

## Dorset Glen Summer 2007 Newsletter

Message from the Board President:

I hope this newsletter finds everyone healthy, happy, and ready for a holiday on the 4th! I will be brief because we have a lot of news to report. After reading the newsletter I hope you will feel, as I do, that our Dorset Glen community continues to improve each year and our future is bright. Your Board members, Nupur Bires, Cathi Brownfield, Rick Larosa, Katie Levesque, David Merrell, and I continue to volunteer our time to do Dorset Glen business.

I would like to take this opportunity to make one urgent request of residents. We have had to remove over twenty trees in the past year, in part because they didn't get enough water. I appreciate the increasing number of residents that do make an effort but if I could encourage you to help out during these drought conditions, we will all benefit. Please let our Property Manager, Nicole know if you are willing but just don't have a hose. We can get you one.

In closing, here are a couple of lines from an article titled, So You Want to Buy a Condo? which it won't hurt to hear again; "Condominium living is not for non-conformists. The source of a condominium's resale value lies in the well-kept and uniform appearance of the entire project." While we all have to conform to some extent, it really comes down to being considerate of one another, especially at this time of year when we are outdoors more, our windows are open, and we are celebrating summer. Let's all work together to make this a good, safe, friendly community where all residents will want to live.

Rob O'Brien

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The Dorset Glen Association held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting on Tuesday April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Hilliard Community Center from 6:30 – 8:30. Besides the Board election, Nicole Scherer, our Property Manager went over our financial statements, and a power point presentation created by Cathi Brownfield went over DG history, improvements, and changes to our rules and regulations handbook.

**NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS:** At our annual meeting, four Board positions were up for election. Cathi Brownfield, David Merrell, and Rob O'Brien were reelected to the Board and Katie Levesque was elected for her first term. Thank-you all for **volunteering** your time. We also want to thank Margot Alloway, who resigned from her Board position after serving as our secretary for over two years and thirty something meetings. We appreciate all of your time and effort over the years Margot.



**WEBSITE:** Thanks to our newest Board member, Katie Levesque, Dorset Glen now has a website available to residents. <http://dorsetglen.blogspot.com> The purpose of this website is to keep residents informed quickly when important things are happening in our community. There are also links to electronic forms such as the comment/complaint, exterior/landscape modification, rental application form, as well as the most recent handbook of rules & regulations. If you would like to be notified when new posts are created, please submit an email request to [kt\\_gobucks@yahoo.com](mailto:kt_gobucks@yahoo.com) with your name and property address.

**NEW HANDBOOKS:** By now everyone should have received an updated handbook of rules & regulations. While ten or so were signed for at the annual meeting, your board members delivered about thirty to residents doors. Twenty two still had to be sent certified mail with return receipts but we did save \$215.20 by our efforts (40 X \$5.38). Please review your new handbooks as phone numbers and a few rules have been updated to address issues that have arisen over the past two years. You can also find the latest version on the new web site. <http://dorsetglen.blogspot.com/> A special thank-you to Cathi Brownfield who did the layout & design, and also worked with the printer on this revised handbook.

**REAR ENTRY:** The rear entry landscaping project was completed the first week in April, just before the cold snap, and we are still hoping Darby Creek Nursery will do some necessary nursing. We have not paid them a cent yet and won't until we are satisfied with the job. Thanks to Cathi Brownfield for keeping it watered during what is now being called a "moderate drought".



**NEW TREES and TRANSPLANTS:** Towards the end of April, three October Glory Maples (2.5" trunk diameter) were planted on the west side of the development. One between buildings 6 and 7, one between buildings 7 and 8, and the last on the north end of building 8. In a few years they will be great shade trees and provide some fall color. Four Prairie Fire Crabapple trees (1.75") were planted at the same time. Two each between buildings 6 & 7, and 7 & 8. Five evergreens that were displaced were transplanted to the west boundary with the Municipal Park, as were four other evergreens that had been planted in poor locations on the east side. Please see neighborhood guide on the web site for references to Dorset Glen buildings.

**TREES REMOVED:** Fourteen maples were removed in June from Dorset Glen. Most were infested with "shade tree borers" that had bore holes under the bark and slowly killed them. At least a dozen other maples were treated with an insecticide. June and July is the time to apply the insecticide because this is the time when the insect is laying its eggs on the tree trunk. Most shade tree borers can attack only dying or stressed trees. Stress can be the result of injury, recent transplanting, or drought. Our landscapers will keep a close watch on this menace.

**LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE FORMING:** If you are interested in joining the landscape committee please let Nicole Scherer know by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**THANKS for WATERING:** As we head into July already in "moderate drought" conditions the Board would like to thank those residents that we see using their sprinklers and hoses to water lawns, trees, and bushes. Unfortunately, we don't have an irrigation system. We did look into it and when you have 6 of your 12 buildings virtually on an island surrounded by asphalt, it becomes far too expensive. As a result, of course we will be careful to plant only hardy plants and trees but even they take time to establish root systems to reach a water source. If we can water them until they can get to that point it will be worth it. A special thanks to Cathi Brownfield for keeping the new entryway watered and Rob O'Brien for keeping the new maples, crabapples, and transplants watered on the west side. **THANKS AGAIN TO EVERYONE!**

**TRASH:** As you are well aware by now Waste Management is now picking up our trash on Thursdays. This was their decision but we are pleased that we are now picked up the same day as our neighbors at Darby Park.



**CHARCOAL, GAS, or ANY OPEN-FLAME GRILLS:** As we prepare for BBQ's over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and beyond we would urge families in our community to take safety precautions when using their gas grills. **Use of a charcoal, gas, or any grill in your garage is an obvious fire hazard.** The Board would encourage residents to report this violation to the Property Mgr. immediately. Residents in violation will receive a letter of warning, a \$25. fine for a 2<sup>nd</sup> violation, and a \$50. fine for additional violations.

BBQ's are a great way to celebrate summer. By following the rules of fire safety we can ensure a celebration does not turn into a situation that endangers D G residents and their property.

**COMMUNITY DIRECTORY:** A directory can make us a closer community and a safer one especially when problems arise such as a sudden gas or water shut-offs, electric outages, fire, intruders, or other emergency situations. This is still on our "to do" list.

**DECKS and PORCHES:** If you are wanting to touch up your deck or front porch/garage trim, here is what you will need. The decks need "CFW – cedar stain" which can be found at Lowe's for about \$18.00 a gallon. The front porch needs "Coronado Maxum stain (base M2000-33 with a tint base of B-1 C-1" and can be found at Creative Paints in Dublin for \$21./gallon (ask for the contractor discount).



**"FOR SALE" SIGNS:** If you are selling your condo you may place a "For Sale" sign in your front & back windows. Signs are not allowed on your porch, front lawn, or any common area.

**STORM DOORS:** If you are considering installing a new storm door, **please** be sure to refer to your association handbook. There are fullview green doors recommended (Anderson "HD 3000 Fullview" & Larson Classic View Door or Larson Classic Self-Storing) that can be found at Lowe's or Home Depot. Residents are not limited to these choices but if you have something else in mind, be sure to check with our Property Manager before purchasing, to make sure it meets the criteria.

**OUTDOOR HOSE NOZZLES:** Could you please turn your water on to your outdoor hose/faucet for the Summer? You can turn it on from inside your basement and it will help us keep the community watered. Please turn it back off in November to help prevent your water pipe from freezing.

**LIGHT UP YOUR NIGHT:** If you're interested in adding some light to your front you can purchase a screw in light control for you outside garage lights. The light control (which contains a light sensor) screws into the socket and then the light bulb screws into it. Your outside lights will come on automatically at dusk and go off at dawn. Each light control costs about \$7.00 and several residents are currently using them.

**DRYER WARNING:** The VGL maintenance crew cleared a number of exterior dryer vents of lint last fall. Please be sure to keep your interior dryer vent clear also. If you don't know where

it is located on your dryer call VGL before you cause a fire. You can reduce the risk of fire by using the low setting on your dryer. And if you have a long dryer hose that loops several times behind or to the side of your dryer check that on occasion or even better, shorten it.



#### PET REMINDERS:

- \*Clean up animal waste **immediately!**      \*Use dog tablets if your dog is watering our lawns.
- \*Do not pin or tether animals without being present.
- \*Excessive or continuous barking is a violation. \* No commercial breeding.

**DOG TABLETS:** There are products available at pet stores which will reduce the acidity of your dog's urine. This may prevent your lawn from becoming bleached out in spots which will also prevent you from getting a bill from the landscaper when he has to reseed your lawn this spring. This product may be found under these names; "Green Grass", "Green Saver", "Green UM", and "Grass Guard". They are usually flavored so your dog will feel he/she is getting a treat.

**EXTERIOR and/or LANDSCAPE MODIFICATIONS:** Please become familiar with the Dorset Glen declarations and by-laws that your realtor had you sign prior to purchasing your condominium. Before doing any exterior or landscape modification please submit the proper form to the management company so costly mistakes can be avoided.

**EXPERTS NEEDED:** Please let a board member know if you have an area of expertise that could help this community (i.e. lawyer, landscaper, accountant, printer, employee discounts, etc.). We make every effort to be thrifty, cut corners, and save Dorset Glen residents (us) money. If you are able to help save the association money, you are saving yourself money too. Help if you can!

#### REMINDERS:

Comment/Complaint Forms (can be found in your handbook and online):

If you have comments for the Board or Property Manager or complaints regarding maintenance, noise, etc., please send your forms in to our Property Mgr. at VGL, Nicole Scherer, 6099 Riverside Dr. Dublin, Oh 43017 Phone (614) 889-6600 ext. 111 and fax # 614 889-9570

Rules & Regulations Handbooks:

Don't be afraid to refer to it for information and these forms; Comment/Complaint form, Exterior/Landscape Modification form, Application to Rent form, and Satellite Dish form.

Security Alarm Systems:

The Hilliard City Code requires that you apply biannually for a permit with the Hilliard Police Dept. if you maintain a police/fire alarm system (\$25.). You only need a permit if you're paying to have your alarm system monitored. The fee is waived for seniors.

Parking Decals:

If you would like a parking decal for a car you're continually parking in visitor parking, call the Property Manager. Visitor parking tags are also available if you have someone visiting you for an extended time.

Pond: No skating, swimming, fishing, or boating!