

MESSAGE FROM GARY NEUBAUER, PRESIDENT

It is hard to believe we are almost through the month of January. Now that we have wrapped up 2022 and are planning for 2023, I would like to take some time to address the Association's finances. For 2022, we ended the year within \$500 of the Operating budget. We were about \$1,500 over budget on landscaping due to changing how our entrance way lighting works and we had unexpected costs for tree/branch removal in some easement areas. This was partially offset by being under budget about \$860 on our utility costs. On the Capital improvement side, we were over budget by approximately \$950, but the main point to note is we started Capital improvement projects that we did not anticipate at the beginning of the year. During 2022, both the pond aerator and fountain needed to be replaced. A new aerator has been installed and is operating, but due to timing, the fountain is not being replaced until this coming Spring. We made a deposit to ensure we would be able to purchase a new fountain and lock in favorable pricing. Both items were subject to a comprehensive review by the board that included developing specifications, contacting vendors for pricing and options, and modifications to our assessment to ensure we acquired equipment that was both cost effective and met the needs of the Association in maintaining the functionality and appearance of the pond.

Our 2023 Operating budget is consistent with our 2022 budget with limited room to accommodate unexpected costs. We are beginning the year with a little more than \$11,000 in our Operating account, but we believe this is sufficient and can be managed. In 2023 we will be paying the balance of the fountain cost from the Capital account and have budgeted for improvements in the easement areas. The approved budgets justify maintaining the dues at the same level as assessed in 2022.

The 2022 actual cash flow statements and budgets and the 2023 budgets for both the Operating account and the Capital account can be found on the Fox Meadows West website, www.foxmeadowswest.com. If you have any questions about last year's results or this year's plans, please do not hesitate to contact me. The entire Board is committed to appropriately handling the Association's finances while meeting the needs and expectations of the members.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Ward 7 Meeting: The annual meeting between residents and City officials, including the mayor, alderman, and the heads of various city departments (fire, police, public works, and public relations) was held on Wednesday, 1/11/23. Here are highlights from that meeting.

- Proposals for new police were Included in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget which placed an emphasis on citizen safety, infrastructure improvements, economic development and enhanced Public Works service.
- Also included in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget were new vehicles, new thermal imaging and security cameras for SFD, a revised storm water masterplan, expansion of downtown and corridor beautification and implementation of the Bookmobile program.
- Officer Andy Watts was introduced as the Neighborhood Police Officer for Ward 7. Please feel free to contact him at 217-741-0987 with any appropriate concerns.
- John Houlihan and Brad Carlson were introduced as candidates running for the open aldermanic seat in Ward 7 in the upcoming April 4, 2023, municipal election.

Project Safe Neighborhoods: This project allows residents to register the locations of their outdoor video surveillance systems with SPD. When an incident occurs, police will be able to identify the locations of nearby video cameras and enlist residents to help officers collect video evidence and follow up on leads. Residents are encouraged to take part in this voluntary program. More information is available on the City of Springfield website.

FMW has a Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4963912290403205>. It's a great way to promote a sense of community here in FMW!

Helpful phone numbers:

Police Non-Emergency - 217-788-8311

Public Works Dispatch - 217-789-2246

CWLP Electrical Outage - 217-789-2121 prompt 1

Water Service Outage or Emergency - 217-789-2323 prompt 2

Even though the weather has not been bad this Winter, let's respect the health and safety of our fellow residents by keeping the sidewalks and inlets free of ice and snow so everyone can enjoy the outdoors in our neighborhood.

FMW SPOTLIGHT ON SELECT COVENANTS

As stated in the Summer/Fall edition of Fox Tales we will be highlighting a summary of the covenants that are more likely to impact our neighborhood on a regular basis. The covenants are designed to keep FMW one of the premier subdivisions in Springfield and to ensure we are good neighbors and stewards of our properties. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

This edition we will be highlighting:

- Section 10 (Garbage): All rubbish, trash, garbage, or other waste shall be kept in sanitary containers and shall be kept out of sight except on collection days.
- Section 15 (Swimming Pools): Above ground pools are prohibited. In ground pools are permitted subject to Architectural Control Committee (ACC) approval.
- Section 24 (Fences): No fence or wall shall be erected or placed on any lot in the front or side yard between the residence and the street. Rear yard fences are permitted only as approved by the ACC.

FMW "FUN FACTS"

Please send any holiday photos to Chuck Coleman at chuckcoleman@msn.com so they can be included on the FMW website.

Just for fun: What word(s) would you use to describe life in FMW? Send them to BbentivegnaFMW@gmail.com and we will publish the responses in the Spring edition.

DUES STATEMENTS

Dues statements have been sent and we are well on the way to collecting our dues for 2023. This year we added the option to pay your dues via Zelle if your financial institution participates in this secure payment method. It is not too late to use this option in you have not already paid your dues. Just use your financial institution's Zelle and send the payment to gneubauerfmw@gmail.com. A number of

residents have used this method and it works great. Remember, payments are due February 8th and late fees will be charged if payment is not received by February 18th.

FMW WEBSITE

Just a reminder that the Fox Meadows West Property Owners Association website can be found at www.foxmeadowswest.com.

EDITOR

Please feel free to share any questions, comments, contributions or suggestions with me at BbentivegnaFMW@gmail.com

Bill Bentivegna