



# Arbour Meadows Neighborhood Newsletter

## Clean-up day set for April 30

Arbour Meadows residents are encouraged to pick up their garden tools and put on their gloves for ***Neighborhood Clean-Up Day, Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.***

Leaves, branches and other debris can block culverts and storm-sewer inlets - key parts of the subdivision's drainage system. Most residents are good about clearing inlets that are located on their property, but commons areas need a little extra attention at this time of year.

Aside from making sure stormwater can flow freely, clean-up participants will trim branches that are encroaching on sidewalks, inspect and repair benches and playground equipment, and take on other tasks.

Residents who are willing to assist with the clean-up are asked to report to either the gazebo (in the play area behind the homes at Wesley and Jay Streets) or the pond in the northeast corner of the subdivision.

Whether you can spare just an hour or the whole morning, your help is needed. Taking part in clean-up day is a great family project that helps teach kids the value of caring for their community.

And if you're a gardener or handy person who would like to take the lead on some small part of the neighborhood clean-up - on April 30 or at a time that's more convenient for you - please call Lyle Amacher (351-4092) to let him know how you can help.

Yard sale date is  
Saturday, May 14

If you've been doing a little spring cleaning and have extra stuff in search of a good home, mark your calendar for Saturday, May 14 - the date of this year's Arbour Meadows Neighborhood Yard Sale.

The Homeowners' Association will buy ads promoting the sale, and will post signs at the entrances to the subdivision.

The sale starts at 8 a.m., and ends when the last garage door closes.

At this time no fall yard sale is scheduled. If enough residents request one, the Board may add one to the calendar.

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## ABOUT THE ARBOUR MEADOWS HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION (AMHA)

Whether you own or rent property in Arbour Meadows, AMHA is *your* neighborhood association. The all-volunteer AMHA Board is made up of neighbors who donate their time to ensure that Arbour Meadows remains a desirable place to live and raise a family.

Residents are always welcome to attend Board meetings. Contact AMHA or any Board member for the time and place of the next meeting.

Contact AMHA at:

Arbour Meadows Homeowners' Association

PO Box 30 Savoy, IL 61874

phone: 217.351.4092

fax: 217.351.4832

email: [arbourmeadows@insightbb.com](mailto:arbourmeadows@insightbb.com)

url: <http://www.dspgweb.com/amha/index.html>

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## AMHA TREASURER DELIVERS ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Drainage improvements that benefit the entire subdivision headline the annual AMHA financial report.

Treasurer Cheryl Van Ness reports that dues income totaled \$25,646.25 in calendar year 2010 -- and expenses totaled \$34,154.03. Construction of an Irish bridge near the detention pond was the "big ticket item" in 2010 (see article on facing page).

The Board did not take the deficit-spending decision lightly; this is the first time in years that expenses have outpaced income. Board members felt the bridge and 2010 excavation/drainage investments were necessary to prevent more costly repairs in the coming years.

In each previous year, the AMHA Board has set aside money to cover long-term expenses such as dredging the detention basin, so that the funding will be there to cover those costs when the time comes.

### AMHA Expenses - Calendar Year 2010:

Mowing service - \$14,100  
Spring Green - \$2,382.88  
Insurance - \$1,628.00  
Bridge - \$6,900.00  
Excavation - \$4,740.00  
Schoonover Sewer Services - \$ 1,120.00  
Supplies - \$181.94  
AT&T - \$182.72  
Advertising (yard sale) - \$43.75  
Postage and rental of PO Box - \$202.50  
Duplicating (newsletter and directory) - 481.58  
Rentals for moving of dirt - \$528.00  
Topsoil and sand - \$1,177.66  
Removal of beavers - \$425.00  
Secretary of State - \$10.00  
Lawyer fees - \$50.00  
  
Total - \$34,154.03

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### BOARD MEMBERS RE-ELECTED AT AMHA ANNUAL MEETING

The Arbour Meadows Homeowners' Association annual membership meeting was held in November at the Savoy Municipal Center.

AMHA President Mike McClellan was re-elected, as were Vice-President Leon Follmer, Secretary Joyce Amacher and Treasurer Cheryl Van Ness.

Lyle Amacher, Chuck Smith and Kathy Reiser will continue as Board members.

### Just a reminder:

AMHA covenants prohibit long-term parking of commercial trucks and trailers, boats, campers and RVs within the subdivision.

If you need a few days to do some cleaning or get the vehicle/boat/trailer ready for a trip, that's OK -- but "permanent" parking should be in a garage or at a remote storage site.

The covenants are on the AMHA website, at <http://www.dspgweb.com/amha/index.html>

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### PLANNING ANY HOME IMPROVEMENTS THIS SUMMER?

Plans for any home improvements that permanently change the exterior appearance of your property -- fences, siding, additions, sunrooms, storage sheds, etc. -- must be reviewed by the AMHA Architectural Committee a month or more before work is begun.

For more information, contact any Board or Architectural Committee member.

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# Drainage improvements completed in 2010

The need for maintenance of many parts of the Arbour Meadows Subdivision rose to the top of the list this year.

AMHA vice-president Leon Follmer has a special interest in maintaining natural areas and ensuring that stormwater can flow unimpeded through the subdivision, and he took the lead on several related projects in 2010.

His annual report follows:

Low spots in the grass drainage ways have become a nuisance in the areas around the detention basins. Projects were initiated to haul in dirt and sand to fill low spots, and trenches were dug to drain depressions. Progress was made on addressing many of the problem areas, but more work needs to be done this year to enable the grass to grow evenly without drowning out.

## **Irish bridge completed**

Our major accomplishment this year was the completion of our Irish bridge over the main waterway where it joins the detention pond, which is referred to by some as Arbour Meadows Lake or Wesley Lake. The bridge is made of gray cement blocks that resemble flat stones. Now, a new sidewalk rises about 20 inches over the lowest point of the old sidewalk. The blocks form a shoulder on both sides of the new walk.

A major problem remains at the bridge. A 12 inch underdrain tile in the axis of the main grass waterway south of the bridge is blocked. It causes the water in the tile coming from the south to boil up to the surface in the first manhole about 300 feet south of the bridge. This is causing all the water from the south watershed to flow at the surface and enter the pond. The tile is designed to

carry about half the water from the south through the tile system bypassing the pond. This extra surface water after heavy rains is causing channel erosion near the bridge and causes the lake to maintain a higher level for longer periods. Eventually the lake level declines to the outflow level, a manhole intake along the east shore of the pond. A project was proposed in December to fix the tile problems, but the weather turned bad before work could start. A new schedule will be worked out. Also, another carryover project is to lift or replace the sidewalk east of the bridge that floods over during the wet seasons.

## **Summary of expenditures**

The bridge cost \$6,900, about a quarter of the annual income from dues. Another costly project was a replacement of the sump pump collector line under the sidewalk in the commons area north of Tomaras Avenue and east of Wesley Avenue. This is likely to occur in other areas, so we need to be prepared for the next surprise.

An uncertain number of collector lines exist in the subdivision; they are over 20 years old and are likely to need maintenance in the near future.

The cost of mowing and fertilizing the commons areas is about \$15,000 per year. Other costs incurred were from: insurance and fees, removing beavers from the pond, restocking catfish in the pond, contracting assistance in landscaping, rental of equipment and materials.

The expenditures this year were slightly more than our income from dues this year, which prevented us from laying away a budgeted amount of savings for major work that will be needed in the future to dredge the pond, or for any costly renovation the pond or retention basins may need in the future.

If you have an interest in wildlife and wildflowers, let me know. We have several acres of native vegetation east of the pond that needs regular attention. On a lucky day you can see a groundhog and other little critters, and hopefully no beavers, which are likely to reappear.



Arbour Meadows Homeowners' Association  
PO Box 30  
Savoy, IL 61874

**Here's your  
neighborhood newsletter**

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## Tolono Library now open Sunday afternoons

Janet Cler, director of the Tolono Public Library (TPL) and a couple of library volunteers were the guest speakers at the Arbour Meadows Homeowners' Association annual membership meeting in November.

In late 2010, the Champaign Public Library (CPL) imposed a \$200 fee on CPL borrowers who live in the Tolono and Mahomet Library Districts. Residents of Savoy -- including Arbour Meadows -- are members of the Tolono Public Library District.

Savoy residents can still obtain interlibrary loan materials though TPL at no charge - but at least for now, those materials will come exclusively from area libraries other than CPL.

TPL provides a wide variety of children's programs, as well as

a "virtual library" that offers access to the *World Book Encyclopedia* 24 hours a day.

A TPL card, available free of charge to Savoy residents, is required to access both physical and virtual library materials.

While *World Book* is well known as a resource for children's school projects and papers, its online resources are designed to appeal to adults, too. The *World Book Info Finder* provides online access to many domestic and international newspapers including the Chicago Tribune. Patrons with an iPad can now download free ebooks, as well.

If you haven't yet visited the Tolono Public Library, it is a short 5-minute drive south of Savoy.

Visit their website at <http://www.tolonolibrary.org/index.html>

You're also invited to "like" TPL on Facebook, and to sign up for their e-newsletter.

**Tolono Public Library:  
Your Home Library**

111 E. Main  
P.O. Box 759  
Tolono, IL 61880

Phone (217) 485-5558

**Hours:**

Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

*Sundays - noon to 4 p.m.*