**Helping Hands**

**Nov 7, 2019**

**Those participating:**

          Dave Breyla, Jim Huff,  Barbara Neale and Dick Pelly

**Items taken care of since last meeting**:

          1. Replacement filter for the faucet in the mens room located and replaced.  Water running at full force

          2. The two in wall filters for the heating/cooling system have been replaced

          3. The breaker panels at the garages have been labelled

          4. Security lights at garage 1 & 2 have been replaced and working

          5. Emergency reflective numbers have been installed on all inner & outer homes

**Items taken care of today:**

         1. Annual begonias removed from the entrance sign area

         2. Shrubbery at Club House entrance pruned

         3. Tall, overgrown shrubs along side of Club House, heavily pruned and one completely removed

         4. Rhododendron at side of Club House pruned. Much dead removed. Trash deposited in dumpster.

**Things to consider:**

         1. Emergency numbers at Hi Rise

         2. Removal of remaining 3 shrub stumps alongside Club House

         3. Fertilization of Rhododendron and shrubs around Club House

         4. Uneven pavement around water shut off

**Fact sheet from the University of Delaware regarding the artillery fungus.**

**Artillery Fungus**

The artillery fungus, Sphaerobolus spp. may become problematic in mulch, due to the production and release of spores. This fungus produces very small, inconspicuous cup shaped fruiting bodies (about 1/10 of an inch) that contain a dark round spore body (peridiole). Accumulation of water and nutrients in the fruiting body eventually leads to a pressure release of the spore which is shot toward any light source up to a distance of several feet. Spores land on light colored siding, building foundations, or cars. Spots can be very unsightly and spore bodies have a sticky substance on them which can make removal extremely difficult. Soap and water with a scrub brush can be effective before material dries. Growth of artillery fungus is favored by hardwoods in mulch, excessive rainfall, or irrigation of foundation plantings.

Artillery fungus is problematic on north sides of buildings where shade maintains moist conditions. Use of mulch derived from dead and diseased trees should be avoided. Use of bark mulch or pine bark nuggets rather than hardwood provides a less favorable substrate. Addition of fresh mulch yearly can suppress fungi, but plantings should not be mulched too deep. Removal or raking of infested mulch to disturb growth of fungi may help. Research (D. Davis, PSU) indicates fresh mushroom compost blended with landscape mulch, at the rate of ≥40%, can be effective in reducing or suppressing artillery fungus, a good strategy in sites that have had artillery fungus. Addition of fresh mushroom compost adds organic matter, a rich dark color, and beneficial microbes that may compete with the artillery fungus.

Nancy Gregory, April 9, 2019 University of Delaware