

TWIN CHIMNEYS CONNECTION

RESPECT OTHERS' PROPERTY

What is respect? Respect is honoring the property of others and treating it as your own.

How do some people of this subdivision respect others property?

They drive through it and over it.

They tear limbs out of trees.

They destroy a bench along a sidewalk so walkers can no longer sit and rest. They tear up monument lights and landscaping.

They continuously throw trash onto the streets.

They cut loose a contractor's boat so that it floats to the middle of the lake and they throw warning barrels into the lake.

They remove a manhole cover which could cause serious injury.

They spray-paint street signs.

The most egregious is POURING GASOLINE INTO THE WATER COOLERS OF THE LANDSCAPING CREW!!!!

Now, some of you may think that this is a list of things that have occurred over the years in Twin Chimneys and that this is an exaggerated list. You can be assured it is not. These are instances that have happened over the last MONTH in the subdivision and are continuing as this is being written.

Why is this happening? Some children are not taught that other people's property should be respected and does not belong to them. They feel it is okay to do these things and don't fear any consequences; apparently they have never faced any consequences for their actions.

What is the cost of this activity? Each property owner pays an assessment fee and every time something like this happens the damage has to be cleaned at a cost. The monies that are used to clean up the damage comes from these assessments and therefore the extra money is not available for other work that needs to be done.

If anyone observes ANY vandalism or property destruction please notify the TC Property Manager, DNI at 314-576-0700. If you know who the perpetrators are please contact his or her parents, and the O'Fallon Police Department at 636-240-3200.

PLEASE set a good example and talk with your children about respect for the property of others.

NEW & IMPROVED

Have you been to the Family Center lately? It has been given a new look and is now available to TC residents for day or evening rental. Please call 636.978.5540 for info.

ANNUAL STREET DANCE

The street dance was held in June and was a huge success. A great big THANKS to the

Tidal Waves, our swim team for their hard work to make this event happen.

YARD WASTE

For most of us, mowing is a part of our weekly routine. If you don't know what to do with those grass clippings, call the City of O'Fallon Environmental Services at 636.272.0477 and they can set you up with yard waste pick-up for an additional charge.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

As expected, the long-awaited Donuts with Santa Event held in December was a huge success!!! Santa arrived ringing jingle bells and bellowing "HO, HO, HO" throughout the Family Center! The excitement in the air from young and old alike could be felt throughout! Santa spent two hours listening to each child's "wish-list" before he had to leave us and move on to other engagements! Krispy Kreme donuts, juice, and coffee flowed freely as children participated in creating a gingerbread ornament craft and competing in the coloring contest. There were four lucky winners of the coloring contest, all of which received McDonald's gift certificates for their artistic skills! This event would not have been possible had it not been for the dedication and creativity of the following residents: Alison Euston (Chairperson), Gail Clapp, Barb Chatman, Christa Nolfo, Kristen Weist, Nancy Nevels, and Tracey Gonthier.

Additionally, without the help and support of Maggie from the TC Family Center, Charlie & Sandy Feller, this event would not have been as successful as it was! Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved in coordinating this event and dedicating their time to making sure our little ones got the chance to talk to the "Big Guy"!!!

A NOTE FROM SANTA

It was so nice to be invited to Twin Chimneys back in December. I want to thank the boys and girls who visited me and whispered into my ear all their Christmas wishes. If you were one of the other 250 children visiting Santa who brought letters and pictures, I wish to sincerely thank you.

Santa and your parents always appreciate any help to make his visit fun. It would not have been possible without Alison Euston and her committee organizing everything. Santa forgets things, especially at his age, but Maggie was there to help in every way. My elves and I were so busy trying to grant everyone's wishes. Even in July, it's still very cold here at the North Pole

and mail moves slowly, just like O'Fallon. I may have to get Rudolph to help.

I was very impressed with how polite all of you were and want to thank the wonderful parents who are doing such an outstanding job teaching their young ones. Twin Chimneys is very proud of them. It was difficult for Santa to fulfill all of your wishes. I never realized that Play Station and other electronic toys cost so much, and are so difficult to make. I hope you are happy with what I brought you.

My wish for the rest of the year is continued good health for you and your families, understanding, tolerance, and cooperation amongst neighbors, and guidance for our dedicated trustees. Let's keep the Christmas spirit alive all year.

Continue obeying your parents and I'll see you next Christmas. HO! HO! HO!

TIDAL WAVES

The season is well under way for the TC Swim Team. They will have home meets on July 16th and July 30th. Please come out and support the Tidal Waves.

DELMAR GARDENS

We received a request from Delmar Gardens and want to be good neighbors. In the morning when the exit from Twin Chimneys gets bottlenecked because everyone is trying to get onto the north outer road, a number of TC residents are cutting through their parking lot. They are driving too fast and not obeying the stop sign. Delmar Gardens is concerned for the safety of the residents, employees and guests. If you didn't know, they also have a daycare for children which makes mornings busy for them too. Please allow extra time in the morning so you don't feel the need to use this unsafe shortcut.

THANKS & WELCOME

As some of you may know, Kathy and Sue have left the staff of TC. The board thanks them for their years of service. Bob

and Maggie are taking good care of things at the Family Center. Crystal has just joined our staff. Please welcome her to the TC Family.

TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT Mr. Charlie Feller

Charlie and his wife Sandy moved to Twin Chimneys from Spanish Lake about 15 years ago. They have 2 children, Jennifer and Jeffrey. Recently, they were blessed with a healthy granddaughter, Lindsay Morgan. The whole family is very excited about having a little one around.

Charlie taught 6th grade at McCurdy Elementary in the Hazelwood School District before retiring. Prior to that, he taught in the St. Louis Public Schools for 9 ½ years. He was instrumental in starting the first science fair at his school which continues today. The highlight of Charlie's career was his idea of motivating the students with a novel idea called T-P Rocketry. With his design, they made model rockets out of cardboard paper towel rolls, toilet tissue rolls and plastic sandwich bags for parachutes. After building the rockets, the students launched them, reaching heights up to 600 feet. **What a blast!**

His contributions as a resident and trustee are endless. He presently serves on the grounds committee with Janet Bollinger. TC has more common ground including trees and shrubs than most of the surrounding subdivisions. This job requires attention all year round. The grounds committee has to make judgment calls on which trees to remove. If you haven't noticed, many white pine trees have been removed or will need to in the future because of a disease called White Pine Disease. Charlie recently served on the Family Center Renovation Committee bringing it back to a modern and pristine look and making it more user friendly. He has also take it upon himself to maintain village monument lights. Sometimes it's as easy as replacing a bulb or identifying a needed repair. Sometimes an electrician needs to be hired for transformer replacement due to malfunction or vandalism. If you see him checking the lights, don't run him down. We really need his expertise.

In addition to all this, Charlie started a tree planting program last year with donated and purchased trees from the Missouri Department of Conservation. The good news is some of them have survived. He's also assisted with the "Donuts with Santa" held every year at the Family Center. Boy, this guy should be on the payroll.

He stays active doing yard work, fishing, carpentry and growing plants. His most recent venture was creating a pedestal base and sphere water fountain out of concrete. To his surprise, it was a huge success. Charlie and Sandy are members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in O'Fallon. He feels very fortunate to live in a caring and thoughtful community and will continue to volunteer. Sandy tells him, "You just can't say no." Remember, we can always use more volunteers in Twin Chimneys. Say "YES" when you're asked to help with something.

Enough of me, he says. **Time to go fishing!**

WHERE ARE ALL THE WHITE PINES?

So what is this disease that's causing so many of the pine trees around the 'hood to turn brown and die? It's from a very unique disease called, of all things, White Pine Disease. White pines are typically not suited to the Midwest. This disease is airborne and we have been told that nothing can be done about it and eventually, all the white pine trees in TC will be affected and have to be removed. This in itself is quite an expense, not to mention trying to replace some of these trees. The replacement will come with time and as the budget allows.

REMINDERS

- Keep pets on a leash and out of your neighbors' yards. Please clean up any pet waste.
- Cats should not be allowed to run free. This causes a risk to the cat as well as other wildlife in the area.