



## Community Association II

### **Valley Lakes Community Association II**

Master  
Association for the  
communities of

- Coventry Glen
- Remington Trails 2
- Heron Bay
- Fairfield Lakes

#### **Events**

##### **Household Electronics Collection**

November 11, 2008  
8am to 5pm  
Public Works Building

##### **Tree Lighting**

December 5, 2008  
6 PM at the  
Village Hall

## **Your Homeowners association**

This year the Association has been involved with determining exactly what property is owned by the Association. This should be a relatively easy thing to do but no plat-of-survey exists for the Association and the County's records that list our property parcel number (PIN) are convoluted, with our property being divided up into many sub-parcels and numbers. So many parcels numbers that some parcels were unknown and accumulated back

taxes. These parcels were sold by the County for non-payment. Luckily we were able to act quickly and recover these parcels, but not without a cost to the Association to achieve their redemption.

Additionally, as a result of our efforts to determine our property boundaries, we found that some property the Association was maintaining belonged to our sub-associations. We revised our maintenance contract and that has re-

sulted in a lower Budget and reduced membership assessments for 2009.

For 2009 we will be looking at our wetlands maintenance. There are clean-up issues with abandon cars that we'd like to achieve this year. Also, required ongoing maintenance of the wetlands will be addressed and as we develop our wetlands plan, we will see an improvement in the ascetics of the wetlands.

## **Millennium Trail – Update**

The Millennium Trail, a project of the Lake County Forest Preserve, is progressing and according to their plan will enter the Valley Lakes 2 area before the end of 2008.

The Trail is a walking, biking and equestrian trail that will eventually cross Lake County. The current construction will bring the

Trail from the south crossing Nippersink Road and proceeding north along the ComEd right-of-way and will connect to the Round Lake Park District property along Fairfield Road.

Their plan is to eventually proceed north along the ComEd property, cross Fox Trail and proceed to

Fairfield Road. The project Engineer stated that they still have problems getting across Fairfield but as their problems get resolved, the project will continue.

For more information on the trail, see the Forest Preserve web site [www.LCFPD.org](http://www.LCFPD.org).

Owner and Address check. Make sure the following is correct so you can Vote in the upcoming Annual Meeting.  
If not, go to <http://board.ValleyLakes2.org> click on Update Address.

## Common Area Abuse

Trespassing into our common areas by motorized and off road vehicles is still a major problem for our Association. Many members have complained about motor bikes, 4x4s, ATVs and snowmobiles, just to name a few.

**Our Association by-laws strictly prohibit any motorized vehicles in the common area.**

Furthermore, Round Lake ordinance prohibits motorized vehicle use anywhere off Village streets.

The Village has stepped up its patrols of the area; ComEd also has asked RLPD to arrest anyone caught violating Village Ordinances on their right-of-way.

Violators have been arrested, Association Members are not exempt from Village rules, so don't risk getting fined. Let your family members and friends know that the Common Area is Off-Limits to motorized vehicles.

If you see vehicles in the common area, call the **RLPD's non-emergency number 847-270-9111** and let them know that there's a motorized vehicles in the common space.

## Coyotes in Valley Lakes

Coyotes are flourishing and have been seen and heard in and around the Valley Lakes 2 common areas.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is warning parents to watch their small children when playing outside. Coyotes have been known to be rabid and might bite a child if the coyote feels threatened. More likely at risk are our pets, cats, small and medium sized dogs that the coyote sees as food.

Coyotes have been spotted in all areas around the wetlands not just near Mud Lake.

Coyotes can get fairly large for an urban coyote, the size of a full grown German Sheppard. Although most are smaller they still pose a threat to residents and pets.

Even though coyotes help to control the deer and geese population, its best to follow these DNR guidelines with regards to keeping your pets safe.

Steps for keeping pets safe, if your home is near coyote habitat, include:

- Don't feed any wild animals such as raccoons or deer, which encourages coyotes as well.

- Keep cats indoors at all times.
- Keep your dog on a leash.
- Don't leave cat or dog food outside.
- Secure garbage in areas where coyotes can't access it; keep yards clean of refuse and brush.
- Do not let pets out at night unless accompanied by a person.

Should you encounter any animal of a threatening nature, don't hesitate to call 911.

## Valley Lakes Community Association II

### Board of Directors

**Tom Gancarz**  
President

**Debbie Roeder**  
Secretary

**Scott Motisi**  
Treasurer

Property Management by  
Karen Flintz, KRS, ISA  
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ValleyLakes2.org](http://www.ValleyLakes2.org)

E-MAIL:  
[mailbox@valleylakes2.org](mailto:mailbox@valleylakes2.org)  
or see the Contact Us page on  
the Web Site.

## A Season for Sharing in Fire Safety

Each year fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650 more, and cause over \$990 million in damage. According to the United States Fire Administration (USFA), there are simple life-saving steps you can take to ensure a safe and happy holiday. By following some of the outlined precautionary tips, individuals can greatly reduce their chances of becoming a holiday fire casualty.

### Preventing Christmas Tree Fires

- **Christmas Tree Fires - Movie segments** demonstrating how fast a live Christmas tree can become fully engulfed in flames. Special fire safety precautions need to be taken when keeping a live tree in the house. A burning tree can rapidly fill a room with fire and deadly gases.
- **Selecting a Tree for the Holiday**  
Needles on fresh trees should be green and hard to pull back from the branches, and the needle should not break if the tree has been freshly cut. The trunk should be sticky to the touch. Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out, and is a fire hazard.
- **Caring for Your Tree**  
Do not place your tree close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times.
- **Disposing of Your Tree**  
Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or woodburning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

### Holiday Lights

- **Maintain Your Holiday Lights**  
Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed

wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

- **Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets**  
Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.
- **Do Not Leave Holiday Lights on Unattended**

### Holiday Decorations

- **Use Only Nonflammable Decorations**  
All decorations should be nonflammable or flame-retardant and placed away from heat vents.
- **Never Put Wrapping Paper in a Fireplace**  
It can result in a very large fire, throwing off dangerous sparks and embers and may result in a chimney fire.
- **Artificial Christmas Trees**  
If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

### Candle Care

- **Avoid Using Lit Candles**  
If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.
- **Never Put Lit Candles on a Tree**  
Do not go near a Christmas tree with an open flame - candles, lighters or matches.

Finally, as in every season, have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help. And remember to practice your home escape plan.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration



## Association Rules for Pet Owners

The top complaint against pet owners is not picking up after your dog. The vast majority of pet owners are responsible neighbors but a few irresponsible owners are causing a big problem for the Association and other pet owners.

**It's the law.** Just like littering, it's unlawful NOT to pick up after your dog, and your violation is subject to fines of up to \$150.00 by the Homeowners Association, Village of Round Lake or Park District Police.

**It's common courtesy.** Cleaning up after your

dogs shows respect for others in our community. Only irresponsible dog owners leave their dog's poop where it falls for others to have to look at, step in or clean up. Leaving dog poop also encourages other dogs to mark that spot, so one poop can often turn into two or more in the same spot! There are a lot of dogs in Valley Lakes 2; each one does its business once or twice a day... You do the math!

**Dog Poop tops the list of complaints against dogs.** More than dog aggression, nuisance barking or unsupervised dogs, most complaints against

dogs are about people not cleaning up after their dogs. This is true for Village parkways, sidewalks, common areas, parks and your neighbors' lawns.

**Confine your dogs walking to the parkways.** This suggestion has been successful in many other Communities and goes a long way in keeping a positive image with pet and non-pet owners.

**Your actions set an example for others.** When you pick up after your dog, you are part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. And your actions will help foster the senti-

ment that it's the right thing to do.

Many people even carry extra bags to offer others as a subtle and neighborly hint to others who might otherwise leave the poop unpicked up.

**Always carry a bag.** Not having a bag with you is a violation so make sure you have one and it's visible by RLPD when they drive by.

It's up to each of us to do our part in keeping Valley Lakes clean and poop free.

Spread the word that **Poop Kills Our Good Reputation as Responsible Dog Owners!**

## More Information for Dog Owners

For dog owners who like to let their dogs run a bit, you can do so in the Valley Lakes 2 common areas as long as you abide by the following guidelines. **This pertains only to Valley Lakes 2.**

- Dogs may run unleashed as long as the owner is present and in full control of his animal. You must be in full control of your dog and you are completely responsible for it.
- You must bring your dog to the common area on a leash and be pre-

pared to put your animal back on the leash if other members are in the area. Dogs must be on the leash when you return to home.

- You must bring along a bag to pickup after your dog. Same rules apply to picking up after you dog regardless

whether you're in the Common Spcae or homeowner communities.

- You will not allow your dog to harm any wildlife in the common area.

Enjoy the Common Areas with your pets but please do so responsibly.