

March 2008

Volume 3, Issue 2



## *Splinters from the Board*

*by Reid Franks*

Well, it's spring again in Laurel Valley. There were four deer in my front yard this morning eating my wife's flowers.

A word about ditches. We have a major initiative going to improve the ditches in many areas of Laurel Valley in order to keep the runoff from damaging our roads. This is being accomplished with a machine, a bobcat. We can not get at the culvert ends with a machine, so a spring time chore that we ask each of you to do is clean out the entrance and exits to the culverts that run under your driveway. If your culverts are blocked, as many are, the water flows over your driveway or into the road.

Speaking of ditches, please be cautious of landscaping the ditches. Although most ditches next to the roads are owned by the association and not the adjoining property owner, we approve and encourage you to beautify the ditches in front of your house. It improves the attractiveness of the valley. We only ask that you do nothing to interfere with the free passage of water down those ditches, such as filling them with rocks to a height that forces water out onto the road or with rip rap rocks that catch soil and eventually fill the ditch. I know that the association eight years ago used rip rap in some ditches which are not full of soil. Learn from our mistakes.

Please report problems that you notice, such as missing street signs, trees down in the road, or inoperable back gate, to any member of the board. My number is 776-8667; Bud's (security) is 448-0652; Elmer's (roads and compactor) is 448-0923. We also can be reached through the links on [www.laurelvalley.org](http://www.laurelvalley.org).

The annual meeting will be on July 12. At that time we will be electing three new board members. If you are interested in serving on the board or on any committee, please inform any board member. We like to have board members from as many of our fourteen subdivisions as possible. Right now we have three from Mount Luke, one from Cold Springs, two from Bear Den, and one from Huddleston Village subdivision. For the past 12 years board members have always been full time residents. We would like to have someone who is not a full time resident who can bring the point of view of investors and land lords to board deliberations. Of course, such members would have to live close enough to come to meetings, at least, once a month and others as called.

Laurel Valley has five standing committees. The social committee plans the parties. The landscaping committee keeps the front gate attractive and makes other common areas more presentable. The bear committee works to keep bears and people safe together. The architectural committee approves new construction. The welcoming committee is now forming. We also have temporary committees that will disband when their task is completed. The water committee is exploring bringing water to Laurel Valley. The road committee has about finished creating a road improvement plan. The animal sanctuary committee is just forming. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees or would like to be informed of new committees, let Judy Doyle, secretary, 448-6203, know. It is a good way to get involved without a three year commitment. Many hands made big jobs easy.

We would still like to have everyone's e-mail addresses. It is a way to keep people informed quickly. Right now we use the social committees e-mail list that only reaches the women who live in Laurel Valley. Go to the web site, click on Tim Stringfellows' e-mail link and say hello. He will take your e-mail address from your hello message.



## Bytes from the Database

by Tim Stringfellow

The e-mail list is growing. We now have 105 addresses. This list will help with the Association's ability to reach property owners. As we compile this list, we will eventually use the internet to reach owners who will chose to receive info this way.

Keeping up with changes in ownership of properties in Laurel Valley continues to pose challenges. We do not always receives sales information from the closing company. Please help us by notifying the Board if you sell your property or make any changes in your contact information. If you sell, please let us know the information on the sale date and the new owners. Also, don't forget to let the new owners know that they should contact the Association with their contact information. Keeping the database up to date is important to everyone. Thank you!



## Spring Clean-up Dumpster

by Judy Doyle

The spring dumpster (for large items) will be at the compactor sight starting April 26th for two weeks or until it is full.

Unless the dumpster is at the compactor site, you must take your large items to the dump in Maryville. **Let's keep Laurel Valley beautiful!!**

**FYI:** Look for more improvements at the compactor site soon. The pile of shale has been removed in preparation for a better solution by the landscaping committee.



## Board of Directors

by Joe Rizzo

The LVPOA Board of Directors is looking at the feasibility of changing the make-up of the Board of Directors. One method is trying to get representation on the board from all over the valley so all persons are represented.

We have seven (7) positions on the board and we as an "Association" is made up of 14 subdivisions. Ideally, I would like to see all the subdivisions represented on the board and that is going to be a challenge. The way this thought can work, is divide the subdivision into sections like our state is divided into congressional districts.

Every two years, we as citizens of the state, elect congressman to represent us in Washington. If we as a property owner's association, divided our subdivisions up in a similar fashion, we could then attempt to have diverse representation.

The following is an example how the districting could be done that would be as proportionate as I can see. Obviously, you can see there is no "Gerrymandering."

- 1) Bears Den & Hawk View
- 2) Eagle Nest & Huddleston Village
- 3) Cold Springs
- 4) Lakeview, Cades Cove Village, Fox Chase & Fairway Vistas
- 5) Mt. Luke
- 6) Fairlight
- 7) Arrowhead & Grouse Creek

Now, it is imperative that we have residents/property owners step up and get involved to represent your district.

Whoever is interested in being on the board, please submit your name to Joe Rizzo or Reid Frank. We would be delighted to have your name placed on the ballot for the annual meeting's vote.



# Volunteers Wanted

by Judy Doyle

We are looking for volunteers!

**What do you do best? Then decide if it could benefit Laurel Valley.**

As Reid stated in his article on the front page, we have several committees. They are always looking for someone to come on board!

Do you like to walk? You could pick up trash along the way. Do you love wildlife? You could help on the Bear Committee.  
Do you like to plant flowers? Landscaping Committee. Do you like to plan parties? Social Committee.  
Do you like to meet new people? Welcoming Committee.

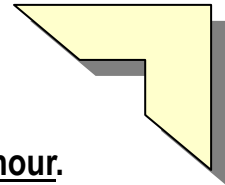
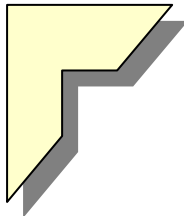
Or let me know what you like to do and we'll put you on our list. What ever you love to do, put it to good use. Let's make Laurel Valley an unforgettable place to live or vacation.

If you have an idea where you might fit in, please contact me. 387-6202 or via e-mail at [jdoyle@laurelvalley.org](mailto:jdoyle@laurelvalley.org).

**Volunteering is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done.**

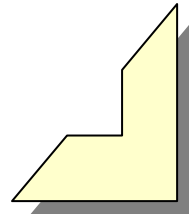
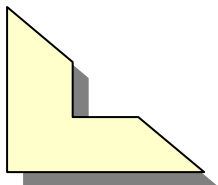


## *A Friendly Reminder*



The speed limit in Laurel Valley is 25 miles per hour.

**Please slow down for the safety of your neighbors and the wildlife.**



**Thank You!**



# Spring Fling



Spring is just around the corner.

**Make plans now to join friends and neighbors for a potluck dinner at the Lilly Barn on Friday, April 18, 2008.**

**Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m.**

**Bring a favorite dish. The event is BYOB.  
Setups will be provided.**

