

May 2010

ISSUE NUMBER 300



THE ACORN



FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As the business of the community moves on, there are only a couple issues to pass on to you this month.

We have had one of our community members step up to fill the Treasurer position. A big thanks to **Wiwit Tjahjana** in his new role and to **Sheila Hautbois** for the past five years of service and for hanging around to assist **Wiwit** in the transition.

We continue to work with Supervisor Frye's office on the traffic calming study. At this point, the ball is in their court to review our recommendations and provide to the committee a plan for traffic calming measures. We look forward to that report and bringing that information to you when it arrives for a community meeting and vote through mailed ballot.

Unfortunately, the time has almost passed to vote on the amendment the Board recommended to the Articles of Incorporation. I find it disappointing that the reason these updates will not pass is not because the community decided the issue by voting but because not enough community members took the time to vote. As a member of the Board for the past two and a half years, this lack of interest makes bringing any type of needed change virtually impossible. For those of you who voted, thank you. For those of you who have not voted, I would ask that you take the few moments needed to support the Board, which is working on your behalf for our

community and VOTE! A proxy is available by e-mail from the community manager.

Architectural Review Board. The Architectural Review Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on May 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) 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 April 13th meeting results: Four applications were submitted—a new four-foot fence; a basement egress window; and two separate applications for tree removal. 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

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20151-2283, 703-803-9641, 703-968-0936 (fax), or e-mail jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com.

Open Space Committee. We've begun the mowing season with our new landscape contractor. Initial indications are very positive. The mulching and spring clean-up at the entrance gardens were excellent. In addition to mowing, the contract includes trash removal service from the community's four trash cans. We had the sprinkler systems serviced for the new season and noticed that the controller at the Alder Woods Drive entrance was damaged beyond repair by a vandalism incident a couple of months ago and will need to be replaced. Two trees that fell in the common area affected homeowners' property, and we have scheduled our tree man to take care of the problem. We also have requested an estimate to fix the old white fence at the West Ox Road entrance that was damaged by the

massive snow banks this winter. Finally, we are expecting a second estimate for brick repair at the Alder Woods Drive entrance. There is a large crack near the base of the brick work. If you have Open Space issues to report, please contact Jan Fenton, our Community Manager, at Sequoia Management.

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 May 1986:

- The Penderbrook community, across West Ox Road from Fair Oaks Estates, was just beginning to be developed, with groundbreaking, initial grading, and other infrastructure development getting underway in May.
- The May issue featured two pages of hand-drawn artwork and heartfelt messages of love from neighborhood children to their moms on the occasion of Mother's Day.
- There were lots of home sales, including a Weybridge for \$181,000, an Andover for \$168,000, a Jackson for \$165,400, and a Burlington for \$158,000.
- One of the Bulletin Board items advertised a 1977 MG Midget convertible with 28,000 miles for sale for \$3,500. It was a collector's car then; we can only wonder whether it's still around, what it would cost now, and why we didn't buy it when we had the chance.

FOR WOMEN ONLY

The GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club (WFCWC) will hold its final meeting of the current club year on Monday, May 17th, at 7 p.m. at the Greenbriar Community Center. New officers elected at the April meeting will be installed. The club will continue projects and social events through the summer but will not hold another membership meeting until September. Guests are welcome to attend the May meeting; refreshments will be served. For more information on the WFCWC, please call President Eileen Chambers at 703-378-7054 or Vice President Randi Weston at 703-266-0428.

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FAIR OAKS ESTATES RECREATION ASSOCIATION (FORA) NEWS

Opening day is just around the corner. We will be having the Annual Clean-up Day on May 1st, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Starbucks coffee and fresh pastries will be provided, so come on out and help get your pool ready for the new season! The pool opens on May 29th.

NV Pools will be our pool management company again this year. They have already started getting the pool ready and will be hard at work between now and opening day.

If you have not paid your dues for the coming year, please do so as soon as possible. For more information or questions, please send an e-mail to membership@fairoaksrec.com

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

FAIR OAKS SHARKS SWIM TEAM NEWS

Registration for the Summer 2010 season is underway. We have moved up to Division 12 this year! Please visit our Web site at <http://www.vikaza.com/FairOaksSharks> to register your swimmers for the team. You must be a FORA member to register. Registration for the Jr. Sharks (ages 4 to 7) is now **full**; please contact **Katie Banks** at mkbanks@cox.net to be put on a wait list.

A representative from Cassels will be available at our Fair Oaks Pool on May 3rd from 6:00 p.m. till 8:00 p.m. for team swim suit sizing and purchasing. Swimmers who ordered their suits at Registration Night will be able to pick up their suits then. Jr. Sharks are not required to purchase a team swim suit. We also have plenty of spirit wear available to purchase that night.

The pool opens on Saturday, May 29th. Our after-school swim practice (Sharks only) will begin on Tuesday, June 1st as follows:

- 4:15 - 5:15 p.m., ages 13 and up
- 5:15 - 6:00 p.m., ages 9 thru 12
- 6:00 - 6:45 p.m., ages 8 and under

Practices take place every day, rain or shine, unless the pool is closed. Morning practices for both Sharks and Jr. Sharks will begin on Monday, June 28th. Our coaches this year are familiar faces: **Alison Griffith** and **Billy Norfolk** are co-Head Coaches; **Kyle Ford** is Assistant Coach; and **Rob Ikeda** is our Age-Group Coach.

We are looking forward to a fun and exciting summer. GO SHARKS!!

IT'S YOUR TURN (Cristina and Jay Eberly)

Would you like to host an international student this summer? My 15-year-old niece, Paula, from Madrid, Spain, is looking for an American family to live with for about three weeks in July. If you have a daughter or son of similar age, Paula's family would be happy to host an American student in their home in Spain. Paula has two brothers, 17 and 11. They all have been to the US a couple of times so they know the area and love it here. Paula is very nice and loves horses. If you're interested, please call **Cristina** and **Jay Eberly** at 703-648-9828.

WHITE SQUIRREL AGAIN

We don't know whether White Squirrel (WS) might have read last month's issue of *The Acorn* and taken offense at **Ron Crowe's** comments in the *From the Board of Directors* article, but WS has made himself/herself quite prominent during the month of April. He/she was sighted by **Joan McRorie** and her daughter, **Rachel**, at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, April 12th at the top of Ox Hill Road. **Joan** also spotted him/her on April 20th, and **Joan** and **Rachel** saw the beast again on April 21st. **Chris Hamill** saw WS on the sidewalk near the intersection of West Ox Road and Ox Hill Road in the early afternoon on April 24th, in her words "looking fat and sassy." And our Open Space Committee Chairperson, **David Boggs**, says he saw WS early in the month and then again on the mornings of April 24th and April 25th—on both occasions sitting on the sidewalk by the No Parking signs near the white fence on Ox Hill Road. **David** noted that WS squirrel could use a bath—he said he/she looked kind of cream colored. Warning to all—please do *not* attempt to give WS a bath! It could turn out very badly for all concerned.

IT'S YOUR TURN (Anonymous)

I'd like to submit a reminder to our neighbors about letting your dogs inside when they are barking incessantly. People should not leave their dogs out to bark for long periods of time. We were awoken on a Saturday morning in April to a loud dog barking at 6:00 a.m. This is just one time, of *many* during the past couple of months, when a particular dog has been left outside barking. If your neighbors can hear your dog barking, certainly you can hear the dog too and should let him or her in! Thanks!

(Editor's Note: We prefer that "It's Your Turn" authors sign their submissions, but we allow "anonymous" contributions as long as we can verify the identity of the individual. In cases such as this—i.e., dogs being left outside to bark and disturb other residents—the appropriate remedy is to call Fairfax County Animal Control immediately (703-691-2131, seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. till 12:30 a.m.) and report the incident. There are County regulations that prohibit nuisances such as this.

And while we're on the subject of pet nuisances, it's an appropriate time to remind dog owners to scoop the poop behind their pets. With the weekly cutting of the lawn now in full swing, Mr. Editor has had the dubious pleasure of finding at least one pile of poop hiding in the grass every week for the past month. This is not a good thing. Please take responsibility for cleaning up after your pooch—and parents, please make sure your children are trained to do the poop scooping when they are out walking the family pet.)

IT'S YOUR TURN (Bob and DeLane Milne)

We lost a dear, gentle friend to all on April 18th. Our golden retriever, Chantilly, was a blessing to our family and to all who knew her in the Fair Oaks Estates neighborhood. A stranger to Chantilly was only a friend she had not yet met. We will miss her.

RANDY AND ROBBIE ROYCE NOW PREPARING FOR TAKEOFF

*(Editor's note: Mr. Editor discovered in early March that **Randy and Robbie Royce** on Washington Brice Road were preparing to move out of the neighborhood this summer to their retirement home in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Editor was saddened by the news because **Randy**—like Mr. Editor—has an affection for ancient Volvos. Indeed, in January 2002, Mr. Editor wrote a "From the Editors" column that celebrated the exploits of two venerable 1980 Volvos—Mr. Editor's "Green Bomb" (also known as "Greenie") and the **Royces** "Old Blue." For old time's sake and at Mr. Editor's request, **Randy** kindly provided what amounts to a "Where Are They Now" contribution before they're even gone!)*

Randy and Robbie Royce arranged to buy their new home in the spring of 1983 while stationed in Germany with the U.S. Air Force and then watched the interest rates climb steadily until they closed in August 1983 at 13.75 percent. They moved in with their three young daughters **Stacey, Kerry, and Lindy** and became active members of the Chantilly Youth Association playing (and **Randy** umpiring) girl's softball.

In June 1986, **Randy** was reassigned to Europe—two postings in Germany and one in England—and he and **Robbie** stayed there until his retirement from the Air Force in September 1993, when they returned to the neighborhood. At that time **Stacey and Kerry** were in college at the University of California, Riverside, and **Lindy** was entering her sophomore year at Chantilly High School. The **Royce's** companion on all of these moves had been a sky-blue 1980 Volvo 244 ("Old Blue"), which at that point had accumulated more than 100,000 miles.

Lindy settled in at Chantilly High School, **Robbie** got a teaching position at Waples Mill Elementary School, and after a short semi-retirement, **Randy** jumped into teaching by taking a position with Arlington Public Schools teaching Air Force Junior ROTC. In 1996, **Lindy** became a Hokie, and mom and dad became empty-nesters and settled into a pleasing rhythm. Having summers off together had its attractions! **Randy and Robbie** now have two sons-in-law and four grandchildren. About the time the first grandchild came along, they retired "Old Blue" with 338,197 miles on the odometer. (Let the record show that Mr. Editor's "Greenie" had approximately 350,000 miles on it when the Purple Heart tow truck carried it away in January 2004.)

Since retiring from the Air Force, **Randy and Robbie** have returned to Europe five times or so and have become well-acquainted with the local area by pursuing a hobby they picked up while stationed in Germany—volksmarching. This essentially is a 10-kilometer walk organized by local clubs to get you up and moving and exploring parts of the community you never knew existed. It was while on one of these marches along the Rappahannock River that they discovered old town Fredericksburg and a new home development known as Fawn Lake in Spotsylvania—with a lake and a golf course, of course. To make a long story short, they found something they liked and purchased their retirement home on the 14th fairway.

So, after having owned their home in Fair Oaks Estates since 1983 and having living here for the past 17 years or so, **Randy and Robbie** will be retiring and moving south this summer. **Randy** says they have greatly enjoyed living here and that Fair Oaks Estates has always been one of the most friendly and aesthetically pleasing communities that they've seen. But they say it's time for the next chapter—the one that begins, "Ladies and gentleman, this is your captain speaking." They say they're looking forward to traveling, working on their golf handicaps, and watching the next generation grow up. We wish them all the best!

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FROM THE EDITORS

You are holding in your hands the 300th issue of *The Acorn*, our neighborhood newsletter since June 1985. We haven't missed a month since then, despite wars, terrorist attacks, frequent long business trips, snowstorms, and the pressures of everyday life, including raising three kids and getting them through college and married. As Woody Allen is reputed to have said, "Ninety percent of life is just showing up"—and *The Acorn* just keeps showing up in your mailbox every month. Someone else added that, of the remaining 10 percent, 5 percent is getting started, 1 percent is following the directions, and 3 percent is finishing what you started. The other 1 percent is a mystery.

Thanks to all of you for supporting *The Acorn* during these many years. Thanks especially to the many community-minded people who have served on the Board of Directors and as Committee chairpersons and who have reliably provided news to keep the neighborhood informed of important developments. Thanks to all those who have shared their views in

"It's Your Turn" or "Reader's Recommendation" contributions, and thanks to all those who served as Block Captains and delivered *The Acorn* to your mailboxes during the first 20 years of its existence. This truly has been a community effort.

We can't promise to turn out another 300 issues of *The Acorn*, but we'll at least get started on the next 300 in June. And we'll need your help. ***As usual, June will be our "graduation" issue, so if you have a high school or college graduate in your home, please let the editors know before May 20th so that we can recognize his or her accomplishment. Call 703-620-3771 or e-mail kjclare@cox.net.***

Finally, thanks to all those who have swept up the sand and grit from the street in front of their homes. There still are some folks who have not yet done so, however; if you're one of them, please do your part to finish cleaning up our neighborhood after our long and snowy winter. It's springtime!

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