

Laurel Valley Echoes

September 2004

Scribbles from the Board

The annual meeting on 10 July was successful and pleasant. There were two motions made and passed, the first to provide George McCampbell, who keeps our roads cut and plowed, a bonus. The second was to elect Susan Pasquini, Judy Turner, Bud Hopkins, and Reid Franks to the board. Minutes of that meeting will be mailed to you if desired. Just call Reid or Judy. Thanks to all who attended.

At the first meeting of the new board we elected officers and assigned duties.

- Roger Schunk, Vice President, 448-9980, is chairman of the Architectural Control Committee. Submit your building plans to him.
- Judy Turner, Secretary, 448-1354.
- Lou Charette, Treasurer, 448-2058. Send checks to him.
- Jerry Roper, roads and dumpsters, 448-1363. Report problems to him.
- Susan Pasquini, data base manager and web mistress, 448-1942. Send changes of address and web news to her.
- Bud Hopkins, security, 448-0652. Call Bud about problems with the guards or other security concerns
- Reid Franks, President, 448-9679. Call him with all good news! He also backs up all otherboard members.

Odds and Ends from the President

I hate to sound like a nagging old curmudgeon, but there are several things that need to be said in an attempt to keep Laurel Valley friendly and pleasant.

CUTTING TREES: At least four people have cut trees from their neighbors' property to improve the view. Some cutters have just made mistakes, but some have deliberately cut others' trees. Two property owners have been sued for cutting trees on property they did not own. One suit was settled for multi-thousands and the other is ongoing. Be careful not to cut trees you do not own. This includes trees on the margin of the golf course; it's embarrassing and can be expensive.

FIREWORKS: At the annual meeting members expressed concern over the danger of illegal fireworks in Laurel Valley. We have checked with the sheriff and the clerk of court and found that setting off fireworks in Blount County is illegal without a permit. If someone in your vicinity is using fireworks and you object, call the sheriff directly. There is no need to come through the board.

DOGS: We've had some complaints of dogs intimidating people. Blount County does not have a leash law, but does require that dogs be kept on the owner's property or be under positive control when being exercised off the property; that might be a leash if the dog does not respond to voice commands. If there is a dog off its owner's property, not under control, and to whose behavior you object, call animal control at 681-2241.

DUMPSTERS: Keeping the dumpster area trash free is an ongoing problem. Please, put your garbage in the containers, and hook the chain as tightly as possible to keep the bears out. The dumpsters are emptied about noon on Tuesdays and Fridays. If they are full, please come back after they are emptied rather than placing the garbage on the ground. The dumpster truck operator does **not** get out of his truck. So if garbage is on the ground or on the dumpster top, it will be on the ground after he empties, usually with the dumpster sitting on it.

BEARS: The bear population is increasing and some bears have gotten aggressive. We all know not to feed them intentionally or with bird feeders or garbage. Please, keep your garbage inside your house or closed garage until deposited in the dumpster. If you must keep garbage outside, get a bearproof container. The following web site has links to about 15 manufacturers of such containers:

www.wildflorida.org/bear/trashcontainers.htm A good one is www.bearproofinc.com, but they are in Colorado and shipping is expensive. Smoky Metal Works, Sevierville, TN, 865-908-4248 and Frosty's Park Equipment, Moristown, TN, 800-376-7897 are closer.

AND NOW MORE PLEASANT TOPICS:

FIRE: Our property is protected by the Townsend Area Volunteer Fire Department. They come here when needed. For example, they were up on Hawkview the day after our annual meeting. They've saved at least one house in Laurel Valley from burning down. Please support the TAVFD by becoming a supporting member. Send \$35 to TAVFD at PO Box 308. They do not charge for calls to those that who support the department.

WEB SITE: We are establishing a web page where members can go for information. The address is www.laurelvalley.net Note that laurelvalley.com is a realtors' site. The web page is under construction by Susan Pasquini. If there is information you want to see on it, let Susan know. Details in the next Echoes.

LAUREL VALLEY ROAD: As you all know, the road coming into Laurel Valley is in bad shape. The County Road Supervisor, Mr. Dunlap, promises the road will be repaired "before cold weather."

FIGHTING THE WOOLY ADELGID: Those attending the annual meeting indicated that they would like to have more information on the wooly adelgid, and we promised to hold a meeting when we knew more and could line up the experts. We have decided to use the meeting the park is holding on 27 September to provide the promised information. The invitation and details from the superintendent are page 3 of the newsletter. While I'm sure the meeting will concentrate on information critical to the park, it appears that it will also meet our needs because the experts and other subdivision presidents will speak, and they promise to give options to home owners. The next Echoes will provide detailed information on options for homeowners for those who could not attend the park's meeting, but it will be terse and filtered through us amateurs, so attend the meeting if you want to hear the unfiltered information from experts.

SECURITY: The Laurel Valley gate house will be manned between the hours of dusk to dawn as mandated by current court directive. The snow road gate and the two gates at the shale pit will be closed fifteen minutes before the hours of operation. Voice mail has been added to the gatehouse phone so that the guards can be informed of your visitors. All residents or those who have homes but are not full time residents can call (865) 448-9857 and leave a message to include your name, the names of your visitors, and their approximate time of arrival. This will allow your visitors to be cleared to enter Laurel Valley without having to wait at the gate until they are cleared by trying to reach the homeowner. During hours of operation, admittance to Laurel Valley will be restricted to those who have Laurel Valley stickers (green), visitors who have been cleared by the homeowner, or renters who have the yellow pass issued by the rental agency. If you have questions or issues concerning security of Laurel Valley, you can contact Bud Hopkins, Director of Security, at (865) 448-0652.

Fall Homeowners' Party

Mark your calendar now for the fall party at the Lily Barn (which is now enclosed in the fall and winter!). It will be October 29, at 6:00, and there will be no charge. Bring a dish to share, and your own alcohol. Everything else will be provided by the social committee. And you *know* the food will be good; we have the best cooks in the area right here in Laurel Valley! Come enjoy your neighbors and a good supper.

Fall Party Time!

Mark your calendar Now!

October 29: 6:00–9:00

The Lily Barn

Bring a dish to share—and an
appetite.

Soft drinks available; bring
your own alcohol.