



January/February 2009

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year to all friends and neighbors. We welcomed in 2009 with a terrific New Year's Eve party at the pavilion. Neighbors from all the lake communities attended, as well as many friends and relatives. The pavilion looked beautiful, the band was terrific, the food good and plentiful, all thanks to the hard work of Chris Dress, Joan Ford and Ed Keith. About 200 people joined in the celebration.

2009 will present many challenges for our community. I hope that more of you will participate in the decision making processes regarding issues that will arise in the coming year. Your Board welcomes your input. Each of us is an elected volunteer, hoping to work in the best interests of our cooperative community. We need positive and constructive suggestions about the direction that Vail's Grove will take. We are changing fairly dramatically over time, from our summer camp status of many years ago, to our year round habitation, along with all the associated up-grades, notably our new designation as a sewer district. There are many opportunities for shareholder participation including attending Board meetings, helping out on committees, lending a hand with neighbors who need one. None of these activities is terribly demanding or time consuming, but each one is necessary. I hope that you will consider getting more personally involved.

Last, but certainly not least, we say goodbye and thank you to our Vail's Voice editor, Claudia McGuinness, who has done such a stellar job in keeping Vail's Grove residents up to date with all the news. (Claudia isn't leaving—just retiring from this position.) Our new editor will be Peggy Quinn with whom we look forward to working.

Aesthetics Committee Seeks Input for 2009 Gardening Classes

The Vail's Grove Aesthetics Committee, as well as all of the residents of Vail's Grove, are lucky to have our very own Master Gardener Joan Sheridan as a contributing member of our Committee adding to the beauty of our community.

Joan has graciously offered to hold some classes in the spring to talk about Gardening topics that might be of interest to shareholders. We would love to have your input in the way of suggested topics for Joan to cover. Are you interested in composting? Wintering bulbs for use again in another season? How to divide perennial plants without hurting them? Tell us what you would like to learn and we will try to work your topics into the sessions.

Contact Victoria Desidero, Aesthetics Co-Chair, at 854-669-5090 or by writing to vdesidero@yahoo.com and she will make sure our Master Gardener gets your suggestions. Stay tuned to announcements of these classes to be held in the spring of 2009!

There will be an informational, fact-finding meeting to form a committee to look into the possibility of implementing a flip tax for Vail's Grove. Anyone interested in being on the committee is invited to attend this meeting on Tuesday, January 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the pavilion. If anyone would like more information prior, feel free to contact Frank Cassidy at frankcassidy@comcast.net.

NEW Real Estate Section on Vail's Grove Web Site!

In an effort to help shareholders advertise their homes for sale or rent, a new page showcasing these properties is being developed on our own www.vailsgrove.us Web site. Not only are we creating the page but we are also submitting key words to the most popular search engines (Google, Yahoo, etc.) that will help people looking for real estate in our area find properties available in Vail's Grove.

If you want to include your listing on our Web site, please provide all the property information, any digital photos you have, relevant realtor's Web site links, etc., to Cindy in the Vail's Grove office.

Happy New Year Everyone!

It is my pleasure to be the new editor of Vail's Voice but I know I have big shoes to fill. Claudia did a wonderful job and deserves the grove's appreciation for the work she did. I hope I live up to her shining example! This new format is another attempt to go "GREEN" and save paper and printing costs. If you have any interesting news you want to share with your neighbors please email me at pquinn3@optonline.net.

Vail's Grove Happenings:

A great time was had by the children on Dec. 20th when they all gathered to see Santa at the Pavilion. Many families attended and you could feel the good cheer in the air! What better way to kick off the New Year than with a hugely successful New Year's Eve Party at the pavilion attended by 200 people! February is looking to be an exciting month with the Vail's Grove Annual Valentine's Party on Sunday, February 8th from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Come on out and join your neighbors for fun and feel the LOVE!

NOTES FROM Cindy :

By now, you all should have received your first quarter invoice, which is due by January 31st. If you have not received it, please call the office. Please remember, if your payment is received after the last day of the billing month, you will be assessed a finance charge. There are times when Stockholders send in their payment late and do not pay the finance charge. Please look closely when you receive statements to see if you owe additional charges.

Another reminder, if you are planning to do any work on your home, it is always better to ask the office first, if an application for alteration and fee are required for the Boards approval. Better safe than sorry.

A Safety Issue: Sitting here in the office, I see many "near-misses" involving vehicles driving very fast coming down Ramp 1, coming out of Locust, or coming from Vails Lake Shore Drive from the North. PLEASE, for your safety and the safety of theirs, SLOW DOWN. As we all know, speed can cause a lot of injury and our younger drivers need to pay attention to that.

The Rules and Regulations of the Grove state that all dogs need to be **LEASHED**. Many of our furry friends are seen roaming around unleashed. There are both adults and children who are afraid of dogs and this is not fair to them; dogs who are not leashed can do their business wherever they chose and the owners might not see and therefore not clean up, also not fair to others. Please, be a good neighbor, follow the rules. I know we all love our pets and think they can do no wrong, but the rule is "LEASHED".

It would be great if everyone would take a look around their property and take some time to clean up, straighten up and freshen up your surroundings.

A big **Thank You** to **Kevin Tompkins** for bringing his tree truck to our flagpole and getting the flags back where they should be: at the top of the pole!!!!

And last, but certainly not least, I wish everyone here at the Grove a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. Working here is a wonderful experience for me. I enjoy everyone coming in to say hello and being part of this wonderful community. Let's all start the New Year watching out for each other. If you see something, say something. Let's all be more caring and tolerant of others and be grateful for what we have.

From the Lend-a-Hand Committee

Our new Lend-a-Hand committee at the Grove has been busy helping our neighbors. Recently, as you might know, in early December, Ryan Bierce had a serious automobile accident on Hardscrabble Road while driving home one night. Ryan has been at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla recovering from his head trauma. He was moved to the Helen Hayes Hospital on January 8 for recuperation and therapy. At the moment, the family is asking us to send get-well cards so Ryan can see and enjoy them when he is awake. With the support and prayers of his family, friends and neighbors, Ryan is getting better by the day.

The Lend-a-Hand committee can use your help. If you can cook a meal, drive someone to an appointment, make a friendly phone call or do an errand, please call Cindy at the office (914) 669-5100 and let her know how you can help.

Many, many thanks to everyone on the committee who has done so much. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Margaret Flannery

Our Neighbors' News

Congratulations to **Jim Kiernan** on his recent marriage.

Jim Kiernan is a grandfather once again. His daughter Carla had a baby boy and they named him **Jackson Henry**.

Get well wishes to **Ryan Bierce** and continued support to the Bierce Family.

Welcome to new neighbors:

Sean and Deborah Kelly
36 Vails Lakeshore Dr.

Catherine Morris
28 Orchard Road

HELP WANTED

Looking for a baby-sitter on an as needed basis during the day to watch my two year old in my home - will pay \$20.00/hr. If interested, please call **Mary at: (845) 669-3037.**

It's Easy to Be GREEN!

Where to Get Your Copy of the Newly Revised By-Laws

The Vail's Grove Cooperative By-Laws were revised in 2008 by the Board of Directors and ratified by vote of our shareholders at the Annual Meeting in September. In our continuing effort to be "GREEN" here at the Grove, we have posted the new By-Laws on our Web site where you can read them, download them to and/or print them from your own computer.

Simply go to **www.vailsgrove.us** and look at the bottom of the Home Page where it says "Documents." Click on that link and you will find the new By-Laws, as well as many other valuable and often used shareholder documents. These are kept updated and are always available for your use - even when the office is closed!

For those shareholders who do not have access to the Internet, copies of the new By-Laws are available for pick up at the office or by calling Cindy at 914.669.5100 and asking her to mail them to you. Again, we are trying to stay GREEN and cut costs wherever possible, so please print your own or stop by and pick up a copy from Cindy if at all possible.