

Dominion Club News

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2



County Reassessment Time

With values in property taking a real hit in this recession, should we get a reappraisal to hopefully diminish the property tax assessment by the county? This is the year for a reassessment by the county, which should be completed in mid-summer. Some would say that to ensure that the county is accurate in this assessment, owners should have their own appraisal with which to compare the result.

To get your own assessment conducted, private companies will charge several hundred dollars, and the value they arrive at will be influenced by other properties in the area and values of recent appraisals on similar structures. The question becomes at what point does the county assessment comparison with a private appraisal benefit the homeowner?

Some homeowners wait to see

what the county assesses the value of their property before deciding if a challenge is needed, and then hire their own appraisal. Another saving might be to find someone whose property has the same design, size and improvements to co-op an appraisal, thus sharing the cost and having something with which to compare the county assessment.

Whatever you decide, the county will try to maintain as high an assessment as possible with which to balance an otherwise escalating budget. How they manage that in view of the next reassessment of devaluated property will be interesting. It may be a wise strategy to wait until the county has completed its work before considering an appeal.

Watching Neighbors' Homes

When escaping the cold of Ohio winters, some neighbors rely on those remaining behind to keep an eye on the home place while they are gone. Some neighbors are called upon to check the homes to ensure heating units are working and no water leaks are present. Being a good neighbor requires all of us to keep an eye on each other's property to ensure that no harm comes to any property. Homes may appear empty when dark night after night. Wisdom dic-

tates leaving lights on timers. Papers left on the property for days can be another clue that the owners are away. We can help by picking up newspapers and advertisements when we see them on porches, walks or in yards longer than 48 hours. If you know someone is away for awhile, picking up the "trash" while you are out walking a pet or getting exercise, will be one way to be a good neighbor.

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

- ◆ April 15 Bingo Night
- ◆ July 15 Hawaiian Luau
- ◆ August 26 Western Cook-out
- ◆ October 22 Oktoberfest
- ◆ December 9 Holiday Party



March 13

Happy  St. Patrick's Day

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Valentine's Day History

Roman Roots

The history of Valentine's Day is obscure, and further clouded by various fanciful legends. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman festival of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated annually on February 15. Pope Gelasius I recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day circa 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Valentines Galore

Which St. Valentine this early pope intended to honor remains a mystery: according to the Catholic Encyclopedia, there were at least three early Christian saints by that name. One was a priest in Rome, another a bishop in Terni, and of a third St. Valentine almost nothing is known except that he met his end in Africa. Rather astonishingly, all three Valentines were said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Most scholars believe that the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who attracted the disfavor of Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. At this stage, the factual ends and the mythic begins. According to one legend, Claudius II had prohibited marriage for young men, claiming that bachelors made better soldiers. Valentine continued to secretly perform marriage ceremonies but was eventually apprehended by the Romans and put to death. Another legend has it that Valentine, imprisoned by Claudius, fell in love with the daughter of his jailer. Before he was executed, he allegedly sent her a letter signed "from your Valentine." Probably the most plausible story surrounding St. Valentine is one not focused on Eros (passionate love) but on agape (Christian love): he was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

In 1969, the Catholic Church revised its liturgical calendar, removing the feast

days of saints whose historical origins were questionable. St. Valentine was one of the casualties.

Chaucer's Love Birds

It was not until the 14th century that this Christian feast day became definitively associated with love. According to UCLA medieval scholar Henry Ansgar Kelly, author of *Chaucer and the Cult of Saint Valentine*, it was Chaucer who first linked St. Valentine's Day with romance. In 1381, Chaucer composed a poem in honor of the engagement between England's Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. As was the poetic tradition, Chaucer associated the occasion with a feast day. In "The Parliament of Fowls," the royal engagement, the mating season of birds, and St. Valentine's Day are linked:

*For this was on St. Valentine's Day,
When every fowl cometh there to
choose his mate.*

Tradition of Valentine's Cards

Over the centuries, the holiday evolved, and by the 18th century, gift-giving and exchanging hand-made cards on Valentine's Day had become common in England. Hand-made valentine cards made of lace, ribbons, and featuring cupids and hearts eventually spread to the American colonies. The tradition of Valentine's cards did not become widespread in the United States, however, until the 1850s, when Esther A. Howland, a Mount Holyoke graduate and native of Worcester, Mass., began mass-producing them. Today, of course, the holiday has become a booming commercial success. According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines.

—by *Borgna Brunner*



"According to the Greeting Card Association, 25% of all cards sent each year are valentines"



Party Schedule for 2011

Your Dominion Club Party Committee met on January 20, 2011 to review the responses to the recent questionnaire that was sent to everyone in the Dominion Club. Based on these responses, along with the committee's input, the following parties have been scheduled for the 2011 calendar year:

April 15 - 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 for each game. All the money will go into the prizes. Snacks and soft drinks will be provided. You may BYOB.

July 15 – Hawaiian Luau at the Dominion Pool We are having a Pig Roast.

August 26 - Western Cookout and Weenie Roast at the Dominion Pool with open pit fires to cook your own.

October 22 – Oktoberfest at the Dominion Clubhouse A catered dinner will be served. Note, this party is on a Saturday evening.

December 9 – Christmas/Holiday Party at the Dominion Clubhouse We will have a potluck supper.

Please note these dates on your calendar so you can plan to attend.



2010 DCHA Treasurer's Report

DCHA Treasurer Tom Roth reported that the association finished 2010 in the black by \$491.34. As a result, the monthly association fee will remain at \$130 pending a review of winter weather related costs.

Remaining cash on hand is \$3,308.25 and total Reserve is \$41,685.03, of which \$21,739.70 is in a CD.

Operating Expenses for 2010 were:

Utilities	\$7,911.99
Maintenance	\$3,066.61
Grounds Care	\$100,874.45
Pool	\$7,356.14
Administration	\$31,078.82

The cost of snow removal last year was \$10,505.21 more than budgeted while landscape and grounds expenses finished \$4,430.76 under budget.

Bad debt expenses were \$5,136.48 over budget and legal expenses were \$4,430.76 less than anticipated.

"the association finished 2010 in the black by \$491.34"



President's Day



Community Notes...

DCHA Board	
Jack Greene Chairman 855-4424 grnjck75@aol.com Rules, Legal & Administration, Design Review committees	
Dave Ewing President 933-9017 David Ewing Ewing_david@sbcglobal.net Mow & Snow Removal Committee	
Jack Schmidt Vice-President 245-4611 schj46@yahoo.com Clubhouse & Pool, Social, and Maintenance Committees	
Tom Roth Treasurer 582-1394 troth@insight.rr.com Audit & Planning Committee, Rep to Master Association	
Jim Burt Secretary 933-9755 burtjames5@gmail.com Communications Committee	
Towne Properties Representative Becky Colburn 781-0055 beckyc@tp1.com	

Stitchery—The DC stitchery group will meet February 14 and 28 and March 14 and 28 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. Contact Mary Lou Ewing, 614-933-9017 if you are interested in joining.

Pet's Feet—Those who walk their dog should be aware of the danger of winter snow and ice treated with salt. In addition to the irritating properties of salt on the foot pads, the temperature of the ice and slush changes with salting. Remember the effect of salt and ice when you made ice cream from scratch? Foot pads are more apt to show evidence of frost bite or freezing in salted snow or ice. If the sidewalks are not salted, a dog's feet should be able to withstand the cold for brief walks. Avoid long walks when the temperature is below freezing. When you see your dog holding up a foot, it is evidence the cold or salt is irritating the foot

pads. If it isn't possible to avoid salt-treated areas, washing the feet with tepid tap water and drying with a towel, or hair dryer on warm setting, can reduce the amount of irritation to the foot pads. For treating your front walk and steps, pet-friendly de-icing products are available. When in doubt, avoid any product containing NaCl or rock-salt crystals.

Newsletter Dates—*The Dominion Club News* will be published every other month beginning with this combined February/March issue. The next newsletter will be published around April 1, then June 3, and so on. An extra issue may be slipped in from time-to-time depending on contributions from our neighbors. Thanks to contributors!



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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