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Your Voice in the Village

HOA Voice of the Village



Advocacy, Is Tellico Village an oasis or an island?

By Mark Pantley, VP of Advocacy

An “oasis” is defined as “a pleasant or peaceful area or period in the midst of a difficult, troubled, or hectic place or situation.” I often think of Tellico Village as being such a place. The natural beauty, pleasant climate, low cost, and low crime rate combine together to make living in Tellico Village a very pleasant place.

Unfortunately, the world around us, even in Monroe and Loudon counties, is often a very troubled place, which makes the impression of Tellico Village being an oasis in the midst of trouble even more apparent.

Of course, what you define as your oasis may differ from how your neighbors define it. It may be just your house and yard, or your neighborhood, or it could be all of Tellico Village. It might even be the county you live in – Loudon or Monroe – or all of East Tennessee. Some may even say the USA is an oasis in a very troubled world. The point here is that we’re all alike in desiring to live in a space that makes us happy, yet we all define this differently.

In contrast, it seems that some people would prefer to act as if they were on an island – defined as “...being isolated or having little or no direct communication with others”. I struggle with understanding this approach. It seems like a very lonely place to be and it reminds me of the old saying that “no one on their deathbed says that they wish they had spent more time at work”. My point being that it’s not the work we do, but the people we impact that is most important. I think we all want to be remembered for helping to make the lives of people around us a little better. This means staying connected to others – whether they be your immediate neighbors, other residents in Tellico Village, or people who live outside the village.

To their credit, many residents of Tellico Village spend a lot of time working to improve the lives of those around them. Whether that be the neighbors down the street, a special interest group here in the village, or helping to solve a need in the wider community - the list is long and varied. Taken from the perspective of living in an oasis, the service of these dedicated individuals demonstrates their willingness to share their good fortune with those who live around them. Sometimes this is sharing of a skill or ability, and sometimes it is to help the less fortunate. Their contribution helps to increase the quality and livability of Tellico Village.

We are all very fortunate to live in such a beautiful place with so much abundance. While living on an island may be safe and secure – particularly in the short term - it leads to isolation and an increasing lack of relevancy. I doubt that any of us want to be considered as irrelevant. Instead, we want to be valued and recognized as a person who counts. This means recognizing that we’re living in an oasis, not on an island, and being willing to help those around us. While that may sound simple, it’s not. We all have different views as to how to solve problems both in the village and outside. Having problems isn’t the problem – that’s a natural part of all of us living together. The real problem is not being able to resolve them. It is important to approach how we solve issues by being open, transparent, and committed to finding common ground together. Only then will Tellico Village continue to be the great place to live that it is.