

February 2010



# THE ACORN



## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For our January meeting, most of the Board's time was spent getting things moving in areas of interest brought to our attention by our homeowners. If you have any issues you would like the Board to address, we welcome your input. Here is a recap of the items before the Board that we will be looking at this year.

We continue to ask you to vote on the Article of Incorporation Amendment before the Board. The Board is seeking to expand to five members, with a maximum of seven members. Board members would continue to serve staggered terms. Please return your vote via proxies that have been provided or contact Jan Fenton, our community manager at Sequoia Management, if you need one.

If you wander down the Washington Brice Road pathway, you will notice that the new play equipment has been installed—a very nice upgrade as the tot lot had become old and tired. As far as our other tot lot between Ox Hill Road and Lt Nichols Road, Boy Scout **Matthew Knoche** of Troop 160 continues to plan his Eagle Scout project around a much-needed upgrade by adding benches and play equipment. We look forward to the installation in the spring!

**Peter Okoli**, our new Director, continues to work on the traffic calming study; see the update on page four in this edition of *The Acorn*.

We are accepting bids for our landscaping contact. We do this regularly to ensure we are paying competitive prices for the work completed.

In the coming months, the Board will be seeking community input on adding trash service into the annual dues payment. We are hoping to cut down on trash truck traffic in the neighborhood, as well as to reduce costs to the homeowners for this service.

**Architectural Review Board.** The Architectural Review Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on February 16th 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.

Election of officers for the ARB will take place at the meeting on February 16th. Anyone interested in volunteering to join the ARB please contact Jan Fenton at the address below.

**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.

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**ARB January 19th meeting results:** No applications were submitted.

**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.** The new playground equipment was installed at the Washington Brice Road play area. We updated the “Mow Map” and issued a Request for Proposal from three potential contractors. The solar lighting system at the Alder Woods Drive entrance was repaired and is working well.

**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).



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### RECREATION ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Fair Oaks Recreation Association is excited to offer our members and other residents a special discount on George Mason University Basketball tickets! Tickets are available for only \$7.00 (regular price \$15). It is GMU's homecoming game and will be broadcasted on ESPN. The game is scheduled for Saturday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m. Come out and be a part a part of the Mason Nation! There will be tailgating before the game, activities for the kids, and fireworks after the game.

For tickets, simply click on the FORA Web site below and select the link for tickets. Enter FORA in the "Special Offer Code" and click on "find tickets." You will be directed to the Ticket Master Web site to purchase your tickets. For additional information, contact the George Mason Ticket Office at 703-993-3270 between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. There are more details on the FORA Web site at <http://www.fairoaksrec.com/>.

We are gearing up for another fun-filled season at the pool!

- The Annual Meeting will take place on March 18th at 7:30 p.m. in the Navy Elementary School cafeteria.
- 2010 Membership dues are due on April 1st.
- The pool opens on May 29th.

The FORA Board is still in need of a few good men and women volunteers. Currently, we 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.

### FROM THE PAGES OF THE ACORN

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

- *The Acorn* celebrated Valentine's Day with an issue filled with special Valentines from, among others, "Duckie", "Your Secret Pal", "Your Fantasy Girls", and "The Scrabble Queen and Court". We're not naming any names.
- We published an "It's Your Turn" note from **Jere Smith**, who still lives on Ox Hill Road, about the problem of speeders. Some things never change.
- Construction continued at the Fair Woods community adjacent to Fair Oaks Estates, as the development moved toward its planned 427 homes. Builders included Batal, Scarborough, Halle, NV Homes, Milton, and Stanley Martin. Batal and Scarborough also built some of the homes in Fair Oaks Estates.
- House sales in our neighborhood included a Tyler model for \$157,000, an Andover for \$163,000, and a Wynfield with a walkout basement for \$163,400.

## TASK FORCE MEMBERS NEEDED FOR TRAFFIC CALMING STUDY

The subject of traffic speeds in our neighborhood has come up again. A recent Traffic Calming Review for Charles Stewart Drive and Ox Hill Road conducted by the Fairfax County DOT has determined that both streets qualify for inclusion in the County's Residential Traffic Administration Program, both in volume of traffic and speeds above the posted limit of 25 mph. The qualification criteria are based on two speeds: 30 mph average speed of all traffic and the speed above which 15 percent of the traffic exceeds 35 mph.

A study in 1998, when the issue was first raised, found that the average speed on Charles Stewart Drive was 27 mph and 15 percent of drivers exceeded 35 miles mph. The recent study found the average speed to be 31 mph and 15 percent of drivers exceeded 38 mph. On Ox Hill Road, the 1998 study found the average speed was 29 mph and 15 percent of drivers exceeded 35 mph. In the recent study, the average speed was 32 mph and 15 percent of drivers exceeded 42 mph.

A comparison of these results indicates an increase in speeds on our community's main thoroughfares and has prompted the Board of Directors to initiate action to assess potential measures that can be taken to slow our neighborhood traffic back down to more reasonable levels. The County's Traffic Calming Program, in which our streets are eligible to participate, outlines the steps to be taken to assess our speed problems and potential measures that can be taken.

The Board has directed **Peter Okoli**, our newly elected Director, to form a Task Force of interested residents to assess the scope of the problem and, together with DOT engineers, make recommendations for traffic calming measures. **Doug Knoche** and **Art Treiber** have stepped forward to work with **Peter**. Some long-time residents may recall a similar effort nine years ago, at which time some traffic calming measures were considered and rejected by a vote of the residents. Since then, the County's program has been updated and additional potential calming measures have been included.

*Anyone interested in participating in the Task Force should send an e-mail to [jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com](mailto:jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com).* It is hoped that the Task Force will include residents located throughout the neighborhood, in order to represent the entire community. Informative meetings and articles in *The Acorn* are intended to keep the community informed of progress through the various steps of the program. As a final step, any proposed traffic calming measures will have to be approved through community meetings and a vote of the neighborhood.



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### REMEMBER FEBRUARY 14TH??

**Mulch Madness Time Again.** Boy Scout Troop 160, sponsored by Franklin Middle School, is again offering top-quality, double-shredded, hardwood mulch in three-cubic-foot bags. Mulch will be delivered to your driveway on Saturday, March 20th; deadline for orders is Saturday, March 6th. There is a 10-bag minimum order. Prices are: 10-44 bags, \$4.75 per bag; 45-89 bags, \$4.50 per bag; and 90 or more bags, \$4.25 per bag. Mail your check, payable to “Troop 160,” to Troop 160, c/o Chuck Smith, 12198 Wild Horse Drive, Fairfax, VA 22033. Include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. You can also e-mail your order to [cesmith3va@verizon.net](mailto:cesmith3va@verizon.net); please mail your check within five days of your e-mail order. For additional information, please call Chuck Smith at 703-758-1954.

**More Mulch Madness.** Pender United Methodist Men are once again sponsoring their annual “Mulch Madness” fundraiser. Proceeds allow Pender to sponsor mission trips to Peru, Poland, Paraguay, Africa, and Guatemala, as well as support local missions and outreach activities. In March, Pender men will deliver three-cubic-foot bags of mulch to your driveway. Choices are Shredded Hardwood, Shredded Pine, and Pine Mini-Nuggets mulch. Bags are \$4.50 each, and orders must be received no later than Wednesday, March 3rd. Please contact **Dave Cacner** at [dcacner@verizon.net](mailto:dcacner@verizon.net) or visit [www.penderumc.org](http://www.penderumc.org) for additional information. Payment at the time of order is preferred. Thank you for your support!

**Pender Village Center—Some Here and More Coming.** Most of the external construction at the Pender Village Center on Route 50 has been completed, and at least three businesses are already open as of late January—Bubbles Hair Salon, Chevy Chase Bank, and Hardwood Artisans. The “anchor” store, Harris Teeter, is scheduled to open in February, and the sign on the store indicates it will be open round-the-clock, 24 hours a day. That should comfort anyone who needs a steak or pot roast at 2:00 a.m.

**Good Neighborliness.** There are many ways for everyone to be a good neighbor. Here are two. Neither VDOT nor Fairfax County clears snow and ice from public walkways (sidewalks and trails). *While not legally obligated, good neighbors should help keep our sidewalks safe.* You should, as soon as feasible, clear snow off the sidewalks adjacent to your property—including on the side of your house if you happen to have a corner lot—so that pedestrians, especially school children, those with disabilities, and the elderly, may walk securely. Second, dog owners are good neighbors when they scoop their dog’s doody—an action that *is* required by Fairfax County ordinance. But there’s one more step in the good neighborliness of taking care of your doggie’s doody—taking it home with you and disposing of it in your own garbage, *not* dropping the stuff into your neighbor’s garbage or recycling containers. Please be a good neighbor!

**Magic from Art Matheny.** Art introduces “cereal magic” to amaze your pre-school-age children and grandchildren. Cover the bottom of a cereal bowl with Cheerios and then cover the Cheerios with a heavier cereal like Special K or Total so that the Cheerios “disappear.” Add milk and, like magic, the Cheerios will rise from the bottom to the top and reappear. For the grand finale, you can make all the cereal and milk disappear—by eating it. Amazing! Remember, magic is illusion, so you should have an appropriate “stage presence” and magic incantations when you perform this trick for the kids!

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### FROM THE EDITORS

Something's happening on February 14th, but Mr. Editor isn't exactly sure what's significant about this date. There are certainly a lot of important events in history that occurred on this date—in 1076 Pope Gregory VII excommunicated Henry IV, the Holy Roman Emperor; in 1849 James Polk became the first sitting US President to have his photograph taken; in 1859 Oregon was admitted to the Union as the 33rd state and in 1912 Arizona was admitted as the 48th state; and in 1989 the first of 24 satellites in the Global Positioning System was placed in orbit. Thank goodness for that last one, otherwise we'd still be lost all the time.

But what else? There are some important birthdays to celebrate on February 14th—comedian Jack Benny (1894); sportscaster Mel Allen (1913); TV host Hugh Downs (1921); Mayor Michael Bloomberg (1942); journalist Carl Bernstein (1944); and basketball player Richard Hamilton (1978).

None of those really seem to ring a bell either, however.

Lots of folks died on February 14th, including King Richard II of England (1400); James Cook, the British naval captain and explorer (1779); P.G. Wodehouse, the English writer (1975); John Ehrlichman, advisor to President Nixon (1999); and Dolly the Sheep, the first cloned mammal (2003). Oh, and Saint Valentinus of Terni in Italy was executed on February 14th in 270, but that was a long time ago. What else could be happening?

If anyone can give Mr. Editor a clue as to why he should be puzzling over and a bit concerned about this date, please get in touch with him before it's too late. Oh yes—and don't forget the Super Bowl on February 7th!

**Fair Oaks Estates Homeowners Association**  
c/o Sequoia Management Co., Inc.  
13998 Parkeast Circle  
Chantilly, VA 20151-2283