



Calumet Courier

GARAGE SALE

The Calumet Ranch Homeowner's Association 5th annual garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th from 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Chairperson Pam Bauer changed the sale date from early April. The past two years sales were very cold and rainy even though participating residents reported that shoppers still turned out strong.

The cost will be \$5.00 per home. The fee will be collected the day of the sale from all residences participating. Checks should be made out to "CALUMET RANCH HOMEOWNERS ASSN." The fee will pay for printing the sales maps, preparing the signs at the entrances and placing advertising in the local newspapers.

In past years, the sales maps have proven very helpful to direct buyers to all our sales locations. Sellers, a supply of maps will be delivered to your porch the night before the sale. The deadline to register for the sales map is Friday, May 1st. You may list your garage sale items on the map. Use the e-mail (garagesale@calumetranch.org) or send postal mail (2977 Highway K #139, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368) with the following information:

- Street Address
- Items
- Name
- Contact Information (phone, email)

NOTE: Your name and contact information will not be published on the map; it is requested so the committee may contact you if questions or changes occur.

A charity organization will be scheduled to bring their truck through the subdivision after 1:00 p.m. on May 9th to pick up anything which you wish to donate. Neither the association nor the committee can be held liable for items not picked up after the sale is over. The arrival of the truck is completely out of committee control.

Please contact Chairperson Bauer if you have any questions or need any further information. Here's to another successful year!!!

Pam Bauer

Chairperson
(636) 443-9627
garagesale@calumetranch.org

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The Calumet Ranch Homeowners Association meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The meeting location, September through May, is at the Fort Zumwalt South Middle School Cafeteria. Meetings are open to the Calumet Ranch community.

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2009
 Tuesday, April 14, 2009
 Tuesday, May 12, 2009
Place: Cafeteria
 Fort Zumwalt South Middle School
 300 Knaust Road

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gary Duke, President

Day: (636) 980-1269
 Evening: (636) 980-1269
 Email: president@calumetranch.org
 Term: Year 1 of 3

--Open--, Vice President

Day:
 Evening:
 Email: vicepresident@calumetranch.org
 Term: Year 3 of 3

Steven Blake, Treasurer

Day: (636) 272-8381
 Evening: (636) 272-8381
 Email: treasurer@calumetranch.org
 Term: Year 2 of 3

Note: board@calumetranch.org will mail all.

ASSOCIATION POSTAL ADDRESS

The Board maintains a postal mailbox for written communications. Please send correspondence, forms, applications, etc. to:

Calumet Ranch Homeowners Association

2977 Highway K #139
 Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368

4th of JULY PARADE COMMITTEE

For the past nine years, Missy Murphy has chaired this committee. In fact, it was her idea to have the first parade. The Association depended upon her leadership for this event which always attracts a good crowd. Unfortunately, Missy relocated with her family last fall.

So, the Association is looking for volunteers to fill the vacancy. Residents interested in forming a committee to conduct the 10th annual Calumet Ranch Independence Day Parade should notify a member of the Board no later than Friday, May 1st, 2009.

Committee members will organize the route, monitor the participants and serve refreshments at the conclusion. The Committee will consult with the Board about their plans, publish details in the summer issue of the *Courier* and recap the event for the autumn issue.

DIRECTOR WANTED

An opening still exists in the Board of Directors. Director terms are usually three years in duration but the first two years for this position have already elapsed. So, if you are inclined to serve, your commitment is only required until the next annual meeting in September 2009.

The Board meets once a month at a public meeting where most of their work is performed. The Directors ensure our Association does not fail in its obligations to the Indenture and to the Calumet Ranch neighborhood. A third member is essential to add another viewpoint, to share in the tasks and to provide a consensus.

Please contact a Board member - by phone or mail. Get involved at the next Board meeting!

STORMY WATERS

The civil engineering firm of Pickett, Ray and Silver was contracted by the Board to survey the eastern drain system. The dam failed last spring and, before it can be repaired, a reevaluation of the detention basin design must be conducted. The cost of their services is anticipated to be \$16,800.

Recommended repairs will incur additional cost.

EDITORIAL

Rivers were crucial highways for settlers of early America. When Spain blockaded New Orleans in 1798, the fledgling United States (which did not yet border the Mississippi River) almost went to war to protect its growing reliance on western river trade. Yet, river transport presents inherent calamities.

Winter season would shut the highway down with ice dams. Wooden boat hulls were thick and rugged but had no ice breaking capability. Warehouses at river towns became a booming industry to store the accumulating cargo. When ice break-ups did come, they were without warning and could be very destructive downstream such as Saint Louis in 1856.

Floods and currents changed the course of rivers constantly. Eddies (reverse currents) could impair steering or capsize the boat. Each trip was on a new map. A riverboat pilot had to read where the channel (deepest part) of the river ran and anticipate how his boat would "swing" through bends. A pilot was the best paid profession until the Civil War, earning up to \$300 a month.

In summer and during late fall, low rainfall would make the channel too shallow. Boats that ran aground might work themselves off if not stuck too fast or if rains came. They might hire a tow from another boat passing by if the price was not too steep. They might use a "kedger" (an anchor) whose rope the crew would wrap around a capstan to pull the boat off. They might tow a "lighter" which was a smaller boat that they would move cargo to so the big boat could float free. They might "spar off" if the boat had large poles attached which could walk the boat by both lifting and thrusting the boat forward a few feet at a time.

Collision with river debris such as rocks or logs could puncture hulls. That likely meant sinking. Logs were especially dangerous. Terms described the peril they posed. A "strainer" is a submerged mass of tangled timber that still allows the current to flow so that the river surface may appear safe. A "snag" is a jumble of tree debris into an impenetrable dam. A "sawyer" is log with one end embedded in the river bottom as the other end dipped up and down, in a sawing motion, so that it might disappear and then reappear.

Despite these dangers, the first steamboat on the Mississippi was the *New Orleans* in 1811; the first steamer to reach Saint Louis was the *Zebulon Pike* in 1817. The first on the Missouri River was the *Independence* in 1819.

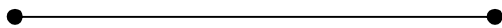
TRASH TALK

The Indenture, in section 10 article (a)(xv), specifies that trash receptacles must not "...be stored in the open on any Lot, but shall be kept secured within the improvements located on each Lot..." Residents who comply (95%) with the restriction complain perennially about the 5% who do not.

Receptacles stashed in back on the patio or behind the garage are "stored in the open". They are in violation even if not visible from the front of your home. A few residents built outdoor enclosures but these structures were not approved by the Board. The Board believes the restriction is necessary and is enforcing it.

Trash can(s) on display detract from the value and overall aesthetic of our neighborhood. As proved on a windy Tuesdays recently, open or overturned receptacles strew trash into neighbor's yards. Odors that emanate from any cans left outdoors should not be your neighbor's concern. Finally, outside trash cans may attract feral animals into our neighborhood.

The Board requests that you do not store your trash receptacles outdoors. Failure to comply may result in fines.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Residents of the nearby Glen Allen subdivision attended a meeting on the same night as our last monthly Board meeting. There was quite a crowd. Their topic: open garage doors. Some subdivisions actually do have garage door policies. Calumet Ranch does not but the Glen Allen residents were not complaining about appearances.

The Sheriff's Deputy conducting the meeting was warning about a rash of thefts where the thieves drive around looking for garage doors left open. If there is no sign of anyone outside, they will enter the garage and steal items. They have also been known to open the door to the house to see if anything valuable is within reach.

Some of our residents have inquired lately about the Neighborhood Watch program. The City of O'Fallon Police administers the program. There was an attempt to start a Calumet Ranch Homeowner's Association committee back in 2001 but there was no further action.

The best policy is to close your garage door.

FEE SCHEDULE

The Board has reconsidered the fee schedule that was implemented a year ago. The original fee was intended to be a tangible and gentle reminder of Indenture regulations. Letters to residents and notices in the *Courier* had proved ineffective for gaining compliance.

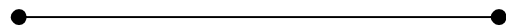
Many residents responded positively when fined and remedied their infraction. Assessing fines is unfortunate but they did improve upon the number of infractions. However, two issues are enough cause to escalate the fines.

There are still 5% of our residences that pay their fine yet still store their garbage receptacles outside. And, at \$10 per month, parking trailers and boats in the driveway is a bargain storage rate.

The Board is obligated to enforce the Indenture restrictions but prefer not to send repeated violation fines. The revised schedule below increases over the previous by a factor of 10. Fines will commence at \$100 per violation per month. Until the violation is corrected, the monthly fine will double after every three months.

- Month 1-3 = \$100 per month
- Month 4-6 = \$200 per month
- Month 7-9 = \$400 per month
- Month 10-12 = \$800 per month
- ... and so on (hopefully not!!)

Every residence was mailed a copy of the Indenture last summer. The Board requests that you read through the restrictions. They are part of your property responsibility. A fine moratorium, in effect since November 2008, will be lifted as of March 1, 2009.



MAN'S BEST FRIEND?

The Board has recently received complaints, not about pets, but about their negligent owners.

If your pet leaves your property, please accompany it and attend to its behavior. On walks, please carry some container to clean up any "deposits". Your neighbor should not have to.

In your yard, please provide some restraint for unattended pets. Either a fence (physical or electric) or a tether should prevent your pet from visiting the neighbors where their presence is not appreciated.

2008 BUDGET (as of 12/31)			
INCOME	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>	<u>YTD Variance</u>
Assessments, fees, interest	\$14,086.71	\$35,600.00	\$(21,513.29)
EXPENSES			
Legal	\$2,534.00	\$3,000.00	\$(466.00)
Property	\$17,630.00	\$20,500.00	\$(2,870.00)
Communication	\$1,130.22	\$2,300.00	\$(1,169.78)
Administration	\$4,296.83	\$9,800.00	\$(5,503.17)
Total	\$25,591.05	\$35,600.00	\$(10,008.95)
	=====	=====	=====
NET	\$(11,504.34)	\$0.00	\$(11,504.34)

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Our Indenture allows receptacles at the street from the evening before through to the evening of scheduled pickup days (shaded backgrounds on the calendar). At all other times, receptacles must be secured within the residence structure.

Memorial Day Monday shifts pickups for that week to Tuesday and Friday.

March 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
April 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
May 2009						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Mem.	26	27	28	29	30
31						

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

The annual election for officer of the Newsletter Committee in January resulted in a one-year term for Steven Blake. There will be no further public meetings until next January. Please advise the editor if you wish to contribute articles or topics.

Steven Blake
 Chair / Editor
 (636) 272-8381
 courier@calumetranch.org

BABYSITTER DIRECTORY

Babysitters from our neighborhood may submit contact information for publication in the *Courier*. After four issues (one year), a babysitter must resubmit their name.

The "IR" column indicates the "issues remaining" for each listing. A zero means renewal of the listing is required to appear in the next issue.

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>IR</u>
Estrada	15	(636) 980-1269	1

Mission Statement for the Calumet

Courier: This newsletter will serve primarily as a vehicle for directors and committees of Calumet Ranch Homeowners Association to convey information of results after completion, tasks in progress and goals under consideration. It will also report about local government (e.g., O’Fallon City, Saint Charles County, Fort Zumwalt schools, sewer district, etc.) policies, projects and services that will impact our community.