

Laurel Valley Echoes

March 2004

Scribbles from the Board

This beautiful Laurel Valley has attracted people who have brought property for several different reasons. Some live here year-round in their only home. Others have a second home here and come when they can. A few live in the valley during the summer and in warmer climes in the winter. Some have property upon which they plan to build future retirement homes. Others have bought here as an investment and never intend to build, but eventually to sell their lots. Many have rental cabins on their lots as a source of revenue. Of course, some of these categories can be mixed. There is no reason common to us all for property ownership in Laurel Valley.

Your LVPOA Board is cognizant of all groups and tries to take no action that will harm the interest of one group while promoting that of another. We assume that people in any group want Laurel Valley to be a pleasant, well run place where property values will continue to rise.

By the same token, all property owners must realize that their interests and desires are not necessarily the same as those of other owners. I've heard people complain about being inconvenienced by contractors building on neighboring lots. Obviously, all property owners have the right to build on their lots. Those of us who have already built cannot shut the door on future construction. On the other hand, those placing improvements on their lots are bound by the Laurel Valley restrictions, which include no fires and no parking on the streets. Certainly your contractor cannot place building materials on someone else's

property or on the LVPOA right-of-way. Those building must insure that their contractor keeps building materials, dumpsters, portable toilets, trash, and supplies on the owner's property.

Some folks have also complained about renters. We must realize that people renting their cabins comprise the second largest group in Laurel Valley, with owners of undeveloped property being the largest. Those people have every right to make a profit off their investment.

On the other hand, people who rent their property are also bound by Laurel Valley Restrictions and are responsible for insuring that those to whom they rent abide by those restrictions. This means making requirements known to your rental agency. Some of the more common restriction violations by renters are parking on the street and "noxious, offensive, or illegal activities." No "lot shall be or become an unreasonable annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood." The property owners are responsible when their rental agency rents to frat parties, motorcycle gangs, or similar groups. We have never had a court rule on paragraph 4 of the restrictions, which states: "no lot shall be used except for single family residential purposes." And I hope we never will, for no one objects to renting to extended families, a group of adult friends, church outings, etc. We do, however, have to limit the offensive groups.

In the news area, a group of property owners on Hawkview and Blueberry Roads have formed a mutual benefit society to bring city water to their lots. Salomone Construction is doing the work. Apparently, such a scheme can have no more than twelve taps without becoming a utility district with its attendant problems. Basically the society had to get Tuckaleechee's agreement, pay for all construction and equipment, state that Tuckaleechee and LVPOA were not responsible for maintenance of the system,

and several other things. Any group interested in doing the same thing in your area is welcome to call me (448-9679) for specific details and document boilerplate.

It's time to be considering nominations for the LVPOA board. We'd like to have nominees who represent the community and are willing to work. Each board member has at least two jobs on the board such as dumpster maintenance, front gate decoration, security supervisor, or roads. So nominees must be willing to commit time and effort beyond a meeting once a month. If you would be willing to serve on the board or you have a friend (or enemy) you wish to nominate, send the name to Susan Pasquini, 448-1942.

Don't forget the annual meeting on 12 July. We'll send more information on it, its golf tournament, and its party later.

Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center

A longtime local dream is in the process of coming reality with the imminent groundbreaking of the Great Smoky Mountain Heritage Center, on Rte.73 near the Townsend entrance to the park. Its mission statement is "to preserve, protect and promote the unique history and rich culture of the residents and Native Americans who inhabited the East Tennessee mountain communities that were incorporated into the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and its surroundings."

Partners in the enterprise include the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Friends of the Smokies, the University of Tennessee, McClung Museum, East Tennessee Historical Society, TVA, and Tremont. Other partners are welcome.

This spring's ground breaking of Townsend's newest cultural attraction will lead to a 2005 opening. More than \$2.7 million of the necessary \$3.1 million has been raised. This money will fund a 15,000 square foot structure on three acres that includes the museum itself with its native American, early history, and temporary galleries, collection storage and fabrication shop as well as two classrooms, a store, and an auditorium. On site will also be historic buildings and a 500-seat amphitheater. Bob Patterson, an eminently qualified Colorado native who calls Tennessee his "heart-home," will be museum director.

Not only will artifacts found locally be displayed here, but all the relics and artifacts already found within the park area (now housed at Oak Ridge) will be brought here to showcase. So much material will enable the museum to have many sets of fresh, non-static, revolving exhibits on display. Director of Educational Programs Ken Voorhis expects to be able to share Appalachian history and heritage in a vital, unique and interactive way.

Richard Way of Walland is president of the Board of Directors and chief fund raiser. He and his wife Debbie are so passionate about these mountains, their history, and the people who have lived here that they attract enthusiastic support. Much of the amount raised so far can be attributed to Richard Way and those helping him.

And you can participate. The GSMHC Guild, whose purpose is to provide funding for educational programs and the exhibits, is always looking for new members. If you have a love of this area and its history and want to participate, just call Diane Headrick (448-2449) or Kathy Enos (449-9808). You will be welcomed with open arms!

The Guild's first annual **Heritage Happening – Up, Up, and Away!** will take place May 21 on the lawn of Heartland Chapel in Townsend under a huge tent. There will be a delicious buffet with background mountain music, followed by a silent and a live auction. Expect a gala affair with hot air balloons and many surprises. Although many invitations will be sent out, there will be room to seat only 250, on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be \$75 per person. To be assured of being on the mailing list, call Diane Headrick or Kathy Enos.

Donations are always welcomed, of course. All donations are tax deductible.

Mary E. Tippitt Library

Golf Tournament

It's time to sign up for the library's spring golf tournament at Laurel Valley Golf course. This is the major money earning activity for our local Townsend library and every golfer is invited to participate. The tournament is April 23, with registration beginning at 11:30, followed by a complimentary lunch at the Laurel Valley Golf Club. The shotgun start is at 1:00 pm. There will be door prizes as well as prizes for first and second place, closest to the hole, longest drive, and longest putt. A Ford Ranger is the hole-in-one prize. Cost is \$80 per player, with optional mulligan set for \$20. Pick up entry forms at the library, or call Tommy Enos at 448-9808. Come join the fun, and help keep our library strong and healthy.

Tuckaleechee Wildlife Center

Wanda DeWaard, environmental educator and researcher, is enthusiastic about the wildlife observations she made on a recent walk along the trails of the Tuckaleechee Wildlife Center. She's contagiously excited about the beavers and the unique wetland habitat they are creating along Laurel Road just outside the entrance to Laurel Valley.

The trail around the lake provides abundant evidence (tracks, scat, sound, etc.) of diverse animal wildlife: beaver, coyote, bobcat, skunk, raccoon, otter, crawfish, and chorus frogs. Actually observed were Canada geese, kingfishers, butterflies, ginger, wild alum, walking fern, pipsissewa and hepatica.

We are considering several options for engaging Wanda to provide Earth Kinship and Environmental Awareness programs for Laurel Valley property owners. For starters, Wanda has committed to lead a wildflower walk on Wednesday, May 5, at 10:00 am. It will follow the trail around the lake bed, which is mostly flat and about a mile long. The size of the group will have to be limited. Cost will be \$6.

In several places along the trail there are fallen trees that need to be cleared. Our good neighbors (with and without chainsaws) will join in a trail clearing day in early April.

Please express your interest (in either the wildflower walk or the trail clearing) to Janice Sullivan by contacting her at 448-1238 or jesully@prodigy.net.

First Annual Trout Fest

Mark your calendars now! The First Annual Townsend Trout Fest will be held at the Visitors Center June 5-6, hosted by the Little River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Throughout the weekend, you will see educational tents and demonstrations that include GSMNP Fisheries, TWRA, the Elk Project, Little River Watershed Association, and others. Saturday will feature a casting contest.

Vendors will be selling arts, crafts, and other products related to the outdoors. If you would like to be involved or get more info, email charitydesigns@bellsouth.net or visit our website at lrctu.org.

ROMEO

Reminder to the men: Thursday mornings at 8:30 the Retired Old Men Eating Out meet at the Back Porch to eat and chew the fat. Even those still working are welcome.

Lunch Bunch

Reminder to the women: the second Tuesday of every month is luncheon day. If you want to join the group, email Charity Rutter at charitydesigns@bellsouth.net. She will add you to the email that goes out each month with place and cost. Everyone is welcome!

Quincy Farms Garden Center

Once again Quincy Farms is offering a 20% discount to Laurel Valley residents. This applies to flowers, trees, shrubs, and inside knick-knacks. It's time to plant! We appreciate it, Quincy Farms.

Laurel Valley Spring Fling

Friday, April 16; 5:30 until...

The Lily Barn Pavilion

\$5 per person

Potluck—Bring a dish to share.

Soft drinks provided; bring

your own alcohol.