

March 2010



THE ACORN



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Okay, so we had a little snow. I think that considering the once-in-a-decade accumulations, the vast majority of our residents did a great job getting their sidewalks shoveled. Since I live on Charles Stewart Drive, I also thought the County did a great job of keeping Ox Hill Road and Charles Stewart Drive accessible. It took a while longer on the cul-de-sacs.

I did receive several phone calls about the snow removal in the neighborhood. So, the deal is that the County provides all snow removal for roads in our neighborhood. Fairfax County uses a lot of contractors for this service, which is why you saw the variety of vehicles in the neighborhood. The Homeowners Association does *not* budget for snow removal other than for a couple hundred yards of sidewalks on common area. Many homeowners associations in the area spent tens of thousands of dollars for snow removal, but I don't anticipate that our Association will pick up this service soon.

As far as sidewalks are concerned, the Homeowners Association *does* require that they be shoveled in a "timely manner." See ARB Standard 3.3 on page 33 of the online document on the Fair Oaks Estates Homeowners Association Web site (Fair Oaks Estates: Rules and Regulations, ARB Standards), which states in part, "Homeowners are required to remove snow from their sidewalks as soon as possible." The spring thaw does not count as

"timely." After a few days, our neighborhood students have to start walking to their bus stops, and walking in the road around snow-covered sidewalks is dangerous. So the next time we get dumped on, please remember to shovel your sidewalks.

By the way, I do want to give a shout out to the stranger with the snow blower who worked his way down Charles Stewart Drive clearing sidewalks and driveways during the first snow. Thanks and Encore! Encore!

The Board continues to work on neighborhood business. We don't anticipate any major infrastructure expenses this year, and the Traffic Calming Committee has been formed and has its first meeting scheduled. Kudos to Director **Peter Okoli** for getting this moving.

That's it until next month—and, I hope, some unseasonably warm weather.

Architectural Review Board. The Architectural Review Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on March 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) prior to the meeting.

Election of officers for the ARB took place at the ARB meeting on February 16th, and the officers

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were approved by the Board of Directors on February 18th. ARB officers are Chairperson, **Doug Knoche**; Vice Chairperson, **Michael Guarino**; Secretary, **Leonard Neeley**.

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 February 16th meeting results: Three applications were submitted—a three-story addition, a backyard play and swing set, and two basement windows. The swing set and basement windows were approved. Decision on the three-story addition was deferred until March 16th for further review.

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.

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.

READER’S RECOMMENDATION (Eric Gustafson)

I’d like to recommend neighborhood plumber **Ali Nazhand** for his very good work and very fair price to get rid of my 17-year-old water heater and replace it and move the new water heater to a more remote corner of my basement. I’m very satisfied with his work and will be hiring him again once spring arrives and all this snow is gone! Call **Ali Nazhand** at 571-236-6189.

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FAIR OAKS ESTATES RECREATION ASSOCIATION (FORA) NEWS

The George Mason basketball game, FORA's first community event of the season, was a huge success. Keep an eye out for future events as the season progresses.

Although there still may be snow on the ground, the pool season is quickly approaching. Time does fly by quickly. One of the first events will be a clean-up day. An e-mail blast will go out when a day is determined. Dust off those lawn and gardening tools and help get your pool in tip-top shape!

Important dates:

- The Annual Meeting will take place on March 18th at 7:30 p.m. at the Navy Elementary School cafeteria.
- 2010 Membership fees are due on April 1st. The forms were mailed out on March 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.

For the latest news on FORA, please go to our Web site at <http://www.fairoaksrec.com/>.

FROM THE PAGES OF THE ACORN

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

- A pool status report noted that Recreation Association members had approved a general pool design and authorized the Board of Directors to proceed with signing the appropriate contracts. Groundbreaking was expected to happen—and did occur, as scheduled—in March.
- The Fairfax County Water Authority was finishing up construction of a large water storage tank on West Ox Road. The tank holds about four million gallons of water—two million each in the separate upper and lower sections. The structure cost about \$2 million.
- A Family Fun Fair was scheduled for March 22nd at Navy Elementary School.
- Home sales in the neighborhood included an Andover model with a jacuzzi off the master bedroom and a deck for \$154,000.

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GREEN SNOW FORECAST FOR SAINT PATRICK'S DAY??

White Squirrel Safe as of Late January. We don't know how our little mascot fared with the incredible snows of February, but at least he survived into the New Year. **Lisa Bailey** reports sighting him at the top of Ox Hill Road on January 28th; she said he was a bit too close to the Yield sign going onto West Ox Road for her comfort, however. We encourage everyone to practice their "white squirrel defensive driving skills" when traveling through this area.

Last Chance for Mulch Madness. 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; please mail your check within five days of your e-mail order. For additional information, please call Chuck Smith at 703-758-1954.

Last Chance for 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 to support local missions and outreach activities. In March, Pender men will deliver three-cubic-foot of mulch to your driveway. Choices are Shredded Hardwood, Shredded Pine, and Pine Mini-Nuggets mulch. Bags are \$4.50 each. Please order early and often! Special Note: we are delivering March 13th and 20th, so get your orders in. Please contact **Dave Cacner** at dcacner@verizon.net or visit www.penderumc.org to order directly online. Thank you for your support!

And Still More Mulch. The Chantilly Boys and Girls Lacrosse teams are selling mulch delivered to your door on March 13th. Three-cubic-foot bags are only \$4.00, and the minimum order is 10 bags. If you need fewer than 10 bags, we will combine our orders and deliver to you separately. *Order deadline is March 6th*. Please make checks payable to Chantilly High School. Current FCPS budget projections make it more urgent than ever that we raise money to fund our sport. Last year, the girl's team won the Virginia State Championship, and the boy's team was State runner-up! We have a great lacrosse program at Chantilly High School. Please help us continue our success! Please contact **Andrew and Markus Bako** at 703-715-0001, mail your order to 12508 Charles Stewart Court, Fairfax, VA 22033 or e-mail us at abako@cox.net if you are interested in ordering mulch delivered to your home.

For Women Only. Learn "Simple Steps to De-clutter Your Home" at the GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (GFWC-WFCWC) meeting to be held on Monday, March 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Center. The program will be presented by Vicki Becker and Donna Fredericks, owners of Clear to Go, an organizing and de-cluttering business. Several years ago Vicki and Donna, friends for more than 30 years, discovered their shared passion and talent for helping people simplify their lives by removing clutter. Now their work includes de-cluttering homes, offices, garages, and sheds, as well as downsizing for moves to smaller homes or retirement settings. Donna and Vicki have assisted clients on projects large and small, from overwhelming paperwork to crowded storage rooms. Their talk will cover why we have clutter, what clutter does to us, and how to de-clutter. There will be a question and answer time at the end of their presentation.

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Guests are welcome to attend; refreshments will be served. For more information on the club, please call President Eileen Chambers at 703-378-7054 or Vice President Randi Weston at 703-266-0428.

GFWC-WFCWC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month, from September through May, at the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. Guests are always welcome. In affiliation with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), we are a nonprofit organization dedicated to the betterment of the community in which we live. GFWC clubwomen are true volunteers in action. GFWC and its members raise an average of \$30 million annually on behalf of more than 100,000 projects and volunteer more than five million hours. For more information on GFWC and its many projects, visit www.gfwc.org or www.gfwcvirginia.org.

More Snow Possible. We're not kidding about the possibility of "green snow" on Saint Patrick's Day. Consider some historic winter-weather events that happened here in March:

- March 11-13 1888: "The Blizzard of '88"—also known as the "White Hurricane." The storm began in Washington the morning of March 11th and by evening the city was an ice-entangled mess with fallen tree limbs, electric lines, and downed telegraph poles. The city was completely blacked out with the exception of a few gas lights. On the morning of March 12th, people arose to find a half foot of snow and ice blanketing the city. Winds blew up to 48 mph, taking down any utility poles left standing.
- March 29-30, 1942: "The Palm Sunday Snowstorm" dumped 12 inches of snow in Washington; Baltimore got 22 inches.
- March 5-9, 1962: The "Ash Wednesday Storm" caused more than \$200 million (1962 dollars) in property damage and major coastal erosion from North Carolina to Long Island. In New Jersey alone, it was estimated to have destroyed or greatly damaged 45,000 homes. The Red Cross recorded that the storm killed 40 people. Heavy snow fell in the Appalachian Mountains. Big Meadows, southeast of Luray, recorded Virginia's greatest 24-hour snowfall with 33 inches and the greatest single storm snowfall with 42 inches. Nearly two feet of snow fell from Charlottesville to Luray and Winchester. Roads were blocked, and electrical service was out for days.
- March 13-14, 1993: The Washington area saw 8 inches to the southeast of the city, 13 inches in the District and within the Beltway, and 18 inches north and west of the city in Loudoun, Frederick, and portions of Montgomery counties. Winds produced blizzard conditions over portions of northern Virginia and central and western Maryland, with snow drifts up to 12 feet. Interstates shut down, and shelters opened for nearly 4,000 stranded travelers and those without heat and electricity. The National Guard was called to help with emergency transport and critical snow removal. Eleven people died in Virginia, one in the District, and one in Maryland during and immediately after the storm, mainly from heart attacks brought on by overexertion while shoveling snow or from exposure and hypothermia. Snow removal and clean-up costs were estimated at \$16 million in Virginia, \$22 million in Maryland, and \$500,000 in the District of Columbia.
- And even if no similar disaster strikes this year, the average monthly snowfall for March in Washington is 1.6 inches. You have been warned.

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FROM THE EDITORS

Thanks to all those who called or wrote to Mr. Editor to tell him what was happening on February 14th. Phew, close call! Unfortunately, because of delays caused by the snow storms, the major Valentine's Day present for Mrs. Editor didn't arrive on time from Amazon and UPS. Fortunately, there was Godiva's chocolate to hold the fort until it did arrive.

Actually, Valentine's Day wasn't the occasion Mr. Editor was searching for, however. February 14th was also the Lunar New Year, ushering in the Year of the Tiger. The Tiger is the third of the 12 Chinese zodiac signs, and people born in the Year of the Tiger are said to be unpredictable, rebellious, colorful, and passionate. With Valentine's Day and the Lunar New Year falling on the same day, we hope all you "tigers" out there had a "grrreat" celebration.

Heads-up again—March 14th is also a very important date that no one will want to forget. That's when Daylight Savings Time begins, portending the arrival of spring and summer, the departure of the snow, and the start of grass-cutting, weed-pulling, bug-swatting, and other warm-weather activities. In addition, basketball fans will know that March 14th is the day the NCAA will announce the teams and brackets for the NCAA March Madness Tournament. Let the office pools begin.

Spring training will get underway in earnest in March, and there is Saint Patrick's Day to celebrate, even if you're not a baseball fan and not Irish. May the (possibly snow-covered) Roads Rise Up To Meet You in March!

**Fair Oaks Estates Homeowners Association
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