

## STATE OF THE VALLEY

This past year has been filled with many projects, emergencies, and controversy. In the end, the community continues to move forward as it always has. Credit for progress is due to the outstanding efforts of the POA Office Staff, Maintenance Staff, and those volunteers who so generously donate their time to all of our Committees and Clubs. In no particular order, below are just a few of the many accomplishments of our employees and volunteers:

Our Maintenance Staff has been hard pressed to complete dam repairs after noticing and reporting a slippage of soil on the face of the dam. This issue, though not any immediate threat, was a magnet for State Agencies and News Media from miles around. The publicity alone was an issue to deal with separate from the repairs. In addition to their normal duties, our Maintenance Staff contributes their time to capital projects thus reducing the overall costs and saving money for the residents.

Our Office Staff has continued to provide ongoing excellent service to all residents with the added burdens of providing any necessary support for Committees and Clubs. One excellent example is the support provided for the re-write of the Handbook where multiple sets of documents ultimately will be combined in to one.

Our deputies are now fully staffed. As a result, and through their vigilance, we have been able to aggressively enforce the traffic rules and decrease the number of thefts in the community. The deputies report that most theft crimes are crimes of opportunity, i.e., open garage doors, etc. They won't hesitate to bring this to the homeowner's attention. Through increased coordination with the Dearborn County sheriff's office we are now using Sheriff Deputy Vehicles.

Future Planning has instituted Round Table discussions with local politicians to help increase awareness of HVL and local government issues. The first Roundtable was hugely successful as it resulted in increased collaboration with the County on road and salt issues. Future Roundtable events are expected to pay dividends in the future. We are looking forward to more Roundtable events.

The Streets and Drainage Committee has worked with our contractor and our maintenance staff to pave approximately 2.5 miles of roads and tie in the driveways on these newly paved roads.

The Lakes Committee has worked on multiple major projects this year including dredging, the new marina ramp, and dam slippage. This Committee will continue to monitor the efforts of our dredging initiative on all of our lakes with particular attention to the effects of dredging on lake usage next season. Dredging will be a challenging project but is absolutely necessary. Weather permitting, the boat ramp upgrade will be finished as scheduled prior to the boating and fishing season.

Our Judicial Panel has continued their steadfastness with consistency and fairness to the entire community when dealing with sensitive issues such as fines, warnings, etc.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has worked tirelessly planning and coordinating our new pool house and baby pool projects. An engineering analysis completed by HREZO Engineering listed a number of defects, some structural that ultimately dictated the need for a new structure. The success of last year's deer management program allowed for a reduction of approximately 50% in time and people this year. We will continue to work closely with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Dearborn County Water Runoff experts on future programs as needed to control erosion and reforest our green spaces that have been severely damaged over time. A Woodlands Management Program has also been initiated by cutting down invasive honeysuckle in the 77 acres.

The Safety, Security, and Election Committee has collaborated as necessary with other Committees when safety has been identified as a concern on various initiatives. In addition this Committee has launched our First Responder Initiative and provided training for 19 people. They expect to attend additional meetings on First Responder initiatives and provide additional CPR training as needed.

The Finance Committee has developed a sophisticated system of escrow accounts which affectively insures that funds will be available when needed for major replacements, initiatives, etc. In addition a cash reserve has been established and funded for major unexpected events. Finance, with the help of all Committees has made sure our community remains essentially debt free.

The Architecture Committee has approved many new home owner projects while insuring they meet all setback rules, etc., and still fit harmoniously with the rest of the community. Where projects don't meet certain standards, this Committee has worked with the homeowners and contractors to remedy the problems.

Our many clubs continued to add exceptional value to the community this past year. The Civic Club and Children's Activity Group have identified those functions most in demand and have worked with volunteers to bring these activities to fruition. Our Garden Club continues to work tirelessly to make our front entrance and other community areas beautiful and attractive.

It should be evident to all that our Community is held together by a small cadre of paid staff and a large number of volunteers. These volunteers freely donate their time and efforts to make Hidden Valley a better place for all to live. Though many of us have differing opinions on what to do and how to do it, in the end we vote and move on. The Board of Directors sincerely thanks everyone for their time and efforts this past year.

Bill Minnery

POA Board President