



ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association April 2014

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Next Board Meeting

May 13, 2014

2174, 7:30 pm

2nd Quarter Installments Due April 15th

If you pay your assessment in quarterly installments, your next payment is due Tuesday, the 15th. Please send your check or money order to GCVCA, PO Box 434, Oakton VA 2214-0434.

Emergency Vehicles In The Cluster

In recent weeks, emergency vehicles have been on our street and in our parking lots more often than "usual." Happily the firefighters and rescue crews have been able to resolve the problems in a timely manner.

Seeing large numbers of firetrucks, ambulances and police cars maneuvering in our neighborhood reminds us why we have yellow-curbed safety zones on our street and in our lots. The emergency vehicles need all the space they can get to do their jobs. Please be sure that neither you, your guests or your contractors park beside a yellow curb—even for "just a minute."

Cluster Email Network

Over the last month or so we've had some problems with the cluster email network that we have yet to solve completely. Occasionally, messages sent to the whole group actually go to only some of the addressees. It's unclear whether the problem is with the Verizon server we use or the Windows email program itself. We're working on this and apologize to those who may feel "left out of the loop." We expect to resolve the issue in the very near future.

We've Lost Another Longtime Resident

Last week 35-year resident Pat Deninger passed away after a short illness, and we've lost one of our most beloved neighbors. Pat had a long career as a nurse where she focused her skills on expectant mothers and their needs. She served our community as a member of the board, an active supporter of cluster projects and a reliable friend to her neighbors. Her caring heart, optimistic can-do attitude, and sense of humor endeared her to everyone she touched. Our hearts go out to her husband Joe and their two daughters Kim and Katie. If you'd like to remember Pat, the family suggests contributions to the Arthritis Foundation.

Updates to Design Standards

Over the past 15 years, the board has worked with Reston Association to update our cluster design standards to reflect changing homeowner tastes and the availability of newer and better building materials. Beginning with the color palette, which broadened the spectrum and made possible multiple color combinations, the board also obtained RA approval for such improvements as maintenance-free vinyl and aluminum windows and gutter systems, multiple front door designs, vinyl and aluminum siding and window wraps, additional exterior light fixture options, new color options for privacy and rear fences, and both wooden and brushed aluminum railings for upper level decks.

At it's April meeting, the board approved what we hope is the last of the changes needed to make it truly easy for homeowners to make needed and desired improvements while staying within the cluster standards, rather than having to request exceptions to the standards that require DRB panel approval.

Briefly stated, the latest changes to the standards are:

Bricks: The revised standard emphasizes the requirement that new or replacement bricks match the original bricks as closely as possible, without reference to any particular manufacturer or color. Homeowners will be free to work with their contractors to select and install the new bricks.

House numbers and Mailboxes: The original standards are deleted, leaving homeowners free to make whatever choices they prefer for these elements.

Roof Shingles: The revised standard no longer requires that all houses in each row use the same original shingle color. Instead, it requires only that replacement shingles must match or closely match one of the original three shingle colors—tile red, cedar brown or walnut brown and be three-tab asphalt shingles.

Two additional requested changes require the approval of a DRB panel. The first of these is that while **exterior front and back lights** must conform to the standard, they need not be the exact same fixture. The second is to permit the **wooden railings and support structures of upper level decks**, as an alternative to being left unpainted, painted to match the trim or stained as the current standard specifies, to be treated with a transparent natural wood color sealant.

These last two items will be placed before a DRB panel later this month, and the Handbook will be updated with the complete updated list of standards following the outcome that hearing.