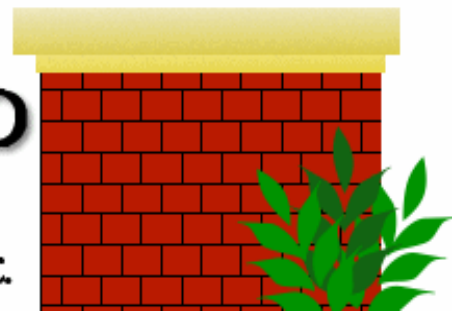


BRICKYARD ESTATES of New Baden, Inc.



Newsletter

2011 Vol. I

Strom Preparedness

Spring storm season is upon us. Many of you are from the Mid-West or have lived here before. If you're not, get ready for the best time of the year to be a Mid-Westerner. As winter fades into spring the world around us will come alive. Hold on and enjoy the ride. With that transformation however comes the potential for spring storms. Remember April showers bring May flowers. Our April showers sometimes come with wind, lightning, and hail. Attention to local news weather forecasts is a must. Meteorologists usually get it close when predicting storms, but preparedness is always rule #1. A "Storm WATCH" area means that that area is a prime location for severe weather to occur or develop. A "Storm WARNING" area means your area is experiencing or will certainly experience severe weather. A "WARNING" is more serious. New Baden and Mascoutah both have early warning sirens used in the event of severe weather. The criteria of when those sirens are activated differ slightly between towns. Mascoutah activates their sirens remotely through St. Clair County ESDA whenever a "Warning" is issued by the National Weather Service for the West-Central part of St. Clair County. New Baden on the other hand activates their sirens locally. Their criteria are a little less ambiguous. The National Weather Service has to issue a warning for Clinton or St. Clair counties and New Baden is listed in the projected path of the storm. Or when a funnel cloud is spotted, or when winds speeds in excess of 70 M.P.H. have occurred in an adjacent city or in

proximity to New Baden. In both cases sirens are your first indication to seek cover. From experience the general rule of thumb in New Baden is, if you hear the sirens going off the threat for severe weather is real. The best place to seek cover from potential damaging storms is in your basement. If your home does not have a basement the second best is an interior room without windows, like a bathroom. The New Baden American Legion, located at 111 East Illinois, has a basement and is opened as a storm shelter whenever New Baden's sirens are activated. Mascoutah unfortunately does not offer an open storm shelter. Just like the boy scouts, "be prepared" should be your motto. Both towns test their respective early alert siren systems on the first Tuesday of every month.

Outside Hoses

Remember to turn off those outside water faucets when not in use. Leaking water hoses are a huge source wasted water and of huge cost to you. We have had tenants receive bills of several hundreds of dollars because of a hose that was left on, even with the nozzle closed. So take time and check those faucets.

Maintenance Issues

The best way to schedule a repair to your home is by e-mail. We can be reached 24/7 for those concerns at meinhardt4@charter.net Drop us an email and we will contact you to set up a time to make the repair.

Is your Lawn Mower ready?

Get your lawn mower ready, lawn mowing is just around the corner. Typically the last week of March is when the first mowing will need to be done. Old gasoline is the most common cause of lawnmowers not starting in the spring.

If you didn't use a fuel stabilizer last fall you may have a problem. Take advantage of a warm day to give that mower a trial run before the pressure is on. Sharp blades are another common mower problem. Take time to check those blades. Also try to get those pesky leaves out of the landscaping and into the yard where they can be mulched. If you choose to fertilize yourself or pay to have your yard fertilized that's fantastic. We love to have our tenants love their yard.

Can't get a round-to-it

Remember if for any reason you are unable to get your grass cut in a timely fashion, drop us an e-mail. We will arrange to have a local company swing by and mow it for you. We will bill you for the exact amount they charge us. If it gets out of hand, it's tuff on you, tuff on the neighbors, tuff on us and tuff on the yard.

CO & Smoke Detectors

If you have any doubts about your ability to change the batteries in what could be argued as the most important device in your home contact us and we will be happy to assist.

It's Filter Time Again

Over the winter we responded to a half of a dozen, "my furnace is not working" calls. Of those 6 calls 5 were caused by dirty filters. 1 was at our house. They are inexpensive and available locally at Aviston Lumber or if your one of those big city types, also available at Lowe's, Home Depot, or Wal Mart. It's hard to comprehend just how much air flows through that filter in a month's time. Change those filters, they will pay for themselves in no time.

If you have any reservations about how to change the filter in your home please contact us and we will make arrangements to change it for you, free of charge.

Local Events

ZUMBA Class

Monday and Thursday nights

Through April
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
\$5.00 per class

March 12th

Summer Youth Baseball and Softball

registration at the Civic Center. Registration forms are available at www.NewBadenIL.com under the Park and Rec. tab.
DEADLINE March 26th

March 13th

Spring Forward

Don't forget to set your clocks forward Sunday March 13th, for Daylight Saving Time. The practice dates back to the time of Ben Franklin. Daylight Savings Time starts at 2:00 A.M.

March 19th

American Red Cross Babysitting Class

At the Civic Center, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
11 to 14 year olds. Seating is limited.
To register... E-Mail
parkandrec@NewBadenIL.com

March 21st

Red Cross Blood Drive.
Civic Center, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

March 25th

Basket Weaving Made Simple

Grades 4th through 6th @ New Baden Civic Center, \$20 per student, each receives their own basket. 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. snacks provided. Limited seating. To register... E-Mail parkandrec@NewBadenIL.com

April 5th

Election Day
Polls open at 6:00 A.M.

April 30th

City Wide Yard Sale
Chamber of Commerce sponsored event. To advertise go to www.NewBadenIL.com