



ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association

July-August 2011

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Landscape & Trees

Patty Williamson

Playgrounds

Lori Allred

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The next board meeting
Sept. 13 at 7:30 pm at 2080.

Landscape Update

This summer, like the previous four or five summers, has been particularly hard on our landscape and trees. Too much really hot weather and not nearly enough rain are once again putting significant stress on our trees, shrubs and turf. It's hard to find any corner of the neighborhood that is unaffected.

As you water your own gardens or pots of plants, please take the time to water any shrubs and trees your hose can reach on our common property as well. This is especially true for the smaller trees and landscape beds that have been planted in the last few years.

As mentioned in earlier newsletters, the major tree work for this year was done in May. Additional work will be scheduled after the thunderstorm season ends later this year.

Landscape and Tree Committee At Work

Eleven residents have been meeting as the Landscape and Tree Committee this summer with the goal of developing a new multi-year landscape improvement plan to guide our efforts going forward.

Trees were the main topic of conversation at the first two meetings, and committee members identified a significant number of trees that are problematic for one reason or another. Both the pin oaks and the white pines are declining with age, and there was general agreement that we should remove one or two of the most distressed of these trees each year. There was also general agreement that as we begin to lose some of our large mature shade trees, we should replace them wherever possible with shade trees rather than smaller

New Swing Set In Place

The new swing set has been installed in the upper playground in Courtyard D, and is already a hit with neighborhood kids. Our thanks to Playground Committee Co-chairs Lori Allred and Rob Aaron for getting this project completed.

Are You On the Email Network?

Those of you who are new to the neighborhood may not know that we maintain a residents' email network we use to share important cluster news bulletins and share neighborhood concerns.

To join the network, just send us an email at gcvca@golfcourseview.org. If you prefer not to have your name and email address shared with the whole neighborhood, just request that we put you on the blind copy list.

ornamental trees. As usual, there is also a strong interest in planting additional ornamental trees to replace the spring and summer color of our declining old dogwoods.

Committee chairman Patty Williamson reviewed the cluster's system for identifying and prioritizing trees for maintenance work. Briefly stated that system is that Patty keeps a list of problem trees reported by residents. Then after walking the property and reviewing the list of problem trees with several arborists, Patty prioritizes work on the basis of trees or branches that:

1. pose an obvious threat to people or private property,
2. could pose a threat to pedestrians or drivers,
3. are distressed or dying, but present no threat to people or private property, and
4. are simply unattractive for one reason or another.

She then orders the work done on the basis of both priority and available budget. The major work is generally done in the late spring, with a portion of the budget reserved to address possible storm damage later in the year.

In addition to identifying tree work that needs to be done, the committee has identified 10 landscaping projects that will enhance the overall appearance of the cluster. At its next meeting, the committee will prioritize these 10 projects so that they can be integrated into a new five-year improvement plan that will begin in 2012. Once completed, the five-year plan will be presented to the board of directors for approval. It's important to note that, once again, the committee is committed to working systematically to enhance our common landscape with no increase in the \$16,000 annual landscape/tree improvement operating budget that we've been able to maintain for the past eight years.

Cluster Budget Planning Season

The board of directors begins serious budget planning in October each year. That means that directors need to start getting price quotes for major projects to be accomplished in 2012 between now and then. If you have suggestions for drainage or playground improvements, now would be the time to contact the appropriate committee chairperson and make your interests known. If you have landscape improvement suggestions, and are not currently participating on the landscape and tree committee, contact Sandy Dresser or Patty Williamson soon with your ideas.