

MILL CREEK

Homeowners Assn. Newsletter Spring 2006

ANNUAL MEETING

The Mill Creek Homeowner Association annual meeting on Wednesday, January 18, brought out a fair-sized crowd (the newsletter editor did not have her wits enough about her to count the actual number but there were at least 50 people present). The hottest topic that evening was the **mailbox question**: Should Mill Creek change its distinctive wooden mailboxes to a low maintenance plastic type of box? After a lively discussion a straw vote indicated the majority wanted to keep the current mailbox style, despite its susceptibility to weather and vandals. A committee is considering the best way to maintain and pay for mailbox upkeep.

Attorney Steven Blaine summarized the plans for the massive **Biscuit Run development** to be located south and west of Mill Creek. Between 2500 to 4200 units are planned (at a later public meeting an upper figure of 5000 units was mentioned), but the actual building of this 900-acre development could take as long as 10 years. As presented by Mr. Blaine, the Biscuit Run project appeared to offer generous amounts of green space, and 15 percent of the housing will be "affordable." However, Mr. Blaine said the project is still

evolving. It is of the size and magnitude of Forest Lakes and will profoundly affect the local traffic patterns. There is, therefore, a renewed focus on the development of Southern Parkway as a connector to Fifth Street.

Chris Zitnay resigned as president of the Homeowners Association. Two residents volunteered to serve on the board: Buck Klintworth and Bruce Ingersoll. We are grateful to Chris for all his contributions to the beauty and welfare of Mill Creek residents and grateful to Buck and Bruce for their willingness to help their neighbors.

For more details on the annual meeting, you can read Barbara Mann's minutes on the Mill Creek website: www.millcreekhomeowners.org.

NEW SPEED LIMIT

At the January annual Mill Creek HOA meeting a number of residents worried aloud about the 35-miles-per-hour speed limit on the top half of Mill Creek Drive. Residents on the curve found it dangerous to back out of their driveways. At subsequent board of director meetings the board decided to ask VDOT to reduce the speed to 25 miles per hour for

the whole of Mill Creek Drive. Barb Mann, HOA secretary, must have amazing persuasive powers because in March VDOT erected a **new 25-miles-per-hour sign at the top of Mill Creek Drive**. It may take all of us some time to adjust to this new speed limit, but thanks to VDOT and Barb Mann, fewer neighbors and mailboxes may get clobbered.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Co-presidents

Larry Jacksina 979-3989
Kevin O'Connor 244-0081

Treasurer

Kevin O'Connor 244-0081

Secretary

Barbara Mann 923-0411

Members at Large

Miles Weiss 951-9146
Bruce Ingersoll 293-6133
Buck Klintworth 295-0666

Architectural Committee

Larry Jacksina 979-3989
Buck Klintworth 295-0666

Grounds Committee

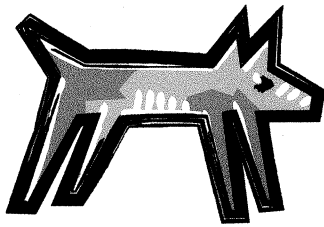
Barbara Mann 923-0411

Newsletter

Roussie Jacksina 979-3989

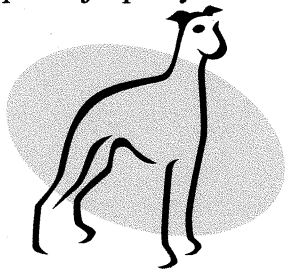
BOARD MEETINGS

Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30 pm, at Calvary Baptist Church on Avon Street across from Southern Parkway. All residents are welcome.



DOGS AT LARGE

While most dog owners in Mill Creek and surrounding communities are conscientious about controlling their canine companions, there are occasions where, either by accident or on purpose, dogs are found "running at large" in the neighborhood. When this happens, the safety of the dog and potentially the safety of other dogs and people are put in jeopardy.



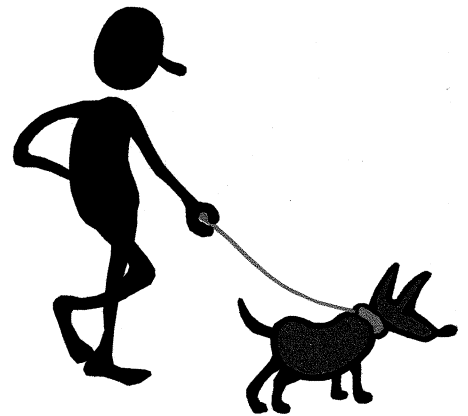
There are county ordinances that prohibit dogs from roaming the neighborhood unleashed and unattended. If a

dog is caught by a county Animal Control Officer, the owner could be fined as much as \$250. If the dog is captured running at large AND does not have a current county dog license, the owner could be fined an additional \$250. In either case, a dog apprehended by an officer will be taken to the S.P.C.A., which serves as our county dog pound.

A county dog license is easy to obtain and inexpensive. The yearly license fee is \$3 for an unsexed/neutered dog or \$5 for a sexed dog. And, the dog must have certification of a current rabies vaccination. You can obtain a dog license at the S.P.C.A., the county Finance Department in the county office building on McIntire Road, and the Scottsville Municipal Building.

If you see a dog running at large in the neighborhood, you can call 977-9041 and an officer will be dispatched to investigate. However, by the time the officer arrives, the dog may be long gone--either

back home or to some other part of the neighborhood. If you know who owns the dog, you can request that the officer speak to the owner. Unless you are familiar with the dog and are certain it will not attack you, it is not a good idea to try and apprehend the dog yourself. If you can take a photo of the dog running free, can identify the owner and are willing to be a witness in court, charges can be filed against the owner based on your testimony. But like most neighborhood issues, the best initial approach is to talk to the dog owner and urge greater care in restraining his or her pet.



NEW BOARD MEMBERS

At the annual meeting in January the Mill Creek HOA was fortunate enough to gain two new volunteers for member-at-large positions: **Bruce Ingersoll** and **Buck Klintworth**. Bruce has lived

in Mill Creek for seven years and says he likes the house styles and the number and variety of trees. He joined the board because he disagrees with some of its positions. That ought to make board meetings even more interesting. Buck, on the other

hand, has lived in Mill Creek a little over a year and a half. He volunteered for the board so he could find out what was going on and have a say in it. A third new member is teetering on the edge. If you're teetering, try out a meeting, see if you like it.

Mill Creek Notes: All the news that fits



PAINT COLORS

Barbara Mann is the keeper of the official paint colors for Mill Creek and she asked that the newsletter include the following:

Spring is a great time to consider painting your house and your mailbox. Regular painting will help preserve your cedar siding. Remember to contact the Architectural Review Committee if you want to change the color of your house. Detailed instructions and official colors for painting your house can be found on our website. The Board will be conducting a survey of Mill Creek mailboxes this spring and sending letters to homeowners whose mailboxes need repairs, are the wrong color or need a new coat of paint. We are working on identifying a person who will rebuild or repair our style of mailboxes. Contact Barbara Mann at 923-0411 or bjm2r@virginia.edu if you need this service or if you need mailbox paint. Mill Creek has **one official mailbox color**. It's "beige gray" on the Olympic paint

chart. Your mailbox color is not supposed to match your house color. Thanks!

NEW MILL CREEK ADDRESS BOOK?

In the past the Mill Creek board regularly compiled an address book of all those Mill Creek residents willing to be included, but there has not been a new one since 2001. Please let board members know if this would be of value to you by calling them or emailing Larry Jacksina at lju4ia@ntelos.net.

Speaking of emails, Larry Jacksina maintains a **Mill Creek email list**, which he uses only to alert residents about meetings or other important events. He promises not to clutter up your mailbox. Send him a message at lju4ia@ntelos.net if you want to be added to the list.

BISCUIT RUN PATH

Mill Creek resident Diane Bicknell kindly dropped off some old editions of the HOA newsletter. It seems some issues like mailboxes, parking and dog droppings are constant. Others shift over time. For instance in the January 1997 issue there is a short article about hunters who... "have been known to take aim at members of our abundant

deer population while in close proximity to Mill Creek homes, particularly those along Timberbranch Drive near Biscuit Run."

The article goes on to say "No Hunting" signs were posted in the woods along Biscuit Run and residents were urged to call the county police if they heard gunshots.

Nine years later the marauders are not so much hunters as all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). At a recent meeting two board members mentioned being deterred from their walk along the Biscuit Run path by a large number of ATVs that seemed to be coming from under I-64 at Fifth Street.

The police advised the HOA board to post "No Trespassing" signs in our woods to keep out hunters and ATVs. Once the signs are posted residents are urged to call the police if ATVs are sighted.

In the interest of being good neighbors, the board will send out letters to Foxcroft, Mill Creek South, and Lake Renovia residents that will alert them to our new signs and welcome them to use our trail as long as they observe the posted rules.

Spring Clean-up

The Rivanna Solid Waste Authority is a boon to anyone wanting to rid themselves of electronic gear or hazardous waste. This spring they're offering two opportunities to recycle that ancient computer or dispose of old pesticides.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 9-3:00 PM

Rain or shine you can bring your monitors/CPUs, televisions, console televisions and video games to the corner of Emmet Street and Massie Road (on the grounds of UVa) where a business specializing in the responsible recycling of electronics will be glad to take them off your hands. There is a fee for recycling some items (\$8 for computers, \$12 for TVs, \$20 for TV consoles, \$2 for games) but no charge for recycling other items such as keyboards, electronic mice, cellular phones and printers. Hours are from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. You'll be cleaning up your house and the environment at the same time.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE SATURDAY, MAY 6, 9-2:00 PM

On this day only, between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm, you can drive out to the

Rivanna Solid Waste Authority Materials Utilization Center (try saying that three times without stumbling), a/k/a the Ivy Landfill, and drop off FOR FREE:

- acids
- gasoline
- kerosene
- adhesives
- pesticides
- household cleaners
- floor and furniture polish
- paint-related products and solvents
- batteries
- antifreeze
- motor oil

To get to the Ivy Landfill take I-64 west and get off at exit 114, the Ivy exit. Take Route 637 west, go approximately four miles, the Materials Utilization Center is on the right.

For questions on either of these events call 295-3306. The RSWA offers all sorts of opportunities to dispose of waste as well as recycle paint, building materials, computers and non-upholstered furniture. Check out their website at <http://avenue.org/rswa/home.html>.