

IN THIS TIME

OF TOIL AND SIN

YOUR HEAD GROWS BALD

BUT NOT YOUR CHIN

BERMA SAVE

The excavation of gravel in the pit on the western edge of Woodcreek has been moving closer to our border. Its pace has slowed in the last year — blame the economy for a lesser need of gravel for construction — but maintaining a buffer between Woodcreek’s land and Meyer Material’s pit is important to us.

The easternmost 200 feet of the pit was deeded to the Woodcreek Property Owners Association in anticipation of that buffer. If you go to the west end of Matanuska Trail, you’ll see a line of trees which are the start of that buffer; and beyond those trees Meyer Material will be constructing a berm to protect our area from the work being doing at the pit.

At the Woodcreek Property Owners Association meeting on April 17, we had two guests from Meyer Material: Allen Miller, the general manager of the Aggregate Division, and Randy Wille, the manager of Environmental and Land Services. Plans in hand, they described to the assembled multitude their intentions for the berm construction and answered questions about its impact on Woodcreek during and after the construction.

The work of building the berm was expected to commence in April, and to be finished this fall. The construction will begin at the south end of the pit and proceed to the north.

The berm will be built on the western 100 feet of the deeded area. It will be between 10 and 18 feet high — its exact height has not yet been determined — and approximately 40 feet in width. The eastern side of the berm, facing Woodcreek, will be sloped to the top of the berm; and trees will be located on the eastern side. The western side of the berm will be a steep dropoff with a woven-wire fence at its base.

The berm construction may add some dust to the air in Woodcreek; this situation will be temporary, ending when the berm is completed. The current operations at the pit have little impact on Woodcreek. Some noise from the pit has been noticed, by the owners whose properties are located at the west end of Woodcreek; but conveyors and crushers that are in use are about 50 feet below Woodcreek’s ground level, mitigating the noise and reducing the level of dust.

Water wells in Woodcreek will *not* be affected by pit operations. Current gravel removal is above the water table, with no dewatering.

Treasurer Gerry Stueckemann asked Allen Miller to add Woodcreek to the liability insurance that will be obtained for the berm work. While we (the Association) do not expect any accidents which would involve residents or guests, we want to be prepared.

Meyer Material is also constructing a berm along the northern edge of the Burning Tree subdivision; but unlike the berm for Woodcreek, the Burning Tree berm will be removed when Meyer Material ceases operations at the pit.

Randy Wille suggested the formation of a “community advisory panel”, consisting of members from the subdivisions which surround the pit (Woodcreek, Glacier Ridge, Burning Tree), to meet twice per year with Meyer Material representatives to keep abreast of pit developments.

Another Tuesday Night

A summary of the quarterly meeting held on April 17 (minus the stuff about the berm, which you’ve already read).

- Liability insurance for the Association officers was discussed. Even though we haven’t been covered by such insurance since the establishment of Woodcreek (and, obviously, never needed that insurance) we’re seriously considering it. The cost of adding this coverage to our existing policy is not certain; we’ve received quotations from \$200 to \$475, for a \$1 million indemnity. There was a thought that an individual’s homeowner insurance might cover Association activity, but we’re not certain that it would.
 - The Association may be changing insurance agents, because our current agent isn’t meeting our needs; but we can’t make a change until our current policy is up for renewal, later this year. Treasurer Gerry Stueckemann will check out other insurance brokers. She will also check to see if we need to have any changes made to our policy as a result of the presence of the berm.
 - The entrance sign is a major concern, as it needs to be repaired (posts replaced, sign painted). Suggestions were made regarding its repair. And new mulch will be placed in the area surrounding the sign, but not until the tulips are gone.
 - Our refurbished street signs will be up shortly. Jerry Hawkinson is finishing up this project.
 - According to the Bylaws, the terms of Association officers should be *one* year, not two. When was a change to two-year terms made?
 - Association dues. As of the meeting, 17 owners had not yet paid their dues for 2012. Second notices will be sent to the non-compliant owners. [Update: between April 20 and 29, seven additional owners have paid.]
 - We will not be replacing the dead trees at the western end until the berm construction has been completed.
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City of McHenry

This is a summary of city-related news. For more detailed information, please consult your copy of the City of McHenry newsletter or visit the city website at www.ci.mchenry.il.us.

Application forms for year 2012 city vehicle stickers will be mailed at the end of April. The deadline for displaying your sticker is June 30. The rates for this year have not changed: \$12 for passenger vehicles and pickup trucks, \$9 for motorcycles.

Brush pickup for Woodcreek will begin on May 29. This applies to tree material only, for branches of 5 inches or less in diameter.

Yard Waste Collection began April 2. This service is for the collection of grass clipping, leaves, and other small vegetation. No rocks, fence posts, railroad ties, sod or dirt. Yard waste stickers (\$2.03) and Kraft paper bags are available at most local hardware stores and groceries. Stickers may also be purchased at the Municipal Center.

Yard Waste Dropoff is free. The dropoff site is in Knox Park, east of Route 31 (turn east on Park Avenue, the street which is north of the new McDonald's). Your vehicle must have a current city sticker. The dropoff facility is open from 7 a.m. until 12 noon on Saturday.

Spring Cleanup will be on Monday, May 14. This pickup is for the disposal of small items less than 5 feet in length and weighing no more than 50 pounds. Items that are not accepted include rocks, construction material, metal pipes, tires, automobile parts, paint cans, lawnmowers. Pretty much everything that you really want to throw away, and cheaply, isn't allowed.

E-Waste Dropoff. MDC Environmental Services (a.k.a. your trash pickup company) will have a free e-waste dropoff on Saturday, May 19, from 7 a.m. until 12 noon at the Public Works Facility on Industrial Drive (behind the Jewel/Osco). E-waste includes computer, computer accessories, monitors, video game consoles, televisions. MDC will also accept e-waste at its offices at 1050 Greenlee Street in Marengo, on Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. until 5 p.m.

McHenry Township

The McHenry Township offices at 3703 North Richmond Road also accepts e-waste on the third Saturday of the month from 8 a.m. until 12 noon, during the months of April through November (except for September). They will not accept televisions, though, and there is a charge of \$10 for computer monitors. For details, visit www.mchenrytownship.com/brush_drop_off.htm.

McHenry County Green Guide

For an excellent guide to recycling programs in McHenry County, download a copy of the McHenry County Green Guide from McHenry County College. www.mchenry.edu/recycling/

The Association

The Board of Directors of the Woodcreek Property Owners Association holds its Quarterly Meeting on the third Tuesday of the first month in each calendar quarter.

- ★ **July 17**, at the home of Gerry and Dick Stueckemann, 6630 Hayward Court.
- ★ **October 16**, at the home of Dixie and Mike Swanson, 6622 Hayward Court.

| WPOA Officers | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| President | Mike Bown | 815.385.1279 |
| Vice President | Jerry Hawkinson | 815.385.4696 |
| Treasurer | Gerry Stueckemann | 815.344.7958 |
| Secretary | Ed. Floden | 815.403.1996 |
| Park Commissioner | Bill Conley | 815.578.0572 |

The WPOA web site is located at <WoodcreekMcHenry.org>. Our e-mail address is <wpoa@WoodcreekMcHenry.org>. If you need to surface mail something to us, send it to WPOA, P.O. Box 721, McHenry, Illinois 60051-0721.

About *The Woodcreek Promulgator*

The Woodcreek Promulgator is the newsletter of the Woodcreek Property Owners Association of McHenry, Illinois. It is published once per calendar quarter, but not on any specific day. *The Woodcreek Promulgator* can be read online on the WPOA web site, or downloaded as a PDF file.

The articles in *The Woodcreek Promulgator* are written and edited by Ed. Floden, unless otherwise noted.

