



**May 2003**

## **Annual meeting provides open forum, homeowners rise to the challenge**

Only a handful of Valley Creek homeowners were on-hand in March for the semi-annual VCHOA meeting. During the nearly two-hours of briefings and discussions much was accomplished.

Residents learned that Affordable H.O.A. Management Services has collected more than \$6,000 in delinquent dues. Pending are the lawsuits that involve another \$12,000 in unpaid dues.

Affordable also presented a budget for the 2003 business year. Total income is projected to be \$22,650 with expenses of \$22,503. Included in the budget are the costs of maintaining the common areas, repairs and repainting of the gazebo, utilities, insurance and snow plowing.

A special Beautification Committee was formed to look at possible designs for changes to the neighborhood entry off Cumberland. Those present strongly supported efforts to upgrade the appearance to be more in line with other developments in the area.

The committee members are: Dee Bailey (Chair), Sharon Waller, Army Brewster and Melynda Dodd. They are open to suggestions from homeowners. If you have ideas, please share them with a committee member. The committee will make recommendations to the Board by June. A budget of \$5,000 has been established for these efforts. These funds will come from collection of delinquent accounts. No construction or significant project will begin until the money from those delinquent homeowners has been collected.

### **Much to do about dodo!**

When homeowners had the opportunity to voice concerns a striking similarity seemed to prevail: household pet control. Too many residents report cats and dogs roaming loose. Perhaps this is the place for a simple reminder -- city ordinance requires pet owners to have control of pets at all times.

**Much to do ... continued from front page**

Another problem is pet feces. Pet owners who fail to maintain control of their pets create clean-up problems for others. Your neighbors are not happy when they must clean up after animals they don't own.

Still in the pet deposit area: clean your yards and lots of pet feces. Allowed to remain on the yard the decaying material breeds insects and attracts rats and other vermin. Further, when the wind blows, your downwind neighbors may not appreciate the odor.

Homeowners who want to call attention to a problem should contact Affordable H.O.A. Management Services, (317) 322-0596. Representatives of the management company will look into complaints and will contact health officials if necessary.

Still another pet disposal issue: some homeowners have been seen dumping their clean-up buckets in the ponds. This is a serious health issue. The water in these ponds drains into creeks and rivers. A dog feces pail dumped into the pond is just as bad as a pig farmer who lets run-off from his lot drain into public waters.

Pet owners please are responsible in caring for your pets. Keep them under your control. Clean up after them. And, if your dogs like to bark when outside -- limit their time outside so others can enjoy the evenings.

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***Troop Support signs appreciated***

E-mail message from a resident: "I just wanted to thank whoever put up the signs supporting our Armed Forces. I keep them in my prayers daily."

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***Suggestion that's on the ball***

A timely suggestion from another resident: "Please do not hit golf balls, tennis balls, baseball, etc., in your yard. They damage house siding, doors and windows."

**Dump the Junk Free!**

Now that the garage sale is over and the Easter bunny has hopped on down the trail it's time to dump the junk. The VCHOA will have a dumpster this weekend for you to use. No toxic trash please. You'll find the dumpster at the north end of Borgman.

## ***Parade time fast approaching***

It's the hottest event of the year for Valley Creek residents -- usually because it is HOT! The annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. This year it comes with a new twist -- it will be held on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.

So, maybe we'll call it an Independence Celebration Parade.

For seven years this Parade has been a 'must do' event for the kids of Valley Creek. Initial contacts are being made now with Warren Township Fire officials. We want to bring the colorful fire truck again to lead the way. This is a fun time for kids to ride bikes, trikes, scooters, etc. Children must have adult supervision.

Decorate your wheels in the best patriotic get-up you can design. Plan for a fun time celebrating our freedoms.

More details in upcoming issues -- but we want you to mark your calendars now. It's for the kids -- but adults have a terrific time too.

## ***'Tis the season to build***

With the return (finally) of warm weather we can expect a return to improvements to yards. A reminder: before you build a fence, deck, out building, retaining wall, etc., you must obtain approval from the Architectural Control Committee.

Affordable H.O.A. has a nifty form to expedite the process. You can get a copy by calling them and having it mailed to you. It won't take much time to complete. Soon you'll have the 'formal' approval to make the improvements.

The covenants and restrictions, which apply to Valley Creek, govern what the Committee will approve. Before you submit the form be sure to check out those covenants you got at closing.

***Entry fountain set to be running by weeks end. Pond treatments begin this week. Contractor will check every two weeks. New contractor promises noticeable difference this year.***

## **Try this cool tummy treat**

### **Grasshopper Milkshake**

2c - chocolate mint ice cream  
1/2 c - milk  
2 tbsp crème de menthe

Mix in blender. Pour into chilled glass. Garnish with an Oreo cookie.

Recipe from Melynda Dodds

### **VCHOA Board Members**

*President - Mike Miller - 891-9023*

*Secretary - Curtis Tinnin - 894-2059*

*Architectural Committee - Larry Green - 894-3933*

*Vice President - Richard Manthei -*

*Treasurer - Dee Bailey - 894-1096*

*E-mail - [valleycreekhoa@yahoo.com](mailto:valleycreekhoa@yahoo.com)*

*Loa on to VCHOA on-line at: [www/aeorcities.com/vallevcreekhoa/index.htm](http://www/aeorcities.com/vallevcreekhoa/index.htm)*

#### **Need Day Care?**

Day Care in my home.  
Valley Creek neighborhood.  
Terms and rates negotiable.

Call Denise Mahon 894-0032

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Vickie Frantz, PartyLite Independent  
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**The Grape Vine is an exclusive publication for the homeowners of Valley Creek Subdivision**