

Dominion Club News

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Snow Blowers Well Received

In past years, snow accumulations over two inches were removed from the driveways of our homes by scraping with a Bobcat front loader bucket. This method caused scrapes to the driveway sealcoat and at times caused damage to curbs and lawns. Such damage caused some homeowners to ask to be added to the "no plow list".

This snow season, to alleviate homeowners concerns about damage, the snow is being removed from the driveways by snow blower and shovel. This method will be used until we get a big storm that dumps six or more inches of snow. For the larger accumulation of snow we will return

to using the Bobcat but with instruction to set the bucket at a shallower angle to minimize scraping of the sealcoat. To date, the preponderance of comments about snow removal has been positive. Of course, we have not had a big snow yet.

It is the homeowner's responsibility to check their property for damage after each snow removal. Report any damage to Dave Ewing, 614-933-9017, ewing_david@sbcglobal.net, within 72 hours of the snow removal. Timely reporting is critical to having the contractor's warranty cover repairs.

Party Schedule for 2010

The Dominion Club Party Committee has scheduled six parties for the 2010 Calendar year as follows:

February 13 - Valentine's Day Dinner at the Rise & Dine Restaurant. Invitations will go out on Feb. 1st. Look for yours on "Evite."

April 23 - Couples Bingo Night at the Dominion Clubhouse. Everyone is invited to come and have fun at Bingo. There will be prizes and you will have to buy bingo cards. The money will go into the prizes. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. You may BYOB.

June 25 - Hawaiian Luau at the Dominion Pool. We will be serving Brats and Burgers.

August 27 - Western Cookout

Weenie Roast at the Dominion Pool with open pit fires to cook your own.

October 22 - Supper Club Party at the Dominion Clubhouse. A Catered dinner will be served.

December 10 - Christmas/Holiday Party at the Dominion Clubhouse. We will have a potluck supper.

Other activities to be scheduled:

A night at the Columbus Clippers BB game.

A gathering at the Columbus "Picnic with the Pops".

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Mark your calendar now for upcoming Dominion Club parties - don't miss all the fun!

- ◆ Valentines Day Dinner, Feb 13, 6 PM, Rise & Dine
- ◆ Bingo Night, Apr 23
- ◆ Hawaiian Luau, Jun 25
- ◆ Western Cookout, Aug 27
- ◆ Supper Club Party, Oct 22
- ◆ Holiday Party, Dec 10

DCHA Quarterly Meetings

- ◆ April 15
- ◆ July 15
- ◆ Oct. 21
7 pm Clubhouse



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January 21 Quarterly Meeting Report

Board President Dave Ewing presided over the quarterly meeting of the Dominion Club Homeowner's Association. 28 Residents including the Board were present. Five residents submitted questions for the board on three topics – 1) status of the census and policy regarding the 55 plus rules, 2) the board policy on snow removal for residents behind on their monthly dues and 3) a request for more detailed financial information.

Sue Stradley, Treasurer, reported that the 2009 year end reserve fund balance is \$25,536.23 and the operating fund balance \$3116.91. The operating budget for 2009 was \$138,060 and, thanks to no snow cleanup charges in December, the actual expenditures were \$138,080.11.

It was necessary to raise the homeowner's monthly assessment for 2010 from \$120 to \$130 per month because 1) the 2010 budget is based on income from 96 homeowners instead of 100 as in the past and 2) a need to temporarily increase the contribution to the reserve fund.

Tom Rocco our lawyer reviewed the settlement terms for the Oen's lawsuit against the DCHA. Residents may contact a board member for details of the settlement terms.

Jim Burt, Board Chairman, reported that four residents are behind in their monthly assessments, one for 4 months, two for 10 months and one for 17 months. All four properties have liens in place. One home was scheduled for a sheriff's sale on 1/22/2010. Outstanding fees for all four amount to \$6,637.72.

Regarding the questions on relaxing the 55 plus age restriction, Jim Burt read the guideline from the DC Handbook (first paragraph, page 1) and reiterated that this restriction remains the board policy.

The board can grant case by case exceptions. The requirement to remain a 55 plus community is that 80% of the occupied homes must have at least one resident 55 or older.

Alex Campbell, Board Secretary, reported that a resident census is underway with 67 questionnaires returned so far. The survey will be held in January of even numbered years going forward. The 2007 census showed 5 homes did not have a 55 plus resident. It is anticipated that this year's survey will have similar results.

Tom Gyurko, Board Vice-President, reported the board held a review of the association insurance policy and determined the coverage we now have is appropriate. It includes \$234,000 coverage on the club house, \$23,000 on the pool and appropriate liability coverage.

Dave Ewing addressed the question of snow cleanup for residents behind in their monthly dues. He stated that it is appropriate for the following reasons – 1) Snow covered walkways and driveways signal the house may be empty, 2) safety concerns, 3) the DCHA is still billing the homeowners for monthly fees and does not want to administer partial monthly fee charges, and 4) it enables safe access for realtors and their clients.

The next open meeting will be April 15, 2010.

"...a resident census is underway with 67 questionnaires returned so far. The survey will be held in January of even numbered years"



 **President's Day** 

Surviving An Earthquake

We have all followed the news of a devastating earthquake, which hit Haiti on January 12, 2010. The loss of lives, as buildings crumbled and trapped or crushed occupants, is vividly reported on television and in newspapers. The greatest loss of property and lives was in Port au Prince, where millions of people live in poverty.

Erma Hartman, one of our own association residents, was present in Haiti when the earthquake shook everything and everyone in this impoverished nation. She has been involved in mission trips for years and has made 10 trips to Haiti with a Lifeline Christian Mission team. This year, she was one of 58 women delivering presents from sponsors of school children, which had been provided in July and shipped to Haiti for distribution in January. Three nurses were included in their number.

The mission at Grand Goave, approximately 45 miles from the epicenter of the quake, has a clinic for medical, dental and eye treatment. Close to the clinic is a school and a church, also part of the Lifeline effort in this community. Several hundred students attend the school, supported by donors in the U.S. These students receive an education, as well as one hot meal daily.

The earthquake came at 4:53 pm, when Erma and another lady were in the kitchen at the dormitory used by mission teams when on the premises. The first thing they heard was a sound like an explosion, soon followed by shaking. They held each other, as the shaking intensified. Then suddenly, they were thrown against the stove and ended up on the floor. Things were flying off the shelves. Escaping any physical injury, they went outside to see what damage had occurred. One lady in the team was thrown from a small wall where she was sitting.

Her injuries required a life flight by a military helicopter. All others in the team were spared any physical injury.

The dormitory building and the church, built with stones and mortar, survived the quake. A perimeter wall had fallen, as did walls and ceiling in the school. Fortunately, the children had been dismissed earlier. The presents had been distributed earlier in the day at the location where one wall fell.

Erma said she had never realized that you can hear an earthquake before you feel it. Some say the earth groans, but who would have thought it could sound like an explosion. She flew out of Haiti on the 16th with 198 people on an Air Force cargo jet. The majority had to sit on the deck, since there was limited seating along the bulkheads. They were not allowed to get up and move about until they landed at Homestead Reserve Base in Florida. Asked if she was ready to go back to Haiti, Erma replied, "I'm ready".

(You can follow the activities of Lifeline on the web page, www.lifeline.org).

"Erma said she had never realized that you can hear an earthquake before you feel it. Some say the earth groans, but who would have thought it could sound like an explosion"



Watch Your Step

By Jim Burt—With little warning, you could be flat on your back, sitting hard on your seat or smacking the back of your head from an unexpected fall on the ice. Several residents in the association have already had such mishaps this year. One has a fractured arm and another is using a walker from severe groin injury. There could be others.

Shoveling snow isn't always the answer to removing the hazard of ice. At times, snow will provide more footing than the lack of it. However, a fine covering of snow powder may hide the presence of ice underneath it. The presence of black ice, that fine sheet on blacktop, can present the greatest hazard, since you may not be aware of it at all. The slightest slope in the surface and you could be in a slide without any means of stopping the forward motion, short of falling.

In 2004, I had a total hip replacement on the right side. At my postoperative exam,

my orthopedic surgeon warned me that there was one thing I couldn't do. I naturally thought of crossing my legs, bending too much, or some other physical limitation. He said, "you cannot fall". A fall could shatter the prosthesis or surrounding bone. He didn't want to try to put "humpty dumpty" back together again. After falling on the ice in 2007 and 2008 without any serious injury, I decided driving around to get the mail might be a lot safer than maneuvering a sloping walk and stairs covered with ice. Also, I use a lot of ice melting compound now.

Since many of the snow showers come in half to one inch increments, foot traffic creates slippery surfaces before it accumulates sufficiently to warrant shoveling. Your best defense may be to move slowly and use grass areas, where possible, when solid surfaces are ice covered. You don't want to become another injury statistic.



"With little warning, you could be flat on your back, sitting hard on your seat or smacking the back of your head from an unexpected fall on the ice"

New Business Development

Quiet, clean, high tech business development continues in our area.

Just west of Sugar Run, on the north side of New Albany Road East, construction is well underway on the Motorist Mutual Data Center. It was announced early last year in the various New Albany news media. It will be a small (nothing the size of the Discover Card facility) data center hardened against severe weather, with re-enforced poured concrete walls and roof. It will be a very secure computer center.



The re-enforced concrete roof will be constructed after the weather warms and the supporting side and internal structure work is complete.

The center will operate 24/7, and have a small staff of IT support personnel. Thus, a relatively small amount of traffic will use the small parking lot off New Albany Road East. The fiber optic placement job completed along New Albany Road East last summer will help provide communications support for the data center, as well as future business development in the New Albany "tech" corridor from Rt. 161 northward up Rt. 605.

Eventually, that will include a Nationwide Insurance Data Center and possibly a call center just to the northwest of the Motorist Mutual Data Center.



Front Yard Lamp Posts

Your front yard light is out and changing the bulb hasn't fixed the problem. What can you do next? Front yard lights, at the Dominion Club, have a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) between the circuit breaker box and the front yard lamp. It may have tripped interrupting electricity to the yard lamp.

In most cases you can find the GFCI by locating where the electrical wires enter the house. Look at the corner of the house, near the electrical meter and outdoor water faucet for an electrical conduit coming from the ground to a small silver colored box. Behind the silver box is where the electrical wire from the lamp enters the basement. Now go to the basement and follow that electrical wire

until it comes to the GFCI, either a small box with just two rectangular buttons on the front or an electrical receptacle box that includes the GFCI buttons.

The small button trips the GFCI and the slightly larger one resets the GFCI. Depress the trip button then depress the reset button and you should have light.

Another possible source of the problem is the light sensor that turns the light on when it gets dark. The sensor should be located on the lamp post or sometimes near the house on that silver box mentioned above. Bad sensors are typically a job for an electrician.

Thanks to Alex Campbell



Recipes From The DC Potlucks

90-Minute Fruitcake

From Martha Campbell

Fruitcake... or fruit bread? This quick and easy batter bread is packed with fruit and nuts, but is less sweet and very mildly spiced, unlike traditional fruitcakes.

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter
 3/4 cup granulated sugar
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
 2 teaspoons baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1 teaspoon vanilla
 2 large eggs
 1 1/2 cups King Arthur Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
 1 cup crushed pineapple, undrained (1 small can)
 1 cup mixed dried fruits of your choice
 1/2 cup diced walnuts or pecans
 1/2 cup red candied cherries, each cut in half
 1 1/2 tablespoons coarse white sparkling sugar, for topping, optional

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Lightly grease a 9" x 5" loaf pan.

- 1) Place the butter, granulated sugar, cinnamon, ginger, baking powder, salt, and vanilla in a bowl, and beat till smooth.
- 2) Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition.
- 3) Add the flour, stirring to combine.
- 4) Stir in the undrained crushed pineapple.
- 5) Stir in the fruits, nuts, and candied cherries.
- 6) Spoon the batter into the prepared pan, smoothing the top.
- 7) Sprinkle with coarse white sparkling sugar, if desired.
- 8) Bake the cake for 60 minutes, then tent it with aluminum foil. Bake for an additional 15 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted into the center comes out clean.
- 9) Remove the cake from the oven, and after 20 minutes loosen its sides, and turn it out of the pan onto a rack to cool.
- 10) Cool the cake completely before slicing.



Community Notes...

DCHA Board	
Jim Burt Chairman 933-9755 burt.2@osu.edu Rules, Legal & Administration, Design Review committees	
Dave Ewing President 933-9017 Ewing_david@sbcglobal.net Mow & Snow Removal Committee	
Tom Gyurko Vice-President 939-9141 tegps@insight.rr.com Clubhouse & Pool, Social, and Maintenance Committees	
Sue Stradley Treasurer 855-5877 sustrads@insight.rr.com Audit & Planning Committee, Rep to Master Association	
Alex Campbell Secretary 855-4337 Alexjcampbell@att.net Communications Committee	
Towne Properties Representative Becky Colburn 781-0055 beckyc@tp1.com	

Stitchery—The DC stitchery group will meet on Monday, February 8 and 22, at 7 pm in the clubhouse. Join us!

Mah-Jongg—Meets in the clubhouse every Wednesday between 6:30 -11:00 pm, new players welcome!

The Dominion Club Women's Bible Study—Meets in the clubhouse each Thursday, 10:00 to 11:30am except in the Summer. Contact Mary Lou Ewing, 614-933-9017 if you are interested in joining.

Pool Testers Needed—Tom Gyurko our Clubhouse/Swimming Pool manager needs a few volunteers willing to learn how to test the swimming pool water. Our pool service makes a 15 minute water quality test each day during the week. Starting this pool season – June to September - we will be responsible to make those same tests on the weekends. Our contractor, Endless Summer Pool and Spa Services, will provide training in the proper procedure for testing the water. Tom needs several volunteers willing to take turns testing the pool water this summer. Volunteers should contact Tom at 939-9141 or email him at tegps@insight.rr.com.

Dear Prudence—*I have been wondering who calls the snow removal contractor to come remove the snow from our driveways and sidewalks? How deep does the snow need to be before it is removed? - I.M. Snowed*

Dear Snowed: Dave Ewing, your Board President, is the one who calls for snow removal. He tells me that he doesn't call until two inches of snow has accumulated and the snowfall event is over, i.e., the snow has stopped falling. Dave uses the scientific method of measuring the snow depth on the sidewalk in front of his home with a calibrated index finger. If the snow is up to the middle of the second knuckle, it is time to call.



www.dominionclub.org

If you have contributions for the newsletter or something to communicate to the Dominion Club community, contact a member of the Communications Committee:

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