



THE BARK

The Greentree Village Community Newsletter
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Letter from the President



SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL FOR GREENTREE VILLAGE

**Needless to say,
we experienced a dangerous
ice storm!**

Generally, our area may see an average of three (3) snowfalls per year in excess of one inch, with the major of them in January and February. The severity and rarity of this storm, with the combination of snow, ice, snow and again ice, was more than most snow removal companies could handle. We have always contracted with our landscaping company, Valley Crest, to clear the snow once it has accumulated one-inch or more, but because of the combination of ice and snow, we soon learned that they were not equipped to handle this type of storm.

Series of Events

1. Valley Crest laid sand at 4:00AM on Wednesday morning and limited their plowing due to the ice on Wednesday afternoon to Silvervine Lane for emergency vehicles. Silvervine Lane is not part of our snow removal contract. This is a county road and because it is a secondary road, we were not sure when the VDOT plows would appear. Therefore, Valley Crest plowed at their expense.

2. After placing several calls to Valley Crest Wednesday morning, a truck arrived mid-afternoon. They barely broke ice on three (3) of our courts before night time fell, including the hill on Green Ash Drive (hill). They again laid sand on the courts and the hill specifying they would return Thursday morning. Most businesses and Fairfax County schools were closed Wednesday.

3. Valley Crest returned Thursday afternoon with the hope of clearing as much of the courts as possible but found their truck slipping and sliding due to the heavy amount of ice. They did not complete Green Ash Drive and Green Ash Court as requested. Some businesses and Fairfax County schools were closed Thursday.

4. On Thursday afternoon, VDOT drove their snow plows through only to keep their shovels raised. They did not arrive until after the 24-hour window specified by VDOT. We thank Valley Crest for clearing Silvervine Lane.

5. Once learning of the condition of Green Ash Drive, several calls were placed again to Valley Crest. A truck arrived late Friday afternoon to try and plow what they could from Green Ash Drive and Green Ash Court but to no avail--they could only lay more sand. They also laid salt on the hill. Fairfax County schools were closed Friday.

6. Between calls with Valley Crest on Thursday and Friday, several calls were placed to various snow removal companies, Richard's Tree Service and Accurate Towing, only to find out that snow plowing would not be available unless we were under contract and that any new contracts would not be considered until spring.

Again, it has been my experience that Valley Crest had done a thorough job in the past; however, this situation may have needed difference types of equipment and/or different types of treatments.

Many snow removal companies, after physically removing the top layer of snow, apply salt, sand and chemicals. We have always stayed away from salt and chemicals due to vegetation, children, animals, and realizing the severity of damage that these chemicals can do to our courts. Further, it was explained to me that because of the nature of this storm, and the way the snow and ice bonded, plows cannot move heavy layers of ice. Plowing companies will not plow when you have a half-inch of ice. Plow blades run over the top of ice instead

of scraping the snow off the roads. A grader has the ability to put down pressure. It forces the blade over the road surface which will assist in scraping off the ice but this will cause damage to your courts and is extremely expensive. Moreover, snow plows and graders can throw snow four to seven feet off the road, and not all of our courts have ample areas to do this. Iced conditions and plows become very dangerous and companies will not take the risk.

We, as members and the Board of Directors, have taken reasonable efforts to ensure the removal of snow and ice from our community. Therefore, due to the lack of equipment owned by Valley Crest, I, along with the Board of Directors, have agreed to seek a reputable company to provide snow plowing for the year 2007-2008. We hope to be able to confirm a contract by spring 2007. In advisement of this contract; the equipment to be used (determined by the size of each court), the type of substance to be used (including where and when to ensure the safety of certain areas within our community) and whether or not it would be feasible to include sidewalk clearing, will be outlined in the contract. Please keep in mind that salt and chemicals are far more expensive than sand. Sand does provide good traction, but does not assist in the melting of ice. In addition, sand remains on the courts and will be removed with a power wash in spring.

You Can Help!

1. When you are aware of a snow storm which is expected to be one-inch or more with freezing temperatures, it may be best to try and park as close to the curb as you can on Silvervine Lane. Since many cars are parked in the parking lots, it is very hard for a snow plow to do an effective job. Parked cars in the lots do not allow for much sun and does not allow the plow to turn around and remove the snow from the court effectively. In addition, VDOT will clear Fieldmaster Drive as a main thorough thru and not Silvervine Lane, and this may be your only escape route.

2. With snow on the ground, it is your obligation to clear your sidewalk adjacent to your lot within 24 hours of any significant snowfall. We do urge residents not to use salt as it will damage the concrete and any vegetation resulting in higher maintenance costs. There is a chemical called

urea, which is one of the elements of lawn fertilizer that works effective to melt snow and provide traction. In addition, it is beneficial for the vegetation along the sidewalk. It can be found at most nurseries and hardware stores.

3. Please lend a hand to homes where you know an elderly person resides as they are not capable of clearing their own walks. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. If you are elderly and find there is no one to assist you, please contact the Environmental Director at 703.650.9500.

Ultimately, the goals of any snow removal program are to ensure that residents have a means to enter and exit their property, which, in the Greentree Village area, does not include Silvervine Lane and Field Master Drive, and to reduce the risk of injury as a result of the snow and ice that may accumulate. Since snow and ice are generally considered an obvious hazard, residents must walk and drive with caution even over treated areas of the community.

Thank you!

For Interest: See Winter Tips under Environmental at www.greentreevillage.com, Homeowners Manual

Animal Control

NO PETS ARE ALLOWED IN THE ADJACENT COURT COMMON GROUND AREAS. Pet Walking areas and a map were provided to you in your Homeowner's Manual.

Recently, the Board has received many complaints regarding new owners that do not "scoop the poop" and walk their pets in the court common ground areas (mailboxes). In addition to being unsightly and odorous, animal waste contains bacteria that are harmful to the environment. Left on the ground, animal waste is washed from the surface by rainwater and ends up in a nearby storm drain. Storm drains are not trash cans! They are not, and do not lead to, wastewater treatment facilities. In fact, research shows that bacteria reproduce and multiply in storm drains. The storm drain is cut out



from the curb and has underground pipes that empty into a drainage channel, eventually leading to a stream or pond. There isn't a middleman to clean up the pollutants in the water. Everything the rainwater carries ends up in the stream.

- Scoop it up and bag it with the rest of your household garbage.
- Or scoop it up, and flush it down your toilet just like human waste.

Please do not dump anything down a storm drain!

More importantly, our children play in the common ground areas and it is very dangerous if they happen to slip and fall in your pets poop!

Any reported incidences will be acted upon immediately and a \$50.00 monetary assessment will be imposed on a per incident basis and you will be reported to Fairfax County, accordingly. Remember, your neighbors are watching as this has become a very serious infraction of our common ground areas and on the community. Please visit the Homeowner's Manual on the web site and click on "Pets." Pets should not be worked in the inner court common.

Personal / Garden Item Removal

Beginning the first week of April 2007 you are hereby notified that Valley Crest Landscaping has been contracted to remove any debris from beyond residential fenced property lines. All materials, including personal items, lumber, landscaping materials, compose piles, drainage hoses and firewood, will be removed. Nothing should ever be placed beyond your fence line as each case will be reported as an Architectural violation by Valley Crest and logged.

Please remove any materials that are placed in the common ground areas if you want to keep it. Trash should be placed in its location accordingly on assigned trash pickup days. Violation notifications will be enforced as Valley Crest will be assisting the Architectural Committee and this community in this endeavor. It is a costly responsibility to keep this community and its common ground areas clean and it is up to each and every one of us to assist in this effort.

Drainage tubes should be placed underground and covered approximately one to three feet and not encroached on someone else's property.

Satellite Dishes

All satellite dish installations must be approved by the Architectural Director. No satellite dish may be placed on fences or adjoining property walls. The community's position has been to place satellite dishes on roof tops or chimneys, out of view and respect for your neighbors. New Guidelines will be issued shortly in accordance with the new FCC Guidelines.

Drainage and Unwanted Water Problems

We are contracted with Dewberry & Davis to evaluate water drainage issues within the common areas of the community for recommended corrective actions. The Board expects to receive the report in the May/June time frame. Please email environmental@greentreevillage.net or call us if you feel you have severe water build-up in the common ground areas. Many of the areas found to date are caused by improper placement of personal home drainage tubes--sub pump tubes and extension make-shift pipes which are encroaching on the community's common ground areas and causing various problems to the community. CJB Engineers, a company that works closely with Dewberry, has suggested we setup a community meeting to discuss the types of incorrect drainage gutters, tubes and pipes they have found and how you can correct it in order to help protect your property, your neighbor's property and the common ground areas. If you are interested, we will have a sign-up sheet on the web site. If you do not access the web, please contact the Environmental Director for a sign-up sheet. Our drainage situation is a top priority to this community. With the expense we are going to incur to repair the common ground areas, it will not be sufficient if homeowners don't help!

Parking

The parking permits for Green Ash Drive and Sweet Spice Court have been distributed. All parking tags must be displayed in the proper location or **YOU WILL BE TOWED.**

Owner/Tenant Information

Again, if you have any changes to your Owner/Tenant Information Change of Address Form, please submit a new form to the Secretary. It is very important that we keep up-to-date information on our residents for contact and emergency purposes. This form can be found in the Forms section on the web site or you can request a form by calling 703.650.9500.

Homeowner Manual Updates

Please visit the GVCA web site for updates to your Homeowner's Manual. If you cannot get the information from the web site, please let us know and we will be glad to mail them to you. Changes and new information will be posted as of April 2007.

Verizon FIOS

Many Greentree residents are now converting to the new Verizon FIOS. Please make sure your Verizon installer secures the cable wires to your home. The Verizon field representative will be coming in April to ensure that all the wiring is secure otherwise "flapping wires" is an Architectural violation.

In addition, the fiber optic boxes installed by Verizon are rather large, but Verizon tells us the boxes can be no smaller, so, because of their size and location, we found some residents have planted a small bush in front of the wall box to maintain the aesthetic beauty of their home.

SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Spring Clean-up is **May 5** and since the dumpster was a big success, we will have it again this year. Please come out and help! CLEAN will be providing us with trash bags and other items to aid us with our efforts

We need your help! Fairfax County will provide the GVC with large black trash bags, clear recycling bags, hats, safety vests for roadside cleanup, safety tips, and an auto litter bag for each participant. The GVCA will provide PIZZA if enough people show up! Again, scheduled date for Clean-up Day is May 5, 2007 at 9:00AM. We will meet at

the Basketball Court. Please come and support your neighborhood.



GREENTREE ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Greentree Village Community Yard Sale will be held June 9, 2007 in the Open Field between Fieldmaster and Silvervine Roads. The YARD SALE hours are from 8:00AM to 2:00PM. Rain date will be June 16, 2007.

PLEASE DO NOT CONDUCT A YARD SALE IN THE COMMON GROUND AREAS AT ANY OTHER TIME.

Environmental Report

Spring Lawn Tips

Get the landscaping season off on the right foot with these spring yard maintenance tips. Bring your "spring cleaning" spirit outdoors and clean old mulch off perennial beds, lest they be smothered. Apply compost to beds and get new compost piles going. Make sure roto-tillers are prepared for tilling gardens.

- Spring Lawn Care Tip #1: Raking
- Spring Lawn Care Tip #2: Aeration
- Spring Lawn Care Tip #3: Liming
- Spring Lawn Care Tip #4: Overseeding
- Spring Lawn Care Tip #5: Fertilizing
- Spring Grass Care Tip #6: Applying Pre-emergent Herbicides
- Spring Grass Care Tip #7: Applying Post-emergent Herbicides -- Or Pulling Weeds
- Tip #8: Tuning Up Existing Lawn Mowers
- Tip #9: Buying a New Lawn Mower
- Tip #10: Reviewing Lawn Mowing Strategies

If you have bird feeders, please beware that rodents have been seen jumping out trees onto the feeders. These rodents also are being feed on the ground by the seeds that fall why the birds are eating. You can purchase seedless bird seed with help reduces this situation.

Recycling

The new recycling guidelines are now available online at www.greentreevillage.net. See Homeowner's Manual, Environmental Section No. 32. Click on Recycling Cheat



sheet that includes a one-page easy to print sheet.

AAA Trash Removal Services will offer up to three free recycling bins to residents of Greentree Village. **Please remember these bins and trashcans are not allowed in your front yard, side yard or beyond the fenced-in area of your backyard.** It is an Environmental violation to do so otherwise.

To contact AAA Recycling and Trash Removal Services about receiving recycling bins, call (703) 818-8222 or visit www.aaatrash.com.

Architectural Report

Spring is the season for cleaning up, fixing up and improving our homes and yards. Before you get started on your outdoor projects, please take a look at the Architectural Guidelines to be sure that what you have planned is in compliance. Even if you think it's a great idea and it couldn't possibly conflict with the guidelines, take a minute and fill out an Architectural Change Request Form. You can get immediate form approval by contacting the Architectural at architectural@greentreevillage.net, or by mailing to the Architectural Director in care of the Greentree Village address. Please remember to send your form in duplicate.

Also, take a look around your home and yard and do an inspection of your property. Take care of those maintenance projects and get things in compliance with the Architectural Guidelines.

The goal of the Architectural Committee is to help all of us to have a clean, well-maintained neighborhood, maintain our property values and maintain the quality of life for everyone in Greentree Village.

The next Architectural Walkthrough is scheduled for July 2, 2007.

Financial

The Quarterly Assessment for homeowners is \$257.50/Quarter including the Special Assessment. Total payments are due in advance on or before April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2007. Any assessments not received when due shall bear a late fee. A \$25.00 fee will be charged for all returned checks. Delinquent assessments are subject to collection by court action or property lien.

If you have any questions regarding assessments and financial reporting, please contact Samantha Wade, Treasurer either by phone at 703-650-9500 or by email at treasurer@greentreevillage.net.

Neighborhood Watch

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Neighborhood Watch Volunteers Needed. Please contact Neighborhood Watch Director at neighborhoodwatch@greentreevillage.net if you would like to sign up and/or attend meetings. Take an active part with your association—after all, this is your community!

How you can participate in neighborhood watch:

1. Citizen Patrol

Join with your neighbors in volunteering your eyes and your ears on a regular basis to watch your neighborhood and report anything suspicious to the Fairfax County Police Department. Thieves and vandals are likely to go elsewhere when they know Neighborhood Watch is "all eyes" for them!

2. Free Home Security Inspection

A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your home security. You can arrange for a free inspection at your convenience by calling the police district station nearest your home.

3. Property Identification

A Fairfax County Police officer will instruct you on how to properly mark your property so it can be identified and how to make an inventory of your valuables. Property identification discourages thieves and makes fencing of stolen property more difficult. When recovered stolen property can be identified, it can be used as evidence against the thief and also can be returned by police to its owner.

Next Neighborhood Watch Meeting: Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 PM at 6639 Summer Grape Court.

In Other News

Introducing GTV Online Forum

Visit the GTV Forum at www.greentreevillage.net and click on the "GTV Forum" link on the left. The GTV Forum is an online community tool where owners, tenants and property managers can share questions, comments and concerns. To write posts into the forum, you will need to create a username and password in the registration form. Without registering, you can only read postings.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY



Observed annually on the last Monday in May in most of the United States, in honor of the nation's armed services personnel killed in wartime. The holiday, originally called Decoration Day, is traditionally marked by parades, memorial speeches and ceremonies and the decoration of graves with flowers and flags, hence the original name. Memorial Day was first observed on May 30, 1868, on the order of General John Alexander Logan (statue in Washington, D.C. at Logan Circle) for the purpose of decorating the graves of the American Civil War soldiers who had died. It was observed on May 30 until 1971, when most states changed to a newly established federal schedule of holiday observance. Confederate Memorial Day, formerly a legal holiday in many southern states, is still observed on the fourth Monday in April in Alabama, the last Monday in April in Mississippi, and April 26 in Florida and Georgia.

School Holiday Closing

Fairfax County Schools will be closed for Spring break April 10 through April 14. Please be careful driving through our neighborhood streets as children will be playing outside. Please be exceptionally careful near the Tot Lots and Basketball Ball Court.

School closings during the 2nd Quarter include:

April 7	Student Holiday
May 28	Memorial Day Holidays
June 22	Last Day of School

Fairfax county school calendars can be found online at www.fcps.edu

Next Regular Meeting

The next GVCA Regular Meeting will be held on April 11 at 7:30PM. Location will be posted on the Community Bulletin Board near the Basketball Court.

Schedule for 2007 (also available online)

April 11 - Regular Meeting
April 29 - Neighborhood Watch Meeting
May 5 - Community Spring Cleanup Day
May 9 - Regular Meeting / TBA
June 9 - Community Spring Yard Sale
June 13 - Regular Meeting / TBA
June 16 - Rain date for Community Yard Sale
July 2 - Architectural / Environmental Walk Through
July 11 - Regular Meeting / TBA
July 15 - Neighborhood Watch Meeting

SERVICES / ADVERTISEMENT

If you would like to advertise your services or items in The Bark newsletter, post on the Community Bulletin Board or place in the Advertisers section on the web site, please submit your request in writing to either info@greentreevillage.net or mail to:

Advertising
Greentree Village Community Association
P.O. Box 2662
Springfield, VA 22152-0662

VOICES - BARK TALK

Contributions for publication and suggestions for THE BARK are always welcome. Please forward your editorial, news, pictures or classifieds to the Association mailing address in care of THE BARK or Email your request to thebark@greentreevillage.net.

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

Published Quarterly
thebark@greentreevillage.net

All correspondence, including Homeowner Assessments, should be addressed to;

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If you do not have access to our web site, please let us know. Our web site is constantly being updated.

Visit www.greentreevillage.net