

August 2010



THE ACORN



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

So we had the hottest July on record. I always wanted a hot tub at the pool, and it was pretty much that way this month. I was out washing my car today and obviously became delirious as I thought I saw a white squirrel. I think I have a better chance of seeing Bigfoot.

We recently had our Director step down, and with my 3-year tenure ending in December, we will have two openings on the Board this year. We will need some new blood in the neighborhood to step up and help. It's not half as painful as you think, except for writing a monthly article for *The Acorn* as President during your third year. The work actually involves one 90-minute meeting each month and answering e-mail between Board members and our management staff. So, ask not what your HOA can do for you, ask what you can do for your HOA. Awful, I know, but I am already five hours past my deadline.

We have a recommendation for placement of the traffic calming devices on Charles Stewart Drive and Ox Hill Road. Letters will soon go out to those homeowners where the devices will border their property asking for approval to put in speed tables (longer versions of a speed hump) on Ox Hill Road. Pending these approvals, we will schedule a community meeting, I hope in late September, for the County to answer any questions about the plan. A community vote will follow via mail ballot.

Stay cool!

Architectural Review Board. The Architectural Review Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on August 17th at 12549 Lt. Nichols Road to review all completed applications received at least *seven days* before the meeting. An agenda for the meeting will be posted on the FOEHA Web site (www.foeha.org) prior to the meeting.

ARB July 13th meeting results: Two applications were submitted—restoration and extension of an existing patio; and construction of a new fence. Both applications were approved.

Contact information. Sequoia Management is your primary contact for submission of ARB applications, requests for re-sale packets, and reports of ARB violations. Contact Jan Fenton, Fair Oaks Estates Homeowners Association, c/o Sequoia Management Company, Inc., 13998 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA 20151-2283, 703-803-9641, 703-968-0936 (fax), or e-mail jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com.

Open Space Committee. There were two significant events this month. First, the **Hautbois** family volunteered to paint the white fence at the West Ox Road entrance and did a nice job. Several Fair Oaks Estates residents slowed to say “thank you” during the work. We greatly appreciate this volunteer family effort and the positive reinforcement voiced by our residents! Second, we had a contractor repair the brick work at the

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entrances. The West Ox Road monument was damaged during the road widening, and the Alder Woods Drive entrance monument had developed a large crack near the base as a result of settling. Our contractor (Terry Gaymon, 703-684-9260) did a nice job.

The small tot lot looks good as a result of the Scout Troop 160 project. Once again, our thanks to the Scouts!

FOEHA Flashes. Certain events arise where rapid communications are best handled electronically. Consider checking the Fair Oaks Web site for “What’s New” postings. For those of you who find e-mails helpful, we would like to compile your addresses. They would be safeguarded and used only for time-sensitive notices from the Board, such as change of date for a homeowners meeting. Recipients would not see addresses for others on the e-mail. If you would like to participate, please send a note to **Rick Oborn** at obornr@cox.net.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE ACORN

Here’s more news from *The Acorn* from 25 years ago. These items are from August 1986:

- We should have mentioned last month that this year’s July Fourth Parade marked the 25th anniversary of this event, which first took place in 1986 thanks to the inspiration and organizational efforts of **Carol Williams**, who still lives on Lt. Nichols Road.
- We welcomed eight new families to the neighborhood, including **Tom** and **Cheryl Watson**, who still live on Washington Brice Road.
- Home sales continued to be good, with seven homes sold, including a Monroe for \$186,000.
- The newsletter featured another article under the “Crime Watch” byline that focused on the need for everyone in the neighborhood to be alert and willing to report suspicious activity to the police.

READER’S RECOMMENDATIONS (Cristina and Jay Eberly)

We’d like to recommend our nanny to anyone who is looking for one. She will be available in September for any number of hours before 3:00 p.m. and after 5:00 p.m. She has been with our family for two years and is extremely responsible, honest, and punctual, has a clear driving record, and loves children of all ages. She will care for any age and will drive kids to activities, if needed. She also can help with light housework. Her contact information is Tatiana Rivera 703-862-9016 or e-mail: rivera_n_tatiana@yahoo.com. Please call **Cristina** at 703-648-9828 if you have any questions or need additional references.

Here’s another recommendation from **Cristina** and **Jay**:

Sometimes finding the right contractor can be difficult, especially if you don’t have any references. We’d like to recommend a contractor who has recently done multiple renovations to our house at reasonable prices. They installed tile floor in the kitchen and the kids’ bathroom, painted several rooms, installed our new front and storm doors, and repaired the roof by fixing and replacing shingles and cutting some pesky tree branches. We have been very pleased with the detailed work and their timeliness. They will even gladly repaint a room if you are not happy with the color. They also finish basements, build decks, and do any wood work such as built-in bookcases. No job seems too big or too small. The owner, Miguel Dossman, is knowledgeable and will provide free advice and estimates. You can contact him at 703-298-2158.

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FAIR OAKS RECREATION ASSOCIATION (FORA) NEWS

The Fourth of July parade and party was a *huge* success! The Board would like to thank the following folks for their help in making it all possible:

Greg Shepherd for driving his Model-A in the parade, which is always a big hit; Jim McKay Chevrolet for providing a car for the parade; **Ramiro Galvez** for arranging the fire trucks (always a hit with the “kids” young and old); **John Durrant, Eric and Deborah Hayes, and Maria Perozzi** for the expert judging; **Beth Crews** for leading the games; **Suzanne Sanzone** for the beautiful decorations at the pool; and **Susan Sanzone** for her catering expertise. We could not have done it without all of you!

Keep an eye on your e-mail for parties as the season heads down the home stretch. As always, visit your FORA Web site for the latest news at <http://www.fairoaksrec.com/>.

FAIRFAX COUNTY DEER SURVEY

White-tailed deer are one of the most common native species in Fairfax. Several factors, including loss of natural predators and habitat modification, have resulted in an abundant local deer population. In an effort to develop the most effective and comprehensive deer management plan, your help is needed. A Deer Management Survey has been designed to collect information from residents throughout the County. Survey results will be used to help develop a program that is better suited to community needs. The information that is provided is confidential. This online survey is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/deermanagement.htm>. Information about local wildlife and wildlife management is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife. If you have any questions, contact Victoria Monroe, Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist, at victoria.monroe@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-246-6868.

IT'S YOUR TURN (Rebecca and Ian Graham)

Recently, we came home around 9:45 at night and went into the house with the intent of putting out the trash shortly. The garage door was left open for about 15 minutes. When we came out at 10:00 p.m., we noticed that a set of golf clubs was missing from the garage, as well as a child's golf bag. The child's clubs were on the floor, having not been put away earlier in the day (luckily, for once). Sometime during that 15-minute period, someone came into our garage and stole the golf clubs while we were steps away inside our home. Upon discussing this incident with others, it became apparent that this was not an isolated incident and in fact occurs in many communities, especially golf course communities. These are not our neighbors stealing from our garage but people who go to neighborhoods for the specific purpose of stealing golf clubs. We certainly felt violated and saddened that this happened to us in Fair Oaks Estates and felt that we should alert our neighbors to the dangers of leaving golf clubs in the garage or even of leaving your garage doors open for any period of time without being in view of them. We certainly won't be doing that anymore.

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SLOGGING AND SWEATING THRU AUGUST!

Fair Oaks Hospital Is a Winner. We just take it for granted that Inova Fair Oaks Hospital is right next door in case we need emergency or non-emergency medical treatment, but most of us probably don't know that it's among the top 1 percent of acute-care hospitals in the country for quality, efficiency, and process of care. According to the Summer 2010 issue of *INhealth*, "our" Fair Oaks Hospital is one of only 21 hospitals in the country (among the 3,500 hospitals eligible to receive the award nationally) to win the Premier Award for Quality—and the only hospital in the Washington D.C Metro Area to receive this award. Congratulations to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital and to all who work there! This knowledge should go a long way toward making your next trip to the hospital less daunting and worrisome.

White Squirrel Loves the Summer. We had sightings of our neighborhood mascot reported in June and July. **Kathy Briggs** and daughter **Colleen** saw him/her in late June at the corner of West Ox Road and Ox Hill Road, looking "quite healthy" and "exuberantly eating as he sat on his hind legs." **Chris Hamil** said she saw the critter on July 5th at about the same place "doing a 'Squirrel Dance' (chasing his tail, general leaping about, and doing back flips) in the shade of a tree." And our most prolific squirrel reporter, **Joan McRorie**, spotted him again on July 12th. This is one tough squirrel to be able to deal with the massive winter snow and the searing summer heat!

For Women Only. The GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club invites area women to attend the second of our series of "The Power of One." Join us for brunch with guest speaker Michele Bevington, founder of Freedom Petals, which provides flower arrangements "to bring smiles—petal-by-petal—to our recuperating service members and their families at Walter Reed Medical Center, Mologne House, and Fisher House at the Walter Reed Complex." The date is Wednesday, September 15th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Chantilly Regional Library. **Reservations are required.** Please contact Barbara Cale at 703-378-6009 or Sandy Lawson at 703-620-0574 or e-mail westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com to reserve seating. Bring a friend to hear Michele, meet our members, and enjoy light brunch fare. WFCWC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month, September through May, at the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit www.gfwc.org or www.gfwcvirginia.org or call President Barbara Levermann at 703-631-7830 or Vice President Jackie Ware at 703-378-8551.

County Car Tax Returns—But Without Decals. Fairfax County Personal Property Tax bills for 2010 will be mailed during the next several weeks (if you haven't received yours already) and are due on October 5th. The bill includes a new \$33 registration fee for cars (\$38 for vehicles in excess of 4,000 pounds) that are normally located in the County as of July 1, 2010. There is no County windshield decal to purchase or display, however. Fairfax County residents must register vehicles with the Department of Tax Administration that are normally garaged or parked in Fairfax County, even if the vehicle is registered in another state. Failure to locally register vehicles on time will result in penalties. Register online or call 703-222-8234. In addition, make sure your address is correct with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

FROM THE EDITORS

Perhaps you read the article in last month's issue of *The Acorn* about the Fair Oaks Geezer Bike Club, or perhaps you saw members of the Club riding in the Fourth of July Parade. (By the way, the Geezers won an official Certificate of Recognition as the "Most Nostalgic" participants in the parade.) What is a "geezer," you might have wondered. According to the *Dictionary of American Slang*, a geezer is "a fellow or guy, usually an unknown, old, and eccentric man." The usage dates from 1941, according to the *Dictionary*, although other references trace the term's roots to the 19th Century. It's often used in the phrase, "old geezer," which somehow seems redundant, and it's generally used as a term of disparagement.

The Geezers of the Fair Oaks Geezer Bike Club may be unknown, old, and eccentric, but some of them still look good in spandex and in no way should be disparaged! Mr. Editor—not clad in spandex—proudly joined their ranks last month, participating in his first ride with the group—a grueling 740-foot journey from the intersection of Washington Brice Road and Charles Stewart Drive to the swimming pool during the Fourth of July Parade. What a trek! Fortunately, Club regulars **Tim Dyer**, **Rich Stana**, and **John Lambert** were there to lend support and "draft" for Mr. Editor on the journey.

Rather than the "unknown" and "old" elements of the definition, however, Mr. Editor suggests that the Geezers of the Bike Club should emphasize their "eccentric" qualities. Mr. Editor imagines that the wives of the Geezers could detail many eccentricities that Club members have, but Mr. Editor also suspects that many of these might not be printable in *The Acorn*. Perhaps Club members should consider renaming their organization as the Fair Oaks Eccentrics Bike Club or the Eccentric Fair Oaks Bike Club.

All of this geezer business leaves one burning question, however—if there are geezers, are there also "geezerettes"? Let's **not** go there!

If any parents would like Mr. Editor to e-mail them a nice color jpg of a photo of their child that appears in this month's issue, please send him a note at kjclare@cox.net and tell him which photo to send. Most of the photos look great in color, but they don't come out that well in the black-and-white xeroxed copy of *The Acorn*—especially since we need to shrink them to get as many as we can into the newsletter.

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