more positive note, our Speed Sentries are working. The majority of cars passing thru are traveling at a much lower rate of speed. The norm seems to fall between 20 and 26 MPH. About 25% of our members still travel between 26 to 30 MPH. Very few have been exceeding the 30 MPH mark. Thank you.

Gene Mele
Chairman, Security Committee



My...How We've Grown!

Our website traffic is growing steadily, and we are very pleased to have this important connection with all of our neighbors. We continue to hear very encouraging comments from our residents who have discovered the benefits of having this indispensable online source of information.

During the busy summer months, our website averaged 329 unique visitors, per month. To date, we have 196 separate Crystal Tree households signed up to receive regular email alerts, which is a very important way for residents to receive updated information in a timely fashion. We cannot stress strongly enough the *importance* and *convenience* of Sign-up, as this remains our best method of delivering time sensitive information right to your home. If you are a resident who currently enjoys browsing our website, but has not signed up, we would like to encourage you to do so today. Registering online takes less than a minute, you only have to do this once to be connected to this service indefinitely (unless, of course, you change your email address) and once you do, you will be assured that you are "in the loop" when anything of importance arises. *So please consider joining your neighbors and help us to connect our community! We would love to welcome you to our growing online family.*

A note to those residents who have already signed up and are using their work email accounts to receive Crystal Tree email alerts: Our Web Designer has noticed that some email alerts that have been sent to certain work email accounts have been returned to her as "undeliverable". If you have made such a request, and have not been receiving Crystal Tree email alerts at your workplace, please understand that this is most likely because of internet "security settings" that have been placed on these workplace email accounts and is not due to any oversight on our Web Designer's efforts to fulfill these sign-up requests.

Dan O'Gorman
Treasurer, CTHOA



Emerald Ash Borer – The Battle Continues...

Have you been noticing our Ash trees lately? Sadly, many have been losing their battle with the Emerald Ash Borer, evidenced by the unusual loss of leaves at their crowns or their notable bare branches during the growing season.

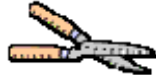
As researched and discussed previously, Ash tree removal is our best, most cost-effective solution for the long term. By replacing these infested trees with a resistant species, we will be preserving the beauty of our parkways and vistas well into the future. We have already removed several affected trees this spring. Upon further examination at that time, it became even more evident that this infestation had been progressing. It was easy to observe the characteristic and extensive tunneling into the bark that these pests have inflicted upon these once beautiful trees. We have witnessed many more of our Ash trees succumbing to this dreaded infestation throughout the summer season.

It is our goal, this fall, to remove and replace approximately 30 more of the most severely infested Ash trees as we continue our Tree Maintenance & Replacement Program. These trees will be marked accordingly, prior to their removal. We will be planting the following parkway tree species in their place: Autumn Brilliance Red Maple, Chanticleer Pear, Sky Honeylocust, Triumph Elm, and Little Leaf Linden. These trees will be placed according to a pre-set design plan by Clarence Davids, intended to enhance our community's overall landscape design. This activity will be scheduled to take place during the end of September/early October time frame.



When challenges come up, as they inevitably do, it will always be our goal to identify the problem and research the best solution available, as we continue to maintain our beautiful community for the years to come.

Dan O’Gorman
Chairman, Finance Committee



Opportunity To Trim Your Trees

Clarence Davids Landscape Contractor has promised an extremely competitive price to the owners of Crystal Tree to trim the trees on their property that are not trimmed by the Association. The cost is \$40.00 per tree. This price could not be obtained from any other qualified arborist on an individual basis.

A letter setting forth the procedure to take advantage of this opportunity was mailed to you on August 29th. Additionally, the letter will be posted on the website for your reference.

We experienced an unusual amount of rain during this growing season that has contributed to excess growth. We encourage all owners to inspect the trees on their property to determine whether trimming of their trees is needed. While inspecting, give consideration to the following:



1. How close are the trees to your home?
2. Are they overhanging your roof and gutters or your neighbor's property?
3. Are there any dead or dying branches in your trees?
4. Does the tree require shaping or pruning?

Trees with dead or dying branches and trees that encroach upon your home can cause damage to your property.

This is a real opportunity to benefit from price and improve your property!!!!

The Landscape Committee



Buffalo Box

Every residence in Crystal Tree has a Village (VOP) water line connected to a meter within your home. This water line has a shut off valve located in the front of your home which is called a "Buffalo Box" or commonly known as a B-Box. The water line from the street to your B-Box is the VOP responsibility and the water line from the B-Box to your home is your responsibility.

The B-Box is a 4" round steel cap that can be accessed in order to shut the water service off to your home. A Village "public work's" employee or your licensed plumber should be the only people allowed to have access to this shut-off valve.



It is **your responsibility** to make sure that **your B-Box is always visible** and it should be located at the same elevation "height" as the sidewalk, driveway, landscape or grass depending on where it is located. If the ground around your B-Box has settled (sunk) it is your responsibility to restore the ground to the same elevation as your B-Box. If you need assistance in locating your B-Box please contact the Village of Orland Park Public Works Department @ 708-403-6350.

Ray Dignan
Architectural Committee



Townhome Painting A Little Behind Due To Rainy Weather

We are off to a slow start for the painting season due to the amount of rainy days we have had already. Superior Painting needs for all the wood on the townhomes to be dry for a few days before they can start painting with successful results.

We had all of the units inspected and had gotten information letters of suggested repairs to those owners of the units to be painted this year. The suggestion letter of repairs are for the owners' benefit, and it is up to each townhouse owner to decide if they would like to have the suggested repairs done and by whom they want to do them.

Superior Painting is happy to do them if contracted by the unit owner at a separate price, or the townhome owner can have them done by another contractor, again, at a separate price. What we have been finding is that 95% of the homeowners do not have any of the suggested repairs done at all.

Please keep in mind that this inspection service is done to help with keeping our units looking nice and to help us to stay ahead of bigger problems that may arise in the future.

Dan Ventura
Chairman, Painting Committee

Reporting Responsibilities – For those who lease!

Owners of property in Crystal Tree are responsible to comply with the Declaration, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations and Architectural Criteria as recorded and published. In addition to the Association's criteria, the Owner is responsible to comply with the Village of Orland Park ordinances.

To enforce the Association's documents for maintenance and security within the community, the Board of Directors must have information regarding any property that is leased. Owners that lease their property must provide the following to the Association's managing agent.

1. A current copy of the Lease that can be for a period of no less than one (1) year.
2. Must provide a copy of the Association's Declaration, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations to the Tenant.
3. Must complete and sign the Association's Addendum to the Lease and provide a copy to the managing agent.
4. Must comply with the Village of Orland Park ordinance that requires an inspection of the property and must provide evidence that this has been completed to the managing agent.
5. Must provide its contact information and off-site address to the managing agent, and
6. Must require that the Tenant complete the Security Information Form so that the Tenant can obtain transponders for access to the community.



Owners that fail to abide by these requirements are subject to daily fines for non-compliance.

Notes:

1. Owners should contact the Village of Orland Park website to obtain an application for Village of Orland Park approval for leasing at: <http://www.orland-park.il.us/index.aspx?nid=893>
2. The Security Information Form and Crystal Tree Addendum to the Lease can be obtained by contacting Schrank & Associates, Inc.

Rose Schrank
Schrank & Associates, Inc.