



THE SHANNON VALLEY VOICE

Winter 2007 - 2008

A Message From The Homes Association Board

Another new year is soon to be upon us. It seems like 2007 went by in a flash. Warm weather turned to cold overnight. The ice and snow has covered the landscape making for beautiful trees and bushes but treacherous walkways and roads. The holiday lights are up making the neighborhood look festive for the season. We're just at the beginning of the Winter season but some of us are already looking forward to enjoying the warmer temperatures and the flowers and green lawns.

This time gives us an opportunity to look back and reflect on what has been accomplished. Shannon Valley Homes Association has been a thriving organization and has had exceptional leadership over the last few years. Tim Elliott has served as President of the Homes Association for the last 2 and a half years and has served with the Board prior to serving as President. Tim has decided that it time for him to pass on this role to another Board member. Tim's enthusiasm and willingness to serve, however, will continue and the Board looks forward to continuing with his legacy.

Over the years Tim and the Board's efforts have led to many significant improvements.

- We have managed to keep the Association Dues the same for the last 5 years. The Dues collection rate is exceptionally high at better than 98%.
- At same time as keeping the dues low we have managed to build a significant reserve in the budget. This reserve will allow us to continue to maintain the Dues at this low rate and to add significant improvements to the neighborhood. Troy Russell has and continues to do an excellent job as Secretary/Treasurer for the Homes Association.
- With the continued leadership of Vern Koeppen the Shannon Valley Common Areas have been well maintained. The current grounds maintenance contractor has been doing an excellent job of keeping the grass cut and beautiful fresh flowers at the entrances.
- The Neighborhood Service Days were cut short this last year due to bad weather. This opportunity to keep your neighborhood clean and fresh helps defray costs will continue. It's a great time to meet your neighbors and work for a common cause and have pride in where you live.

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- Quarterly recognition of residents with the Homes Award allows us to highlight homeowners that work to keep their home and the community looking good. That benefits us all.
- Social events continue to be an important part of the community. Traditional events such as the Easter Egg Hunt and the Fourth of July Parade have been joined over the last couple of years by the Traveling Gourmet Dinner, Golf Tournament, T-Bones Game and Oktoberfest. We're always looking for more things to add to this list and get neighbors together.

Even though there have been accomplishments and significant improvements there continue to be areas that need attention. The new Board hopes to improve and build in the following areas.

- Revisit the Long Term Plan. Update the Plan and identify and implement short term goals.
- Revitalize the Block Captains. We continue to have vacant Block Captain slots.
- Continue to highlight the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- Enhance and build better communication to the residents. Through the Web page, www.shannonvalley.org, Newsletter, Email discussion groups, and Email distribution lists.

The new Shannon Valley Board is looking forward to building on the past and to continue to make Shannon Valley "A Great Place to Live". Please access the web site and contact any of the Board members with your feedback and concerns. We really want and need you all to get engaged in your community.

Paul Wildgen
President

Newly Elected Officers

Congratulations to our newly elected board member, Paul Wildgen, who served on Shannon Valley's Board in 2005, and has been our webmaster in charge of communications. He joins Lori Kueker and Mike Starke, who are serving their second year, Brian Miles, third year, and Troy Russell, fourth year.

The following persons were nominated and elected as the officers of our Association for 2007:

President, Paul Wildgen
Vice President, Brian Miles
Secretary/Treasurer, Troy Russell
Grounds Maintenance, Vern Koeppen/Tim Elliott
Communications, Paul Wildgen
Social/Activities Coordinator, Kathy Ulm
Block Captain Coordinator, Lori Kueker
Administrative Assistant, Kathy Ulm

We have many others who are serving Shannon Valley, and everyone is welcome to participate in some way.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance Sheet

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	12/31/07 Budget
ASSETS						
Current Assets						
Cash						
Checking	\$ 3,506	\$ 6,085	\$ 3,474	\$ 2,401	\$ 8,127	\$ 2,500
Saving	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Capital Reserve	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!
Total Cash	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	\$ 72,854
Accounts Receivable	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 600
Notes Receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Assets	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	\$ 73,454
Fixed Assets	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL ASSETS	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	\$ 73,454
LIABILITIES & EQUITY						
Liabilities						
Current Liabilities						
Accounts Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Accrued Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Income Tax Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Short-term Notes Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Portion of L-T Debt Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Current Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Long Term Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mortgage Notes Payable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Equity						
Opening Bal Equity	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Retained Earnings	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	\$ 73,454
Net Income	\$ 66,910	\$ 55,496	\$ 45,974	\$ 37,505	\$ 27,840	\$ -
Total Equity	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	\$ 73,454
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	#REF!	\$ 73,454

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Income Statement

	Jan Actual	Feb Actual	Mar Actual	Apr Actual	May Actual	Jun Actual	Jul Actual	Aug Actual	Sep Actual	Oct Actual	Nov Actual	11/30/07 YTD Actual	2007 Budget
Income													
Current Annual Dues	\$ 47,229	\$ 3,606	\$ 5,910	\$ 418	\$ 196	\$ -	\$ 523	\$ 209	\$ -	\$ 209	\$ -	\$ 58,301	\$ 58,262
Garbage Fees	\$ 43,075	\$ 3,289	\$ 5,390	\$ 382	\$ 179	\$ -	\$ 477	\$ 191	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ -	\$ 53,174	\$ 53,138
SubTotal	\$ 90,305	\$ 6,895	\$ 11,300	\$ 800	\$ 375	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 111,475	\$ 111,400
Past Dues/Late Fees/Interest	\$ 614	\$ 334	\$ 1,909	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 190	\$ (16)	\$ 200	\$ -	\$ 3,531	\$ 2,000
Interest - Money/Market	\$ 215	\$ 306	\$ 368	\$ 365	\$ 354	\$ 340	\$ 350	\$ 307	\$ 266	\$ 127	\$ 109	\$ 3,106	\$ 3,300
Other Income	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ -	\$ 40						\$ 60	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 200
Total Income	\$ 91,133	\$ 7,586	\$ 13,577	\$ 1,305	\$ 779	\$ 340	\$ 1,500	\$ 897	\$ 250	\$ 787	\$ 109	\$ 118,262	\$ 116,900
Expense													
Contract Labor	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ 300	\$ -	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 600	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 3,300	\$ 3,600
Garbage Contract	\$ -	\$ 5,106	\$ 5,115	\$ 10,632	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,235	\$ 4,617	\$ 4,617	\$ 4,617	\$ 4,617	\$ 48,557	\$ 54,000
Landscape Contract	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,734	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,922	\$ 6,950	\$ 2,407	\$ 2,606	\$ 2,780	\$ 25,399	\$ 22,500
Grounds Maintenance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 74	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ -	\$ 44	\$ 425	\$ -	\$ 121	\$ 700	\$ 1,500
Storage Locker Rental	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 794	\$ 794	\$ 780
Utilities	\$ 99	\$ 67	\$ 33	\$ 86	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ 207	\$ 314	\$ 955	\$ 605	\$ 93	\$ 2,524	\$ 4,000
Meetings	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 628	\$ 628	\$ 750
CERT	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750
Social Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 182	\$ -	\$ 232	\$ -	\$ 534	\$ 1,128	\$ 25	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,000
Garage Sale Expense	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Insurance	\$ 3,828	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,828	\$ 3,820
Legal	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 56	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72	\$ 200
Licenses/Fees	\$ 93	\$ 60	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 75	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 227	\$ 450
Taxes	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 240	\$ 240	\$ 200
Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200
Office Supplies	\$ -	\$ 35	\$ 72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 107	\$ 50
Postage	\$ -	\$ 80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 146	\$ -	\$ 138	\$ -	\$ 139	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ 678	\$ 900
Printing - Newsletter / Directory	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 522	\$ -	\$ 397	\$ 12	\$ 338	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,268	\$ 2,100
Expenses before Capital Reserve	\$ 4,019	\$ 5,963	\$ 5,521	\$ 15,526	\$ 1,150	\$ 400	\$ 16,730	\$ 12,311	\$ 9,772	\$ 9,255	\$ 9,774	\$ 90,422	\$ 97,800
Capital Improvements Reserve													\$ 19,100
Total Expenses	\$ 4,019	\$ 5,963	\$ 5,521	\$ 15,526	\$ 1,150	\$ 400	\$ 16,730	\$ 12,311	\$ 9,772	\$ 9,255	\$ 9,774	\$ 90,422	\$ 116,900
Net Income	\$ 87,114	\$ 1,622	\$ 8,056	\$ (14,222)	\$ (370)	\$ (60)	\$ (15,231)	\$ (11,414)	\$ (9,522)	\$ (8,469)	\$ (9,665)	\$ 27,840	\$ -
Current Capital Reserve												\$ 32,467	\$ 51,567

HOME IMPROVEMENT CORNER

Easy Home Improvement Ideas 'Wow' Holiday Guests

As the holidays approach, many people begin to think about welcoming friends and family into their home to celebrate the season. Whether your cousin is flying from across the country or your in-laws are spending a day to exchange gifts, you want your house to look its best for your guests, especially the ones you only see a couple times a year. Minor home improvements can make holiday visitors think you've remodeled.

Everyone is busy, especially during the holidays. With limited time, sometimes extensive home improvements are not an option. To add a seasonal glow to your home, think of small updates that give clean visual appeal. These are the ones your guests are sure to notice.

- **A Welcoming Entrance**

The first thing guests see when visiting your home is the front entrance, so make sure it is friendly and warm. It's best to remove any clutter. This would be a good time to put away patio furniture or planters that are no longer being used and swap them with festive decorations. Replace light bulbs so your walkway and address are properly lighted. Finally, consider painting the front door so it looks brand new. Remember, the entranceway is your guest's first impression of the rest of the home, so freshening it up has a lot of impact.

- **Sparkling Bathrooms**

No doubt, holiday guests will use the bathroom. The good thing is that bathrooms can be transformed without a lot of hassle. First, look around at all the items that fill the counters and floors. Take the shampoo, lotion and makeup bottles and put them in cabinets or other storage areas. Without the disarray, your bathroom will look newer instantly.

Along with a fresh soap bottle, holiday guests will enjoy soft new towels for drying hands. Even consider investing in a new mirror for the bathroom. The update looks great and you can enjoy it long after the holidays. If you don't want to buy a mirror, paint the outside frame for a fresh look.

- **Small Painting Projects**

Forget about a complete painting overhaul and focus on the areas that visitors will notice. For example, how about painting the inside of the coat closet? Guests will be frequenting it as they come and go, and new paint will cover the dirt and scratches that accumulate.

Hallways are another common area for guest traffic. Because they often get nicked or scuffed, a fresh coat of paint will make them look new again. A pop of color in a hallway can improve every room it connects. Plus, painting a hallway is simple because there is no heavy furniture to move!

- **Decorative Details**

No need to purchase furniture and other major items for the holidays, simply spruce up the details. For example, in the living room, buy a new throw to put on the sofa along with several new pillows. An old couch is now transformed into something that looks updated and stylish. In the kitchen consider getting new dishcloths and towels. A few current accessories will make your kitchen sparkle.

Other details that modernize the look of a home include artwork and photos. Replace family photos in frames with new ones from the past year's activities. It's a simple change that will also inspire conversation. Children's artwork and other pieces on the refrigerator, bulletin boards, or walls can easily be replaced with newer options as well.

With these simple changes, you'll impress your holiday guests and still have time to enjoy the season.

This article is reprinted from the Handyman Matters Residential Newsletter, and contributed by Brian Miles, owner and operator of the local Handyman Matters franchise.

Did You Know ...?

A compendium of Christmas trivial trivia you couldn't live without.

- In the Thomas Nast cartoon that first depicted Santa Claus with a sleigh and reindeer, he was delivering Christmas gifts to soldiers fighting in the U.S. Civil War. The cartoon, entitled "Santa Claus in Camp," appeared in Harper's Weekly on January 3, 1863.
- Long before it was used as a "kiss encourager" during the Christmas season, mistletoe had long been considered to have magic powers by Celtic and Teutonic peoples. It was said to have the ability to heal wounds and increase fertility. Celts hung mistletoe in their homes in order to bring themselves good luck and ward off evil spirits.
- Mistletoe, a traditional Christmas symbol, was once revered by the early Britons. It was so sacred that it had to be cut with a golden sickle.
- In Victorian England, turkeys were popular for Christmas dinners. Some of the birds were raised in Norfolk, and taken to market in London. To get them to London, the turkeys were supplied with boots made of sacking or leather. The turkeys were walked to market. The boots protected their feet from the frozen mud of the road. Boots were not used for geese: instead, their feet were protected with a covering of tar.
- It is a British Christmas tradition that a wish made while mixing the Christmas pudding will come true only if the ingredients are stirred in a clockwise direction.
- More diamonds are purchased at Christmas-time (31 percent on average) than during any other holiday or occasion during the year.
- On average, more than three billion Christmas cards are sent annually in the United States.
- One notable medieval English Christmas celebration featured a giant 165-pound pie. The giant pie was nine feet in diameter. Its ingredients included two bushels of flour, 20 pounds of butter, four geese, two rabbits, four wild ducks, two woodcocks, six snipes, four partridges, two neats' tongues, two curlews, six pigeons, and seven blackbirds.
- Santa's reindeers are Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen.
- Silent Night was written in 1818, by an Austrian priest Joseph Mohr. He was told the day before Christmas that the church organ was broken and would not be prepared in time for Christmas Eve. He was saddened by this and could not think of Christmas without music, so he wanted to write a carol that could be sung by choir to guitar music. He sat down and wrote three stanzas. Later that night the people in the little Austrian Church sang "Stille Nacht" for the first time.

SVHA Communications

Can you hear me now?

A new year is upon us and a new year for the Board has started. One of the objectives of the Board this year will be improving and enhancing communications to and from the Association members. Most communication in the past has been through the newsletter and the web site. We are hoping to improve on that this year and we need your help. We have a number of your email addresses on file but we would like to have more. Having these will allow the Board to more quickly communicate with you. Letting you know of upcoming association events in a more timely fashion, asking for your input, getting your feedback on concerns and issues, asking for volunteers. These are all things that could be improved with better communication.

The newsletter and web page will continue to be a source of information but the newsletter is not always very timely and there is a significant cost to mail this out, and the web page is usually the most current information but everyone may not have access to this or remember to view it. Having email addresses will allow us to have a two way conversation on your specific issues and begin a dialog, to allow members to get more engaged in the neighborhood, participate in community discussions and let the Board know what your thinking so they can do a better job of meeting your needs and expectations.

When you get a chance check out the web page, www.shannonvalley.org and send an email to me, pwildgen@shannonvalley.org, or any of the Board members to share your email. All of our contact email addresses are listed on the web page.

We have also started an email discussion group. This will allow even more sharing of your thoughts and information with all association members. Join the Shannon Valley discussion group and get engaged in your neighborhood. Become a member of the discussion group by going to <http://groups.yahoo.com/> and searching for Shannon_Valley_HA. Become a member and start talking.

This is an open forum intended specifically for Shannon Valley residents. Any topic can be discussed.

We would really like to hear from you. Get engaged and make it happen.

Check out

<http://www.shannonvalley.org/>

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