



LAHA News

AMHURST, A VILLAGE IN THE CITY

Spring, 2006

Lohman's Amhurst Homeowners' Association, St. Louis Park, Minnesota

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Board President's Message

Happy Spring, Amhurst! It always amazes me that we can go from the dead of winter to summer-like days in just a few weeks. I started writing this article in mid-April and added the final touches in early May. What a change Amhurst has gone through in just a few days! Out with the snow shovel, in with the trowel!

Spring is definitely in bloom at Amhurst and our neighborhood looks great. The trees are blooming, the turf is green, and the swimming pool is open. Summer will be here before we know it. Thank you to all who participated in the neighborhood cleanup! Every effort, whether big or small, helps our community. There is still more that can be done by all of us. If we had a money tree, the gardeners would be active every day pruning and planting, cleaning and raking. There is no money tree, so we all need to do our share. Please help by cleaning up around your home, picking those stray weeds, watering some of the dry turf, and picking up that piece of litter. Also, be sure to let John know when something needs attention.

Look for the articles appearing in this newsletter that were submitted by members of the Neighborhood Watch and Architectural Committees. Both of these committees have been very busy looking for ways to make our community safer and more visually appealing. Thank you to all of the volunteers on these committees for their time and commitment! We could always use more help. Give volunteering a thought and let us know what you might be willing to do for your community. We need more Neighborhood Watch captains, the Architectural Committee can always use help, and we have lots of common areas that can be "adopted" by a homeowner to maintain.

The capital improvement projects that were done last year certainly help the curb appeal of our neighborhood. Amhurst looks as if it has had a face lift and has a much more modern appearance now. This summer, we won't be seeing the frenzy of activity that we saw last year. However, there are still capital improvement projects on the agenda. The big project this year will be the replacement of the concrete wall at #50-52 Rockwell. There will also be repair work on other walls in the complex. Front and access doors will be painted at the end of the summer. Fence repair, concrete work, gutter repair and replacement, and a sundry of other repairs are also planned for this summer. It takes the whole summer and most of the fall to get all of the necessary work accomplished. Please be patient, as we are working within the limits of a very tight budget. For the status of any work or project, just contact John and he will give you an update. Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and enjoy Amhurst in bloom!



Linda Dingbaum,
Board President,
lmdingbaum@aol.com



Photo by Kathy Love

UPCOMING

- Annual Resident Garage Sale, Saturday, June 10th.
- Annual Gardens of Distinction Judging, July 8th. See pg. 8.
- National Night Out/Amhurst Summerfest, August 1st..
- Annual Meeting, December 5th.

2nd Special Assessment Payment Due June 1

the projects. Those homeowners that split their payment paid an additional \$100 fee. That fee is paying the interest on the bridge loan. The payoff on the loan is due this June.

If you choose the Special Assessment 2 pay-option, please remember that your payment is due in full by June 1, 2006. Please do not include this payment in the same check as your monthly assessment dues. A separate check is required. Your prompt payment is greatly appreciated. This loan must be paid off immediately.

Please contact our association manager, John Dizon, at 952-933-9747 or by email at jdizon@amhurst.org if you have any questions or concerns. As always, if you would like a statement of your Amhurst account, just contact John. Thanks to all of you who have paid your assessment.

The garage roofs and the parking lots are done and now it's time to pay the 2nd half of the special assessment for those of us who split the payment. Remember, we took a short term 'bridge' loan out at Bremer Bank to fund

Gutter Vendor Suggest Fixing Leaks Is A Losing Battle

Many of our residents have concerns about the many leaks our gutters have, especially above front doors. Is there a fix? According to our current gutter vendor, Tonka Seamless Gutters, the answer to that question is a qualified maybe. Our gutters are over 23 years old and have had trauma afflicted on them from roofing crews, gutter cleaning, ice dams and icicles and in many cases, repeated corner replacement and caulking.

Leaking gutters are a common problem in Minnesota. When the gutters fill up with ice and snow, the melting water has no place to go. It then goes through repeated freeze-thaw cycles. A lengthy piece of aluminum gutter can contract and constrict up to a half inch, causing major strain on seams and corners. Scott O'Connor, of Tonka Seamless, suggested they are RAIN gutters not SNOW and ICE gutters. But, we won't give up. Gutter repair and replacement continues.

Amhurst Resident MN. Teacher of The Year



Sunday, May 8th, was a very special day for Lee-Ann Stephens of #60 Clifton Court. She was chosen over 119 other candidates (and 70,000 educators state wide) as the 2006 MINNESOTA TEACHER OF THE YEAR. Lee-Ann teaches right here in St. Louis Park at the Spanish Immersion Program. She has five classes with total of 120 students, Prior to being a teacher, Lee-Ann was a buyer at Dayton Hudson Corporation. A career change was made and Lee-Ann received her teaching degree at the University of Minnesota.

Lee-Ann has lived at Amhurst with her husband, Terry and their children, Moriah and Jeremiah, for many years. Congratulations Lee-Ann!

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"I APPRECIATE THE CLOSE CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS, AND THE ONGOING FEEDBACK YOU PROVIDED ME. I TRULY FELT YOU HAD MY BEST INTEREST IN MIND."

LISA ABRAMS, FORMER AMHURST OWNER



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**Past Amhurst
Resident and
Association Board
President**

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A Few Things From John, Your Association Manager

- Black dirt and limestone rock are available for your landscaping and gardening projects. The material is located behind the bus shelter. Need a wheel barrow? Just ask.
- Please do not place extra garbage or your recycling bin on top of your garbage bin. The bins are emptied mechanically.



- Do not dump items such as old firewood, burned out charcoal, landscape rock and other types of debris in the wooded areas.
- Need to borrow a tool, maybe a wheel barrow, a shovel? Just call.

- Fence touch up paint is available.
- Front doors and access doors will be painted the end of summer. The Architectural Committee is choosing color choices besides Tudor Brown!
- We don't know why the north pond is so low but we are looking into it!
- Do you wonder why something is done a certain way or not done around the complex? Give me a call and I will try and answer your questions.
- Do you own a dog? The Discount Plastic Bag Mart on Minnetonka has great 'T-Shirt' bags to pickup and dispose of your pet's droppings.
- Sorry for the delay in getting the

lots swept. The vendor was delayed because of the rains.

- Just a reminder that the Association has window screens, Eljer toilet seats, replacement Association Governing Documents, replacement pool keys and Stanley sliding door tracks for sale.
- Caulking is being completed by the Association on all garage door trim per city code.
- The gazebo can be reserved for gatherings. Just give me a call.
- I hope for all of us you check to make sure your smoke detectors are functioning in your home.
- You might find it valuable to review past newsletters that are posted on our web site. They contain information on home

repair and maintenance, safety, and more.

- Now that you have a new garage door, do you know where your emergency release key is? If there is a power failure and you don't have a walk through garage and you don't have access to that key, you will be mighty angry and out a good chunk of change.
- Does your dog bark when you are away from home? Check out the 'humane' bark collars. They do work. Your neighbors would truly appreciate your efforts.
- If you have 'flood lights' for a front door light, please focus the 'floods' downward as not to blast others with the light!
- Small coyotes have been spotted in the neighborhood. Keep your cats, pet rabbits, gerbils and the like inside!

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I have been assisting Amhurst residents and the Association for twenty years!



Amhurst Architectural Committee In High & Colorful Gear

The Amhurst Architectural Committee is again an active committee! Meetings began in April with a membership of 5-7 regulars. We meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM in city hall. The purpose of the committee is to help the Association board by taking on the tasks for the appearance and up-keep of our complex. Topics of discussion have included replacing the #50-53 Rockwell parking lot wall, drafting a political sign posting regulation, spring clean-up day, garden contest, exterior appearance of Amhurst's buildings and reviewing & approving owner's exterior changes.

Now that the Architectural Committee has been reformed and activated, the committee asks homeowners to submit plans to the committee for exterior changes prior to work being done.

When you are considering installing a Solartube,™ getting satellite TV, installing new windows, installing a new front door, removing/adding/ changing your fences, adding a fence gate, re-landscaping your lot, etc., submit your plans to the Architectural Committee for approval, with final approval by the Association board. The by-laws state that exterior changes are to be approved by the Association board. The benefit Amhurst homeowners gain is an attractive looking neighborhood and we keep up the value of our property. This is a big plus for all homeowners!

**Jean Beckman,
Chair, Architectural Com-
mittee, #14 Blackwood**



The winner of the garden contest will choose the color theme of the development common areas next year. To start this tradition off, the Architectural Committee choose the color theme of orange, red and purple for this year.

Wanting to keep Amhurst attractive the Architectural Committee is going over ideas to have a consistent look and feel for our buildings with room for some individuality. The development is 20-24 years old. It is time to update our looks. With the new garage doors we are discussing colors for the siding and window shutters along with a choice of a front door colors. Exterior light fixtures are also being discussed. We are in the brainstorming stage and welcome suggestions (as well as additional members to the committee). To help the committee with brainstorming ideas, an architectural survey is included as an insert in this newsletter. Please fill it out to give us your input. The survey is looking for feedback on the look and feel of Amhurst, neighborhood activities (i.e. wine tasting parties, progressive dinners, monthly gatherings at the pool, BBQs, etc), and holiday decorations...

The spring clean up day has already happened. A big thank you to everybody who helped! The next event is the garden contest on July 8th. With things cleaned up, it is time to start planting your garden. The winner of the garden contest will choose the color theme of the development common areas next year. To start this tradition off, the Architectural Committee has chosen the color theme of orange, red and purple for this year.

Partnering With eQuality, Pathways to Potential

Amhurst is partnering with eQuality, Pathways To Potential, a day program for adults with developmental disabilities. eQuality's idea is simple. Help individuals with developmental disabilities maximize their potential and actively participate in life's opportunities. Since eQuality's inception in 1998, the emphasis on vocational training, education and recreation for developmentally disabled adults has helped individuals and their families connect with peers, employers and the community at large.

A work team of Associates in the eQuality program will be on site at Amhurst two days each week this summer weeding, picking up litter, straightening chairs at the pool and other duties that we can identify.

Amhurst will receive 4-8 dedicated workers accompanied by a 'job coach' working at Amhurst two days each week for 3-4 hours each day. We are able to offer these individuals meaningful employment, in a wonderful setting, while earning a well deserved paycheck. The eQuality associates are employees of eQuality and carry full insurance and workers' compensation.

The cost to Amhurst is a flat \$40.00 each day the work team is on site. A very small price to pay for the service we will receive and the benefits we can offer. We are also very happy to report that our own super volunteer and neighbor, Pat McMullen has graciously agreed to be the liaison between Amhurst and the eQuality team. Please look for the eQuality team and welcome them to Amhurst.

Editor's Note: I was honored to serve as the first President of the Board of Directors of eQuality Pathways to Potential. I continue to serve on the board and its committees but stepped down as President when my term limit was reached. To learn more about eQuality, check out the web site at www.equalityonline.org



Comfortable at Amhurst

When I was growing up in Amhurst, I took for granted the safety and security of our neighborhood. I sold candy bars door-to-door for little league, and raffle tickets for school fundraisers. I went out on Halloween night, and never worried about the criminal element. As I ventured into the country and the world, I visited some places that were eye-opening and quite the culture shock from my previous living standards. First, in San Antonio, then to Biloxi. My first tour to Kuwait was perhaps the peak of my understanding and appreciation for the quiet and secure peacefulness of Amhurst. Maybe I'm mixing apples and oranges, but that first trip was called my "USA Appreciation Tour". Every time a vehicle was left alone, it was thoroughly examined for explosive devices, and signs of tampering. This was conducted even while in the secured perimeter of our U.S. compound.

After I left the military, I moved to south Minneapolis where I thought I would find at least a certain comfort level in which I could let down my guard a bit. I lived there for three years which included my truck being broken into four times, and the fourth time it was stolen and demolished. I experienced an awakening from which my wife and I decided to invest in a home. We looked for seven months around the first tier suburbs, attempting to stay close to our places of employment downtown. It seemed funny to consider the place where I grew up, but at the same time, it made all the sense in the world. So in 2003, we made it happen and moved into perhaps the safest, best kept secret in the western suburbs.

I walk my dog at night without reservation; granted, I'm 6'2" and 205 lbs, but I'm also comfortable with my 5'2" wife doing the same by herself (weight: classified information) as long as she stays in Amhurst. Do I recommend walking the trails at midnight by yourself? Not really. Don't make yourself a target. Stay in well lit areas, carry a flashlight and maybe a whistle. Train yourself to be vigilant and aware of your surroundings. As a Law Enforcement Officer, I am trained to recognize behavior, not physical features. Look for things and people that don't belong. In some circumstances, it might be that you simply need to introduce yourself and get to know your neighbors. Turn your patio/garage lights on, and use the deadbolt lock on your front door when you leave the house or go to bed. My wife locks me out when I take the garbage out. Don't be scared, but don't be passive to crimes of opportunity. Don't give crime an excuse to occur. Prevention is up to us as we tuck in our purses, know our neighbors and eliminate fear while being proactive in our community. Am I scared to leave Amhurst? I'll tell you, I'm ten times as cautious as I cross the threshold to the rest of the metro. Its nice to come home and feel safe.

Our volunteer block captains are as follows: Lorrie Carlson (White Oak), Ester Chi (Cliffton), Zane Detert (Blackwood), Helen Gilster (Cliffton), Pam McCabe (Briarwood), Ruth McCarthy (Somerset), Gena Smith (Park Lane). More are encouraged to participate in the upcoming informational meetings. We look forward to seeing more patio/garage lights illuminating our neighborhood and meeting all of our neighbors.



**Zane Detert,
Member, Neighborhood
Watch, #82 Blackwood**




BLOCK CAPTAINS

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You need only 2 things: the ability to hear or see suspicious activity and report it and the desire to do something to make a difference at Amhurst.

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City Regulations Severely Limit Use of Recreational Fires at Amhurst



St. Louis Park has rigid requirements for decorative fire pits and chimineas. Free, yearly fire permits are required. One regulation is that the fire must be at least 25 feet from any structure, including fencing. This requirement alone severely limits the use of recreational fires at Amhurst. Only a very few homes have 'property' that is 25 feet from their home or fence. Check out the city's website for further details at www.stlouispark.org/residents/safety.htm

SHAME Notations

- Are you the homeowner that has a collection of junk in your air conditioner area that would make the Sanfords happy!
- Is it your dog that barks most of the day when you are away at work?
- The dumpster at the pool shed is for plant and garden material not two cases of empty beer bottles.
- Did you sweep out your garage of the winter sand and grime and sweep the debris into the parking lot?
- Is it your gate (gates are homeowner responsibility) that does not latch correctly, while blowing in the wind and is yanking your neighbor's fence down?
- The old, dirty landscape rock that you don't want does not belong in the common rock gardens. It just does not blend in like you thought!
- OK, back to the cigarette butts. If you are a smoker, please keep them to yourself. Don't flick, dump, toss, stamp, drop or otherwise dispose of your butts in or around anything that is not an acceptable receptacle.

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house including washing windows, pressure washing my
garage and patio." He is the best!" Carol Durdahl, #41 Amhurst*

Phone 952-938-3483

You Can Have Insulated Windows

The standard windows at Amhurst are single pane, Corn Belt aluminum windows installed by the developer over 23 years ago.

They are not insulated. Many homeowners have elected to upgrade these windows to triple pane systems. It appears that those who have changed to the insulated windows are very happy with the added warmth, lower heating costs and less outside noise.

The Association has replaced a few of the windows when they have gone 'out of true' and do not close properly. In these cases, the homeowner was offered the chance to upgrade to insulated windows at their cost.



Thanks to members of the Architectural Committee, including Jean Beckman, Gena Smith, Mark Sprung, Jack Carlson, Dave Bros and Gena Soucherary, for their wonderful efforts during the Neighborhood Clean Up Day. The committee plans on holding a few more 'buckthorn eradication' events this summer.

Residents: Submit your business card for **FREE** advertising in your Association's Newsletter. Are you a freelancer, insurance agent or realtor, sell Tupperware, want to do handy man work? Here is a great opportunity to promote your business. Your business card will be reprinted in future newsletters, depending on space availability.

For larger space ads, the Association will charge you the following:

- 1/4 page: \$ 25.00
- 1/2 page: \$ 40.00
- Full Page: \$ 60.00
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Contact John for further information.

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Great shrub trimming efforts by this expert on neighborhood clean up day. Note the proper safety gear!



A neighborly visit by some young critters to the Blackwood Court lot.



A family of Hooded Mergansers in the north pond. These are small fish-eating ducks of wooded ponds. The Hooded Merganser nests in holes in trees. It is frequently seen on shallow waters where it's only waterfowl companion is the Wood Duck.

Photo by Phoebe Walling

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS!		
Lindsay Gilster	71	Amhurst Court
Jerome Waldron, Jr.	91	Amhurst Court
Cassandra Lawin	60	Somerset Court
Rob Becker III	11	Rockwell Court
Mary Soucheray & Robert Hagstrom	32	Blackwood Court
Margaret Turner	40	Clifton Court
Sharon Sich	42	Clifton Court

In Memoriam

Lana Rae King

formerly of #73 Somerset, passed away March 1st, following lung cancer surgery. Lana was a long time resident of Amhurst. Many of us will remember Lana's great wit. She always had a joke or two to brighten one's day. Lana and her puppies would visit neighbors on their daily walk around the neighborhood. Lana's brother Tom is now living at Lana's home and taking care of the puppies.




The Architectural Committee Has Defined the Judging Categories for this year's Amhurst Gardens of Distinction. Judging July 8th. No need to register to participate. All gardens at Amhurst will be reviewed

Best Use Of Color	Best Themed Garden-i.e. Cottage, English, Japanese, etc.
Best Themed Walkway	Best of Show Per Court
Best Use of Water Feature	Best of Show
Best Container Garden	and, Most Improved! (will need before pictures)

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Have your dryer vent as well as your furnace or duct work professionally cleaned. This cleaning is very important. A CLOGGED VENT IS A MAJOR FIRE HAZARD. A clogged dryer vent also reduces the useful life of the dryer and increases the drying time and operating cost appreciably. A fire in one home can become a fire in 8-10 homes in a matter of minutes. See page 11

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Images of Amhurst



Photo by Terry Wilson, #30 Amhurst,
Garden by the Wilsons.



Photo by K. Love, Garden by Judy
Hammel & John Lewis, #15 White
Oak.



Garden by Mark Sprung, 50 Park Lane



Photo by Lori Carlson, #82 White
Oak, Garden by the Jensens, #11
White Oak.



Prevent A Major Fire Disaster At Amhurst

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 1997, there were 16,700 fires, 30 deaths and 430 injuries associated with clothes dryers. Some of these fires can occur when lint builds up in the filter or in the exhaust duct. Under certain conditions, when lint blocks the flow of air, excessive heat build-up can cause a fire in some dryers.

To prevent fires:

Clean the lint filter regularly and make sure the dryer is operating properly. Clean the filter after each load of clothes. While the dryer is operating, check the outside exhaust to make sure exhaust air is escaping normally. If it is not, turn the dryer off and look inside both ends of the duct for lint. Remove any lint found there. If there are signs that the dryer is hotter than normal, this may be a sign that the dryer's temperature control thermostat needs servicing.

If clothing is still damp at the end of a normal cycle or requires longer dryer times, this may be a sign that the exhaust or lint screen is blocked.

Periodically have the duct work cleaned by a professional duct cleaner. This cleaning removes lint and debris from the dryer all the way to the outside vent.

Check the exhaust duct more often if you have a plastic, flexible duct. This type of duct is more apt to trap lint than ducting without ridges. Inspect the duct for kinks or crushing, which can greatly reduce the airflow.

Closely follow manufacturers' instructions for new installations. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or flexible metal duct to provide a minimum restriction of airflow. If metal duct is not available at the retailer where the dryer was purchased, check other locations, such as hardware or builder supply stores. If you are having the dryer installed (or selling your home), insist upon metal duct. This is a City of St. Louis Park code.

For further information, contact the US Consumer Protection Safety Commission:

CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Editor's Note: Why not get your neighbors in your building to collectively have all your ducts cleaned at once? Most firms will offer a discount for multiple homes completed during one trip.



EXERCISE YOUR VALVES; WATER VALVES THAT IS.

Every home has a water shut off located in the utility closet or utility room. It is highly recommended that you open and close this valve once or twice a year to 'exercise' it. Many neighbors are finding that after many years of no use (no exercise), the valves don't shut off completely. This becomes a problem when you have plumbing work done in your home. Many plumbers recommend these GATE valves be replaced with a PORT BALL valve. You might want to do this now or the next time you have any plumbing work completed.



Lohman's Amhurst

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**MAGNET PHOTO BY RESIDENT,
KATHY LOVE, #81 BRIARWOOD.
THANKS KATHY!**

LAHA News

Swimming Pool Is Open

Summer is upon us as well is another season at the pool at Lohman's Amhurst. We are all lucky to have such nice amenities in our neighborhood. However, with 276 homes sharing the pool we all need to remember our manners if we want to enjoy the summer at the pool!

When using floating rafts and inner tubes, please use discretion. When there are too many in the pool at once it is hard for people to swim as well as a safety hazard if someone is under and can't be seen.

Smoking is allowed but PLEASE clean up after yourself. There are butt buckets available. Please empty them when finished. Do not extinguish cigarettes on the pavement or wood deck as they leave unsightly marks. Be aware of your surroundings and know that not everyone enjoys smoke.

The pool is reserved for Amhurst residents and their guests. -All residents are asked to accompany their guests unless otherwise authorized by a board member or the manager. The pool can be very busy so keep that in mind when inviting a large number of guests. Do not give your key to any non-resident. Do not let people in who do not possess a key. Do not prop the gate open. The door must be kept closed. This is a safety issue and a state law.

When using a radio please be considerate and know that not everybody shares your taste in music. Keep the volume to a

respectable level.

Do not hold chairs when not present.

No glass within the fence.

Food is allowed but remember that it is no one's job to clean up after you.

Please do not use alcoholic beverages to excess.

Our pool is such a fabulous amenity and we want to keep it safe for everyone. It is also a great way to get out and meet your neighbors. Have a great summer!



Gina Smith (20 Park Lane) and Mark Sprung (50 Park Lane)

Architectural Committee



POOL RULES TO KNOW

CHILDREN (Under 12 Years of Age) MUST HAVE AN ADULT (18 or over) SUPERVISING AND ACCEPTING FULL RESPONSIBILITY.

- Shower before entering pool and also after exercising, applying lotion or using the toilet.
- No person with or suspected of having a communicable disease which could be transmitted through use of pool may use the pool.
- Spitting, spouting water from the mouth and blowing the nose in the pool is prohibited.
- No running, boisterous behavior or rough play permitted.
- Absolutely no glassware allowed in pool or pool area.
- No diving.
- Pets are not allowed in pool or pool area.
- Management may limit the number of floats for safety reasons.
- Children not toilet trained must use diapers designed for swimming.
- Smokers-please be considerate of your non-smoking neighbors.