

Spring, 2008

# VCCA Newsletter



## Highlights:

- VCCA Is 50
- News & Notes
- GTCC News
- Climb the Ladder II
- Picnic 'n Dip
- Cinema Shackelford
- Remembering Valley Crest
- What do You Think?
- Wine Tasting
- Crab Feast
- Membership

## Valley Crest Trees Turn 50, Too

Valley Crest turned 50 years old with 2008 marking its mid-way point during initial development and construction in the late 1950's.

One can see the majestic silver maples which canopy our streets and realize this community has grace, charm and history.

Our aged silver maples were once just saplings. Several neighbors, including original resident and current board

member Ed Nelson, remember those days when Valley Crest was brand new.

Some of those trees are gnarly today, some have passed on, and some maintain their enormous grand stature throughout many harsh winters, dry spells and 3 Cicada attacks including 1970, 1987 and 2004.

Take a moment and think about how distinguishing these arboreal street



guardians are versus the denuded looks of newer neighborhoods.

---

Landscape Architect Joel Lerner reminds us that we have had 4 severe droughts in the last 6 summers, and despite recent rains raising the water table, trees are still very stressed. Please keep watch over our big giants and any small or new trees.

## Toast & Celebrate VCCA History at Our Champagne Brunch Annual Meeting in November

Valley Crest returns to Christopher Daniel for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 12:00pm.

This is the bye week for The Baltimore Ravens.

Last year, 30 VCCA members enjoyed Champagne, Bloody Mary's, an astonishing breakfast and lunch smorgasbord, raw oysters and station carved beef, concluding with fabulous desserts.

This meeting has always served as the general election and turnover of the outgoing VCCA Board of Directors to the new officers for the coming year.

This year, we will assemble many original artifacts of Valley Crest's past to celebrate 50 years.

Deed copies, plats, stories, appliance literature, photos, and other items of our early history will be on display.

Information will be forthcoming. Please remember you must be a VCCA member in good standing to attend.

## Don't be A VCCA Scofflaw

VCCA Membership is still only \$25/household for 2008. Please be sure to complete the membership renewal form on the last page.

## Baltimore County Issues

### Street Resurfacing

VCCA asked Baltimore County to consider our community streets for re-surfacing. Several areas, in particular, at the bottom of Gateswood Rd. and Pot Spring Rd. are badly potholed.

Ed Adams, Baltimore County's Department of Public Works Director, replied that every Spring, Baltimore County Bureau

of Highways conducts an assessment of the 8,500 miles of roadways.

Only those roads found to be in poor and terrible condition are slated for re-surfacing. Gateswood is considered in fair condition at present.

### Leaf Collection

Baltimore County does not have a leaf collection policy; however, leaves should never be raked or

blown onto the street, as this practice causes sewers to clog.

Street storm drains are meant only to handle storm water runoff and are not for solid wastes.

### Dumpster Pickup

VCCA has not contracted for a dumpster pickup as we have not had any community interest in this past activity.

---

*"Gateswood Road is considered in fair condition,"*

*- Ed Adams, Baltimore County Department of Public Works*



## Valley Crest Walls, Signs & Planters

Valley Crest has two beautiful curved walls at Ivy Church and Dulaney Valley Roads.

A previous VCCA Board purchased and installed anodized metal lettering bearing our community name and had the gardens revitalized.

Our Board is discussing lighting of these signs or other ways to make these attractive walls and gardens more visible.

VCCA also contacted Baltimore County regarding easements and right of ways with respect to these signs. The walls are outside of the Ivy Church right of way and also appear to be outside that of Dulaney Valley Rd.

The walls, gardens and signs are on the private properties of Gil Smith to the south and Anita and Donald Helgason to the North.

The entire community

offers heartfelt thanks to our generous neighbors.

### L & N Landscaping

We are so grateful L&N Landscaping who have maintained both gardens and planted flowers pro bono in appreciation of Valley Crest residents who have their lawns cut by L&N. VCCA makes no endorsement.

The North Wall appears in the upper photo. The South Wall at the bottom.

## Community Directory

Each year, Valley Crest publishes its Community Directory. This year, we will be adding one or more email addresses for those community residents who wish to have their emails published.

All residents are included

with family name(s), street number, address and telephone, if provided.

Please be sure to complete the Community Update form attached and note if you wish for your email to be published by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

In the future, VCCA will begin emailing this newsletter in the interest of conserving paper to those who prefer it distributed that way. If you wish for us to have your email, but not publish it, simply note it as such.

## Annual Community Picnic 'n Dip

The Valley Crest Annual Community Picnic 'N Dip will again be held at the home of John & Joanne Hock, 2016 Dumont Road on **Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 1pm until 4:30pm.**

The cost is a nominal \$5 per person 13 years of age or older. Kids 12 and under are free.

Thanks again to the Hock Family who have hosted this event for several years, rain or shine. It's a great time for adults and kids alike.

"Grill-meister John" grills



delicious hot dogs and hamburgers, and our pot-luck bringalongs make the event a great social interaction.

Each year, there are more and more kids having a blast in the pool, supervised by a certified Lifeguard.

The Community Association provides the hotdogs, hamburgers, rolls, condiments, munchies, water, soda, ice, etc.

Families whose last names begin with A through N are requested to

bring a side dish or salad.

Families with last names beginning with O through Z are asked to bring a desert.

Your VCCA membership must be current to attend. Please complete the form that follows and include a check for \$5.00 payable to Treasurer Annmarie Lerch by Saturday, June 21st.



## What Do You Think ?

### Cinema Shackelford

Larry & Emea Shackelford hosted the first ever (that we know of) Valley Crest Movie Night Under The Stars Birthday Party with large 12'x11' screen, high fidelity stereo sound and

DLP imaging of Nancy Drew Mysteries.

They have offered Cinema Shackelford again for Valley Crest on a night to be determined in late September to be with a family themed movie.

### VCCA Wine Tasting

The Board of Directors is also considering a first ever Valley Crest Wine Tasting to coincide with the Movie Weekend of Cinema Shackelford. . . .

### VCCA Crab Feast

Or, . . . please let your BOD members know your opinion of a VCCA Crab Feast.

## What Do You Think ?



## Remembering Valley Crest - - - by Ed Nelson

---

*"The ranchers had been selling for \$32,000 and the Split Levels were \$34,000."*

My family and I moved from Cambridge on the Eastern Shore into Valley Crest, 1912 Lyden Rd. on February 28, 1957. When we learned we would be moving to the Baltimore area, we were advised to look at the Towson area because the schools were better there.

1912 was the last house available in the Cherkhoff developed estates. The ranchers had been selling for \$32,000 and the Split Levels were \$34,000. My 5% mortgage was 25 yrs.

Cherkhoff also developed Campus Hills and Towson Plaza, now Towson Towne Center.

The plat for Valley Crest was approved by Baltimore County on June 30, 1954 and shows the owner of the property as Anthony Sanzo. I believe the developer built the double split level on the corner of Ivy Church and Southbourne for him.

Ivy Church Road was the northern boundary of the development with two houses on Dumont north of Ivy Church and two houses off of Gateswood on what is now Dumont, but is shown on the original plat as Loxwood Rd and the Court was Loxwood Court.

The foundations for 1908 and 1910 Lyden were laid but were not completed

until 1960. In the meantime, some changes were made in the design.

Lyden Road was a dead end street and the neighbors dumped yard trash at the end. The area south of where Lyden ended, including what is now Ridgely Road, had a heavy growth of trees and vines and the rumor was that it was too rocky and would be too expensive to develop except for four or more houses per acre. That was a big concern to everybody.

Fortunately the rumor was wrong. Ridgely Road ran from York Road to Pot Spring. Later it was cut through to Dulaney Valley but remained a dirt road for a couple of years before it was paved.

Pot Spring was originally a toll road and when we moved here the toll house was still standing at Pot Spring and Dulaney Valley Road.

My office was on Pulaski Hwy and that part of the beltway from Dulaney Valley Rd to Pulaski Hwy was the last to be constructed.

The only things growing on our property were two maple trees next to the street – no grass, no other trees and no foundation plantings. This same condition existed for all of the homes.

Our driveway was in bad condition. The yard was still just bulldozed clay and we walked to the front door on boards. Within a week after we moved in, the driveway was rebuilt, slate was put down for the walkway from the street and the walkway from the driveway to the front door and the yard was sodded.

Some good natured competition developed among the neighbors on Lyden Road to see who had the greenest lawn. I think Jack Linthicum at 1913 "won the ribbons" and Jack Funky at 1916 placed second.

The shrubbery and trees were newly planted and still small so the yards were practically all grass.

I was flying in the Marine Corps in the 50's and '60's and flew over Valley Crest occasionally. I could pick out Valley Crest long before I got near it just by looking for a large patch of green. It really stood out.

Our daughter, Shelley, completed her third grade at Lutherville Elementary on York Road and in September, 1957 she returned to the fourth grade on a split shift basis. Later in the school year, Hampton Elementary was completed and she moved there.

(continued next page)

---

## (continued), Remembering Valley Crest, by Ed Nelson

Two years later, she entered the new Timonium Elementary when it opened. When she finished there she opened the new Ridgely Middle School and then opened the new Dulaney High School. Baltimore County was the fastest growing county in the United States.

Every home on Lyden Road and Walpole Court had one or more small children. Most of those children and those on nearby Ivy Church played together and most of the families on Lyden Rd would get together socially.

Many would have parties in their homes with their neighbors invited. It seems that the children were the catalysts for this socializing.

Then the Dulaney Cabana Club was built and this brought the families even closer together.

Mike Costanza and /or Tony Sanzo, both of whom lived in Valley Crest, built the Tail of the Fox Restaurant on York Road. It was an excellent restaurant, very attractive and very popular with the residents. The Annual VCCA Dinner was always held there.

It was a pleasure to walk to the "Rocks" at Loch Raven from where the

present entrance is and my son, Patrick and his friends fished and swam there often. It was an excellent area for the kids.

The trees had been planted by the CCC, "Civilian Conservation Corps," a government "make-work" agency during the depression. Unfortunately, we woke up one morning and the City had built a rifle range where the pathway had been.

Then the City sold the hardwood trees and that left large open spaces where the trees used to be. I don't recall the Community Association ever having any input on either of those developments.

The residents have generally done a good job of maintaining a good appearance for the community and I hope this continues.

We are blessed with good schools, good shopping areas, easy access to Light Rail, I-695, I-95, I-83, good fire and police protection, a low crime rate in the immediate area, churches of several denominations, several hospitals nearby, City Water, sewage and natural gas, effective zoning laws, increasing property values and other community assets. Let us

be ever vigilant by supporting our association so that it can remain active and alert to retain these precious advantages.

Ed Nelson

1912 Lyden Rd.

Ed Nelson has lived in Valley Crest for 51 years, when he and his departed wife, Anita moved here.

Ed has a tremendous interest and appreciation for history and he is a member of the Maryland Historical Society.

---

*"The shrubbery and the trees were newly planted and still small so the yards were practically all grass."*

### LVFC "Climb The Ladder II" Benefit

The Lutherville Vol. Fire Co. is holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Climb The Ladder II, to benefit its \$4.5M Capital Campaign for the construction of a new firehouse.

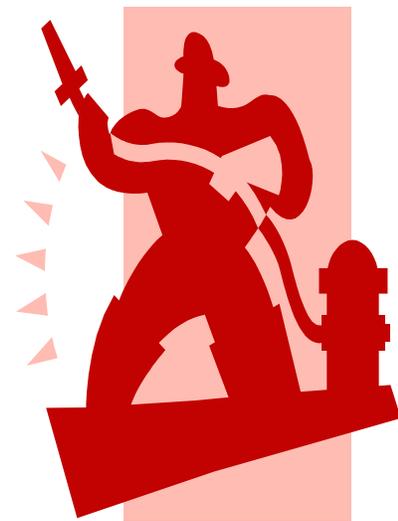
The Bull & Oyster Roast event is on 9/27/08 at the 4-H Building of The MD State Fairgrounds from 6pm Until 11pm.

Last year, nearly two dozen Valley Crest neighbors supported the LVFC.

Info at [www.lvfc.com](http://www.lvfc.com)

Email to:

[lvfcbullroast@comcast.net](mailto:lvfcbullroast@comcast.net)



## Valley Crest Civic Association

### Officers:

Michael Panopoulos, President  
(410) 832-5418  
[mpanoptmx@msn.com](mailto:mpanoptmx@msn.com)

Mark Munn, Vice President  
(410) 252-7091

Terry Feelemyer, Secretary  
(410) 296-0022  
[feelemyert@emjaycons.com](mailto:feelemyert@emjaycons.com)

Annamarie Lerch, Treasurer  
(410) 828-8733  
[medtranakl@aol.com](mailto:medtranakl@aol.com)

### Members At-Large:

Reese Ruppertsberger  
Joann Hock  
Larry Shackelford  
Ed Nelson  
Ed Ranier, Past President

# Valley Crest Picnic 'N Dip – June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Saturday, June 28, 2008; 1pm – 4:30pm

At the Home of John & Joann Hock, 2016 Dumont Rd.

Please return the completed form with your check payable to:

Annamarie Lerch, 409 Ivy Church Rd by 6/21/08

### ADULTS:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults (18 yrs and older attending) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children (13 to 18 yrs of age attending) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children (Under 12 yrs of age are free) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If your last name begins with an **A through N**, you are asked to bring a salad or side dish

I Will bring \_\_\_\_\_

If your last name begins with **O through Z**, you are asked to bring a dessert:

I Will bring \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't Forget Your Bathing Suits !!!**



## What Do You Think ?

Are You Interested In Attending:

- **Family Open Air Movie Night at Cinema Shackelford**

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Not Interested

- **Valley Crest Wine Tasting**

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Not Interested

- **Valley Crest Crab Feast**

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Not Interested

- **50<sup>th</sup> Valley Crest Annual Champagne Brunch & Historical Exhibit**

\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Not Interested

**Events to be announced in the next Newsletter**

**I Am Not a Valley Crest Scofflaw !**

## Valley Crest Annual Membership

Please Complete and Return This Form Including Your \$25 2008 Valley Crest Membership Renewal, payable to VCCA

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Include Email Address in 2008 Directory \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO