



The Grape Vine

Fall / Winter 2004

Another Great Parade

There was a delay in kicking off Valley Creek's annual Independence Parade on Saturday, June 26th, but the mild weather made it an enjoyable opportunity to visit with neighbors. The fire truck, which we confirmed in writing, was out of service and no substitute or notice given to the HOA. Fortunately, Valley Creek resident Rich Mahon, jumped into action to find us another truck and Warren Township Station 445 was available to answer the call!



Engine 445 and HOA Secretary Curtis Tinnin, on his Harley Davidson, lead the parade with dozens of Valley Creek neighbors waving red, white, and blue right behind. Rich Mahon followed in his police car to put an exclamation mark on the whole procession.

Afterward, we all munched on hotdogs, soft drinks and snacks. New this year was the Sponge Bob relay. Although adults were invited to participate, youngsters filled the field of four teams that competed to fill buckets of water with the help of "Sponge Bob". All competitors were given Ritter's Courtesy Cards, donated by the Ritter's store on Pendleton Pike, and the team that moved the most water was awarded a \$5 Target gift card for each team member.



Thank you to everyone who came out to march and all those who cheered them on. Thank you Curtis Tinnin, Sharon Waller, and Dave Waller for the many preparations and tasks you performed to make the parade happen. Thanks also go out to Lee Harris for supplying the miniature American Flags; Julie Green for picking up the food, drinks, and ice; Randy Everman for donating the Snyder's flavored pretzel pieces; Warren Township Fire Station 445 for bringing the noise and flashing lights; Rich Mahon for bringing Fire Station 445; and Ritter's Frozen Custard for the courtesy cards. A special thanks goes out to the young men who helped clean up at the end of it all. It was nice to see young people volunteering to help, especially when it was time for clean up!

More Great Events?

Several neighbors have suggested we need more events, like the parade, to allow neighbors to mingle and get to know each other. Cookouts, playing cards, and golf outings are just a few of possibilities. While the HOA Board and Architectural Committee are evaluating ways to make this happen, we urge everyone to take advantage of the opportunities we *do* have. Seasonal decorating, garage sales, annual meetings and of course the Independence Parade are great opportunities to meet your neighbors until more organized events can be planned.

Get with your neighbor and volunteer to organize an event. It will be fun!



Holiday Decorating

Saturday, December 4th has been selected to deck the gazebo in lights. Hopefully the weather will be accommodating and we've pushed the time out to 12 noon to see if more people are able to participate. This is really a great time to meet and visit with neighbors. Refreshments will be ordered when we see how many of you come out to help.

If you are storing any of the neighborhood decorations, please bring them on December 4th or contact Larry Green to arrange pick-up of the items.



Help Wanted

The Valley Creek Home Owners' Association Board of Directors and Architectural Control Committee have a few vacancies we would like to fill. We are currently working with a skeleton crew, with current members serving multiple roles. The tasks aren't difficult, even when doing double-duty, but the neighborhood could be better served if more people participated.

We are currently seeking a Board member, a Treasurer, an Architectural

Committee member, and someone to help with the newsletter.

Your participation is needed and required to keep this neighborhood a decent place to live. It won't be difficult or take a lot of time and the current Board members will be around to help if you need it.

If you or someone you know is interested, contact Larry Green at 894-3933 or any other member of the Board or Architectural Control Committee. Our success depends on you.

REMINDER: Monthly Board meetings are open to residents; just call ahead so we can save a seat for you.



Association Dues

Everyone should have received invoices for association dues by now. Your payment should have been received by October first to avoid late fees. If you have not received an invoice or have a question about the amount, please contact Mundi Cox at Affordable HOA, phone number 885-7462.

Dues are required to fund the maintenance and improvement of common areas. Dues also pay for the association's management company, street lighting and snow removal.

Collection of back dues is going well, although recently we have had to accept a loss on a couple foreclosures and bankruptcies. Financially, the Association is healthy and we have managed to start saving for a new entrance sign for the neighborhood.



Crime Watch

ALERT: The police are looking for a black male that has been cruising East-side neighborhoods on a scooter. This man has been stealing out of unlocked homes and garages. He has been seen so frequently, that many Valley Creek residents believed he lived here. Please notify the police if you see this person.

WRTV reported a rash of car break-ins around Indianapolis and Valley Creek was not spared from the scourge. Several cars had loose change and CDs stolen from them. It is believed that all of the cars were unlocked. The police have arrested five Lawrence juveniles for a string of 15 break-ins in the Fishers area, but it is not known whether they had anything to do with the Valley Creek break-ins. Keep your car doors locked and valuables out of sight; More importantly, report suspicious activity and ALL crime to the police. Your participation can help prevent or at least shorten the next crime spree. It is very important that you report crimes to the police, no matter how small. This allows the police to evaluate trends to help serve us better.

Call the police immediately if you see ANY suspicious activity. Dial 911 if you witness a crime, or if the activity looks eminently dangerous to people or property.

For other calls, the Marion County Sheriff's Department serves as our local police and they can be reached at 327-3811.

A small group of neighbors, including our Crime Watch Coordinator Curtis Tinnin, has begun cruising the neighborhood during the evenings warning neighbors of local incidents and keeping an eye on the neighborhood.

THANKS! We would like to thank all of you that keep your outside lights on over night. It is a simple and effective deterrent to crime. Some research has shown that operating a 60-Watt bulb from dusk until dawn costs approximately \$8.76 per year. This is nothing compared to the loss of

possessions or the threat to your personal safety! Please be diligent in safeguarding our homes and neighborhood.

If you have questions about Crime Watch or are interested in helping with Crime Watch, contact Curtis Tinnin at 894-2059.



New Entrance Sign

A new entrance sign is in the works for Valley Creek. It won't be big stone walls on both sides of the entrance, but it will be much nicer than what we have now.

With some direction from Affordable HOA, we are applying for a city grant to pay for a sign to be installed on the median of Valley Creek Way, just off of Cumberland Road; the sign will be much closer to the ground; and eventually include landscaping and lighting.

The long-term plan is to build a grand stone entrance, but it will be a few years before we can save that kind of money.

To give you some idea of the cost: the labor alone on the stone walls at the new RossWood subdivision on 21st Street was \$12,000!

The grant requires some community involvement, usually labor for landscaping, so we will keep everyone posted on the progress.



Newsletter Articles

We are interested in your input for the newsletter. If you have something to share with your neighbors or just want to congratulate your child for good grades, let us know and we will try to get it in the next newsletter. Contact Larry Green or Melinda Dodds to contribute to the newsletter. Submissions may be edited for space and/or content.

T h e G r a p e V i n e
F a l l / W i n t e r 2 0 0 4

Val E. Coyote

A coyote has been sighted between Valley Creek, and I-70.

There are no documented reports of an attack on human by a Coyote in the State of Indiana, but there have been numerous reports of small pets being injured or killed by coyotes. Below are some recommendations to keep the coyote from being a problem in our neighborhood.

1. Do not leave small pets unattended.
2. Do not leave pet food outside.
3. Use trash containers with locking lids.
4. Don't feed Coyotes on your property.
5. Remove excess brush and vegetation from your property.
6. Whenever possible, coyotes should be harassed or scared to condition them to avoid humans.
7. Ripe fruits and vegetables should be covered at night.



Association Contact Information

Mundi Cox, Affordable HOA..... 885-7462
Larry Green, Board President & Treasurer
..... 894-3933
Curtis Tinnin, Board Secretary & Crime
Watch Coordinator..... 894-2059
Bob Findley, Architectural Control
Committee Chairperson..... 894-2583
Sharon Waller, Architectural Control
Committee Member 894-2291



Dates to Remember

Saturday, December 4 at 12 Noon
Decorate the gazebo
Saturday, January 23 at 12 Noon
Take down decorations (tentative)
Tuesday, March 1 at 7PM
Annual HOA Meeting
Saturday, March 26 from 8AM to 2PM
Spring Garage Sale (tentative)



Valley Creek HOA
c/o Affordable HOA Management Services
5208 Commerce Square Drive Suite D
Indianapolis, IN 46237