

AMBERLEA NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Amberlea Homeowners Association-Officers and Directors

Officers

President: Ken Rejko

Vice President: Bob Koechlin

Treasurer: Carl Bowles

Secretary: Terry Rejko

Directors

Area 1: Bob Koechlin

Area 2: Greta & BJ Develle

Area 3: Joyce Kucek

Area 4: Vacant

Area 5: Vacant

Area 6: Dave Dunlap

Area 7: Shaine Harvester

Area 8: Diane Chavez

Area 9: Vacant

Area 10: Grace Cristo

Area 11: Don Ropp

Please accept my sincere apologies for the belated arrival of this “2nd quarter” newsletter. My time since the 1st quarter newsletter has been overwhelmed with the design and Dunedin grant application processes for our new Amberlea Entrance.

City Commissioner Julie Scales has been instrumental in all our endeavors by directing us to the right people to streamline this process. Without her knowledge and ability to steer us in the right directions and meeting with city staff personnel, we would have to face the prospect of entirely financing the new entrance with our own treasury resources. We owe many thanks to Commissioner Scales.

I met with **Art Finn** of the city of Dunedin on September 15, 2010 to review and submit our application and design package along with an itemized budget and work schedule for final grant consideration later this month. It was very well received and we should be notified of the amount of the grant monies allocated to our project in early October of this year. Palm Lake Village and Edgewater Arms also have applications to submit and we will be sharing monies with both associations amounting to \$20,000.00. Our request is for \$10,117.35 which is the maximum we can request representing one half of our entrance budget of \$20,234.70.

For those of you who missed the entrance presentation at the annual meeting, I will describe our proposed endeavor by quoting the following from our submittal to the city:

“We propose to replace Amberlea Subdivision’s existing 40 year old wooden entrance identification signage located on the existing city-owned median strip on Sunlight Drive. This entails a new updated masonry and painted stucco structure with an attached synthetic granite signage placard. Additionally, we wish to include new landscaping, automatic irrigation, and nighttime illumination of the sign and median strip. We, as an association, have the capability to design the architectural and landscaping amenities, install all irrigation components, install all planting materials, painting the sign structure, and contracting for the fabrication and installation of the sign placard with Signature Signs of Safety Harbor, Florida. The actual construction of the sign structure is to be contracted with Edward Proefke of Proefke Construction Company of Clearwater, Florida.”

Another excerpt from the application is the following required schedule for completing various parts of the project describing the work to be done, and by whom:

- a. Application submittal-mid Sept., 2010 and City approval early Oct., 2010.
Performed by: Amberlea HOA Board and City of Dunedin.**
- b. Contract with Signature Signs and Proefke Construction Company-ASAP.
Performed by: Amberlea HOA.**
- c. Permitting and commencement of sign construction by end of Oct., 2010.
Performed by: Signature Signs and Proefke Construction Company.**
- d. Commencement of underground irrigation system by end of Oct., 2010.
Performed by: Amberlea HOA contracting with association member.**
- e. Completion of contractor's signage construction by end of Nov., 2010.
Performed by: Signature Signs and Proefke Construction Company.**
- f. Completion of irrigation system and painting of sign structure and installation of landscaping with completion target date of Jan. 1, 2011.
Performed by: Approximately 20 members of Amberlea HOA.**

I hope all of you will reread the last line above carefully...**without your assistance, this undertaking will cost our treasury an additional \$2400.00.** When we did a short term renovation of the entrance in the fall of 2007, Board members, spouses and a few non-Board members totaling 14-20 people spent 4-8 hours each completing all the work in just one day. Afterwards we had an evening cookout and great fellowship which I believe generated a more energetic Board and strengthened our Amberlea community spirit. We are looking for a few good capable men, women and teenagers that possess any of the following skills to assist in making our new entrance a reality for all of Amberlea:

LATE OCTOBER, 2010:

- 1. Two-four volunteers for raking and bagging old mulch.**
- 2. Four-six volunteers for assisting Larry Chavez (our resident irrigation contractor) by trenching (spelled digging) for new irrigation lines and the dismantling of the old PVC piping. (same day as above)**
- 3. One-two volunteers for minor existing tree trimming. (same day as above)**
- 4. Two "safety" volunteers with provided orange vests and cones to watch for traffic. (same day as above)**
- 5. Two volunteers to maintain cold drinking water and picking up sandwiches and soft drinks for lunch at Sweet Bay across the street for all volunteers at Amberlea HOA expense. (same day as above)**

Since Amberlea HOA does not own any equipment, we are asking our volunteers to provide their own rakes, shovels, gloves, pruning shears, etc.

EARLY DECEMBER, 2101:

- 6. Two volunteers for assisting Larry Chavez (our resident irrigation contractor) with finalizing the remaining irrigation components.**
- 7. Four volunteers for painting the completed sign structure and to watch for traffic as per item #4 above. (same day as above)
Amberlea HOA will provide the paint, brushes, etc. as well as the cold water and lunch as per item # 5 above.**

EARLY TO MID-DECEMBER, 2010:

- 8. Two-four “strong” volunteers for assisting Kevin Oldfield of Amberlea by loading the 144 retaining blocks on his flat bed trailer (he originally moved them himself and has been storing them at his home) and unloading them at the front entrance. The blocks will then have to be put in place.**
- 9. Ten-twelve volunteers for planting and mulching the landscaping materials and to watch for traffic as per item #4 above.**
 - Amberlea HOA will provide the cold water and lunch as per item #5 above.**
 - Again, Amberlea does not own any equipment so you will need to furnish your own rakes, shovels, gloves, pruning shears, etc.**

At the Annual Meeting and in the March Newsletter, **Director Dave Dunlap** suggested we consider the improvement of the two masonry and stucco sidewalls immediately north of the entrance median strip for inclusion in our new entrance plans. Without power for lighting and an irrigation supply line under the roadway to these areas, this added expense was not deemed prudent at this time. Dave’s proposal is a viable project we, of the Board, would like to do as an upcoming project next year. As a stop-gap measure, we are purchasing extra paint to at least put on a fresh coat that matches our new entrance colors. If anyone will volunteer to pressure wash the side walls for us during the painting process mentioned above, we can easily include them while the paint cans are open and a volunteer is holding a dripping brush.

We are asking all persons willing to give of their time and energies for our common cause to contact me with your name, telephone number, and the work you would like to perform as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly. The exact dates the above work schedules can begin can not be determined until our application is approved by the city and we have our building permit. With a favorable weather forecast and a list in hand of all volunteers, we can call you individually in a timely fashion and place a notification sign at the main entrance. As we experienced at the last work party for the entrance in the fall of 2007, many jobs overlapped, a few volunteers had to leave and return, some came unexpectedly, many volunteered for every phase of the work; but, all had a good time, even with rain during the last hour...**and the job got done.**

We are again considering having a gala cookout for all the volunteers who participate by celebrating our accomplishment at a convenient time after the New Year’s celebrations have passed. Would someone volunteer to take photographs during the different work phases? We could share them at the cookout and again with a display presentation at the Annual Meeting. Perhaps our project efforts will induce better attendance at the meeting.

I am fully aware of our scheduling being very ambitious, especially with each of us having our individual plans for the Thanksgiving and the December Holidays occurring close to this time frame. However, even with bad weather or unforeseen delays, I believe we have enough flexibility to have our new entrance feature come to fruition well before the Amberlea Homeowner’s Association Annual Meeting in late January of 2011. This is the largest, most time consuming, and costliest project Amberlea has undertaken to date. **It can certainly be achieved and will be achieved if we all pitch in together.**

There will be a brief follow-up newsletter toward the end of October, 2010 only if there is critical or pertinent information regarding commencement of the front entrance work. Therefore, that newsletter, if generated, will be mailed to each of you and posted on our website rather than everyone solely relying on our website at that critical time. We have had very little response and feedback on our website. We wonder if some of you have read past newsletters to know if the website even exists. **I am asking each of you to send affirmation by e-mail of your ability to receive the newsletters online so we can have a rough idea of how many people we are reaching. We are stopping the costly postal version after the first of the year. If you don't respond with your name and address, you will unfortunately be left clueless of important events happening in Amberlea.**

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Neighborhood Watch Update

Director Shaine Harvester reported that the Neighborhood Watch Program has been dropped due to a lack of significant interest by Amberlea residents. She will now chair our association's **Welcome Wagon Committee** and will be assisted by **Director Joyce Kucek**. They are now formulating the committee's goals and procedures. Of vital importance is establishing a format to know the addresses and names of our new neighbors. We welcome any suggestions.

Looking for a few good Directors

Since we currently have three vacant seats on the Board of Directors, we are in need of interested homeowners willing to express their views and ideas. We meet approximately four times a year in addition to the Annual Meeting during the early evenings for about two hours. Please consider the importance and worthiness of your contribution when volunteering as a Director and join us in sharing a sense of civic responsibility to make Amberlea a better place to live.

Future Board Meeting

The tentative date for our next Board meeting is November, 2010. The time, place and date will be predicated on the front entrance progress and will be announced at a later date to all Board members.

All interested parties not on the Board are invited to attend with prior notification of your interest to me so that we can provide an appropriate meeting place.

Thank you for your confidence,

Ken Rejko

President-Amberlea Homeowners' Association

(727) 734-0024 **amberleadunedinfl.com**