

GCVCA Board of Directors Officers President

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Architecture Sandy Dresser

Capital Improvements Bob Williamson

> Communications Sandy Dresser

Drainage Gary Voegele

Finance John Moran

Landscape & Trees Susan Mockenhaupt Patty Williamson

> **Playgrounds** John Moran

Financial Management Disclosure Packets

Michelle Cidone 703-967-6184 finance@golfcourseview.org

Website

www.golfcourseview.org

gcvca@golfcourseview.org



Golf Course View Cluster Association

February 2006

RA Document Referendum

The referendum ballots were mailed to all RA members this past Monday. The deadline for voting is March 31st, and the results will be announced at the annual meeting in April. For the new documents to be accepted, 40% of eligible RA members must vote and two-thirds of the voters must vote "Yes."

The ballot will ask you to vote separately on three documents: The Deed, Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. I encourage you to vote and to vote "NO" on all three documents.

On February 6th I attended another meeting held by the RA board for cluster officers and board members. Many of us asked for clear explanations of the provisions about which we have long been concerned, and once again, we were answered with smooth legal double-talk.

In my studied opinion, the proposed new Deed still:

- Gives RA the opportunity to take more of our money and increases its flexibility in spending it, while seriously reducing our rights to review and approve their actions.
- 2. Gives RA the right to pledge all Association revenues to secure loans, without our approval.
- 3. Gives RA the authority to mortgage RA common areas—a right it doesn't have now, with or without our approval.
- 4. Gives RA new powers over how clusters manage their affairs and maintain their common areas that don't exist in the current documents.
- 5. Makes it possible for RA to add new neighborhoods to Reston that are not contiguous (or even nearby), and to set different design, maintenance and use standards and assessment amounts for those new additions—all without consulting us, the current RA members.
- Makes RA (but not clusters) "lawsuit proof" regardless of the actions or inaction of RA's board, staff or contractors.

You'll want to read the documents to be sure you know what you're voting on—and please be sure to yote

Sandy Dresser, GCVCA President

March Board Meeting

The March board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 at 7:30 pm at 2206.

Interested residents are invited to attend.

Board Approves New Signs

The project to renew the cluster entrance area is moving forward. At its February meeting the board approved the design for the new cluster signs. The approved signs, illustrated below, still need to be approved by the RA-DRB.



The background and posts of the signs will be light gray (Windham) and the words and borders will be aubergine (Admiral). You can check out the colors on our website. Go to Handbook and Standards, then click on the link to the Cluster Color Palettes.

The board also approved a landscape plan for the entrance area. This plan needs RA-DRB approval, too, before work can begin. The board budgeted \$8,000 in capital reserves and \$3,000 in the landscape and trees budget to pay for the new signs and landscaping.

Storm Damage Clean-Up

We lost a redbud tree and a large branch from an oak tree during the recent snow storm. Blade Runners cleaned up this damage last Tuesday. Tree chairman Patty Williamson is getting bids from a number of arborists to deal with the many broken white pine limbs around the cluster. These limbs will be cleaned up as soon as possible.

Blade Runners has also promised to pick up the considerable amount of windfall, that predates the snow storm, during their next scheduled work day in the cluster. It will take awhile, but we expect to have our common areas tidied up in the near future.

Plans For Upper Playground Presented

The Playground committee presented a couple of plans for replacing the old equipment in the upper playground to the board this week. This much needed renovation is likely to cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, and may need to be done in two phases. The board will focus on this issue at its March meeting.

If you have strong feelings about what kinds of equipment should be placed in the upper playground, please contact John Moran or Julie Byrd with your suggestions.

Recycling News

As we mentioned in an earlier newsletter, Potomac Disposal Services (PDS) is now recycling miscellaneous paper and cardboard at the curb every Friday! For those of us who have been carrying our paper and cardboard to the recycling center on Lawyers Road, this is a big improvement.

Fairfax County requires trash collection companies to provide recycling services, but it does not require residents to participate in the recycling program. If you choose to recycle aluminum cans, plastic bottles, newspapers and miscellaneous paper, it's important that you use your recycling bins for only those items that are acceptable for recycling. If you put non-recyclable materials in your bins, everything will be treated as trash and dumped in the landfill.

You may have seen the recycling chart Fairfax County recently released to the local newspapers. We've requested copies for all of us and will pass them along to you when they are available. In the meantime, please review the chart below and make sure that, if you are participating in the recycling program, you're doing it right.



Yard Waste

Because of a waiver granted by Fairfax County a number of years ago, our contract with PDS does not include recycling of yard waste. Instead, most of our yard waste is picked up and recycled by Blade Runners. When you have yard waste, you may put it out for collection on any trash day—just be sure that any woody debris is cut into 4-foot lengths and tied in bundles.