
July

PRAIRIE WOODS

HOA Quarterly Newsletter

2024

President's Message

Rich Aguilar

This is my first opportunity to address you as the newest President of the Prairie Woods HOA. I'd like to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me, but before I do that, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to cast a ballot in the April 2024 election. Sam Duggan, Jason Geist, and Jen Pope were elected to the three positions up for election on the HOA Board. Jen will fill my vacant Secretary position. Sam and Jason will remain in their respective Vice President and Projects positions.

I have been a Prairie Woods resident with my wife, Dawn, since July 2014. We are about to celebrate our tenth anniversary as residents here. We were both lifelong Chicago residents prior to moving here. I worked for the Chicago Police Department for 32 years as a Field Training Officer. Dawn worked for Chicago Public Schools for 22 years as an 8th grade English teacher. Both jobs required us to live in Chicago. Retiring and then moving into this community has truly been a blessing for us. We chose Prairie Woods as it was one of the smaller subdivisions in the area. The residents here are all friendly people who seem to have the same wants and needs as everyone else in our community. Everyone takes pride in their property and does their best to maintain it. I have served as the HOA Secretary for six of my ten years here.



One of my main goals is to have our community become even more closely knit. I want everyone here to feel that they are a part of this community and that their voice is just as important as any other resident's voice. I can assure you that the current HOA Board is here to serve **you**. I think it is important to note that Board members do not get paid or receive anything of value for serving on the Board. We choose to serve because we all care about our community and believe that we all have something to offer.

One of the first things I would like to do is bring our quarterly Board Meetings back into the community by having our August 13th meeting at a resident's home. For some time now our meetings have been held virtually and while it may be convenient for some, I believe we have definitely lost a sense of community by sitting in front of computers rather than having face-to-face interactions with our neighbors. Any resident who would like to host this meeting can contact me at president@prairiewoodshoa.com. Meetings begin at 6:30 pm and generally last from 60 to 90 minutes. The meeting can be held in your driveway, front or back yard, but your garage may need to be available in the event of inclement weather. Resident attendees would be asked to bring their own folding chairs. So, if anyone is interested in hosting, please reach out to me ASAP.

We Need Your Current Contact Information

This newsletter and your individual quarterly dues assessment invoice might just be the last two items you receive from the HOA Board. It appears that we are finally moving into the electronic age and the next quarterly document will likely be sent via email. You will likely have the ability to pay your invoice electronically as well. Those residents who prefer to pay by check will still have that option available to them.

This upgrade benefits our residents in many ways. It eliminates the cost of printing which includes ink or toner and paper which also saves some trees. The cost of postage is eliminated. No more invoices lost in the mail. This is another step in lowering our costs and keeping the HOA assessments from increasing. Our newest residents may not be aware that HOA assessments have never increased since Prairie Woods came into existence in 2006.

Please send an email to secretary@prairiewoodshoa.com with your name, address, phone number, and email address so we can verify that we have your correct information. We assure you that this information is only for communication from the HOA Board. None of your information will be released or sold to any business or person.

New Mailbox Posts Concerns

Recently, the US Postal Service was kind enough to place letters into all our mailboxes mandating certain specifications due to new postal vans being procured by USPS. The letter went on to say that mail service could be discontinued if the mailboxes were not accessible to the new USPS vans.

This occurred shortly after the HOA Board had paid a contractor to replace all the mailbox posts in the meadows side of our subdivision. The USPS letter resulted in several Prairie Woods residents questioning the Board as to whether the current mailbox posts met the standards set by USPS.

We are happy to report that the current mailbox posts and mailboxes are acceptable to USPS. Our residents are not in any danger of having your mail delivery suspended or discontinued.

Note: Residents are responsible for the repair and/or replacement of their mailboxes in accordance with the specifications listed in Article 12 of the Rules and Regulations of the Prairie Woods Homeowners Association. (<https://www.prairiewoodshoa.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/PWHOA-Declarations-rev.-122015.pdf>)

HOA Board Members

President	Rich Aguilar
Vice President	Sam Duggan
Treasurer	Scott Kochaney
Secretary	Jen Pope
Projects/At Large	Jason Geist

Upcoming HOA Meetings

August 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
Location will be posted on the HOA Website.
www.prairiewoodshoa.com