

Village Voice

Volume 1, Number 2, Second quarter, 2008.

Hi Everyone—This is the second issue of our new newsletter and we hope you find it informative and enjoyable. We want to thank all of you who took the time to let us know what you thought of the first issue. We did get one negative response however, but we are confident that this family will come around when they realize the current Board is sincere, consistent, fair, and definitely wants to do right by you –all of you!

Across the Board

At the last meeting (5/20), a handful of Villagers gave ear to the Board's struggle with Village problems -- singly, not a big deal, but collectively, a headache -- especially since all the Board members are volunteers and the time is theirs. Flash summarizing a few of the more important agenda items:

- a. Vandalism of a water valve shut down sprinklers at the pool area, which in turn starved new plantings of water. All has been fixed and time will tell if the plantings will recover or need replacing. Vandals, however, remain at large.
- b. The Board is obtaining quotes to have mulch added to the pool area and perimeter wall.
- c. Vandalism. This time again to the pool skimmers, which required replacement. Board is reviewing preventative and preemptive actions.
- d. Analysis of the Association Reserve Accounts will be undertaken to determine if, and when, expenses will intercept income.
- e. ACC Chair reported having reviewed vinyl fencing from a new vendor and gave it temporary approval. Five homeowners on Oxford have opted to go with the new vendor. Many thanks to Darryl Cirel for identifying the vendor.
- f. Summer schedule for the pool was reviewed and "water" temperature brought on a "heated" discussion. Final vote was to raise the pool temperature to 82° with the belief that the summer noonday sun will kick it up a few more degrees. The efficiency of the heater was questioned and will be tested. Bill, our Board President, is of the mind that if the pool is to get used, the water temperature has to be more comfortable.
- g. Concern was expressed over tree limbs and bushes leaning on the perimeter wall. It is feared that in time the trees may cause damage to the wall base. The ACC was asked to contact affected homeowners for an amiable solution.

Also at the 5/20 Board meeting, a member participation procedure was tried to give homeowners a 1½-minute discussion period at the beginning of the meeting and repeat the same time allocation at the end of the meeting for a second opportunity to comment on the proceedings -- a nice change. This hopefully will encourage more of you to come out and be involved. This is your Village. The Board will listen. Next meeting: August 19.

When Parking Gets Personal

Back 30 years ago, you opened the solid swing up garage door and found something extraordinary inside -- a car. You wouldn't want to open some garages in the Village. The junk inside has exiled the car to the curb and a source of boundary battles between neighbors. Admittedly, the street is Village Common Area and yet is perceived by some homeowners as their private domain. As more cars vie for a finite number of spaces, caustic exchanges will occur. The root cause is irrational because why would one put an expensive car on the street and store \$500 worth of junk in the garage? You tell us.

Watching Out

The Neighborhood Watch Program has been put into effect and we ask that everybody keep an eye out for unusual or suspicious activity – So if you see something that ain't right -- call **744-7444**.

Gold Coast Was Hot for a While!

In late March, their overcrowded three-story building caught fire. Fortunately, the files were saved but the building became uninhabitable. Gold Coast found temporary quarters on Katella Ave. and has continued servicing us uninterrupted. All phone numbers and URL stay the same, albeit medium rare.

Dog Poop Poem Poops

Sorry to report we got no submissions for poems in response to Bill's challenge given in our last newsletter. Sorry to report that dog poop continues to show on our sidewalks and lawns. However, in all fairness, we would like to thank the many of you who walk dogs, are considerate and sensitive to the problem, and pick up after your pet. Hail to you pooper-scoopers!

Rules and Regulations Amendments

Don't know why general improvements have to be hard fought – guess it's the democratic way. The Board has proposed two Amendments that will be mailed to you by Gold Coast and require a mandatory 30-day written comment period (from you, you and you) -- so -fill in the accompanying response form and mail it back to Gold Coast. After the 30-day period, the Board will vote to debunk or make the Amendments official. Your comments (or lack of) will make a difference. Help them make the best decision for the Village – respond!

Sprinklers

Grass sprinklers can be very frustrating. They twist, clog, pop off, or water more area than you'd like. The Board wants to thank the many of you who give the sprinklers the TLC needed to maintain a green lawn with minimum run off. Let's all try to prevent brownout and washout. Show your pride in the Village.

Oh, The Web We Spin

You have seen the unsightly dark patchy webs on the side of our houses. Well, this is the home of the stucco spider (a member of the *oecobiidae* family – impressed?). It is very small, measuring no more than 3mm, gray to clear body and legs – almost too difficult to spot. It moves very fast and is incredibly good at hiding in pitted stucco holes. It survives best on sheltered walls. The spiders' eggs hatch when warm weather arrives. The hatched spiders climb to the highest point and begin spinning dry lines. The moving air pulls the threads and carries them into the air to a new surface, which they will then call home. There it makes a flat, disk-like web with singling threads to catch prey such as ants. It usually hides in protected crevices under the web. The web is not clearly visible until coated with dust and dirt. Washing down the walls may remove the web, but the spider will most likely survive to build again. In fact, washing usually creates even better crevices to hide in. The reason a new coat of fresh paint appears to get rid of them is because it fills in the crevices, thus eliminating hiding places for the spiders. Exterminators tell us that the best way to control the spiders is to spray the web profusely with insecticide so as to penetrate the underlying crevices. If everyone sprayed, and washed down a few days later, the problem of dirty web spots could be eliminated for good. The idea leaves our heads spinning! This is as much information as we could find. If anyone knows more on how to get rid of them, please let us know and we will share it.