

August 2009



# THE ACORN



## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Summer is upon us, and I hope all of you have a chance to take a break. Thanks for everyone's attention to keeping their homesteads in fine shape. A few notices have been mailed as reminders but nothing serious.

As noted last month, we will be asking for traffic surveys in our community and probably will start them in September when folks are back to work. That does not preclude continued police and radar presence; if you have a concern, please call the Fair Oaks Police Station at 703-591-0247.

Some folks raised concerns during and after the July 4th holiday about excessive and misplaced fireworks. I urge all of you to treat your neighbors' property as your own and help avoid destructive incidents at any time during the year.

Of everyone's interest, but particularly for those along Ox Hill Road, the County Planning Commission is holding hearings regarding further construction where the power plant once was. This issue of *The Acorn* probably will not reach you before the hearing on July 29th, but you can stay in touch by calling the Zoning Evaluation Division at 703-324-1290.

Have a great summer!

**Architectural Review Board.** The Architectural Review Board will meet at 7:30 p.m.

on August 18th 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](http://www.foeha.org)) prior to the meeting.

**Important Note.** Please be sure to submit your applications 30 days in advance. It is important that you follow the instructions closely on the application, such as providing a site plan (plat) of your property showing the locations of new decks, removal of trees, and so forth. Incomplete applications will slow the approval process.

**ARB July 14th meeting results:** Three applications were submitted for review—a new walkway with a patio, a driveway extension, and a new swing set. All 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](mailto:jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com)

**Open Space Committee.** We had a contractor replenish the wood chips and mulch in both tot lots. It's not as easy as you might think—we

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have to use clean and approved materials, and neither tot lot is near the curb.

We did some edge repair along the recently paved paths, filling with top soil and grass seed. While doing this, we found a beehive in the woods near the large tot lot off Washington Brice Road. Sequoia (our HOA management company) took care of the bees. It was unfortunate that the bees decided to take-up residence right next to a children's play area.

The sprinkler systems at both entrances are fully operational. We are very pleased with the installation work, which was done by RONCO Irrigation. You can already see that the plants are thriving. For many of you long-time readers, you can now relax—there will be no more whining from the Open Space Committee about the difficulty of trying to maintain flowers without water, which has been a constant problem for 25 years. The irrigation—made possible by a restricted water service from Fairfax Water—is working well with our new landscaping at the West Ox Road entrance.

We have begun the bidding process for the annual lawn care contract for 2010 - 2012. We have one bid and will issue requests for proposals to other potential bidders.

The budget is tighter than usual this year. We have done a lot. In addition to normal maintenance, we landscaped the West Ox Road entrance, repaved paths, and installed sprinkler systems.

**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](mailto:obornr@cox.net).

## FROM THE PAGES OF THE ACORN

Let's continue on the nostalgia theme to celebrate the 25th anniversary of *The Acorn* by including some snippets from the past. These are from the August 1985 issue:

- There were several birth announcements in the August issue, including **Laurie Marie Bickham**, born on July 21st, and **Daniel Steven Stone**, born on July 23rd. We're happy to report that the **Bickhams** and the **Stones** survived the child-rearing years and still live here in Fair Oaks Estates.
- A survey by the Architectural Review Board determined that 217 homes in the community did not have the required documentation for exterior improvements.
- The neighborhood took on an international air with the one-month-long visit of a 13-year-old French student from Marseille, France, who stayed with a family on Charles Stewart Drive.
- *The Acorn* published its first and so far its only poetic ad in the Bulletin Board section. It was submitted by three young boys trying to earn some money and went like this: "Konvenience Kids will do your yard, Their price is low, but they'll work hard, They'll get your yard work done with speed, Your satisfaction's guaranteed; Call Tom or Matt or Carl today, They'll do your job without delay." Too bad all three families have moved out of the neighborhood; it would be interesting to know whether any of these guys went on to a career in writing or lawn care.

**RECREATION ASSOCIATION NEWS**

The Fourth of July Festivities in the neighborhood were enjoyed by all who participated, and the weather cooperated with the sun shining down on us. We had a great parade down Charles Stewart Drive, with a large turnout of family participants and onlookers alike. The antique cars led the way, followed by the Fairfax Fire Department's vehicles. We appreciate and thank **Dan** and **Susan Boyle** and **Greg Shepard** for unveiling their spectacular automobiles for all to see. Their presence added a nostalgic touch to the parade and brought joy to the onlookers. We had a great turnout of kids and their families taking part in the parade decked out in their holiday costumes. There were bikes, trikes, and wagons decorated in celebration of our nation's independence. The **Woolf** family took part in the parade and were awarded the "Most Patriotic," while the **Diehl** family won for the "Best on Wheels" entrant. Thank you to all who took part in the parade, making it our own special neighborhood celebration. A special thank you to **Ramiro Galvez** for securing the participation of the Fire Department, whose services were wanted all over town on this busy day of parades.

The fun continued at the pool during the annual Pool Party, with the FORA board members hosting a day filled with food and fun. Almost 300 people were served a hearty lunch and the kids enjoyed the many games in the pool. The highlight of the pool party festivities—besides the Sno Cones—was the coin toss, which capped off a great day of fun for the kids. Thank you to **Maureen Wolfe** for her generosity in providing the coins for the toss. The kids look forward to it each 4th of July.

Thank you to the devoted Board members and volunteers for making this 4th of July a fun filled day for all!

In other news, the FORA Board is still in need of a few good men and women *volunteers*. We *still* need to fill the Treasurer and Secretary positions. Please consider volunteering your time in support of the pool and its members. We have been searching for quite some time and need additional support to keep the Board functioning and strong into 2010. Call or e-mail any of the current Board members if you are interested in learning how you can contribute.

Please Remember to Check In and Out when visiting the pool and speak with the pool management on duty about any health or safety concerns.

**FAIR OAKS SHARKS SWIM TEAM**

The Sharks had a very successful season with 3 wins, 1 loss, and 1 tie. Thanks to all the neighbors in the community who came out to cheer us on at our home meets! We say goodbye this year to our coach **David Horak**, as well as to seniors **Kyle Ford**, **Kara Rhodes**, **Kaitlyn Manley**, **Colleen Briggs**, and **Zach Reilly**—best of luck to these swimmers they head off to college.

Watch *The Acorn* in the spring for news of next year's swim team season. We hope to see lots of new faces at registration next year!

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### AUGUST AND THE KOI AND THE POI

**A New Resident Arrives.** Congratulations to **John** and **Patricia Kruep** on Charles Stewart Drive on the birth of their second son, **Zachary Allen Kruep**, born at Fair Oaks Hospital on July 15th. **Zachary** weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces at birth and measured 21 inches in length, Big brother **Christopher**, who is five years old, is excited to have little brother **Zachary** home. Congratulations to the entire family!

**Koi Alert.** Here's something different. The Zen Nippon Potomac 16th Annual Koi Show will be held September 11th thru 13th at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna. Hours are Friday from noon until 4:00 p.m., Saturday from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Pond and koi vendors, arts and craft vendors, informational seminars, raffles, and an auction will be available during the weekend. You can also take the opportunity to tour the 90 acres of gardens that Meadowlark has to offer. During the show weekend there will be a discounted charge to tour the gardens. There is no admission fee to enter the koi show. For more information go to [www.znapotomac.org](http://www.znapotomac.org).

The ZNA Potomac Koi Club is an association of koi and pond keepers whose members are located in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. The club is affiliated with Zen Nippon Arinkai and the AKCA. The membership ranges from seasoned pond keepers to those new to the hobby. Ponds range from small pre-formed ponds to custom ponds with thousands of gallons of water. The club's goal is to educate and lend a helping hand to all those involved in pond keeping.

**Rock With the 50th State.** Remember to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hawaii's becoming the 50th state on August 21, 1959. Have some poi; put on a grass skirt or aloha short; learn to hula; wear a lei; wax your surfboard; hop on a flight to Honolulu; or just dream about doing all those things. (Take it from Mr. Editor—it's much better to dream about eating poi than to eat it.)

**For Rising Kindergartners.** Let's get all of the public, private, and homeschool kindergartners together so that they (and their parents) can get to know each other. E-mail Kim Nelson at [kimberly.nelson@gmail.com](mailto:kimberly.nelson@gmail.com) or call her at 703-391-6841, and we'll plan a get-together in August.

**FROM THE EDITORS**

It's not just speeding. Last month's issue of The Acorn included two notes from residents under the "It's Your Turn" byline about the problem of speeding in the neighborhood. Mr. Editor can attest that this problem is not limited to Ox Hill Road and Charles Stewart Drive but that it also affects the lower reaches of Washington Brice Road.

Although speeding is a problem, it's not the only traffic safety issue we face. Mr. Editor talked to the driver who was involved in the May 23rd incident that resulted in an overturned car on Ox Hill Road. That accident was not the result of speed but of distraction and inattention. While making the turn from Charles Stewart Drive onto Ox Hill Road, a water bottle fell out of its holder onto the floor of the car. The driver slowed down and pulled over to the curb to retrieve it. While pulling back onto Ox Hill Road after picking up the water bottle, the driver reached to retrieve some papers on the passenger seat. This action caused the steering wheel to turn to the right and, unfortunately, resulted in the driver losing directional control and crashing into the left rear of a parked car. The driver's car turned over in large part because it was an all-wheel drive vehicle. The angle of the initial crash caused the driver's

front wheel to rise off the ground while the other three wheels retained traction and kept turning. The force imbalance pushed the vehicle further up the side of the parked car and turned the driver's vehicle on its roof. Even though speed was not a factor, the accident could have had potentially tragic consequences if a pedestrian or biker had happened along at an inopportune moment.

So please, everyone, let's also be aware of other traffic safety issues, especially the problem of becoming distracted. Many years ago a driver lost control of a car in front of Mr. Editor's house, taking out a traffic sign and removing a good portion of the car's bumper. The problem? Trying to control a dog riding in the passenger seat. Studies show that cell phones are another major source of distraction—even if the driver is using a "hands-free" device—and many localities, including the District of Columbia, are banning their use while driving. It always amazes Mr. Editor to see folks on their cell phones driving up Washington Brice Road or Charles Stewart Drive having just left their homes moments before. Couldn't those calls have been made before getting behind the wheel of a potentially lethal machine?

**Fair Oaks Estates Homeowners Association  
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