

November 2008

LAUREL VALLEY ECHOES

(Laurel Valley Property Owners Association)

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD *by Reid Franks*

Beautification of the front gate area

The board hired a landscaper to clean up the planted area on the gatehouse side of the rock wall at the entrance. We paid for minimum work: removing the old mulch and landscaping cloth, pulling the vines and poison ivy from the bushes, pulling out the dead flowers, putting down new landscaping cloth and new mulch. In the spring anyone who would like to place flowers in the area or otherwise beautify it, please feel free to do so; just let the board know.

Status of trash charge for those renting their cabins

At the annual general meeting in July 2008 Alan Doyle introduced a motion to charge owners of rental cabins a fee equal to one day's rent because he said renters generated more trash than non-renters. The motion was seconded and passed. Later in that same meeting, David Drake made a motion to vacate the previous motion and replace it with one requiring owners of rental cabins to pay **up to \$100** per year for the same reason. That motion passed. This was in the last Echoes.

The more the board looked at implementing that requirement, the more problems we found. We concluded that the charge would be divisive, would generate little money, and could not easily be administered. At the October board meeting we decided that in accordance with the bold type above we would establish the charge this year at zero dollars.

It is still a requirement, and at the next annual meeting we expect members to put a specific figure, or at least a minimum figure, on the requirement, or to reconsider it in its entirety. If you have an interest in this matter, you need to be at the 2009 annual meeting or give your proxy to someone who will vote your wishes. Obviously, the board thinks everyone should be at the annual meetings, since one never knows what will come up.

Community park

The board is in the very early stages of considering establishing a community park, and is just now trying to find a suitable place. If you are interested in working on that project, let Reid know.

Unsung heroes

The board would like to acknowledge in each *Echoes* those people who silently contribute to the cleanliness, beauty, safety, and general functioning of the Laurel Valley community. The danger in such attempts is the inevitability that we will miss recognizing some or even many who make contributions. But as most of our fathers told us, "it is better to try and fail than to never try at all." So here goes.

Kudos to:

The dumpster divers Jerry Roper, Linda Rose, and Richard Jabbour, who weekly go into the recycle dumpsters and remove all the garbage that is placed in the “paper only” and “aluminum only” recycle dumpsters.

Alan Doyle, who daily removed the garbage from the construction dumpster and put it in the compactor so that we would not have to pay the higher cost of placing the construction dumpster contents in the wet garbage land fill instead of in the dry materials land fill.

Margaret Haire, whom we all admire for the front gate decorations and flowers that she maintains and waters daily.

The Social Committee (Carl Goodman, Cam King, and Becky Dannelley), who put on a fun evening and a memorable Fall party. I encourage all who can attend not to miss the Christmas party.

Tim Stringfellow, who keeps the back gate operational. Thanks, Tim.

I don't know specifically who you are, but many of you pick up trash along the road while you walk. The results of your efforts are obvious. Thank you!

Reid Franks

THE GREEN TEAM

by Linda Rose

Laurel Valley Recycling Opportunities



On Our Premises (Adjacent to garbage dumpster/compactor)

TWO RECYCLE BINS

❖ MIXED Paper

Newspaper, scrap paper, junk mail and magazines

No light or corrugated cardboard

All paper must be clean, no grease or food stains that attract animals

Shredded paper is allowed in plastic bags only so that it does not blow everywhere when it is dumped

❖ Aluminum Drink Cans only

No food or pet cans

No bags

Off Premises

CARDBOARD: take all weights to recycle bins at Nawger Nob (break down boxes)
No grease, food stains or food smells that could attract animals

PLASTIC and GLASS: take to recycle area across and to the east of the hospital

OTHER: tin cans, scrap metal, auto and boat batteries, used jeans and T-shirts

Take to Tennessee Rehabilitation Center, which is open 24 hours per day.

Directions: Take Hwy 321 past the Foothills Mall. Continue through intersection at Foothills Mall Dr. Turn right at the next light (Robert Jackson Dr.) Go .3 mile and turn right on Percheron St. then first right into recycling area. All other items mentioned above at the other sites can be recycled here.

DUMPSTER ALL GARBAGE TO BE PUT IN LARGE GREEN /COMPACTOR

Help us be a "Green" Community

Thank you for the *great* response that we have had to the recycle bins!!! We had to remove many bags of garbage and someone's corrugated packing boxes but now that we have the big new red directional signs things are getting better. (Signs were made by our own Judy Doyle) We feel that most of the problems were caused by renters. We have distributed flyers about our recycling project to the main rental companies so we hope that will help the process. Please offer assistance to our "visitors" using our compactor/recycle area if they appear to need help.

Reminder: No paper or plastic bags in either bin except for plastic bags to hold shredded paper which keeps the paper from blowing everywhere when it is dumped. This is not a secured area so don't dispose of papers containing personal information.

We need to bring more aluminum cans in order to keep that bin so it is profitable for Spectra, the company that is providing our bins.

Questions? Call Linda Rose at 448-0443 or Dennis Silverberg at 352-255-8102

A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN *by Walt King*

The Security of Laurel Valley remains a top priority. I'm especially concerned that the current economic situation may lead to some security issues. All residents are urged to be aware of any unusual or suspicious activity. Please be extra cautious that paperwork of a personal nature is not deposited into the recycle bin.

I have insisted that the guards be thorough regarding the admission of individuals in the evening and hope that residents will be patient and supportive. There are many responsibilities where visitors and renters are concerned and guards can be handling multiple situations simultaneously. Please approach the gate slowly as you come in so the guard can see the appropriate pass or sticker and wave you on through. In conjunction with the Committee that is studying the current Security Situation, I'm in the process of evaluating procedures and passes and hope to simplify some things in the future.

Please be aware that persons who are not property owners, residents, or renters require a notification to the guard so he can grant them entry. Please call the gatehouse at 448-9857 or email gatehouse@laurelvalley.org. This will speed things up immensely. Any questions, comments or issues, I can be reached at: 246-2365 (Home) 560-6156 (Cell)

Walt King

The Groundskeeper Elmer Treat

There was a fire in the trash compactor this past week. Al Doyle was notified and subsequently, Walt King assisted in guiding the Volunteer Fire Department to the compactor site. It was estimated that 400 gallons of water were utilized in containing and controlling the fire. There was no structural damage and the compactor has returned to full function.

There was a small area of paint "blistering" on the top of the compactor, directly above the fire area.

After putting out the fire, the debris was examined without finding an explanation as to the cause. Probably, ash from cleaning out a fireplace was placed in the trash compactor. Similarly, fireplace ash led to the house fire on Settler's Rise a few years ago.

Over the years, 3 homes have burned in Laurel Valley.

Please be thoughtful and careful.

Elmer Treat

2008 CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Carl Goodman "A Time Of Good Cheer; When Neighbors Are Near!"

SAVE THE DATE! The LVPOA Christmas Celebration will be held on Friday, December 12th at the Highland Manor Conference Center on Lamar Alexander Parkway at 6:00p.m. Like our "Fall Fling", it will be a special Holiday Potluck Dinner with **no cost** for those who attend. Plan on bringing a special Christmas dish. We will provide soft drinks and coffee ...you are welcome to bring your own "special refreshments"! There will be *decorations and surprises (including*

entertainment) to make the night special. We will also be accepting cash contributions for the Appalachian Bear Rescue. Because we are limited to 80 attendees, please make your reservations soon!

CALL or EMAIL EITHER CARL GOODMAN 448-8030 jcgoodman@frontiernet.net or CAM KING 448-1551 camcabin@comcast.net TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE!

Also, please indicate your dish as SALAD, ENTRE', SIDE DISH OR DESSERT!

Directions to the Highland Manor Conference Center:

Enter the Highland Manor from Lamar Alexander Parkway (immediately across from A.J.'s Restaurant); drive past the office and the conference center will be directly ahead of you ...turn left and park beyond the motel units. You may want to consider bringing a flashlight.

Carl Goodman

IN THE MEANTIME, HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING!



“WE GATHER TOGETHER”