



The Eagle's Eye

Important Updates Inside...

Everything You Need to Know about our New Management Company, Associa.

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Also...

Safety Tips after recent Coyote Encounters

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From the President

Gary Zoet

President | White Eagle Club Property Owners Association

I have some exciting news and some important dates to share with you this month.

On January 1st, we will be introducing Associa of Chicagoland as our new Property Management Company. After an extensive search over the Summer, your Homeowner’s Board approved at our October meeting to name Associa of Chicagoland our new property management company.

In this edition we discuss our search process and some important implementation steps. The most exciting reason for the change is we will enhance our service level by having an Associa administrative assistant office Monday thru Friday’s out of our Homeowner’s Clubhouse!

Our goal with this change is to continue to make White Eagle the Premier Destination for residents in the Naperville and Aurora area.

Welcome Associa to our White Eagle Community!

UPCOMING WHITE EAGLE EVENTS

DECEMBER

ASSOCIA | Announcement Letter

ASSOCIA | Welcome Packet for Residents Arrives

DEC 6, 5-7 PM | Holiday Party at the White Eagle Homeowner’s Clubhouse

JANUARY

Jan 1 | Administrative manager starts.
Regular office hours begin.

Mid - January | Associa will be hosting a virtual meet and greet with the White Eagle residents.

Jan 13 @ 7 PM | Homeowner’s Meeting at the White Eagle Homeowner’s Clubhouse

FEBRUARY

Feb 15 @ 11 AM | White Eagle Annual Homeowner’s Meeting at the White Eagle Homeowners Clubhouse

Feb 15 @ Noon | White Eagle Regular Homeowner’s Meeting at the White Eagle Homeowners Clubhouse

Feb 19 @ 6:30 - 10 PM | HOA Ladies BINGO at the White Eagle Homeowners Clubhouse

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WHITE EAGLE HOMEOWNERS BOARD WELCOMES ASSOCIA OF CHICAGOLAND AS OUR NEW MANAGEMENT COMPANY FOR 2026-2028.

I would like to take this opportunity to share some exciting news with you! During our October Board meeting we approved Associa of Chicagoland as our new Management Company. After a 3 month review by our Management Search Committee, we unanimously approved the Committee's recommendation of Associa of Chicagoland as our new Management Company at the October HOA Board meeting.

How did we get there?

In June, we formed a search committee in anticipation of the renewal of our current management contact. During this search we identified 2 criteria for candidates to serve the homeowners of White Eagle.

No More Call Centers

The first was a management company who could provide us an onsite Administrative Assistant that could handle the day-to-day operations of the community. We realized as a board we needed a full-time, person to provide our residents with a go-to, on site manager to answer questions, book rentals at our HOA Clubhouse and deal immediately with the issues that affect our residents.

Constant Communication via Town Square

The second criteria was to contract with a management company who could provide us with the tools to continue improving our communications to our residents. This form of app based communication would be managed by the company and replace the burden of using our various board members for day-to-day operations.

After we contacted more than six area companies we were quickly able to narrow our choice to three. In August we interviewed the candidates, scored their processes and unanimously chose to present to the Board of Directors for Approval Associa of Chicagoland.

We are in the middle of transitioning all of the back office procedures and information from our current management company and are on track to transition smoothly on January 1, 2025.

What does this mean to the residents of White Eagle?

- Associa will have a resident assistant manager at our HOA Clubhouse with office hours between 9 AM and 4 PM Monday - Friday. This person will also be responsible to answer and respond to emails and phone calls while in the office.
- Associa will provide us a community manager (CAM) based in Plainfield who we will share with other communities to provide us with the vendor management, accounting and financial support we will need to manage the community.
- Associa has volunteered to host an on-line town hall meeting in January to welcome everyone.

What will this cost the community?

- We have included in the 2025 budget an increase in our management fees. As of this time, there are no dues increases scheduled for 2025.

How will I pay my quarterly fees?

- You will need to make sure you change the destination of your assessment payments. You will receive a welcoming packet and instructions in December.
- Town Square - Associa uses Town Square as their communication tool for residents. You will be able to pay your fees via Town Square as well!

We are very excited to share this news with you. We do not take this change lightly. We are working diligently to make sure we have everything set up for you by January 1st. Look for more information via Town Square as well as email updates in December.

Regards,

Gary Zoet

President WEHOA and Your 2024 HOA Board of Directors

TRANSITIONING TO ASSOCIA:

What You Need to Know About Quarterly Payments

Dear White Eagle Residents,

As we welcome Associa as our new management company starting January 1, 2025, we want to ensure a smooth transition for all residents, particularly regarding your quarterly assessment payments. Here's everything you need to know to stay on track with your payments as we begin this new chapter.

Manual Payment Required for Q1 2025.

For the first quarter of 2025, all payments will need to be processed manually. This applies to all residents, even those who previously had auto-debit set up through RealManage. As part of the transition, any auto-debit arrangements with RealManage will be disabled in December 2024. The Jan statement that the residents will receive will only be for the quarterly assessments. Any other charges such as clubhouse bookings, fines, etc. will be in their Feb statements.

You can submit your payment in one of two ways:

- 1. Write a Check:** Detailed instructions, including your account number and the address for mailing physical checks, will be provided by Associa in the first week of December.
- 2. Use TownSquare:** Starting January 1, 2025, TownSquare will be available to process payments electronically. If you're already signed up for TownSquare, this is a convenient and efficient option.

Action Required

We urge all residents to plan ahead to ensure your payment is processed on time. Please take note of the following:

- Look out for the communication from Associa in early December with the necessary account and payment details.
- If you prefer to pay via TownSquare, ensure your account is active and ready to use by January.
- Remember that this manual payment process applies only to the first quarter of 2025. Auto-payment setup instructions for future quarters will be shared once Associa establishes the new system.

Questions or Assistance?

For any questions or concerns, please email us at admin@whiteeagleclub.com. We're here to help make this transition as seamless as possible.

Your cooperation is essential to making this transition smooth. Thank you for your attention to this important update as we work together to build an even better community with Associa.

Best regards,
White Eagle HOA Finance Committee



November 7, 2024

All Unit Owners of
White Eagle Club Property Owners Association

RE: Professional Management Services

Dear Association Members at White Eagle Club Property Owners Association:

Welcome to the Associa Chicagoland Family! We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors of your association has retained our firm to provide professional management services effective January 1, 2025. Associa Chicagoland is a full-service association management company specializing in the management of homeowner, condominium and townhome associations located throughout the Chicagoland area.

Our staff is experienced, responsive, and committed to going the extra mile to keep your association running smoothly. We will be providing full service management in financial accounting, maintenance, management, and administrative services and take pride in our quality of service.

We will be sending you further information will be sent to homeowners informing you of your new account number and directions on how to set up Direct Debit with Associa. Billing statements will be sent to individual homeowners as soon as the transition is complete. Please note there could be a delay in billing as we confirm all account information and addresses. There will be more information forthcoming to you regarding the change in management.

Sincerely,

Michele Trina

Michele Trina, CMCA, AMS
Branch President
Associa Chicagoland Management, Inc.



Date

Dear Association Owner:

Enclosed you will find a Candidate Nomination Form. Your Association has an Annual Meeting and Election scheduled for February 15, 2025 @ 11 AM as indicated at the top of the enclosed form. If you are interested in running for a position on the Board, please complete this form and return it to Associa Chicagoland by January 15th.

This is your opportunity to participate in the decision-making process of your Association. Please consider offering your time. If you have any questions regarding the duties of Board members, please contact : robyn.Braun@associachicagoland.com

Sincerely,

ASSOCIA CHICAGOLAND, INC.

Community Association Manager
Association

MM/aa

Enclosure



**ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

C A N D I D A T E F O R M

The Annual Meeting for the White Eagle Homeowner's Association will be held on Saturday February 15th @11 AM. There are Five 2 - year positions to be filled at this Annual Meeting. If you are interested in running for the Board, please fill out this form and return it no later than January 15th, 2025.

- Drop Off at HOA Mailbox located at the WEHOA Clubhouse
- Email: Robyn.Braun@associachicagoland.com

Please note that information provided on this form will be distributed to the general membership of the Association.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ASSOCIATION BACKGROUND:

PERSONAL/BUSINESS BACKGROUND:

STATE YOUR POSITION ON THE ISSUES YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT:

Scan QR code above to fill out this form and apply online today.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Holiday Party

December 6 ★ 5-7pm

MEET SANTA AND HIS REINDEER, CRAFTS,
HOT COCOA & SNACKS AND DJ SUAVESMOOTH!



THANKS TO ALL WHO CELEBRATED WITH US AT THE *Diwali Bollywood Dance & Craft Party*



If you have pics from our events you want to share in the next Eagle Eye, email Jill: Jill.rice01@gmail.com



The White Eagle Golf Course is a tremendous asset to our premier community and it's important for our residents to continue to respect it as a private golf course.

The grounds and golf paths are private property for 12 months of the year. Winter, when the golf course is closed to the members, is not a time for the residents to walk the course, especially with dogs.

Thank you for your cooperation in respecting the private golf course which adds so much prestige to our premier community.

**ATTENTION
WHITE EAGLE
RESIDENTS**

**WHITE EAGLE HOA
LADIES BINGO**

This event is for RESIDENTS/OWNERS of White Eagle ONLY. You will NEED to present your COMMUNITY ID for entry.

WEDNESDAY FEB 19, 2025

DOORS OPEN 5PM
BINGO STARTS 6:30- 10PM

BASKET DONATIONS Needed

WE HOA CLUBHOUSE

\$50 per ticket

MORE INFO TO COME IN TOWN SQUARE

Space is LIMITED

NAPER SETTLEMENT

Holly Jolly DAYS

**December 6-8
December 13-15
December 19-20**

Thursday/Friday Hours: 3-7 PM (last entry 6 PM)
Saturday/Sunday Hours: 1-6 PM (last entry 5 PM)

\$5/Person, Free for children under 4
Recommended for families with children 12 and under

More details on **December Events** Page in this Newsletter.

EYE ON GOLF VILLAS



VISIT GOLVVILLASWE.COM FOR INFORMATION, PROJECT UPDATES, PHOTOS, AND MORE!

GOLF VILLAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pam Dollman Snell, *President*

Josie Sprovieri, *Vice President*

David Nelson, *Treasurer*

Margaret Behlow, *Secretary*

Patti Kuhl, *Director at Large*

2024 GOLF VILLAS HOA MEETINGS

DECEMBER 9, 2024

Board Meetings are held at the Owner's Club and begin promptly at 6:30 PM.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMPANY FIRSTSERVICE RESIDENTIAL (FSR)

25 Northwest Point Blvd., Ste. 330
Elk Grove Village IL 60007

24/7 Customer Care Center: 877.999.6491
Main Office: 847.459.0000
Fax: 847.459.3003

Email: Admin.IL@fsresidential.com

BURST PIPE. NOT THIS WINTER!!!

Winter is inevitable, and even during milder seasons, sudden cold snaps can still cause pipes to burst. Every year, a few homeowners in the Golf Villas face the costly and messy consequences of burst pipes—issues that could have been prevented with early preparation. Now is the perfect time to take proactive steps to ensure you're ready for the cold weather.

- Disconnect hoses and bring them inside
- Cover outdoor spigots. (Styrofoam covers are less than \$5!)
- Set your thermostat to at least 55°F even when you are away
- Open cabinet doors under sinks when it is super cold
- Keep your garage door closed
- Service your heating system

And, if you plan to travel for extended periods, leave a key with a trusted family member or friend. This ensures that any issues in your unit can be addressed promptly during your absence.

If you have any stories to share from GV for future editions, contact Karleen Schwander at hingkar@icloud.com.

EYE ON GOLF VILLAS CONTINUED...

Coyote Encounters Behind the Golf Villas and the White Eagle Community



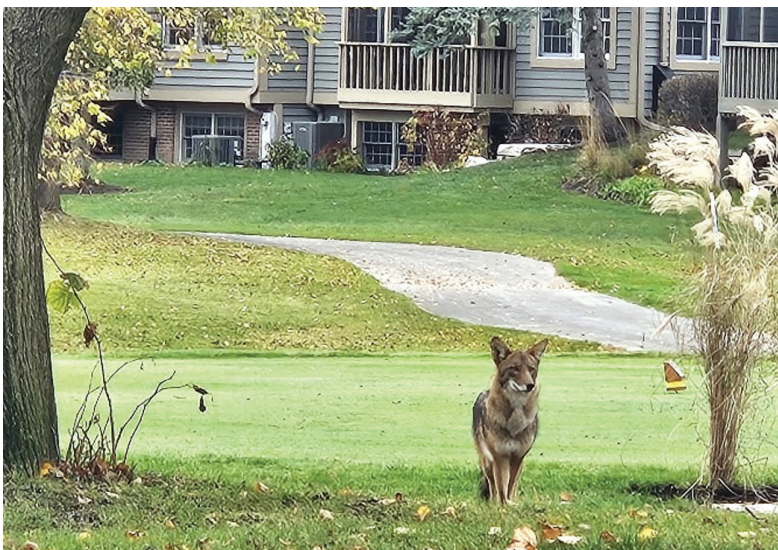
HOW TO STAY SAFE AND COEXIST

Living adjacent to a beautiful open space with trees and ponds requires coexisting with the wildlife that enjoys the same amenities. This inquisitive fellow was spotted hanging out on the 17th tee box behind the Golf Villas along Montgomery Road. Coyotes are naturally curious and adaptable animals. They play a crucial role in the ecosystem by controlling rodent populations. However, as their habitats overlap with human areas, encounters can become more frequent.

SAFETY TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS:

- Secure Trash and Food Sources. Avoid leaving pet food or birdseed outside.
- Supervise Pets: Keep small pets indoors or supervise them closely when outside.
- Avoid Feeding Coyotes: Feeding coyotes can make them lose their natural fear of humans, leading to more frequent and bold encounters.
- Keep a Safe Distance: If you see a coyote, maintain a safe distance and do not approach it. Coyotes are generally not aggressive but can become defensive if they feel threatened.
- Report Sightings: Inform the golf course management of any coyote sightings. They can take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of all golfers.
- Hazing Techniques: If you encounter a coyote, use hazing techniques to scare it away. Make loud noises, wave your arms, or throw small objects in its direction. This reinforces their natural fear of humans.

By following these guidelines, we can coexist safely with the coyotes that share our beautiful golf course. Remember, respecting wildlife and taking proactive measures can help prevent conflicts and ensure a safe environment for everyone.



Eye ON DECEMBER

Submitted by Marilyn Krueger
Naperville Garden Club

December is a time to finish a few last chores in the garden. Not much to do, but a little tidying up makes a bit difference. Soon our gardens will be covered with a protective layer of snow, but as our winters have so many more mild days, we need to protect our plants with mulch. The purpose of mulch in the winter is to keep the ground cold. When the ground thaws and freezes, plants suffer and may be heaved out of the ground where they may not survive the winter.

HOSTAS The foliage is no longer attractive, so cut it back to about two inches. It's best to remove any leaves (from your trees- or your neighbors') to help prevent the crown of the hosta from rotting and insects and slugs from overwintering. After the ground has frozen, you can cover them with shredded mulch, pine needles or straw. If your landscaper cleans up around your pine trees, ask them to set aside the fallen needles to cover your hostas.

OTHER PERENNIALS You decide what is "winter interest." Last year my coneflowers (Echinacea) had dark stems with cone-shaped seedheads that provided food for birds and they were a quirky accent in the snow-covered flower bed. This year, the winds knocked most of them over and they weren't attractive at all. I cut off the seedheads and placed them on the ground near the birdfeeder and cut down the stems. I didn't pull them out because I expect them to come back next year as any good perennial should. My grasses, on the other hand, have beautiful, airy panicles and they sway so gaily in the wind. The seeds should also give much needed food to the birds. When mulching perennials like these, be sure that mulch doesn't touch the base of the plant or the plant may rot or mice might find a nice, warm bed and breakfast.

TREES One of the worst things you can do to your trees is to mulch them a foot or so up the trunk. Whenever I see that, I am always tempted to stop the car and move the mulch so that it is at least one foot away from the trunk. A properly mulched tree will have mulch that looks like a donut, with the tree growing out of the hole, not a volcano that has the tree "erupting" at its peak.

If you notice that mice or rabbits have been nibbling on your perennials, roses or trees, spray the affected areas with a mixture of a bottle of hot sauce, a squirt of dish soap and a gallon of water. By making the rounds of the gardens and shrub beds in your home landscape, you can keep little problems from growing into big ones.

Take a walk around your property and be sure that you have brought in garden art that you don't want to deteriorate from exposure to the winter days coming our way. I just noticed a china teacup birdfeeder that needs to come in, so I know I overlook some things, too. I was busy baking cookies for Cup of Cheer™.....

Take time to reflect on what gave you joy during the past growing season and what you would like to change or add to make next year's gardens even better. Remember to make out your list for Santa- new tools, gloves, gift certificates to your favorite garden catalogs (if you don't have any favorites, contact me and I'll share my list!) or nursery center or garden books (again, I'd love to tell you my favorites!) We'll be armchair-gardening soon, but take one more lap around your home before the snow flies to remember the beauty of your gardens before they go to sleep.

Oh, and be sure to keep your sidewalk clear so that your neighbors can enjoy your holiday decorations as they stroll, walk or run by.

Happy Holidays!



Eye ON GARDENING

DID YOU KNOW...

Submitted by Marilyn Krueger
Naperville Garden Club



HOW TO TAKE CARE OF HOLIDAY HOUSEPLANTS?

Who can resist putting a blooming, beautiful holiday houseplant in the shopping cart when doing the grocery shopping or stopping by the big box stores? And if you really want to be tempted, visit a local nursery. They are a spectacle of holiday cheer! Most plants come in plastic pots that sit in festive foil or plastic decorative covers. Either place the plastic pot in a more attractive one or punch holes in the foil or paper and put the plant on a saucer. Like all houseplants, the holiday ones need drainage, too. If manageable, take the plastic pot out of the wrapper or pretty pot and water it in the sink, allowing time to drain before returning it to its special place in your holiday décor. It's best to keep them away from the warm air that comes from the furnace and away from the front door where they may receive an arctic blast when friends and family arrive to celebrate with you. And, be sure that your plant is protected when you carry it from the store to your car. Look for the cellophane or paper sleeves and have someone warm up your car.

Poinsettias come in so many colors, there's one for every color scheme. A friend of mine bought many small poinsettias and placed them closely together, making a stunning floral display. You can also add some ornaments or other decorations to make them even more delightful to enjoy. Water them when the soil is dry to the touch and be sure that the pot doesn't sit in water. They hate drafts- warm or cold. Poinsettias can be kept successfully healthy after the holidays, but I have yet to succeed. It's ok to consider them just like you do a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. Enjoy their beauty and when they have served their purpose, let them go. (I can't bring myself to say, "Throw them away!")

Christmas cacti are succulents, not cacti, so try to keep that in mind when caring for them. They are not from the deserts, but from tropical rainforests where they thrive in high humidity, filtered sunlight and warm temperatures. Water them as if it they were poinsettias, but also spritz them now and then to give them a little more humidity or set them on a saucer with some water and a few pebbles to keep the bottom of the pot dry. My mom had a Christmas cactus that was over twenty years old! This is a plant that can easily be shared. Cut off a few sections and put them in a pot of moist potting soil. In a few weeks they will be rooted and getting ready to bloom next winter.

Of course, there are many other plants to provide living color during these gray months. African violets can bloom all year round. Anthurium has heart-shaped red blooms. Oxalis, also known as the shamrock, has dainty flowers; Wherever you are shopping, check out the floral department. I am always amazed at the selection.

Our major fundraiser, the **Cup of Cheer™ Home Tour, Holiday Market and Tea**, is in a few days and tickets may still be available.

Call or text Barbara (630-650-4405) to check availability or stop by our ticket vendors: Baird and Warner (836 W. 75th Street), John Greene Realtors (SW corner of Route 59 and Montgomery Road) and The Growing Place (Naperville location only, 25w471 Plank Road). We may have tickets available at will-call at the VFW (908 W. Jackson Street) where our Holiday Market and Tea will be. Four homes are decorated for the holidays that can be toured in any order.

Thursday, December 5, tickets are \$60 and a limited number are sold so that there will be no waiting in line at the homes and you will have first chance to shop at the Holiday Market and first choice of a commemorative teacup or mug.

Friday, December 6, tickets are \$40.

The Holiday Market at the VFW is open to the public on Friday, noon - 4pm.

Proceeds help us fund projects in the Naperville area including college scholarships for local students. For more details, visit our website: napervillegardenclub.org.

We don't have meetings in December or January, but mark your calendar for February 26 when White Eagle's own Helen Cha will present the program, "**Homegrown Vegetables.**"

Eye ON SECURITY

Smoke/CO/Water/Freeze Sensors Can Detect:

- Extreme low/hi temperatures
- Furnace flair-ups
- Flooding
- Fire
- Presence of life-threatening Carbon Monoxide (CO)



Get the Most out of Your Home Security



App Control

- Video alerts
- Push notifications
- Arm/Disarm



Service Plan

- Battery replacement
- Annual testing
- Equipment Protection



Passion to *protect*

Your White Eagle Security Provider

Call Customer Care at 630.844.5300
or email ilcustomercare@adsalarm.com

Alarm License #127-000143 ▲ Locksmith License #192-000270

 [Review us on Google](#)

Vacation House Watch

Will you be traveling ON VACATION? Did you know that you may notify White Eagle Security to keep an eye on your home? One of the services our security provides is Vacation House Watch.



If you would like to take advantage of this service while you are traveling, please call or text the security car's dedicated phone at 630-973-0530 with the following information — Name, address, cell phone number, travel dates, emergency contacts cell phone number, and anyone who will be checking your home (provide details) while you are gone.

Vacation House Watch is a voluntary opt-in service. Any information that you choose to provide to White Eagle Security will be held in strict confidentiality by our security officers, and only shared with police and/or fire departments in an emergency. White Eagle Security and the White Eagle Club Property Owners Association cannot guarantee that your home will not be victimized.

EYE ON SECURITY CONTINUED...

PORCH PIRATES

How You Can Prevent It From Happening to You

Online purchases generate about 22 billion packages each year, more than 60 for every person! Porch pirates stole at least 58 million packages valued at \$12 billion over the past year. (Source www.Security.org)

With so many packages disappearing from doorsteps, here's how you can make sure that the package you ordered makes it into your hands.

The holidays are fast approaching, and stealing packages will be on the rise. It is not surprising that we are wary of leaving packages on the porch for more than a few minutes. Porch Piracy is a huge issue and getting refunds is difficult. About half of porch pirate victims were refunded when reporting a stolen package.

More than half of the packages are stolen during broad daylight in the afternoon. Due to its dominance in the market, over 52% of packages stolen were Amazon Prime packages, followed by USPS, UPS and FedEx. These stolen packages tend to be high-value items.

A recent RING Doorbell video shows a porch pirate with a uniform walking up to a front door with a package appearing to make a delivery and using it as an opportunity to remove a package at the front door.

So how do you protect your parcels?

- Well, the obvious answer is to be at home when the package is dropped off. Work from home if you can.
- See if it is possible to have the delivery arrive at a time you choose. If you know when your package is scheduled to arrive, then you will stand a better chance of being around when it is delivered.
- Amazon as well as UPS and FedEx offer delivery alerts at the time a package is delivered. Many delivery drivers put the package at the front door, take a photo of the image to prove it was left there, and then get back into their van to get to their next drop off. Make sure you pick up the package as soon as possible after it is dropped off. Or if you are not home, have someone pick it up for you.
- A delivery option may be to give instructions on where to drop the package off, or get the delivery driver to leave it in a safe place.
- Have your packages sent to your workplace, a friend, or a family member. Consider requiring a signature at delivery.
- Install an outdoor security camera or video doorbell. You will receive an alert when the package is dropped off, and you could get a neighbor or work from home friend pick up your package for you.
- If you are not going to be around to receive an Amazon package, consider having the package sent to an Amazon Hub Locker, and collect your packages when it is convenient to you. The two nearest Amazon Hub Lockers are located at the Staples on Route 59 (between 75th Street and Montgomery Road) indoors during business hours; or the hub locker behind the Speedway gas station at Route 59 and 95th Street (facing Wendy's) which is available 24 hours.

Our Security drives through the neighborhood, attempting to prevent these porch bandits from cruising the neighborhood looking for packages to steal. In fact, there have been multiple occasions where our security team observed package theft and called the police department who apprehended the burglars. If you are a victim of a package theft, file a police report and report it to White Eagle Security so they can be on the lookout at specific times or in specific areas.

As always, if you observe something suspicious, call the White Eagle Security Car at 630-973-0530.

Every resident should have this number readily available.



Amazon Hub Locker inside of Staples on Rt. 59. You gain access to your package through the Amazon App.



Outside Amazon Hub Locker located behind Speedway. You may access your package with a provided code.

EYE ON SECURITY CONTINUED...

AN UPDATE ON THE WHITE EAGLE LPR CAMERA SYSTEM

Submitted By: Chip Wagner | Board Member/Security Chairman

Residents frequently ask, "What has the LPR Camera System done for the neighborhood?" The answer may lie in what HAS NOT happened since its installation.

While the system has been in place for more than a year, many are still curious about its effectiveness. We hope this article will clarify how our License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras - located at the entrances and exits of White Eagle - are contributing to community safety. In addition to providing an overview of the system, we'll share success stories that illustrate how these cameras are helping local police protect us.

What the LPR System Is (and Is not)

First, a quick refresher on what the LPR system does - and does not do. LPR stands for License Plate Reader (or License Plate Recognition). The cameras automatically capture the license plate numbers, along with the time and location, of vehicles entering or leaving the community. This data is then encrypted and stored in a secure cloud database, accessible by the Naperville and Aurora Police Departments, as well as other local law enforcement agencies, to help solve crimes.

If a license plate is linked to a stolen vehicle or if the vehicle's owner has an outstanding warrant, the system notifies the police.

It's important to note that LPR cameras are not security cameras. They do not record live video, and no one is monitoring them in real time. Additionally, the cameras are only positioned at the community's entrances and exits, meaning they only capture information on vehicles that enter or exit the neighborhood. They do not monitor private property or record activity on the streets within White Eagle.

What Has Not Happened Since Installation?

One of the most noticeable impacts of the LPR system has been a reduction in crime. Since the cameras were installed, White Eagle has experienced fewer incidents overall. This decline can likely be attributed to the visible signs posted at the community entrances, which inform visitors that the area is under 24-hour video surveillance. In fact, another community with LPR cameras that previously had issues with vehicle burglaries went from more than two dozen crimes in a 12-month period to zero incidents in the year following the installation of their system. Here in White Eagle, this past summer, there were reports of burglaries to unlocked vehicles. However, it was later confirmed by the police department that the criminals entered and exited the community on foot,

suggesting they knew about the LPR cameras and chose not to drive into the neighborhood.

How the LPR System Has Helped Solve Crimes

The LPR cameras have already assisted local police in solving and prosecuting cases that might otherwise have gone unresolved. One example involved a hit-and-run accident in White Eagle, where the driver - who was intoxicated - damaged a vehicle and fled the scene. The driver left the neighborhood but was eventually stopped and arrested on the interstate. Thanks to data from our LPR cameras, as well as information from neighboring systems, the police were able to track down the driver and hold them accountable. Without the LPR system, this hit-and-run likely would not have been solved.

Other local law enforcement agencies have benefited from the data collected by White Eagle's LPR cameras. For example, the Aurora Police Department has made additional investments in their own LPR system, expanding coverage on Montgomery Road, based on the valuable information they're receiving from our system.

Ongoing Efforts to Keep White Eagle Safe

The HOA Board's Security Committee is dedicated to keeping our community a safe and welcoming place for all residents. While technological investments like the LPR system are an important part of that effort, they don't replace the need for everyone to take simple, everyday precautions.

- Here are a few reminders that can help make a big difference in keeping White Eagle safe:
- Lock your doors and windows - even when you are at home.
- Keep outdoor lights on at night to deter criminal activity.
- Park your car in the garage whenever possible.
- Close your garage door anytime it's not in use.
- If you park your car outside, lock the doors and leave the windows up.

Finally, always stay aware of your surroundings. If you see anything suspicious, do not hesitate to call White Eagle Security for a drive-by. They are here to assist and can engage local police if necessary. It is of utmost importance to contact them as soon as possible.

Keep this number handy: White Eagle Security (630) 973-0530. Together, we can continue to make White Eagle a safer place for everyone.

DESIGN COMMITTEE & COMMUNITY STANDARDS UPDATE

Submitted by James Hogg | Design Review Committee Chairman

Happy holidays to everyone during these months of celebration and we continue to have a busy month to celebrate our family holidays. We are blessed with a very diverse community as many of us celebrate our different special holidays.

A few reminders for the Winter as we close in on the Winter Solstice. Marilyn's "Eye on December" gives our readers special insights for the month of December for your landscaping and preparing for our colder winter days. Winter can be long this far north so we all need to prepare properly.

Please pay attention to these important reminders:

1

The Design Committee had a busy year as many of our residents made substantial investments in their homes and landscaping. Everyone adopted TownSq as the new Design Request forum and it made all requests smoother with quick turn-around. Thank you for your investments to keep our community "premier".

2

Please clear your front and backyard lawns of any debris that includes summer flower pots and outside lawn items that may have scattered in your yards with the fall storms. This is especially important for "backyards" that may spoil the view for your neighbors. If your home is on the golf course, please be considerate that the golfers can view your backyard with each round of golf.

3

Landscape lights should be fixed, replaced, or straightened. Also, please make sure your outdoor hoses are stored inside and that your outdoor water spigots are winterized to prevent frozen pipes.

4

Fall leaves have been raked and we had one pass with the Naperville Street Sweeper. But now it is time to place all your remaining leaves in the yard waste bags for "free pick-up". Naperville extends this pick-up date to December 13th and Aurora extends to December 6th. Please clear your storm drains of any loose leaves!

5

Coyotes are finding White Eagle a comfortable community to roam and we have an alert to the residents in this edition of Eagle Eye on how to "co-exist" with our animal residents. See page 15 for more information!

6

Please respect the golf course paths and fairways since it is a "private club" and residents are not permitted to walk the paths at any time, especially during the winter when the course is closed to golfers.

Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holidays!

DRC
Design Review Committee
DRC

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CONTACTS

WECPOA PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Meredith Aviles weaglepo@ciramail.com 847-991-6000 X4209
 Mark Parlanti (Assistant) weaglepo@ciramail.com 847-991-6000 X4916

OFFICE HOURS - TUESDAY & THURSDAY - 9 AM TO 1 PM

RealManage weaglepo@ciramail.com 866-473-2573
 Manor Homes Mgmt. ManorsWE@ciramail.com 630-820-1208
 Stableford Management Cindy Nelson 630-748-8310
 cnelson@advocatepm.com
 Stableford Customer Rep Stefanie Creighton
 SCreighton@AdvocatePM.com

GOLF VILLAS MANAGEMENT

FIRSTSERVICE RESIDENTIAL (FSR)

24/7 Phone: 877-999-6491
 Email: admin.il@fsresidential.com

OWNERS' CLUBHOUSE RESERVATIONS

The Owners' Club is available for rental by the residents of White Eagle for meetings, parties and events. Go to townsq.io and sign-up to make your reservation.

CITY OF NAPERVILLE ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

400 S. Eagle Street • P.O. Box 3020 • Naperville, IL • 60566-7020
 Council's Aide 548-2983 • council@naperville.il.us • Fax 305-5359

Mayor Scott A. Wehrli mayor@naperville.il.us

Council Members

Patrick Kellykellyp@naperville.il.us
 Ian Holzhauserholzhauseri@naperville.il.us
 Jennifer Bruzen Taylorbruzentaylorj@naperville.il.us
 Dr. Benjamin Whitewhiteb@naperville.il.us
 Allison Longenbaughlongenbaugha@naperville.il.us
 Nathan Wilsonwilsonn@naperville.il.us
 Josh McBroommcbroommj@naperville.il.us
 Paul Leongleongp@naperville.il.us

CITY OF AURORA ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor Richard C. Irvin mayoroffice@aurora-il.org 630-256-3010
 Patty Condon Smith - Alderman 8th Ward pcsmith@aurora-il.org 630-341-1176
 John Laech - Alderman-At-Large jlaech@aurora-il.org 331-758-5263
 Ron Woerman - Alderman-At-Large - woermanr@aurora-il.org .630-256-3037

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 www.allegranaperville.com



SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES, ANNOUNCEMENTS, STORIES AND PHOTOS BY THE 14TH OF THE MONTH.

NO CONTRIBUTION IS TOO SMALL!

"The appearance of an advertisement in this newsletter should not be interpreted as an endorsement of the product, service or provider in the advertisement. The WECPOA nor Allegra Marketing Print Mail are not responsible or liable for the content of any advertisement published herein."

WHITE EAGLE CLUB PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors

President	Gary Zoet	naperzoet@aol.com	630-642-0211
Vice President	James Hogg	jameshogg103@gmail.com	630-484-0028
Treasurer	Viral Shah	vshah3@gmail.com	312-375-2629
Secretary	Jennifer Grider	Jenngrider@sbcglobal.net	630-518-7959
Director	Meghna Bansal	meghna@bansalfamily.net	630-961-8340
Director	Chip Wagner	chip@wagnerappraisal.com	630-269-8258
Director	Ondrea Grill	ondrea@ondreagrill.com	630-878-9403
Director	Shreyas Suresh	shreyas.harve@gmail.com	630-715-5720
Director	Gary Wilberg	gary@wilberg-financial.com	630-800-6860

WECPOA MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to enhance and preserve a high quality of life within the community through responsible stewardship of common assets; especially financial resources, proper enforcement and administration of covenants and rules designed to help preserve property values and support for initiatives that benefit the greater good of the White Eagle neighborhood.

STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ACTIVITIES

Couples Bridge Evening	Alice & Dick Teutsch	630-898-2952
Children's Playgroup	Christine Doshi - c.elyse.fowler@gmail.com	
Boy Scouts	Greg & Ginette Moore	619-204-1029
	ginettetonelli@yahoo.com	

GENERAL COMMITTEES

Communications Committee	Viral Shah (Chair) vshah3@gmail.com Shreyas Suresh	312-375-2629
Clubhouse	Meghna Bansal (Chair) meghna@bansalfamily.net	630-961-8340
Design Review Committee	James Hogg (Chair) jameshogg103@gmail.com Chip Wagner, Jen Grider, Viral Shah	630-484-0028
Finance Committee	Viral Shah (Chair) Gary Zoet	312-375-2629
Landscaping Committee	Gary Wilberg (Chair)	
Newsletter Commercial Ads	Amy Scoville amy@allegranaperville.com	630-963-9100
Newsletter Editor	Alexis Coutu alexis@allegranaperville.com	630-963-9100
Pool Committee	Ondrea Grill (Chair) ondrea@ondreagrill.com	630-878-9403
Children's Social Committee	Ondrea Grill ondrea@ondreagrill.com	630-878-9403

RSVP FOR CHILDRENS SOCIAL EVENTS AT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

Adult Social Committee	Ondrea Grill	630-878-9403
Tennis/Pickleball Committee	Gary Zoet (Chair) naperzoet@aol.com	630-642-0211
Tennis Pro	Bill Dahm	630-820-5966
Security Committee	Chip Wagner (Chair) chip@wagnerappraisal.com Gary Wilberg, Gary Zoet, Viral Shah	630-269-8258
Welcome Committee	Ondrea Grill (Chair) ondrea@ondreagrill.com	630-878-9403

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Owners' Pool	630-820-5465
Tennis Cabana	630-820-5966
Owners' Clubhouse Reservations	weaglepo@ciramail.com
Meredith Aviles	847-991-6000 x4209
Allied Universal Security Vehicle	630-973-0530

SECURITY

Alarm Detection Systems Security Alarm 630-844-6300
 Alarm Detection Systems is our security provider. When selling your home, call to schedule a closing inspection at 630-844-6300. Call Alarm Detection System's Customer Care at 630-844-5300 or ilcustomercare@adsalarm.com when moving in, to set up your account, add services or if you have questions regarding your security system.

DECEMBER EVENTS



DEC 2-22

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

441 Aurora Ave. • 5pm-8pm

Little ones and family members of all ages will enjoy a unique visit with Santa inside his magical workshop! Reservations are required; walk-ups will not be accommodated. One family at a time will be inside the workshop to experience a brief, conversation with Santa. Families are welcome to take their own photos and/or video as professional photos will not be provided. The line to visit with Santa will queue outdoors, so please dress for the weather! Tickets are \$10 Residents; \$15 Non-Residents

DEC 5 & 6

CUP OF CHEER - HOME TOUR, HOLIDAY MARKET AND TEA

VFW Post 3873 908 W Jackson, Naperville, IL 60540

Naperville Garden Club's premiere fundraiser lets you tour four homes decorated for the holidays, shop the Holiday Market and enjoy tea and cookies. This two day event has been hosted by the Naperville Garden Club for more than 60 years! Ticketed attendees visit the homes in any order and then go to the Judd Kendall VFW to pick up a commemorative teacup or mug. Shop the Market while at the VFW. Shoppers are welcome without an event ticket on Friday, Dec 6th from 12-4pm. The Elmhurst Choral Union will perform at the Market on Friday, Dec 6 from 11am-1pm. Tickets are non-refundable and the event runs rain or snow. Tickets on sale now through the Club's website napervillegardenclub.org, or in person at:

Baird & Warner Realtor, 836 W 75th Street
John Greene Realtor, 1311 S. Rte 59
The Growing Place, 25 W 471 Plank Road

Dec 5 tickets \$60 (limited number sold, no lines to enter the homes.)

Dec 6 tickets \$40

DEC 6-8, 13-15, 19-20

HOLLY JOLLY DAYS

Naper Settlement, 523 S Webster St.

Celebrate the wonder and joy of the holiday season with holiday crafts, stories, and more! Learn how reindeer shoes are made with a special story-time and demonstration by the blacksmith at the forge. Create your own holiday crafts to take home in the Meeting House. Listen to holiday stories in the museum's one-room Schoolhouse. And end your visit with a special family photo at our Victorian Christmas photo stop at the Paw Paw Post Office. Don't forget to send a letter to Santa while you're there for an extra touch of holiday magic! New this year, several of our historic buildings will be lit for the holiday season. The Weed Ladies Winter Sale will also be happening in the Daniels House during Holly Jolly Days. Make sure to stop by the sale to shop for beautiful holiday-themed and winter-themed floral arrangements created by the Weed Ladies of the Naperville Heritage Society volunteer group! Tickets are \$5/Person, Free for children under 4

All children must be accompanied by an adult. All adults must be accompanying a child. Santa will not be at Naper Settlement for this event. No food or beverages will be for sale.

Thursday/Friday: 3-7 PM
 (last entry 6 PM)

Saturday/Sunday: 1-6 PM
 (last entry 5 PM)

SAT DEC 7

PHOTOS WITH THE GRINCH HOLIDAY EVENT

608 S Washington St. • 10am - 1pm

Join us for Photos with The Grinch Holiday Event! Get into the festive spirit by taking a picture with everyone's favorite Christmas grump. Don't miss this opportunity to capture a memorable moment with The Grinch himself. Bring your friends and family for a fun-filled holiday experience!

DEC 15

DUPAGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA HOLIDAY MAGIC

171 E. Chicago Ave. • 2:30pm, 4:30pm

Always a family favorite, the DuPage Symphony's annual holiday concert offers a showcase of festive popular songs, familiar carols, movie medleys, and seasonal selections from around the world. With excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Winter Dreams symphony, Sleigh Ride music by Frederick Delius, Peter Lawson, and Robert Wendel, and much, much more, this festive program is guaranteed to warm your heart and lift your spirits! Tickets now available \$8-\$24





HOLIDAY CHEERS TO CLIENTS LIKE YOU!

This holiday season, I want to express my heartfelt thanks for your trust and partnership. It's been an honor to help make your real estate dreams come true. Warm wishes for a joyous holiday and a bright New Year!





JILL CLARK
 630.853.4467
 jill.clark@compass.com

Jill Clark is a real estate agent affiliated with Compass. Compass is a licensed real estate broker with a principal office in Chicago Illinois and abide by all applicable, equal housing opportunity laws. All material presented her in is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable, but is subjects to errors omissions changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. This is not intended to solicit property already listed. Nothing here and should be construed is legal, accounting, or other professional advice outside the realm of real estate brokerage. All information subjects to change.

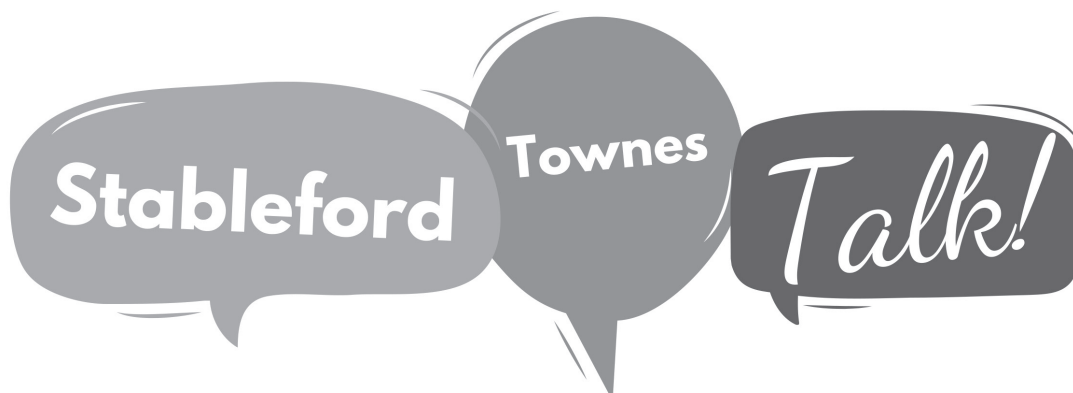


SEASONS OF WHITE EAGLE

Submitted by: Suraaj Bhatia



If you have photos of our beautiful community to share, please e-mail them to newsletters@allegranaperville.com to be included in upcoming issues.



Submitted by Michael Ward

As we enter our last month of the 2024 calendar year and welcome winter, we also welcome our new Board Members and give thanks to our departing ones. We thank them for their time and talents and for their dedication to the Stableford Homeowners' Association.

With the fall landscaping projects having been completed and additional work scheduled for the early spring, our attention will now turn to winter. Before winter arrives, please check your home's black downspout extensions so that they are clear and not filled with leaves and/or sticks. If winter arrives and the downspouts are filled with debris, the debris may freeze and then be difficult to remove.

Our snow removal firm will be placing markers to delineate the driveways for plowing. Remember that our snow removal contract calls for snow removal only after an event of greater than 2" of snow; if we have a snowfall of less than two inches, snow removal is the responsibility of the individual homeowners. If you are outside shoveling, that is also a great time to remember to salt your sidewalks and walkways so that they don't ice over and become slippery.

During winter storms, please try to park your cars in your garages to allow driveways to be cleared. Also, Commercial Vehicles are never allowed to be parked in driveways or in the guest parking lots. The guest parking spaces are for temporary guests and Stableford visitors only, not for residents to park their cars and/or commercial vehicles.

On a final note, the Board would like to wish all of our homeowners, "Happy Holidays and the Best of the New Year!" We hope that 2025 will be a wonderful year for all of our families.

2024 HOA MEETING DATES

All meetings will be held at the Owners' Club. You are invited to attend the meetings.

**November 21
(Annual Meeting & Elections)
and Hesed House Coat Drive**

Please remember that parking in the shared spaces is for guests and temporary parking only. Violators will be sent warnings and repeat offenders will be fined.

YOUR 2024 HOA BOARD MEMBERS

- President - Michael Ward (mjward2320@gmail.com)
- Vice President – Julie Lesak (jmlesak64@gmail.com)
- Secretary – Bob Portale (bobp1124@gmail.com)
- Treasurer – Larry Waskom (lwaskom@gmail.com)
- Interim - GERALD NERONE (nercollc@comcast.net)

PROPERTY MANAGER CONTACT

Stefanie Creighton
Advocate Property Management
SCreighton@AdvocatePM.com | 630-748-8310
stablefordtownesofwhiteeagle.com

THE BOARD COULD USE YOUR HELP ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

BUILDING • FINANCE • LANDSCAPING

Please contact any Board Member if you are interested in volunteering.





Join the White Eagle Club Property Owners Association Community

Submitted by Viral Shah
Communications Committee Member

SIGN UP FOR TOWNSQ TODAY!

In today's fast-paced world, staying connected with your neighbors and actively participating in your community can sometimes be a challenge. However, with the advent of technology, there are now easier and more convenient ways to engage with your fellow residents and stay informed about what's happening in your neighborhood. One such platform that's making waves in community living is TownSq. If you haven't already, it's time to sign up for TownSq and become an integral part of your community's vibrant online ecosystem.

What is TownSq?

TownSq is a cutting-edge, user-friendly platform designed to enhance community living experiences. It's a digital space where residents, property managers, and homeowner associations can interact, share information, and collaborate seamlessly.

Why Should You Sign Up for TownSq?

- 1 Effortless Communication**
TownSq simplifies communication within your community. No more lost flyers or lengthy email threads. You can easily connect with your neighbors, send messages, and stay informed about events, meetings, and important announcements.
- 2 Community Calendar**
Stay updated on all the happenings in your community with the

built-in community calendar. You can find information about social events, maintenance schedules, and important dates in one convenient location.

- 3 Architectural Review Committee**
With TownSq, you can submit requests online, and your HOA team can efficiently address them. It's a hassle-free way to ensure your living environment stays in top condition.

- 4 Clubhouse Reservations**
With TownSq, you can see the clubhouse availability and make the necessary requests for reservations directly through the application. No more going back and forth figuring out your event dates.

- 5 Document Access**
Access important documents and forms at your fingertips. From community bylaws to meeting minutes, TownSq stores everything in one place, making it easy to reference when needed.

- 6 Engage with Neighbors**
TownSq offers a forum where you can engage with your neighbors, share recommendations, or discuss community matters. It's a great way to build a stronger sense of community and get to know the people around you.

- 7 Secure and Private**
Rest assured that your information is secure on TownSq. The platform prioritizes privacy and offers robust security features to protect your data.

How to Sign Up For TownSq?

Signing up for TownSq is easy and takes just a few minutes:

- 1** You should have gotten an email invitation. If you have not gotten it, or have misplaced it, please reach out to Viral Shah (vshah3@gmail.com) or Ketan Patwardhan (ketan@investhr.com) and they can set you up.
- 2** Verify your account through the confirmation email or code sent to your phone.
- 3** Log in, explore the platform, and start connecting with your community!

Conclusion

Community living is about more than just sharing a neighborhood; it's about actively participating and building connections with your neighbors. TownSq simplifies this process by offering a centralized platform where you can engage, communicate, and collaborate effortlessly with your fellow residents and property management teams.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to enhance your community living experience. Sign up for TownSq today and discover a new world of convenience and connectivity right at your fingertips.

Join the movement and become an active member of your community like never before!



Sharing timely crime prevention information relevant to residents to improve awareness and crime prevention efforts throughout the City of Naperville. Please pass this information on to your fellow neighbors through your HOA's newsletter, email distribution list or social media sites.

WINTER DRIVING

Winter storms, bad weather and sloppy road conditions are inevitable parts of winter in Illinois. Preparing yourself and your vehicle for winter conditions before a weather event is essential. The following are some tips to help you prepare for winter driving.

STAY ALERT

- Keep your gas tank close to full.
- If road conditions are hazardous, avoid driving if possible.
- On longer trips, plan enough time to stop to stretch, get something to eat, return calls or text messages, and change drivers or rest if you feel drowsy.

DRIVE CAREFULLY IN WINTER CONDITIONS

- Drive slowly. It's harder to control or stop your vehicle on a slick or snow-covered surface.
- On the road, increase your following distance enough so that you'll have plenty of time to stop for vehicles ahead of you.
- Know whether your vehicle has an antilock brake system and learn how to use it properly. Antilock brake systems prevent your wheels from locking up during braking. If you have antilock brakes, apply firm, continuous pressure to the brake pedal. If you don't have antilock brakes, you may need to pump your brakes if you feel your wheels starting to lock up.

For more information on seasonal safety, visit www.naperville.il.us/asafernaper.



AVOID RISKY DRIVING BEHAVIORS

- Do not text or engage in any activities that may distract you while driving.
- Obey all posted speed limits but drive even slower if necessary for weather conditions.
- Drive sober. Alcohol and drugs impair perception, judgment, motor skills and memory – the skills critical for safe and responsible driving.

PREPARE A WINTER SAFETY KIT FOR CARS

Carry items in your vehicle to handle common winter driving-related tasks, such as cleaning off your windshield, as well as any supplies you might need in an emergency. Here are a few suggestions:

- Snow shovel, broom and ice scraper.
- Abrasive material such as sand or kitty litter in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow.
- Jumper cables, flashlight and warning devices such as flares and emergency markers.
- Blankets for protection from the cold.
- A cell phone with charger, water, food and any necessary medicine (for longer trips or when driving in lightly populated areas).

We encourage your association to share and like our Facebook and Twitter accounts and urge your neighbors to sign up for Naper Notify for more time sensitive news and information. Information can also be found on the City of Naperville's website: www.naperville.il.us/npd.

THE RECOVERING WRITER

A BAOBAB IN THE MIRROR

By Ann E. Funck

Ann E. Funck writes wry commentary on real life stories... She writes funny from Oakhurst.



The night before our excursion, I laid out my feather-weight chambray pants and my new off-white blouse with the a/c sleeves/eyelet for the hot weather. The next afternoon, I pulled on the pants and tucked in the blouse ending my formerly hour-glass, though aging, figure. In the mirror, my bod was a gigantic trunk – with no waist whatsoever. Every angle looked the same: a barrel that had morphed into a total sequoia.

I was utterly speechless about my image, phoning my friend Ellen during my whine, which included: “I’m late and can’t go out in public like this!” (I’m never completely speechless.)

“Just yank on some black pants and a top. We’re waiting!” Ellen said. I also heard the mumbled, “A baobab tree.” “Whaaa?” I said.

Eventually, I looked up that tree. There are many varieties but only one shape that resembled mine. The tree is found in Africa, Australia, and Madagascar, is quite slow-growing and long-lived. Some photos look like mature bonsai trees. In the island country of Madagascar, there is a baobab tree that is claimed to be one thousand years old. Several of the trunks are gigantic, appear swollen, and resemble a barrel. . . .

Did someone invent a camera a thousand years ago? Who can prove that tree’s age?

If I inhaled, I had several bulbous rolls blooming. Even standing, with my arms overhead, my waist had definitely disappeared. The photos matched my mirror image. I had never heard of the baobab tree before. Legend has it that “the devil plucked up the baobab, thrust its branches into the earth, and left its roots in the air.”

My fine, fly-away hair resembled the misty greenery topping of the trees in some of those Googled photos.

Consider another “tree” that I knew nothing about: the saguaro cactus of the Arizona desert. It also has nocturnal flowers as fascinating as the large, white flowers of the baobab. And both tree types are often pollinated by bats (let’s hear it for the bats!) and can store much water in their trunks; they both are succulents in that way. The baobab’s fruit, when ripe, hangs like “dead rats by their tails.”

Now, that’s a sight that would give anyone sore eyeballs! And here I was going to mention, eventually, a holiday tree that gives a bejeweled glow to every face around it. But this rat-tail sight is the opposite of any glowing vision of a holiday tree.

However, locals call the baobab tree “The Tree of Life.” They have used the fruit and other parts for culinary and medicinal purposes. The fruit can produce a healthy soup. Whether or not we ever taste the soup, we have to admire the ingenuity of the people harvesting the goofy-looking fruit and making the soup.

Boosting the immune system, the fruit reduces fever and improves digestive health. Emphasis on digestive health is a current concern of us Americans obsessed with using probiotics . . . Whatever happened to Tums?

Would you believe that Amazon carries the organic fruit powder (gluten-free) and “African baobab seed oil” for hair and skin? This oil is advised for use on the body, lips, and nails. What oil isn’t?

The tree’s seeds are also for sale – if you are a patient gardener and can include the tree in your will.

How could I not have heard of this intriguing tree? Shapeless, skinny, or bulbous, the tree is a wonder. And my friend Ellen had heard of the tree and knew when to use it.

I have watched with interest the documentary of a Burkina Faso hero. Where in the heck is Burkina Faso? This country is landlocked in West Africa. The capital is Ouagadougou.

For 47 years, this man, whose name is less pronounceable than the capital, has planted baobab trees. For several years, he has planted 400 trees each year. Children help him, as well as adults. He began planting mango trees but learned that many people did that, so he chose to go in a different direction. I had heard of Burkina Faso, which is, in itself, remarkable.

This man tells us in the documentary that tradition says that whoever plants a baobab tree will die. He notes that his father never planted a baobab tree but died. What logic!

Regarding what I thought was my stunning ensemble, I returned the off-white blouse to Old Navy. I told the clerk that the blouse was too short to tuck in properly (true!), especially with my arms raised above my head while trying to get a flattering gander. That definitely was a failure.

I did not get into detail about the baobab tree; the clerk was way too young to have heard of it. For the rest of this year, I have avoided pulling on those chambray pants with the silver-studded front pockets and string tie. Maybe I will never.

Fifteen years of Ann’s monthly true tales are in a book titled, A CHEAP SEXY CAR & More Serious Humor. Entertainment for everyone. It is now only \$10 — a perfect gift of humor! For a copy, please email her at rfunck222@msn.com.

THE PUZZLE PAGE

Castles

O A S S E R T R O F K M D
 A B A T T L E A X E O F Y
 R E L B O N E D I A M D N
 M A R G N I R E T T A B A
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| BARON | GREAT HALL | QUEEN |
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| RAM | KEEP | REIGN |
| BATTLE AXE | KINGDOM | ROYALTY |
| CREST | LADY | SERF |
| CROWN | LANCE | SHIELD |
| DRAGON | LORD | SWORD |
| DUKE | MAIDEN | TOWER |
| DUNGEON | MANOR | TURRET |
| DYNASTY | MOAT | WALL |
| EMPIRE | | |

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Jolly Chapeaus

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Across

- Goulash
- Short quick run
- Prefix with legal
- Canyon effect
- Coffee dispensers
- Net lining of a hat
- Self-control
- Have a bite
- Recuperative resort
- Fertilizer chemical
- Sing the praises of
- Pride member
- Director Preminger
- Give for a while
- Trawling equipment

8. Romance

novelist Victoria

14. Scoundrel

16. Hockey legend Bobby

17. Cleveland's lake

18. Long, long time

19. Fill to the gills

20. Golf stroke

21. Commotions

Down

- Egg on
- Weight allowance
- Coastal raptors
- Blighted area
- Two-day Olympic event
- Antioxidant berry
- Give the cold shoulder

S	L	E	N		D	N	E	L
O	L	O			N	O	I	L
D	V	L			V	E	R	U
A	P	S	H	T	L	E	A	H
				T	E	A		
T	N	I	A	R	T	E	S	R
L	U	L	C		S	N	R	U
O	H	C	E		A	R	A	P
H	S	D	A		W	S	T	E

The headline is a clue to the answer in the diagonal.

December Sudoku

How to solve sudoku puzzles

No math is required to solve a sudoku. You only need logic and patience.

Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has only one instance of the numbers 1-9. Similarly, each number can only

7	5	3	6	8	1	4	9	2
4	9	8	2	3	5	1	6	7
2	1	6	7	9	4	5	8	3
9	6	4	1	2	3	7	5	8
1	7	2	5	4	8	6	3	9
3	8	5	9	6	7	2	1	4
8	3	7	4	5	6	9	2	1
5	2	1	8	7	9	3	4	6
6	4	9	3	1	2	8	7	5

	5		6	8	1	4		
				5				7
2		6						
	6				3		5	
		2		4		6		
	8		9				1	
						9		1
5			8					
		9	3	1	2		7	

appear once in a column or row in the larger grid. The difficulty on this puzzle is medium.

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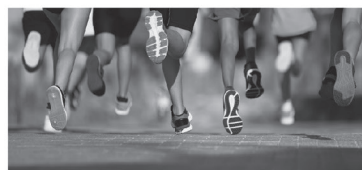
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10 SIMPLE WAYS TO BEAT THE Winter Blues

Winter can be a beautiful season, but the shorter days and chilly weather can sometimes leave us feeling down. If you've been struggling to shake off the winter blues, you're not alone. Here are ten practical and uplifting ways to brighten your days and keep your spirits high:



1. Get Moving

Physical activity is a powerful mood booster. Even a short walk outdoors, a yoga session at home, or a quick workout can release endorphins and help fight off feelings of sadness.

2. Soak Up Natural Light

Daylight can significantly improve your mood. Try to spend time outside during sunny hours which are minimal during the winter, even if it's just sitting by a window. If natural light is scarce, consider investing in a light therapy lamp to mimic sunlight and lift your spirits.

3. Stick to a Sleep Routine

The lack of daylight can disrupt your sleep patterns. Aim for a consistent bedtime and wake-up time to ensure you're getting the rest you need. Quality sleep is key to maintaining emotional balance.

4. Stay Social

Winter can make us want to hibernate, but staying connected with friends and family is vital. Schedule regular phone calls, video chats, or in-person meetups to nurture your relationships and share some laughter.

5. Eat Mood-Boosting Foods

A healthy diet can do wonders for your mental health. Incorporate foods rich in omega-3 fatty acids (like salmon or walnuts), vitamin D (like fortified cereals or dairy), and antioxidants (like fruits and vegetables) to help combat low energy and improve mood.

6. Embrace Hygge

The Danish concept of hygge (pronounced "hoo-ga") is all about creating cozy and comforting environments. Light candles, wrap yourself in a soft blanket, and enjoy warm drinks or good books to create a relaxing atmosphere.

7. Try Something New

Winter is a great time to explore new hobbies or interests. Whether it's learning to knit, trying out a new recipe, or taking an online class, engaging in creative activities can keep your mind active and fulfilled.

8. Set Small Goals

Achieving even small accomplishments can give you a sense of purpose and satisfaction. Make a list of winter projects or personal goals and celebrate each step forward.

9. Volunteer or Help Others

Helping others can give you a sense of connection and fulfillment. Look for opportunities to volunteer in your community or simply reach out to someone who might need support.

10. Plan for Fun

Having something to look forward to can be a powerful motivator. Plan a weekend getaway, a virtual game night, or a simple movie marathon. Breaking the monotony with fun activities can make winter feel more exciting.

Final Thoughts

Beating the winter blues takes effort, but with small, intentional changes, you can turn this season into an opportunity for growth, self-care, and connection. Remember, it's okay to reach out for professional help if you're feeling persistently low—your mental health matters. This winter, let's focus on staying positive, staying active, and staying connected.



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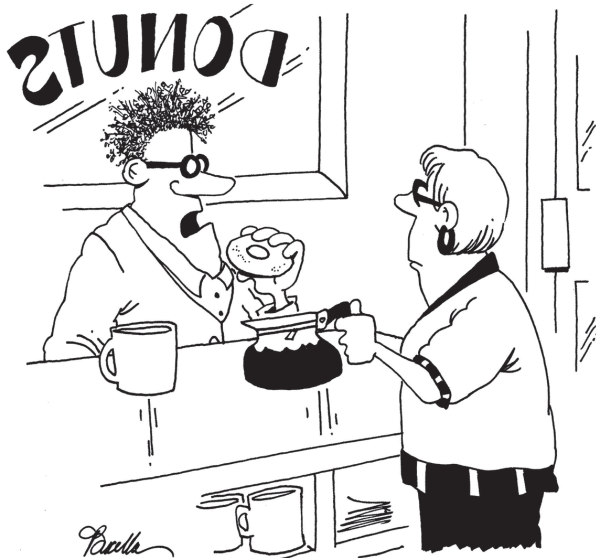
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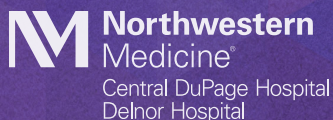




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