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### Upcoming Board Meeting

The next meeting of the Reflections at Hidden Lake Homeowner's Association will be on:

- **Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.**

As always, the meetings will be held at the Darien Police Department building at 1710 Plainfield Road.

Residents are encouraged to attend these meetings whenever possible. Time will be allotted to address residents' concerns before the start of each meeting.

To help conduct the business of the Association in a timely and effective manner, the Board asks those residents in attendance to keep in mind that once the meeting has started, comments from the residents are discouraged. ■

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### A Heartfelt Thank You

On behalf of all the residents at Reflections, the Board would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to our former property manager, Cheri Brown. We are very sad to see her go and want to thank her for all of her hard work these past few years

Cheri leaves us to return to California to care for her ailing mother. We wish you all the best Cheri! ■

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### A Warm Welcome

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new property manager, Steve Grais.

Steve has worked in the residential real estate industry in the Chicagoland area since 1997. His experience includes being a Portfolio Property Manager for condominium associations in Chicago as well as a licensed Realtor. This background makes him seasoned in attending Board Meetings, working with capital improvement projects, and managing association budgets.

Welcome to Reflections, Steve! We look forward to working with you. ■

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### Homeowner Information Sheet

Enclosed with last month's mailing was the 2010 Homeowner Information Sheet. The form must be

completely filled out and returned to MCPMC no later than March 31, 2010. (Please note, this is a two-month extension from when the forms are usually due and allows plenty of time for you to return it.)

This information is used to contact owners in cases of emergency or regarding violations. In addition, in the event of a fire or other disaster, having a list of all residents of a building — adults, children and pets — can save critical time trying to locate everyone.

This information will not be sold or used for any other purposes.

Please note, a new sheet must be completed and returned each year even if none of the information has changed. If you do not return the Homeowner Information Sheet by the required deadline, fines will be assessed to your account.

If you have any questions about the information sheet or need another copy, please contact MCPMC. ■

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### Check Your Hot Water Heater

It is a good idea to check the age and condition of your hot water heater and consider replacing it soon. If you have an original hot water heater, it is nearing the end of its expected lifespan. We have had a number of heaters develop leaks and cause damage to units. Replacing your hot water heater *before* it breaks can save you money and trouble! ■

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### Garbage and Recycling Notes

Just a friendly reminder that household garbage and recycling should be placed outside for pickup in approved containers only. Approved garbage containers include:

- 32-gallon container *with lid securely fastened* and garbage sticker attached. Cans and lids should also have your address clearly visible.
- Optional 64- or 96-gallon carts available from ARC Disposal for a monthly fee.
- 33-gallon tied plastic bag with sticker attached. (Please note, 12- or 13-gallon kitchen bags and grocery store bags are not allowed to be placed at the curb.)

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Please note, if you put an additional plastic bag next to your garbage can (because the can is full), you must use one sticker for the can and another sticker for the bag. The extra bag will not be collected if there is no sticker.

**Recycling** should be placed outside in the 18-gallon recycling bins only. Bins are available from the City of Darien for \$7.00 each. Laundry baskets, Rubbermaid containers and other bins are not allowed.

**Bulk items and "white goods"** may be placed at the curb for pickup, provided you are using the correct number of garbage stickers and — for "white goods" — you call ARC in advance to arrange a pick up.

*Remember, if items are not picked up on garbage day, it is your responsibility to remove them from the curb at the end of the day.*

We ask that addresses be clearly marked on cans, lids and bins so that residents know who the item belongs to, in case the items are blown around in the wind.

More information is available from Darien's Web site: [www.darien.il.us/Departments/Utilities/Utilities.html](http://www.darien.il.us/Departments/Utilities/Utilities.html). ■

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### Garbage Etiquette

We have received several complaints from residents whose neighbors aren't being neighborly on trash day. These complaints include:

- Adding trash to a neighbor's garbage can overnight. (The owner was unable to add their final bag in the morning.)
- Stealing the garbage stickers off other people's trash bags.
- Dumping additional bags next to a neighbor's garbage without stickers.

Please! Be respectful of your neighbors and take responsibility for disposing of your own trash. ■

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### Garage Door Safety

Residents are reminded to keep their garage doors completely closed at all times when not in use. This helps to discourage crime in the community.

If you see a neighbor leaving their garage door open for long periods of time — even partially open — please notify the management office so we may investigate. ■

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### Windy Weather Ahead

With warmer weather comes spring storms — and those storms can bring some windy days and nights. We ask all residents to pay special attention to the weather when putting their garbage and recycling out for collection.

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Please be sure to affix the lids on your garbage cans and to properly secure all loose recycling. If storms are expected, we ask that you wait to put your garbage and recycling at the curb until after the storms pass, if at all possible.

Keeping trash and recyclables from blowing around is a huge step in ensuring that our neighborhood looks and stays beautiful. ■

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### Spring Clean Up

After the large piles of snow melt, you may notice garbage, newspapers and other debris lying around the community. Please be a good neighbor and pick up any newspapers, trash or recyclables that may have ended up near your unit. We all can do our part to help keep our community looking nice.

Also, to those residents that have been doing this, we extend a great big thank you! ■

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### Exterior Modifications

If you are contemplating making changes to your unit that impact the exterior, please contact the management office first with details of your plan. This includes replacing windows and doors, adding a screen door, and making changes to your landscaping.

In the past, the Association has had a number of people make extensive modifications without getting the necessary approvals first. In some cases, residents have been made to remove modifications.

Please save yourself the expense and hassle by clearing any major changes with management first. ■

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### Daylight Saving Time

Daylight saving time begins on **Sunday, March 14** this year. Please remember to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors when you change your clocks. Replacing these batteries could save your life. ■

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*Reflections* is a publication of the association board of  
Reflections at Hidden Lake.  
Darien, Illinois

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