



ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association

June 2005

GCVCA Board of Directors

Officers

President
Sandy Dresser
Vice President
Darrill Anderson
Secretary
Marge Hogarty
Treasurer
John Moran

Directors

Susan Mockenhaupt

Bob Williamson

Gary Voegelé

Committee Chairpersons

Architecture
Sandy Dresser

Capital Improvements
Bob Williamson

Communications
Sandy Dresser

Drainage
Gary Voegelé

Finance
John Moran

Landscape & Trees
Susan Mockenhaupt
Patty Williamson

Playgrounds
John Moran

Annual Meeting Held A Day Late

The annual meeting of the cluster association was rained out last Monday, but 28 residents showed up on Tuesday to discuss their interests and concerns with members of the board of directors. Highlights of that discussion included the following:

Landscape

Residents are pleased with the overall maintenance of our common property and like the changes we've made during the past year. Going forward, residents would like us to focus on the main entrance to the cluster and the entrances to the various courtyards—adding more flowering plants to provide color throughout the year.

In addition there is strong interest in replacing the sign at the main cluster entrance with something more visible, informative and attractive. In addition, residents would like to see more visible, headlight-high signs at the entrances to courtyards to better direct visitors to specific addresses.

Playgrounds

Members of the playground committee noted that our playground equipment, especially in the upper playground, does not meet the current codes. Residents agreed that safe and attractive playgrounds are an important amenity and asked the committee to begin to develop an action plan to improve the existing play areas. The general consensus was that playground improvements are a capital expense that can be budgeted through the reserve fund.

Architecture/Design Standards

There was general agreement that our current design standards don't provide enough trim color alternatives to homeowners who wish to install white or off-white maintenance-free windows. The architecture committee will address this issue by identifying one or more primary trim colors from each of the five color palettes that might be used with white/off-white windows and then work to obtain RA Design Review Board approval for this change in the cluster standards.

Improved Street Lighting

Several residents said that their biggest concern was that our cluster is inadequately lighted at night. They proposed that the cluster either install different fixtures that provide brighter light or that we add new street lights where needed.

Board members with experience in this area pointed out that Dominion Virginia Power will no longer install street lights like ours and that Reston Association will not approve the kinds of lights the power company will install—something of a "Catch 22."

It was generally agreed that resolution of the issue would take a considerable amount of effort and would need a strong team of residents to do the necessary work. Anyone willing to take up the challenge is urged to contact any board member. The board will be happy to facilitate the formation of a street light committee.

In the meantime, several board members have agreed to survey the current street lights to identify those that are not producing as much light as they could and to work with Dominion Virginia Power to have the bulbs replaced as soon as possible.

Cluster Security

One of the first issues discussed at the meeting was cluster security. In the past few weeks we have seen a serious increase in vandalism, littering (aluminum cans broken beer bottles, fast food trash, etc.) and improper towing of cluster vehicles on our street and in our parking lots. And recently a motorcycle was stolen from the parking lot in Courtyard D.

Unfortunately, our cluster has experienced similar incidents every summer for years. Residents at the meeting agreed that past efforts to start a formal neighborhood watch program have been consistently ineffective, and that the most viable solution to the problem is vigilance on the part of us all.

If you see or hear anything suspicious, please call the police. The phone number for the Fairfax County Police dispatcher is 703-691-2131. If you suspect criminal activity, don't hesitate to call 911.

In addition, we'll all be safer if we turn on our outdoor lights at dark and leave them on until dawn. The cost is pennies a day—a small price to pay for safety.

Board Officers For 2005-2006

At its meeting Tuesday night, the Board of Directors elected the following officers for the new board year:

President - Sandy Dresser
Vice President - Darrill Anderson
Treasurer - John Moran
Secretary - Marge Hogarty

July Board Meeting

The July board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00 pm at 2204 .

Interested residents are invited to attend.

Website

www.golfcourseview.org

Email

gcvca@golfcourseview.org

News From The Board

Asphalt Resealing

At its June meeting, the board of directors accepted a proposal from Champion Paving Company to reseal the asphalt on our street and parking lots, repaint the fire lane curbs and re-mark our parking places. This contract will include repainting of the numbers on our parking spaces that have become illegible. The cost of this work, which will be done later this summer, will be between \$9,000 and \$10,000.

The work is expected to take two days to complete and will require us to remove all cars from the street and parking lots. Residents will be notified well in advance of the work dates.

Backyard Wildlife Habitat

There has been growing interest in having our neighborhood certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation. Susan Mockenhaupt provided the following information about what this means.

The Backyard Wildlife Habitat (BWH) is a certification project that is part of the National Wildlife Federation. The purpose is to create a habitat that will attract wildlife to our community. Our cluster would emphasize plantings to attract songbirds and butterflies, rain gardens to recharge the groundwater and rock riverbeds to channel excess rainwater into culverts rather than flood surrounding areas.

What the Benefits Are

BWH projects benefit the entire community of people, plants and wildlife through the creation of sustainable landscapes that require little or no pesticides or fertilizers and minimal watering. These landscapes help keep water and air resources clean. They are healthier for people and the environment and are less resource-dependent than conventional landscapes. A habitat landscape could beautify our common areas and serve as a source of pride for our neighborhood.

Why It's Important

Habitat loss is one of the greatest threats to America's wildlife today. This includes birds that use the eastern flyway for migration, butterflies, mammals and even insect-eating bats and toads. By certifying our common areas as part of the backyard habit program we would be joining a national network of people who are helping to protect wildlife. For example, Reston National Golf Course is a certified Audubon Society Golf Course. Our participation in the backyard habitat program would send an important signal that this is a homeowners' association committed to maintaining our homes and neighborhood.

How We Would Get Certified

The certification process involves completion of an application form, which we would do as a neighborhood—not as individual homeowners. A copy of the application form will be posted on our cluster website, when this newsletter is, so that you can see what's involved.

Committee Chairs Named

The following board members have agreed to chair the working committees of the board for the 2005-2006 board year:

Architecture - Sandy Dresser

This committee works with residents on questions and issues regarding the cluster design standards and RA Design Review Board applications and approvals.

Capital Improvements - Bob Williamson

This committee is responsible for overseeing projects that relate to our common hardscapes—street, parking lots, sidewalks, signs etc.

Communications - Sandy Dresser

The communications committee is responsible for producing the cluster's monthly newsletter, website, directory, and handbook.

Drainage - Gary Voegelé

The drainage committee works with residents and contractors to resolve drainage problems in common areas.

Finance - John Moran

The finance committee is responsible for facilitating the budget planning process.

Landscape and Trees - Susan Mockenhaupt and Patty Williamson

The landscape and trees committee is responsible for maintaining and enhancing our common grounds and working with residents to plan and carry out volunteer landscape projects.

Playgrounds - John Moran

The playgrounds committee is responsible for maintaining our two playground areas.

Residents are welcome to participate on any of the committees. Contact information for the committee chairs is printed in each newsletter. You can also send us an email at gcvca@golfcourseview.org telling us of your interests. Your message will be forwarded to the appropriate committee chairperson.

News From Our Neighbors

Pet Care Services

Two Golf Course View teenagers are now providing a variety of pet care services, including daily dog walking, long-term pet and house sitting, dog bathing and care of other animals such as cats, guinea pigs, rabbits and fish.

For more information and prices, call:

Julia Moran or Elizabeth Borsetti.

Toddler Play Group Schedule

Due to the warmer temperatures recently, the toddler play group has revised its schedule. The group now meets on:

Tuesdays at **9:00 am** in the Newbridge cluster playground, and

Fridays at 4:30 pm in the lower playground.

For more information contact Kristy Wolan.

Where We Live

One of the most frequently asked questions is "Which courtyard do I live in?" The little map below (which is also printed on the back of your Cluster Directory) shows the alphabetical designation of our six courtyards.

