

February 1, 2016

To all Diamond Island Residents:

This will be the 5th year I have written to all of you about the need to maintain the center of our island. As I've said in the past, the need is ongoing. It requires annual maintenance to help keep it clean but more importantly it's needed to keep it safe for all of our homeowners and our guests. The donations some of you have made have allowed us to keep up with the maintenance, but we're never going to be finished. Most of the dead elms have fallen and most of the cleanup associated with those elms is largely completed from a safety standpoint, but some remain. Trees get old and every year some also get damaged by high winds or lightning. These damaged trees pose a safety hazard to all of us and as such we must continue to manage the situation as best we can on an ongoing basis. It takes money and qualified people to maintain our forest so it can be as beautiful and safe as possible. As such, I'm asking all of you once again to donate a minimum of \$25.00 to help keep our island safe and beautiful. If everyone donates, we will be much more able to manage this problem.

We starting this program in 2012. Since then, we have spent more money each year on maintenance than we have received in donations. Each year until last year the donations had been increasing, but last year they fell off substantially. In 2014, 51 island households contributed \$2335.00. That was a 62% increase over what was donated in 2013. However, in 2015 only 40 of the 93 households on the island contributed a total of \$1795.00. Last year 20 of you contributed \$25.00, 1 contributed \$30.00. 1 contributed \$40.00. 13 contributed \$50.00. 1 contributed \$75.00. 3 contributed \$100.00 and our most generous person contributed \$200.00. Again, I want to thank all of you contributors very much! All the money that has been donated over the last 4 years has helped enormously in keeping our island forest clean and safe as possible given the limited funds we have. Without those donations our forest would not be a very pretty or safe place for our children or grandchildren to play.

I also wanted to let you know that last year I told you in this letter that many of the 200 black walnut saplings that were planted in 2013 did survive that very cold winter of 2014. So I expected they would continue to grow for years to come. However that was not the case. Last summer for some reason most of them died. I don't know why. If you want to plant black walnut trees, plant the whole nut (what falls from the tree) about 4 inches deep.

In closing, I ask all of you to please give what you can to our forest management fund. If everyone contributes, we can make our island center a very nice place that we all can be proud of. Please make out a separate check to the Diamond Island Land Corp. and send it to Mike Andrasco along with your check for your DIA annual dues. This year Mike will be depositing the DIL checks as he receives them, so everyone's check book should be up to date. Thank you all for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Phil Bottger

President of the DIL Board.