

Heather Lake Association

Autumn Newsletter - 2023



As the blue skies and sunshine days of summer come to a close, we wish **Happy Fall Greetings** to all in the neighborhood.

Your newly elected Board strives to ensure that our community continues to be a peaceful and beautiful place to live. Transparency and open communication are valuable and effective tools to keep you informed of what is happening in Heather Lake. Our main source of neighborhood communication is this newsletter that is sent to homeowners four times yearly. However, the Board meets more regularly and we would like for you to join us!

The Board will be conducting an open Board meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 from 6 to 8 pm at the Wagnalls Community Building North Room. At this meeting, we want to let you know about what has been accomplished so far this year, to hear your thoughts about future activities and projects, and to gather your input on the newly developed draft of the Design Review Manual (DRM). You will be receiving a copy of this draft ahead of the open Board meeting. If you can't make the Board meeting on the 24th, I invite you email your comments and recommendation by October 31st at:

heatherlake.assoc.president@gmail.com

The Board will not take any official action with regard to the DRM until we have heard from everyone who wishes to comment. We hope to see you on the 24th!

John Pekar, President



Hello Heather Lake. You may remember that shortly after the Annual Meeting last March the first Newsletter from your new Board mentioned a revised Design Review Manual. We understand that any revisions to the Design Review Manual can be a sensitive subject and has had reactions in the past. Since that meeting the Heather Lake Association Board has discussed the DRM at length, and has reviewed a number of resources, working to make sure that the DRM is fair, consistent and clear.

The new DRM being drafted is not about any new restrictions, It is being drafted with an emphasis on closing loopholes and clarifying language so that any Board of Directors, present or future, treats all homeowners the same. As your Board Vice President the initial draft has been a process of: initial draft > review by the entire Board > feedback from the Board > then re-draft. Now, we want your input to place the finishing touches. We hope to see you at the open meeting.

Doug Shaffer, Vice President

Treasurer Announcement

Invoices for the 2nd half of 2023 will be included with the December Newsletter. We are currently researching alternative methods of payment for HOA assessments. Effective July 2022 PayPal implemented a policy change that does not allow for the Heather Lake Association business account to receive payments through the "Friends and Family" payment option. PayPal now charges a 2.99% fee on the amount of the payment received. Year-to-date we have paid approximately \$182 in PayPal fees and would expect that to double if we do nothing. Passing the PayPal fee to the owners using that method of payment is one consideration as we continue to research alternative payment options. Payment by check or using your financial institutions' bill pay option are the best choices at this time. - *Ann Deskins*

Park and Common Grounds

The front entrance to the neighborhood was cleared of weeds and growth in July thanks to the Dove, Hamilton, Buckland, Pekar, Shaffer, and Mitchell families. It was fun meeting neighbors and coming together as a community. The missing Alspach/East Glenhurst street sign was replaced in August by Bloom Township.

A lot of progress has been made around the pond this year; such as maintaining the weeds on and off the path, cutting tree branches, and clearing out ditches. Elliott's Mowing added gravel, topsoil and seed to the muskrat runs to help make the area safer and inhibit erosion. New signs were posted at the entrances of the pond stating our 'Catch and Release' policy, and an additional fishing access was cleared at the northeast end.

Looking to 2024, our current mowing company has quoted an increase in their weekly prices. We will collect additional quotes and will hopefully find a less costly vendor. Muck Digester was suggested by The Lake Doctors to help eliminate some of the sediment deposit on the southwest end of the pond. A more affordable option was purchased and implemented.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to keep our common grounds a place we can all enjoy! - *Rita Mitchell*



Fairfield County Fair - October 8-14
Bob Evans Farm Festival - October 13-15
Boo at the Zoo - weekends in October 6-29
Circleville Pumpkin Show - October 18-21
Fall Foliage Trains Hocking Valley Scenic Railway
Haunted Hayride/Forgotten Forest Lebanon

Apple Picking

- Lynd Fruit Farm in Pataskala
- The Orchard and Company in Plain City
- Cherry Hawk Farm in Marysville
- Branstool Orchards in Utica

Visit a Pumpkin Patch

- Circle S Farms in Grove City
- Pigeon Roost Farm in Hebron
- Lehnert's Pumpkin Farm in Radnor
- Hartland Farm in Lancaster

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TRICK OR TREAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH - 2-4PM

If you will be handing out treats, please tie something colorful on your mailbox so children know you have goodies for them. Our homes are spaced far apart with long driveways, so you may consider setting up your treat station at the end of your driveway. Be safe and have fun!



13TH ANNUAL TRICK OR TREAT FOR FOOD

The Canal Winchester Community Pantry serves more than 1,300 clients in Canal Winchester, Lithopolis and rural areas of Fairfield County. The Feeding Our Future Program provides weekend food bags to eligible students attending Canal Winchester and Bloom Carroll schools. If you would like to help, please leave your donation in a plastic bag at the end of your driveway during Trick or Treat on October 29th and a volunteer will pick it up. Most needed items are Spam, spaghetti noodles, oatmeal, body wash, canned potatoes, boxed potatoes and pasta sides.

WELCOME

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