



The Grape Vine

A Publication of the Valley Creek Homeowners Association

June 2003

Patriotism is high in Independence Day parade While Ritter's Frozen Custard awaits at end



Mark your social calendar for June 28th. It's a Saturday and the annual Valley Creek community parade will be stepping off at 10 a.m. from the entry gazebo, with a unit from the Warren Township Fire Department leading the way. You won't want to miss the end of the parade treats provided by Ritter's Frozen Custard. You'll have to be there to get your share -- but we promise it will be worth your participation.

The parade makes a trip from the gazebo south to Valley Creek Way, west on Valley Creek Way to the gazebo and then around the north loop ending up back at the gazebo.

This parade is a fun time for all. Decorate your bikes, wagons, tricycles, and golf carts and other slow moving vehicles.

Parade Day was moved to the weekend before the holiday to give more residents the opportunity to take part.

Summer homeowner projects gain approval; ACC working for closer ties with Affordable HOA

Some of you have heard the whine of the circular saw working away on Valley Creek East Lane. If you've taken the time to walk where you can see the backyard -- the deck is a terrific addition to the home.

Congratulations to the homeowners who sought approval of the project -- in advance -- and then sailed (well sweat) through the project.

Plans for a fence at a home on Valley Creek West Lane are currently being reviewed.

The Architectural Control Committee is moving to establish closer ties with the staff of Affordable H.O.A. That's the management company hired by the Board of Directors to help collect more than \$10,000 in delinquent dues and to steer the actions of the Board and Committees to improve the overall appearance of our community.

More homeowners have been turned over to lawyers for collection efforts. Other homeowners have received reminder letters from the management company concerning the appearance of their lots and lawns. Summer is a busy time. Many homes are for sale -- and it is in the best interests of each resident to keep the 'old homestead' looking sharp. It's the first step to protecting the property value of your home and the other residents of Valley Creek.

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If you would like to receive your newsletter via e-mail ... send an e-mail message to: lpharris@att.net. In the subject line enter: E-mail newsletter. Please provide your name, lot number and of course your e-mail address.

The lot number is important because that is how the mailing labels are sorted. Giving us that information makes it easier to send you an e-mail and not spend first-class postage to keep you informed.

You can also read it -- and see the pictures in color at: www.geocities.com/valleycreekhoa/index.htm.



Gazebo Fixes Accomplished

No one could miss seeing the black Ford pick-up truck parked by the gazebo many evenings when returning home. The lone worker was Curtis Tinnin, a member of the VCHOA Board of Directors.

He started to just repair a few broken pieces and ended up putting in benches, a wheel-chair ramp and then painting.

Curtis had two happy volunteers help complete the project. Richard Manthei and Harold Wicks. Thanks Curtis, Richard and Harold for taking the action to begin the transformation of our main entrance.

Community entry improvement committee Seeks first impression impact

Valley Creek is a great place to live. The biggest 'rap' on the subdivision heard over the years is the plain, boring, entrance off Cumberland. A quartet of volunteers hopes to change that with improvements that will bring Valley Creek into compatibility with surrounding communities.

Dee Bailey, Melynda Dodds, Amy Brewster and Sharon Waller have been looking at other neighborhoods, taking pictures, and developing a 'look' for Valley Creek.

Three different design possibilities have been sent from the Committee to Affordable H.O.A. Management Services for price quotes. The Board of Directors has set a limit of \$5,000 for these improvements. The funds will only be approved after that much money has been collected from delinquent homeowners.

By the next newsletter the Committee hopes to have cost estimates and plans for a design to share with residents.

It's a big job for volunteers to tackle a project of this magnitude. A tip of the editor's hat to these four ladies -- and to all who work to make Valley Creek better.

Ponds taking shape, Owners' action now needed

Both the entry pond and the main lake are finally looking inviting. The new contractor is living up to the promise to get them clean and keep them clean.

So, don't forget, if you are a lake property owner your lot runs into the lake.

Take the time to pick-up plastic bags and debris that floats to your shoreline.

That empty pop bottle or slimy Styrofoam is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and it endangers the wildlife -- yes even the pesky Canada geese.

Still, it doesn't make sense for you to pay to have it treated -- then neglect your part of the solution.

Protecting your garden? Try this concoction!

"Hit the Trail Mix"

From Jerry Boher

This spicy concoction will make any critter high tail it away from your garden.

4 tbsp dry mustard
3 tbsp cayenne pepper
2-tblsp chili powder
2 tbsp cloves
1 tbsp Tabasco sauce
2 qts warm water

Mix all ingredients and sprinkle around the perimeter of your perennial bed.

VCHOA Board Members

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Log on to VCHOA on-line at: www.geocities.com/valleycreekhoa/index.html

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