

THE VILLAGE OF GOLF MANOR

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Alan Zaffiro -----
 Brenda Dubose -----
 Kenneth Colvin -----
 Dennis Puthoff -----
 Lori Phillips-Young -----
 Jack Morton -----
 Greg Brown -----

COMMITTEES

Mayor
 Vice-Mayor
 Finance
 Finance, Safety and Health
 Finance
 Streets and Infrastructure
 Streets and Infrastructure

FACTS ABOUT GOLF MANOR

- Incorporated – 1947 • Seven police officers and 24-hour patrols.
- A 35-member fire/paramedic department with four firemen stationed 24/7.
- Golf Manor has 115 children in charter schools, 142 in private schools, and 530 in public schools.

The Villager

"The Villager" is the official newsletter of the Golf Manor Village Council. It contains important information from your police, fire, paramedic, building, tax, and service departments. Please take time to read this newsletter and become an informed, involved member of the community.

The Villager

The Village of Golf Manor

Spring/Summer 2004

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

This column is the first in a series that will appear in each newsletter. The topic for this issue of The Villager is: **Community Revitalization - the Importance of Setting High Standards.** Please read this newsletter and learn how to contribute to this effort to improve our community.

The Village Administration and Village Council are focusing on a number of issues related to community revitalization. Our core needs include maintaining residential property values, attracting business investment to build our tax base, redevelopment of our core commercial district, and street repair. Our ultimate goal is to create a community environment that allows the Village of Golf Manor to prosper – a Village that has always fulfilled the right of its residents to live and work in a safe, pleasant and wholesome neighborhood. Setting and enforcing high standards for property maintenance and conduct form the foundation of community revitalization efforts.

This newsletter contains information on programs and laws that will advance this effort. In June we will start street-by-street sweeps to look for violations of building code standards. We will also be checking for violations of garbage collection rules and other nuisance violations. Please review the list of frequently violated ordinances in this newsletter to help us improve our performance in these areas. We will be holding a 'garbage amnesty day' to give residents an opportunity to dispose of collected junk from their yards and houses at no cost. You will also find information in this newsletter on low-interest home improvement loans available to Hamilton County residents. Of course, anyone who lives in Golf Manor or visits our community must meet the same high standard for conduct.

A common theme I hear when talking to residents is that they fear the community will decline as some surrounding neighborhoods have experienced. Golf Manor has resisted the worst of these trends, because we have enforced a higher standard for conduct and property maintenance than these other areas.

The Village Council is continuing to update our ordinances to be proactive against decline and to encourage investment in the community by businesses and residential property owners. Our basic policy is that anyone who owns property in Golf Manor should be accountable for its maintenance and appearance. Further, it should be maintained in a condition that is an asset to the surrounding area. Any new development will be held to a standard similar to that of the modern, better-planned communities.



To contribute to this effort the Council is working hard to enhance our safety services and address infrastructure needs such as street resurfacing and the community pool. These are very difficult challenges.

Updates are provided in this newsletter and you will be kept informed on these important issues.

Alan Zaffiro
 Mayor Alan Zaffiro

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PIT BULL BAN REMINDER

As of October 1st, 2003, Pit Bull Terriers are banned in the Golf Manor Community. As you may know from reviewing the local newspapers, a similar ban has now been put into effect within the City of Cincinnati, Amberley, and other communities.

A Pit Bull Terrier has been defined as an American Pit Bull Terrier, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, or any breed of dog or mixed breed of dog which contains an element of these three types of Terriers.

Any Pit Bulls identified within the community will be confiscated and the owner will be appropriately cited. The animal will be held pending the outcome of the Court proceedings.

Anyone found guilty of owning or harboring a Pit Bull in the community (unless the dog was legally registered before October 1st, 2003), may be subject to a fine of \$1,000.00 per day and up to 180 days in jail for each day an offense occurs.



The annual parade will start at 11 AM. The parade is open to everyone. If you would like to participate by entering a float, a marching band, or march with your organization, call firemen Sean Healy and Eric Lett at the Golf Manor fire department - 531-2022. The Grand Marshall will be announced at the parade.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three float entries. Please continue the tradition of decorating your children's bicycles and walking with them at the end of the parade. Line up by 10:30 AM at Canterbury and Fairoaks. Make sure to meet at the Municipal building for presentation of the prizes and free ice cream for the kids.



SAFETY TIPS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

As hotter weather approaches, remember to drink plenty of water and avoid long periods of exposure to the sun and heat. Do yard work in the cool morning or evening hours.

Read and obey the warnings on your lawn and garden tools. We have seen far too many injuries inflicted by these devices when used improperly. Store gasoline for small engines only in approved containers. Remember that gasoline vapors are heavier than air. They will accumulate near ignition sources such as water heaters and explode violently.

Learn how to use propane for gas-fueled grills properly. Always store propane outside. A 20-pound propane tank explodes with enough force to level the typical Golf Manor home. Store with the plastic plugs securely in the valves. Make sure the tanks are not accessible to children who may tamper with the valves. Use only approved lighter fluid on charcoal grills. Consider an inexpensive chimney starter to replace lighter fluid entirely. Never use gasoline on charcoal. Use grills at a safe distance from your home and other structures. Grilling on covered porches is very dangerous.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms save lives. They are a *necessary* investment for any home.

VILLAGE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police & Fire Emergency	911	Fire Department	531-2022
Police Non-Emergency	825-2280	Service Director	531-7418
Police Officer on Duty	615-3001	Village Clerk's Office	531-7491
Police Clerk	531-3108	Tax Department	531-5155
		Building Department	531-9941



FREE DUMPSTER AVAILABLE TO RESIDENTS JUNE 11 - JUNE 21

Located at:

VOLUNTEER PARK ON WIEHE ROAD - NEAR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

ITEMS ACCEPTED: APPLIANCES, MATTRESSES, OLD CARPETS, FURNITURE, and OTHER JUNK ITEMS

NOT ACCEPTED: CAR BATTERIES, CAR TIRES, APPLIANCES THAT CONTAIN REFRIGERANT (A/C UNITS, REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, ETC.)

The Village is providing large dumpsters to help residents clear junk items from their homes and property. Please take advantage of this opportunity to complete your spring cleaning chores and assist the Village in clearing unsightly clutter from our residential area.

Tips to maintain a clutter-free home: Make sure to arrange for pick up of old refrigerators, and other large appliances by the store from which you buy new appliances. Used tires attract mosquitoes that may carry the West Nile virus if left outside. Recycle them at your tire dealer. Goodyear on Reading Road will accept them for a nominal fee. State law prohibits tires from disposal in landfills. A local junk dealer may be able to help with old appliances and many other household items. Call Larry at 508-1343. Rumpke (851-0122) and CSI (771-4200) will accept one large item per week from Golf Manor residents. Call in advance for specific rules - especially for refrigerators.

Waste Collection:

Rumpke	851-0122
CSI	771-4200

Web Site:

www.golfmanor.org



VOTER REGISTRATION

To register to vote, call the Hamilton County Board of Elections at 632-7000, or visit any public library or license bureau. Please exercise your right to vote!

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of each month in the Golf Manor Municipal Building at 7:30 PM. The meetings are open to the public. You may register to speak by calling the Village office at 531-7491 on the Friday prior to the Council meeting.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER FOR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Avon-Miami Masonic Lodge is offering a one-time, college scholarship for 2004 high school graduates living in Golf Manor. Please call the Avon-Miami Lodge at 351-4516 for information and to request an application. Many thanks to Len Mitzman, long-time Golf Manor resident and lodge member for his effort in making this money available to one of our students.

GOLF MANOR WEB SITE

Visit us on the web at www.golfmanor.org. On this site you will find information about Village services and links to other government services. You can download tax forms and forms to request a building permit. Minutes of Council meetings may be viewed. Pages on current initiatives of the Council are being added along with other enhancements. Village phone numbers, tax payment schedules and other useful information to residents are provided on our web site. Newsletters starting with this one will also be available on-line.

GOLF MANOR POOL UPDATE

The pool will not be open this year due to budget constraints. The Golf Manor Council is focusing its resources on core Village needs such as safety services, street repair, and economic development. The future of the pool is uncertain at this time. The Streets and Infrastructure Committee is in the process of developing recommendations and plans for the future use of this facility or the park land on which it is located.

STREET REPAIR UPDATE

The service crew began extensive repairs in May. License fees (SCMR money) only provide about \$50,000 per year for roadwork. The Village administration has applied for a number of federal and state grants for resurfacing. Most have been denied. Only one is still pending for Cedarbrook Avenue. Each street costs between \$250,000 and \$300,000 to resurface with curb replacement. After paying for essential services, Golf Manor simply does not have funds of this magnitude. The Streets and Infrastructure Committee of the Council is discussing options at this time. Certainly, we will continue to pursue outside sources for funding, but the streets won't wait much longer. Look for updates on this critical issue for our community in future newsletters.

APPEAL TO GOLF MANOR YOUTH

Hello kids of Golf Manor! My name is Christina Zaffiro, age 13. As a lot of you know a community is put together by hard work. With a little hard work from the youth of our community I think we could make Golf Manor a better place. So if you see trash on the ground please pick it up, and if you see someone vandalizing the park or any other area please tell someone. If we want to live in a nice place then let's make it a nice place. With a little help and hard work from everyone, we can all live in a more beautiful environment. I would appreciate whatever you could do to make Golf Manor more enjoyable – for everyone.

FREQUENTLY VIOLATED ORDINANCES

The fines associated with the following ordinances are significant. You will be given amnesty for building code violations and violations of waste collection rules during the street-sweep project. You will have 60 days to correct problems with your property and 7 days to correct garbage-related problems. All other violations will be treated in accordance with current police protocols.

Waste collection rules

- All household garbage (except yard waste) must be set out in ridged, waterproof containers with a secure lid. Most litter originates from cans broken into by animals or garbage dispersed by the wind. Set out after 6 PM the day before and return to storage by 12 PM the day of collection.

Note: Observing waste collection rules is one of the most important actions you can take to improve the health and appearance of the community.

Noise

- Any objectionable noise during the hours of 10 PM and 7 AM is prohibited. At all other times police officers will make judgements based on the guidelines in the codified noise ordinance – generally an objectionable noise that can be heard by a complainant at a distance of 100 feet from the source.

Pets

- Noise from Barking or howling dogs that consistently disturb the peace of the neighborhood is prohibited
- Must be leashed at all times when outside the property of the owner.
- Owners must clean up after their pets.

Selling or Improving Property

- An inspection is required prior to selling a home in Golf Manor
- A building permit is required for major construction projects including roofing, driveways, stone walls, and interior structural and electrical work.

Yard Maintenance

- Noxious weeds, including grass 10 inches or more in height, must be cut.
- Public sidewalks must be kept free from overhanging trees and not blocked by shrubs or any other nuisance.

The following are prohibited:

- Litter, garbage and junk of an unsightly nature on private property.
- Junk car not propelled under its own power or inoperative, dismantled, or not currently licensed.
- Displaying a vehicle for sale, or working on a vehicle upon any roadway.
- Parking on the street for more than 72 consecutive hours.
- Parking in front of driveways.
- Parking across the sidewalk, street lawns or over curbs.

HAMILTON COUNTY HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS

If you are contemplating a home improvement loan, compare the rates available through the Hamilton County Home Improvement Program (HIP). Interest rates for HIP loans are 3 points below the market rate with a 5-year repayment schedule. Participating banks in our area include Provident Bank, US Bank, and 5/3 Bank. Call the Hamilton County Department of Community Development at 513-946-4988 or the local branch of the banks listed above for application information.

RESIDENTIAL PAINT PROGRAM

In order to maintain an attractive Village environment and protect your property's value and your neighbor's property value, the Village is conducting a paint program. These actions are supported by the national property maintenance code adopted by Golf Manor. The Building Department will be sending out notices to properties that are in need of exterior painting (gutters, shutters, trim, gables, window frames, garage doors, etc.). Property owners will be given sixty days to address the peeling paint issue before further action is taken. Your home or rental property is a significant investment. Maintenance is the key to protecting that investment.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Motor oil, paints, pesticides, herbicides, computers, pool chemicals, wireless phones, car batteries, antifreeze, fluorescent light bulbs, and solvents are all forms of hazardous waste. Some of these materials can cause health problems within your home. They should be recycled, if possible. Visit the web site of the Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services (www.hcdoes.org) or call the residential hazardous waste hotline at 513-946-7700 for a list of recyclers who accept these products. Many of these companies are close by. The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District operates several drop-off centers for household hazardous waste. You must call 946-7734 (or e-mail: susan.schumacher@hamilton-co.org) to register and for locations.
