

# BHA



## IN THIS ISSUE:

Letter from the President

Connie's Corner

Butterfield News

Butterfield Classifieds

Family Fun

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# Today



A Butterfield Homeowners Association Publication

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Blanket Insecurity



By Doug Elwell, President  
Butterfield Homeowners Association

*"We will bankrupt ourselves  
in the search for absolute security."  
~ Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Our theme for this issue is security — both physical and financial. Since late last year, there has been a small but noticeable increase in physical break-ins into people's cars and homes. Not a lot of break-ins, but enough to cause some concern in the sleepy little hamlet we call Butterfield. As a result, a mild feeling of insecurity has blanketed the people of Butterfield, to the point where a report of a stranger attempting to open someone's back door created a near-panic condition on our Nextdoor.com site. Yours truly intervened to calm the situation, and I recommended to the person who posted the report of an attempted burglary to please not post again regarding this or similar incidents until they have a more complete report to post. I also asked others to do the same. Turns out that the alleged burglary was actually someone just trying to open their back door, without success. Scary to be sure, and clearly a crime, but nothing was stolen and no one was hurt. But the speculation ran wild as it always does. So, when reporting crimes and emergencies online, please be very specific about what actually happened — and did not happen — so as to avoid starting a panic, because sometimes the ensuing panic can be much worse than the actual incident. See page 4 for an article on how to make your home more safe from intruders.

Another form of insecurity the BHA has been working on has been financial insecurity. As I have written about several times in this newsletter, my administration inherited a relatively large sum of money that had been collected from the people of Butterfield for use in a legal battle that ended up never taking place. This money has been sitting in a low-yield money market and CD that returns so little in interest that, when accounting for inflation, our investments have actually gone down in value.

As a result, for the past year we have been debating various investment vehicles that will be relatively safe, yet provide a decent return over time. We have determined that the best investment for our hard-earned funds would be a mutual fund that also pays out a dividend, so we will have both short-term and long-term returns on our investment. Some, however, feel the safety of FDIC insurance, which guarantees our current investments, is more important than the investment actually increasing in value. This search for "absolute security" however, has led us to miss out on thousands of dollars in increase in the value of our investments over the last several years since the money was collected, thousands of dollars that would have made the BHA more financially secure, and would have helped us make Butterfield a better place to live.

Please attend our meeting on March 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the Fountain of Life Church and help us make the right decisions regarding our investments. And also remember to renew your membership if you haven't already. Instructions are on the back page of this newsletter. ☼

Think Spring!

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- Canopies: Tony Danylevsky | 630-932-1804
- Community Information:  
<http://mybhoa.com/community-information/>

## Important Phone Numbers

- Animal Control: 682-7197
- BHA Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BHAToday](http://www.facebook.com/BHAToday)
- BHA Website: [www.mybhoa.com](http://www.mybhoa.com)
- Butterfield Park District: 858-2229
- Butterfield School: 827-4000
- ComEd: 800-334-7661
- DuPage Non-Emergency:
  - Police: 407-2400
  - Fire: 620-5738
- DuPage Disposal: 268-9253
- DuPage Zoning: 407-6700
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- Flood Brothers: 261-0400
- Good Samaritan Hospital: 275-5900
- Illinois American Water Co.: 739-8810
- Lombard Post Office: 627-1864
- Milton Township
  - Office: 690-9036
  - Highway: 682-4270
- Poison Control Center: 800-942-5969
- Vacation home checks: 682-7256
- Voter registration: 629-0475
- Waste Management: 800-747-2278
- Westlake Middle School: 827-4500
- York Township
  - Office: 620-2400
  - Highway: 627-2200

## Connie's Corner



By Connie Poulos Loos,  
Vice President, Butterfield  
Homeowners Association

*H*omeowner tips from  
Coldwell Bankers  
Sellers Resources:

## Spring Cleaning Can Increase Property Value

Spring cleaning is the perfect opportunity for home owners to de-clutter and organize their home. It is an especially important task for home owners who currently have their home listed or plan to list in the near future. Taking the time to spruce up the home can help increase value and make a good impression on potential buyers. Here are a few simple projects that can have a big impact on a home.

- Power wash home exterior including: walls, deck, patio, on property sidewalks and driveway
- Clear gutters of debris
- Wash baseboards and walls
- Reseal grout lines where necessary
- Wash windows
- Replace torn screens
- Scrape and paint flaking exterior trim (windows and doors)
- Remove winter yard waste

By taking the time to deep clean and reorganize this spring, home owners can increase their resale value over the short term.

It is important to note that not all spring cleaning projects are created equal. Some projects may have a nice temporary appearance, but they don't hold up in the long run. When time is an issue, the priority should be cleaning overgrown landscaping, painting the interior and exterior, cleaning all baseboards and clearing gutters of debris which causes pest and paint problems when left untreated.

Time permitting, power wash patios and decks to remove mold and dirt to make the area appear clean and newer. And, don't forget the attic. As buyers are not house guests, expect them to look in closets and attics. Take time to really organize and clean. 🌸

*Homeowner tips from Keller Williams Experience Realty Homeowner Resources*



## BUTTERFIELD NEWS

### Home Security Tips for Homeowners

BHA Today Editorial Staff

Recently, homeowners have been reporting an increasing number of attempted burglaries, some of which have been successful. Most of these have been smash-and-grab burglaries from cars parked in driveways or on the street, but recently some attempts have been made on houses as well. Here is a list of common problems that may leave your home vulnerable to burglary, and some solutions for them:

#### COMMON PROBLEMS:

- **Little or no outdoor lighting:** This is an open invitation to a criminal as the darkest houses are usually the easiest targets. It tells the criminal right away that the homeowner is not paying attention to his or her home security.
- **Dark shadowed areas and places to hide.** Bushes near windows are the best place to break in, as the criminal is obscured from view.
- **Looks like no one's home:** Lack of indoor lighting is an easy tip-off to burglars that the homeowner is not at home. An unkempt lawn, newspapers on the driveway, packages on the front porch and flyers on the door are also dead giveaways.
- **Open doors and windows:** This happens more often than you think. Homeowners often leave their front or back doors unlocked or even wide open, usually because they simply forgot to close and/or lock them.
- **Cheaply made doors and windows:** Home builders usually default to the minimum standard when building a

home to save money, so don't assume your doors and windows are safe and sturdy, as they most likely are not.

- **No alarm systems:** Though not usually necessary, alarm systems are becoming increasingly popular ways to deter would-be thieves, as they usually come with a sign you can place prominently on your lawn, and the lighted keypad can clearly be seen by the door even at night.
- **Loose lips:** People often very foolishly tell others that they will be going on vacation, even going as far as posting that fact on Facebook and other social media.
- **No one is watching:** Most people work during the day and few people are home to watch over the neighborhood. As a result, burglars can practically walk right in to your house with minimal effort, or simply "porch pirate" delivered packages right off your front porch.

#### COMMON SOLUTIONS:

##### AMPLE LIGHTING INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE HOUSE

- Front and back doors should be well lit at the very least.
- If you don't want lighting on 24/7, use lights with motion detectors.
- Use light timers to turn your inside lights off and on in the evening. Some timers offer a randomization feature so your lights do not turn on and off at the same time every night.
- Reduce or eliminate shadowed areas and places to hide in your front, back and side yards. Arrange and trim bushes close to the house so they are difficult to hide behind, or remove them altogether, especially if they are near windows.

Alternatively, you can replace your existing bushes with thick, thorny bushes that are difficult and painful to bypass.

##### SECURE POINTS OF ENTRY.

- Make sure to check all doors and windows at ground level every night.
- Make sure you closed and locked the garage after you put away the car, or the shed after you put away the mower, etc. Make this part of your nightly routine as well.

##### UPGRADE YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS:

- Make sure the door jam is strong and not easily broken.

*Continued on page 6 >>*

*Grand Opening!*

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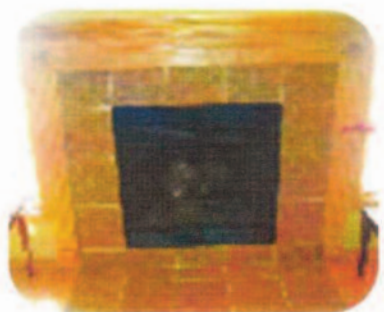
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☛ **Double Dragon** is an authentic Chinese and Japanese sushi restaurant located at 414 W. 22nd St. in Lombard (Cove Plaza). Phone: 630-889-8989. See their ad on page 7 for more information.

☛ **Christina Becker, RE/MAX & Bianca Stone, GuaranteedRate** work together to offer both realtor and mortgage services. Phone Christina at 630-632-2064, email: christinasellshomes@comcast.net, and Bianca at 630-869-0011, email, bianca.stone@guaranteedrate.com. See their ad on page 11 for more information.

☛ **Connie Poulos Loos** offers realtor services as a Coldwell Banker real estate agent. Certified in residential relocation, negotiation, short sales and foreclosures. Phone: 630-400-1212. Email: connieloos21@aol.com. See her ad on page 15 for more information.

☛ **Darlene Mahnke** offers realtor services as a RE/MAX real estate agent. Darlene is a Lombard resident and has been an area specialist since 1997. Phone: 630-674-3678. Web: www.DarleneSellsMyHome.com. See her ad on page 2 for more information.

To add your listing, call 630-627-4845, or email [butterfieldhomeownersassoc@gmail.com](mailto:butterfieldhomeownersassoc@gmail.com).

### >> Home Security Tips (Continued from page 4)

The door jamb is usually the weak point of the door, particularly older wooden ones. A weak jamb can break if a particularly aggressive burglar tries to kick in the door. To reduce the chances of this happening, the door jamb can be reinforced if you don't want to spend the time and money to replace it.

☛ Make sure the strike plate, where the lock latch catches with the door jamb, is also strong, and the lock is latching consistently and correctly without extra effort on your part.

☛ Install a deadbolt lock in addition to your regular lock. A deadbolt lock is an extra heavy duty lock that includes a thick bar of metal where it attaches to the door jamb. There are three grades of deadbolt locks, Grade 1 being the strongest type, particularly when it includes a heavy duty strike plate.

☛ If you really want to up your security, have professional installers install a reinforced steel door, door jamb, strike plate and door frame. There are many options available.

☛ Windows can also be similarly reinforced, and you can even have burglar-proof glass installed.

### ADD AN ALARM SYSTEM

☛ Purchase an alarm that is connected to a 24/7 team that can alert the authorities immediately.

☛ Choose an alarm system company that also has an app that connects to cameras that you can use to remotely monitor your home.

☛ Also make sure to post the sign the alarm company provides because alarms are most effective against deterring break-in attempts if the criminals know it is there.

### KEEP YOUR PRIVATE LIFE PRIVATE.

☛ Do not let the neighbors know you are going on vacation unless they are trusted friends.

☛ If they are trusted, have them keep an eye on your house, pick up your mail and packages, and perform related tasks to make sure it looks like you are still at home.

☛ If you are going to be away for a while, remember to stop delivery of mail, newspapers, milk and other regular deliveries.

*Continued on page 8 >>*

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>> Home Security Tips (Continued from page 6)

- Do not post your "away" status on Facebook and other social media. This happens more often than you think.

**FORM A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**

- Work with your neighbors to form a neighborhood watch. Many burglaries take place during the day due to a lack of watchful neighbors.
  - If you wish to form a neighborhood watch, you can contact your local police department, contact the BHA, which is in the process of creating a neighborhood watch, ([www.mybhoa.com/contact](http://www.mybhoa.com/contact)) or form your own neighborhood watch with your neighbors.
  - Consider also setting up security cameras, or install a Ring-brand doorbell ([www.ring.com](http://www.ring.com)) which allows you to see people who come to your door via a smart phone app.
- Generally speaking, all defense is based upon layers, so the more layers of defense you have, and the better quality of those layers, the more secure your home will be. Take an honest look at your home security today, and find out how safe it really is — or isn't.

**SOURCES:**

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- Wikipedia, "Jamb", <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamb>



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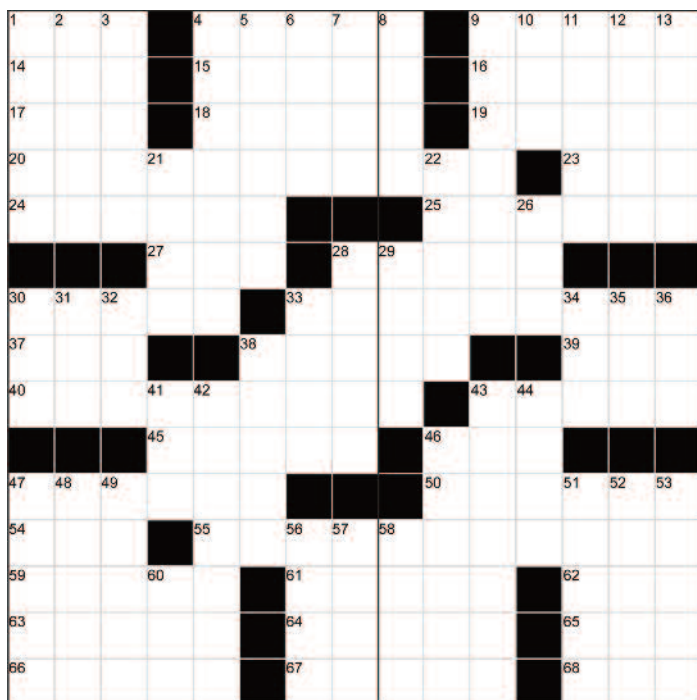
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## FAMILY FUN



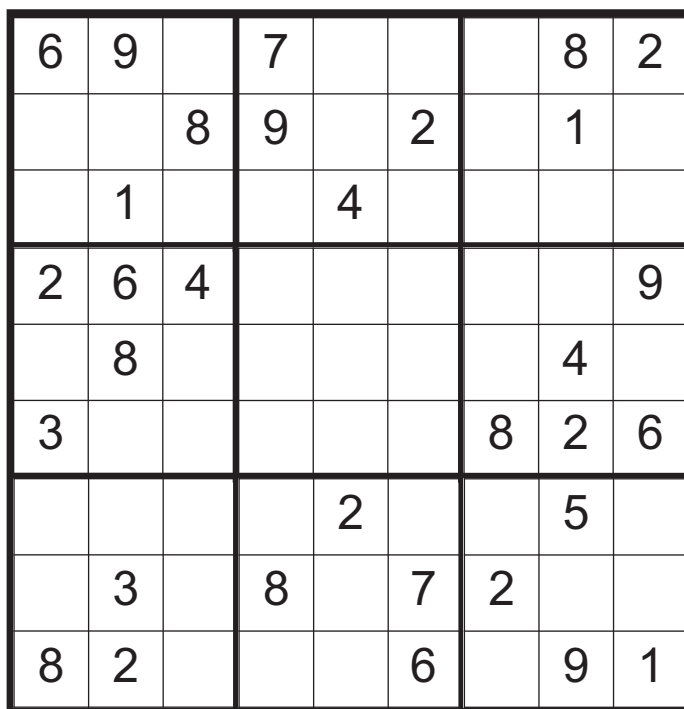
### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

#### ACROSS

- 1: In mourning
- 4: Romantic bouquet
- 9: Asian caregivers
- 14: Start to mature?
- 15: Lyric poem
- 16: Kind of code or colony
- 17: Historical period
- 18: Barely burn
- 19: Value highly
- 20: Good judgment
- 23: 'I'm Sorry' singer Brenda
- 24: Preserve, as fodder
- 25: Like the least convincing excuses
- 27: Ran in front
- 28: Container for liquids
- 30: Remote features
- 33: Dances accompanied with guitar music
- 37: In the past
- 38: Feeds the hogs
- 39: Hole punch
- 40: Current regulators
- 43: Monastic building
- 45: Finishes ahead of
- 46: Apiary occupant
- 47: Table type
- 50: Removes, as a record
- 54: Teamwork deterrent
- 55: Offspring of Bold Ruler and Somethingroyal
- 59: Chip variety
- 61: Casino ceiling
- 62: 'Don't give up!'
- 63: Airwaves
- 64: Ammonia compound
- 65: For \_\_\_ the marbles
- 66: Lions and Tigers and Bears
- 67: Fire places
- 68: 'The Catcher in the \_\_\_'

#### DOWN

- 1: Spot to park
- 2: Gas used in arc welding
- 3: Judges
- 4: Extends shoe life, in a way
- 5: Had something to say
- 6: Juniors, usually
- 7: Upper hand
- 8: Observed
- 9: Mollify
- 10: Debussy's 'La \_\_\_'
- 11: Old-womanish
- 12: Rags an initiate
- 13: Hand cream ingredient
- 21: Eminem's '8 \_\_\_'
- 22: Urban blight
- 26: American voters before 1920
- 28: Stops bleeding
- 29: Emulates Eminem
- 30: Spoil
- 31: Utterance of revulsion
- 32: Water temperature 'gauge'
- 33: Not having enough carbon-ation
- 34: Hansom vehicle
- 35: Have markers out
- 36: Devious
- 38: 'All the world's a \_\_\_' (Shakespeare)
- 41: 'Shogun' sash
- 42: Detection devices
- 43: Does an aquarium job
- 44: Tolerate
- 46: Happen
- 47: French writer of "The Balcony"
- 48: Tiny type size
- 49: Starbucks order
- 51: Indian lute
- 52: Ahead of schedule
- 53: Manner of performance
- 56: Abrupt bit of thunder
- 57: Frosty
- 58: Dubai VIP
- 60: Line of clothing



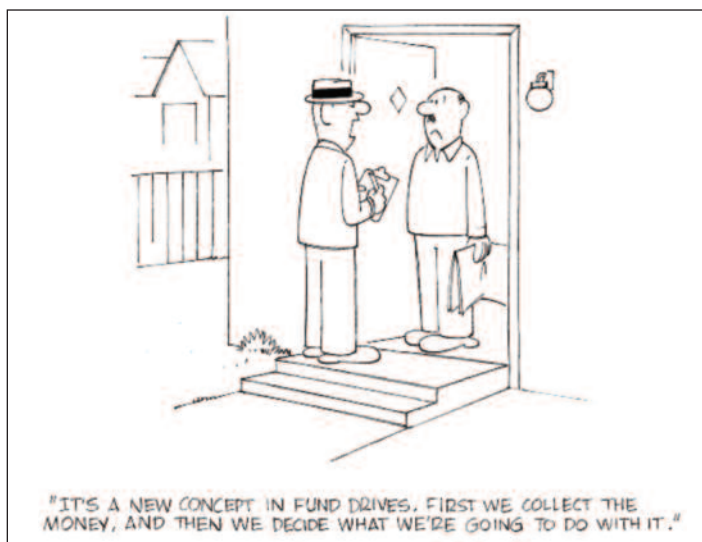
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Chicago, Illinois, 60603, 312-793-3000, 3940 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, IL 60613 #MB.0005932



## YOUR EASY LAWN FERTILIZER SCHEDULE

### EARLY SPRING

Dethatch and aerate to help roots breathe. Use a seaweed soil booster to activate the soil's microbes and bacteria.

### MID TO LATE SPRING

Apply corn gluten meal to prevent weeds and to add slow-release nitrogen. Or, spread compost over your lawn to feed the soil, level turf, and for overseeding.

### SUMMER TO EARLY FALL

Keep up your lawn fertilizer schedule while the grass is still growing, every six to eight weeks, but not if drought has caused it to go dormant.

### FALL TO EARLY WINTER

The most important season for fertilizing! Use a mineral blend to fortify the soil and then use a winter blend just before the first frost.

### EXTRA FERTILIZING TIPS

Leave grass clippings on your lawn for a natural nitrogen source.  
Use a high traffic blend fertilizer for high-traffic areas.  
Need to get green fast? Use a quick greening blend fertilizer.

**For assistance in listing your home or buying a new one, contact me today.**



## Christina Becker

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 **Butterfield Homeowners Association**  
2S104 Avondale Lane  
Lombard, IL 60148

## BHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Pay your membership dues today and enjoy all membership benefits! The new membership year starts January 1st. **Note: You will stop receiving newsletters if you do not join!**

Fill out this form or a copy of this form (please print clearly), cut out along the dotted line, and return with your \$25 check payable to: **Butterfield Homeowners Association**

Then mail or drop off to:

**Butterfield Homeowners Association**  
**Connie Poulos Loos, Vice President**  
**2S071 Colonial Lane**  
**Lombard, IL 60148**

You can also pay online! Go to **[www.mybhoa.com](http://www.mybhoa.com)** and click on the yellow "Annual Dues" button on the top right of the page to securely pay by credit card or by PayPal.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK #: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_