

President's Message

A thank-you to those who volunteer

Having served my two-year term on the DHA board, first as treasurer and then as president, I can sit back and relax



while the new board takes on the many chores and

challenges that make our neighborhood a great place to live.

John Huntington reports on your newly elected officers on Page 2 of this issue, but I would like to welcome five new members who have volunteered their time and talent to serve on the board next year: Marilyn Anderson, Debra Cross, Kathi Milam, Flora Templeton Stuart and Gary Wyatt.

They will join a group of good people who are committed to the mission of our all-volunteer homeowners association: To maintain a beautiful and safe environment for us to live in, and to help maintain the value of one of our most important investments, our homes.

They all deserve our heartfelt thanks and support. We could start by paying our dues so they have the money to do their job.

Dave Adams-Smith

Happy Holidays

The Grinch who stole the entrance lights



Fun with lights

Abby Adams-Smith prances among the lights at her house on Morningstar. After her tour of holiday lights, including the Morrisons' neat archway on Drakesborough, Abby wasn't quite ready to go to bed.



Photos by Jeanie Adams-Smith

Coyotes cause a stir in neighborhood

Most residents of Drakesborough received a letter from Jay Davis, a neighbor living on Scottsborough Circle, alerting us to a number of sightings of coyotes in the neighborhood.

Dr. Davis expressed fears that the coyotes are the cause of the decline of rabbits, opossums and squirrels, and may be the reason we have been seeing so many re-

port of missing pets. Well, judging from the calls we have received, Dr. Davis got everyone's attention.

DHA President Dave Adams-Smith made a number of calls to public agencies, like Animal Control, and found that none would help, although they gave him the numbers of professional nuisance See **COYOTES** on Page 2

Well, it happened again! Every year, when we prepare the entrance for the winter holidays, we think it's going to be great.

Then something comes up. We've started calling it the Grinch. Two years ago, our electrical system faulted and we had to call in an expert to get our lights going again. Then, last year, construction on a new water line made a mess of our grass, irrigation system and our electrical system. Quick work by the water company got our lights up and running before the holidays.

This year, the irrigation and electrical systems, grass and landscaping were all looking good. The holiday lights were working, too.

Then, darkness....

An inspection revealed that someone — it's the Grinch for sure this time — stole our lights. And, to add insult to injury, our irrigation system burst and a truck went over the curb and made a huge gouge in our newly planted lawn.

Now comes our hero, board member Mark Vaughn, who got the whole mess fixed up in a matter of days. There's still some work to do, but it's festive.

Let's celebrate.



When asked at the board meeting what I was going to write about for the December newsletter, I said I had nothing to write. I was all writ out. They said write something anyway. Okay, just for that, I'll write about them. Gossip makes good print. Here is the gossip on the DHA officers for 2007.

Mark Vaughn

Mark will be the new president. He is a guy that gets things done before you can even form a committee to study the problem. I spent a whole year trying to get new lettering at the entrance. It took him a couple weeks and the deed was done. He is a no-nonsense, upfront, cut to the chase, kind of guy. He is a big guy and can sit on you if it is necessary. I am okay now.

Lesli Rohrig

Lesli will be vice-president. This year, as social chairman, she ran the spring and fall socials, organized the spring yard sale thing, updated the neighborhood directory, all in addition to running the Fruit of the Loom personnel department and a family of five. She is one of those high-energy people. She uses more energy in an hour than I do in a week.

Carol Adams

Carol was re-elected as secretary, and she doesn't miss a thing. Very sharp lady. I have attention deficit, and at the board meetings, I am not always focused on what is going on. When the minutes are read at the next meeting, she has it recorded when I was mentally there and when I wasn't. She doesn't miss a thing.

Gary Meszaros

Gary is an administrator and teacher at Western Kentucky University. His wife is a surgical nurse at the Medical Center. Gary was re-elected treasurer and will handle your dues. The thing that hits you about Gary is that he is truly a nice guy. I envy people like that because I don't know how they do it.

In California, the last homeowners association I belonged to cost \$221 a month. A retired real-estate agent, who always wanted to be a cop, would walk the neighborhood with a clipboard and write down violations then send out nasty letters to tell you that you were 15 minutes late on getting your trash can off the curb. After any social neighborhood gathering, there usually would be three new lawsuits. Instead of loving your neighbor, you sued him.

I have been to four Drakesborough social events and haven't been sued yet. When I moved here, I was told I had to be on the board. I didn't want to carry a clipboard, and I never wanted to be a cop. Being retired I couldn't come up with an excuse, and now I am glad I was a slow thinker.

There are some dynamite people who live in Drakesborough and four of them will be our DHA officers this year. They love their neighborhood and they love their neighbors.

What a neat concept.

John Huntington



Photo by Jeanie Adams-Smith

Fall Social fun for everyone

Neighborhood kids mug for the camera on a sunny October day when the smell of sizzling burgers and dogs brought dozens of families to the Fall Social at the commons. The potluck dishes were awesome, and DHA social chairman Lesli Rohrig offered crafts for the kids, including ghosts, necklaces and paper bag jack-o-lanterns.

**Coyotes
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control people (hunters). One hunter, Rex Lashley, surveyed the area and offered to do the work, using snare traps and/or using predator calls to attract the animals to a safe place to shoot them with a small-caliber rifle. He said it would take a couple of months and cost \$1,500.

He said coyotes den only in the spring and range up to 10 miles hunting prey for the rest of the year. They are generally nocturnal and sleep, concealed, during the day. He said that even if he killed them all, we could expect to see new ones some months later.

This is not good news.

The DHA board discussed the issue at its December meeting. Some members worried about the risks, particularly to pets, of snaring or shooting. The issue was tabled for fur-

ther study. Input from neighbors is welcomed. Call any board member to express your opinion, or to report any new sightings.

Meanwhile, Lashley gave us some tips to deter the coyotes, which he said are lazy animals attracted by a "free lunch":

- Never put your garbage out in plastic bags; put it in tough sanitation bins for pickup.
- Never throw out scraps for pets or wild animals.
- Feed your pets in an enclosed area where the food will not be accessible to coyotes.
- Immediately report road kill and other dead animals to the authorities for quick cleanup.
- Hunters and fishermen, properly dispose of remains after your catch is cleaned.

If we follow these guidelines, the coyotes should move on to places where the pickings are easier.