

# **Eastwood Newsletter - September 2006**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I had hoped that we could have a grand opening for the pool, but since it took much longer to complete than anticipated, we decided to open it as soon as we could. Everyone needs to understand the amount of time and effort it takes to complete a project like this. The Board normally meets once a month, but we have had several additional meetings to make needed decisions and to keep everything moving along. Over the last six weeks we met every Monday, at the pool, to decide what needed to be done next. The board has been very conscientious about the project and the money we were spending.

I would also like to express my appreciation to the homeowners of Eastwood. I have heard many compliments about the new pool and while everyone wanted the job completed sooner, only one person was so upset that she used bad language.

As stated above, the board has been aware that we had to be good stewards of the funds entrusted to us. We have had a few surprises, like the sewer line which was 450 feet long and up to 12 feet deep, some of it through rock. That cost about \$3,000 more than expected but we had savings in other areas. Overall we will be about \$5,000 over budget, but due to the new administrator costing less than what we had budgeted, no lifeguard, and other savings, we will borrow \$25,000 less than anticipated.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Eastwood Annual Meeting will be held at the Eastwood Baptist Church, @ 7:00PM on September 19, 2006. Agenda items include passing of a budget and electing new Board members. Now is the time to step up and show your dedication to continue improving Eastwood's environment. Please contact Tim Ashcraft if you are interested in becoming a board

## **CANS FOR A CURE**

Stephanie Ashcraft continues to collect and recycle aluminum cans, to raise money to find a cure for diabetes. Stephanie was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes six years ago, at the age of ten. She already has about a dozen Eastwood families who save cans for her. All money that she raises goes to the Oklahoma City Walk to Cure Diabetes. Won't you consider helping her project? Just call her when you have a full bag and she will pick it up. Stephanie Ashcraft 769-8303. Stephanie's advocacy goes beyond fundraising. She has made 2 trips to Washington D.C. to talk to our Oklahoma senators and representatives to discuss diabetes legislation and research. She is also organizing an awareness project, Unmasking the Faces of Juvenile Diabetes, to be displayed at the state capitol rotunda this spring.

## **EASTWOOD POOL**

Well, it's open, but not actually finished. As some of you are aware, the county and state gave us an OK to open the pool as of 1 PM last Saturday. Word seemed to get out quickly because there were over 20 swimmers at the pool that afternoon. The pool will be open from 10AM until 9PM every day until it is closed for the season. Eastwood normally closes the pool after Labor Day, but this year it will remain open through October 1, unless the weather turns cold.

There are a few things every parent must remember. The new gates were ordered with self closing gates, but the locks are not self-locking. This means it is the responsibility of every parent to make sure that their children do not go to the pool without supervision by someone at least 17 years old. **THERE WILL NOT BE A LIFEGUARD ON DUTY AT ANY TIME.** A second important rule is to **NEVER SWIM ALONE.**

Here are some facts about our new facilities. The pool is about twice as large as the old pool and is in a more centralized location. We are using newer technology, salt generators instead of chlorine, to keep the water in balance. This produces a slightly salty taste. It will be less expensive to operate. The pool building has two restrooms and a mechanical room. The showers work and have hot water. The plumbing works unlike at the old pool.

There are several projects that have not yet been completed. The Board decided to have a well drilled. We will use that water to fill the pool and run a sprinkler system. This should save us money and should pay for itself within 5-6 years. The well has been drilled but the plumbing and electrical work still needs to be done. A sprinkler system should be installed shortly, along with sod, on the north and west sides of the pool. The plantings inside the fence will be installed next spring. The pathway will be extended along the north and west sides of the tennis court and extended from the tennis court to the pool. This should be completed in mid September. After that is installed we will sod the east and south sides, outside the pool fence.

## **TOT LOT**

The tot lot equipment has been ordered and should be ready for installation mid to late September. We will have swings, a tire swing, slides, and low climbing toys. This will be a self installation project, with supervision from the equipment company. We will need homeowner volunteers to complete this project. More on this later.

The last newsletter stated that the three builders, Avalon, SWM and Scott Smith had promised money toward the tot lot. Avalon and SWM paid the amounts but Scott Smith informed us that there was a misunderstanding and he would not be making a donation.

## **THIS IS WHY.....**

### **MY FAMILY AND I MOVED TO EASTWOOD**

**By Annette Lick**

In 2003, while my husband and I were stationed in Germany, - much to my dismay – we received orders to Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, far away from open waters. My husband and I went to Oklahoma on a 6-day house-hunting trip, not enough time one of my friends warned me. We spent a day in Edmond, looking at maybe eight houses. None of the houses or neighborhoods appealed to us much. The next day, Eastwood was our second stop. Driving into this neighborhood gave us the “right” feeling. Eastwood felt like a safe neighborhood, and pretty with all its trees. There sure is a lot more atmosphere here than when you drive just a little ways west on Reno. Walking into the living room of the house we are now living in and seeing the walking trail at the end of our backyard had me excited as I enjoy walking for exercise. My husband and I took a walk down the trails, passing the tennis court and the basketball hoop on our way down to the pool. I couldn’t help but thinking how lucky people must feel to live here, appreciating what this neighborhood has to offer. Both my husband and I felt this would be a great place to bring our three boys. We did experience some excitement as the sale of our house was pending, but we ended up being the lucky ones. Had we not gotten the house we are in, I am sure we would have looked for a different house in Eastwood, even up the price we were working with.

About two months after moving in, I attended the annual HOA meeting. I was curious as to the prospective of another pool as I did not think the old pool’s capacity would support the growth of our neighborhood. The next year I was appointed chairperson of the Eastwood Playground Committee as I addressed the possibility of a playground three times during the meeting. Not exactly what I had planned, but quite a few people signed up to help, so I figured we could get it going. As it turned out the core of the committee ended up being less than half of the people that initially signed up to be part of it. Too many cooks spoil the food anyway, right? I would like to thank David Knowles, Tammy Mullen, Demitrious Farrow, David & Cara Heist, and Marilyn Ramsey for helping me out. We did not get the monetary support we had hoped for from our neighbors; after a year we still only had a little over \$700 plus \$5,000 pledged by developers, so we had to turn to the HOA board and builders in our neighborhood for support. It finally looks like we are getting closer to getting this project off the ground. For all of their efforts I am sorry that the Mullens’ and the Heists’ may not get to enjoy the playground (once it is installed!) much as they may be receiving military orders to go elsewhere in the near future? Yet, they can proudly say they were part of making it happen.

Nobody won at last years annual meeting when our dues were raised to fund a new pool, a playground, and an administrator, while also preparing an emergency fund for our HOA. I had hoped that more people share the visions for Eastwood as prepared by the board. \$245 in yearly dues averages to bout \$20/month for our family to be what I consider “members” of Eastwood. We pay \$58/month at the YMCA, and I am thinking we “use” Eastwood more? I appreciate the look of our neighborhood, I feel safe when I walk for exercise, and I feel safe for my children in general. Our family hardly uses the tennis court, the walking trails, or the basketball hoop, but I think those are wonderful things/opportunities for a neighborhood to have. I am happy for the neighbors who take advantage of those. Last year, after much consideration I volunteered for a position on the board; I knew it could be time-consuming, yet I also felt that since I had opened my mouth during previous annual meetings I kind of owed it to the members of the board. If you feel changes are needed or are encouraging to changes, you should get involved, take action? I believe that applies to life in general – in a marriage, a family, at work, where you worship, etc.

Having been on the board these past ten months have been interesting to say the least; I only have the best of interests for Eastwood in mind. My husband and I are investing in this neighborhood by living here. I have considered myself as a fly on the wall, trying to learn the business of the HOA. I very much appreciate all the efforts put forward by all the other boards members. Countless hours have been put into working especially the new pool issue, checking on pathway lights, and lots more. The first summer and fall we lived here I honestly did not give much consideration as to who took care of the pool, changed out broken lights, mowed around the common areas, etc. Now I know.

## **NEED A BABYSITTER?**

Have you been wanting to get out and see a movie, have dinner at a restaurant, or maybe sneak in an OU or OSU game, **WITHOUT YOUR CHILDREN?** I am available to baby-sit. I'm 16 years old, and an honor student at Choctaw High School. Give me a call, Stephanie Ashcraft 769-8303.

## **NEW NEIGHBORS**

Joel & Meagan Bain	12309 Elizabeth Dr.
Joseph Blanco	407 Windsor Rd.
Paul & Kirsten Calmes	201 Windover Ct.
Vince & Theresa Cerda	12001 Elizabeth Dr.
Kyle & Jamie Cofer	12400 Goldsborough
Dustin Crossfield	216 Windover Cove
Richard & Ashley Desmond	372 Cambridge Rd.
Ann Hudson	411 Canterbury
Matthew & Monica Hudson	363 Canterbury Rd.
Jill Loveless	12395 Elizabeth Dr.
Charles & Sarah Plane	371 Cambridge
Jana Thompson	12309 Oxford Ct.