

\* Winter 2012 \*

# THE CASI CONNECTION

## Welcome

Community Association Services of Indiana (CASI) would like to extend a very warm welcome to Wildwood Farms Master Association of the southeast side of Indianapolis, Arden Townhomes of Carmel, Camby Woods of the southwest side of Indianapolis, Admirals Landing of the northeast/Geist area of Indianapolis, and Villas at Derby Run in Shelbyville. We are thrilled that you have joined the CASI family of communities.

## Refer Us

### Please keep us in mind...

... if you know of a homeowner association looking for a quality, professional AAMC® certified HOA management company; please refer them to us. We greatly appreciate your support!



CASI is on Facebook! Visit our page at [www.facebook.com/cas.indiana](http://www.facebook.com/cas.indiana) and "Like" us today. Be sure to watch out for our daily questions. We will be randomly giving away a prize each week for correct answers. Also, watch our page for special promotions and useful information from our partners at Associa Advantage and Associerge.

## Save the Date

Want to be *more effective* as a Board Member? Please join CASI for our **FREE** Board Seminar and Dinner at the Marriott Indianapolis East with convenient access from all sides of the city. This program is for new and veteran board members. **See** informative presentations. **Hear** about the roles and responsibilities you have as an association board member from association experts. **Learn** about conflict resolution, how to have shorter more productive meetings and community communications. **Enjoy** a free dinner buffet. **Win** raffle prizes. **Bring** your other board members and association questions!

**Date:** Thursday, March 15, 2012

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**RSVP:** By Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> to Jane Scully:

Email at [jscully@cas-indiana.com](mailto:jscully@cas-indiana.com)

or call direct: (317) 451-2288

or toll-free: (877) 875-5600.

## In this issue

Combat Cold Weather .. 2

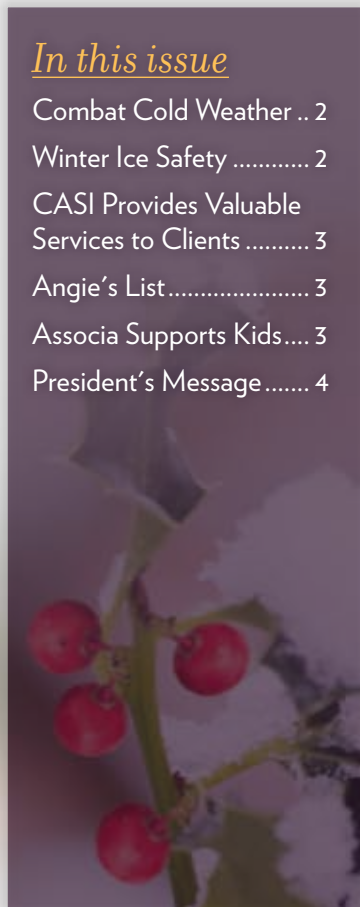
Winter Ice Safety ..... 2

CASI Provides Valuable Services to Clients ..... 3

Angie's List..... 3

Associa Supports Kids.... 3

President's Message..... 4



## \*\*Combat COLD Weather\*\*

By Lisa Martin, *Courtesy of Association Times - February 2011*

Combat cold weather this winter with some straightforward strategies to keep your home warm. You'll feel cozier and likely see your heating bills thaw.

Start by checking doors, windows, outlets and the attic. Drafty? Add weather stripping or insulation, and apply caulk or spray in foam sealer. An easy DIY project like this can slash your utility costs by as much as ten percent, according to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association. HPBA's President Jack Goldman also says, "Installing an EPA-certified stove, fireplace, or insert can provide efficient, clean heat."

### Staying Warm

- *Zone out:* Isolate unused rooms by closing vents and shutting doors.
- *Ground level:* Cold seeps up from the floor, so scatter rugs around your home.
- *Cuddle up:* Turn down the thermostat at night to 65 degrees and pile on the blankets. Don't go too low though. Having your heater work overtime to climb to a comfortable temperature won't save money in the long run.



- *Open up:* Draw curtains, drapes or shutters at dusk, then throw them open in direct sun. You'll be amazed at how much Mother Nature can help.

### Add Flare

Finally, take a cue from one of America's top decorators. "In the winter, I light the fire or a scented candle and adjust the lights," writes Bunny Williams in her eponymous *Scrapbook for Living* (\$60, Abrams).

A cashmere throw, a thick pair of socks and a steaming cup of tea may be just the ticket too!

## Winter Ice Safety

The snow is falling, it's been below freezing for a few days and the pond/lake has frozen over. Before venturing out onto the ice, stop and think, "Is it thick enough to hold my weight?" Per the Old Farmer's Almanac

([www.almanac.com](http://www.almanac.com)), if you are unsure if the ice is safe, don't take any chances. Refer to their Safe Ice Thickness chart to see if the ice is safe enough to hold

weight. So many communities have retention ponds that are a temptation for children to venture onto the ice in the winter. Warn children of the dangers of going out onto a frozen

pond/lake. Stress to them not to go out onto the pond under any circumstance. This awareness will help save them from being seriously injured or drowning.

### Safe Ice Thickness\*

Ice Thickness	Permissible Load	Ice Thickness	Permissible Load
3 inches .....	Single person on foot	12 inches .....	Heavy truck (8-ton gross)
4 inches .....	Group in single file	15 inches .....	10 tons
7½ inches .....	Passenger car (2-ton gross)	20 inches .....	25 tons
8 inches .....	Light truck (2½-ton gross)	30 inches .....	70 tons
10 inches .....	Medium truck (3½-ton gross)	36 inches .....	110 tons

\*Solid, clear, blue/black pond and lake ice

Slush ice has only half the strength of blue ice. The strength value of river ice is 15 percent less.

# CASI Provides Valuable Services to Clients

**From the Desk of James Blazek, Production Manager, CASI Maintenance Services**

We value our clients and because of that, we offer Community/ Building Inspections with the Board and Manager at no cost to the community. The purpose of these inspections is to locate repair issues in the common areas and in condominium communities, on the building exteriors, to create a list of basic maintenance. The Manager and Board can then prioritize the list and create a preventive maintenance schedule as well. This helps Boards to stay on budget while at the same time perform necessary maintenance on their buildings and common areas.



Another positive aspect of this service is that it gives the Maintenance Division a chance to build relationships, not only with the Boards, but with the homeowners as well. It helps educate them about the components of their building and/or common area and it allows the Maintenance Division to learn the community's preferences and priorities. This assists us in completing work in an efficient and timely manner. In addition, homeowners can visit our website, [www.cas-indiana.com](http://www.cas-indiana.com) to receive a ten percent discount coupon for repair needs within their own homes.

Many of CASI's communities and homeowners take advantage of CASI Maintenance Services because it saves them time and money and helps to keep their communities and homes looking their best.

## Angie's List

CASI and CASI Maintenance Services are listed on Angie's List. CASI would love to earn the Super Service Award in 2012. Help us by visiting [www.angieslist.com/review](http://www.angieslist.com/review) to review us today!

## Associa Supports Kids

Did you know that Associa Supports Kids (ASK) will help children in your community who participate on or in youth sport and fitness teams?

Associa Supports Kids educates parents and children about safety in and around the home and sponsors youth sports and fitness programs to help kids lead a more active lifestyle.

The ASK Sports Program is a grassroots, community program designed specifically for your community. The ASK Sports Program supports local youth sports and fitness activities with a sponsorship of up to \$250 annually per team. Sponsorships are available to teams with at least one member of the team living in your community.

Last year, Associa Supports Kids donated to youth teams in baseball, basketball, cheerleading, dance, hockey, soccer and swim. The requests range from financial assistance for uniforms and end-of-year awards to building new baseball fields and supplementing coaching salaries...ASK even helped with the purchase of starting blocks and new lane lines.

We'd like to help by partnering in your community. Are there kids in your community who participate on a youth sport or fitness team? Do they need help affording uniforms, registration fees or travel expenses? All they need to do is complete and submit the ASK Sponsorship Request Form.

For the ASK Sponsorship Request Form, email Christy Earl at [cearl@associaonline.com](mailto:cearl@associaonline.com). We will supply your team with the ASK logo and other necessary information for sponsorships and printing opportunities on uniforms, flyers, posters, playbills, websites, etc.

Don't forget that you can also reserve the ASK mascot, Scout, for your next community event. At neighborhood events, Scout hands out Safety Tip coloring books, plush Scout toys, rub-on tattoos and Scout's own books like *Scout Goes to the Beach*, *Scout Goes to a Sleepover* and *Scout Stays Active and Strong* to each child in attendance. Parents receive an ASK safety brochure and a ChildPrint identification kit. We can help ensure you have Scout and ASK materials at your next event.

With basketball season in full swing and spring sports just around the corner, now is a great time to look to Associa Supports Kids for financial sponsorships. Serving your community is important to us. We look forward to helping.

To find out more about Associa Supports Kids, visit our website at [www.associasupportskids.org](http://www.associasupportskids.org) or contact your community manager.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As winter progresses, we are keeping our fingers crossed that the trend of unseasonably nice weather holds until spring. After last winter's excessive snow falls and ice storm taxed HOA budgets, it's nice to get a break this winter. Keep your eyes peeled for some Crocuses popping up in the next week or two signaling spring's return to Indiana.

In the meantime, I hope you are enjoying this newsletter in a comfy chair with a hot beverage. There are some great tips on keeping your abode warm on page two along with some safety tips regarding going out on the ice. The best safety tip we can give is just to stay off the ice. As tempting as it is for kids, most of our HOAs do not allow it. On page three, you will find an article about our maintenance division: Maintenance Services. Primarily providing quality maintenance services to our HOAs, they are also available to all homeowners for their individual repair needs.

Lastly, we hope to see you and your fellow Board members at our first Board Orientation Seminar & Dinner on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We will provide you with a nice meal, enjoyable fellowship and hopefully make your job easier as a Board member. Whether you are a veteran board member or a rookie, all are encouraged to attend. We know your job can be hard at times and we are here to support you in every way we can to make it easier and hopefully satisfying as well. So please mark your calendar and RSVP today!

We look forward to spring's promise of new life, new color and new prospects of our economy with the forecast calling for the days to come to be filled with warmth, growth and prosperity. The entire CASI staff thanks you for allowing us to serve you and your fine community.

Matt Englert, PCAM®  
President and CEO of CASI

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