



# ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association August-September 2015

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### Playgrounds

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### Cluster Website

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### Cluster Email

[gcvca@golfcourseview.org](mailto:gcvca@golfcourseview.org)

## Next Board Meeting

October 13, 2015

7:30 pm at 2174

## Our Landscape Needs Help

We all enjoy coming home to our well-tended, carefully landscaped neighborhood, and appreciate the value it adds to our homes. That's why more than half of our annual budget is spent for landscape maintenance and improvement. We all have a significant investment in our common areas, and we all share the responsibility of keeping our neighborhood beautiful.

Although we enjoyed a long mild, rainy spring and early summer, for the past nearly six weeks, it has been hot and dry. Since the end of July we've received only an inch and a half of rain. As of Labor Day, the last measurable rain fell three weeks ago. As a result our common landscape is in serious trouble.

We are losing many of our lovely dogwood and redbud trees—in both common areas and private yards. The later blooming Japanese dogwoods are suffering the most, but some of the native dogwoods are dying too. We have lost some of our oldest and largest azaleas, and other valuable shrubs are withering in the heat.

Although we contract with Blake to maintain our landscape, they do not water our lawns and beds. There is no cluster irrigation system, no common faucets and hoses. There is no group of volunteers designated as the "watering committee." We all need to do what we can to keep our neighborhood green and growing.

Here's how you can help. There are a number of areas that are suffering severely right now. These include:

- the hydrangea bed beside 2140 in Courtyard B
- the inkberries and viburnums by the utility box along the Reston Pathway between Courtyards B and C
- the rose bushes beside 2142 in Courtyard C
- the entrances to Courtyards B and E
- the new trees we planted last year in Courtyards C, D and F
- the viburnums and hydrangeas around the utility box behind 2141-2147 in Courtyard F
- the natural area behind 2151-2153 in Courtyard F
- the redbud tree beside 2169 in Courtyard F
- Most of the dogwoods

If you live near one of these areas, please consider teaming up with your neighbors to see that the plants get watered soon and regularly. They need the equivalent of an inch of rain a week, i.e., a thorough soaking to a depth of 6" to 8." If your efforts increase your water bill significantly, the cluster will reimburse you for the difference.

## Golf Course Update

Late last week, the attorneys representing Fairfax County, Reston Association and the Opposing Neighbors (including our cluster) filed motions for summary judgment with the County Circuit Court, asking the judge to set aside the decision the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) made last April. These motions were filed in response to Reston National Golf Course's motions, filed last June, to dismiss the appeal petitions filed with the court in May. The court has scheduled the hearing on all of the motions for Monday, October 23, 2015.

The golf course's motions to dismiss the appeals filed by RA and the Neighbors were based primarily on the contention that RA and the Neighbors had no grounds for appeal as they could not be "aggrieved" by the BZA decision because no specific development plan had been filed by the golf course. The motion to dismiss the County's appeal was based on the contention that the critical documents identifying the golf course as zoned for use as a "golf course" and labeled "open space" in the approved PRC and Comprehensive plans had not been made available by the time of the BZA hearing last January.

The latest petitions filed by the County, RA and the Neighbors turn the tables on the golf course contending that because the golf course has never presented a specific development plan to the Zoning Administrator, the golf course could not have been "aggrieved" by the determination made by the Zoning Administrator in June, 2012. Thus the golf course had no standing to appeal the determination, and the BZA had no jurisdiction to consider the issue and render its decision in the first place.

The "legal wheels" continue to move slowly, but so far our open space remains undisturbed—although still threatened. If you'd like to read any of the latest petitions, contact us by email at [gcvca@golfcourseview.org](mailto:gcvca@golfcourseview.org).

## Golf Outing and Nature Hike Coming in October

Rescue Reston is sponsoring the First Annual Rescue Reston Golf Classic, a 9-hole golf event and dinner, at Reston National Golf Course to raise funds to pay the legal costs to fight redevelopment of the golf course. The event is scheduled for **Monday, October 5th**. For those who don't play golf, Rescue Reston is also offering a free nature hike along the Reston Pathways and golf course paths to highlight the value of this beautiful open space. The nature hike, also scheduled for October 5th, will be led by longtime Golf Course View resident Ed Hass.

You'll find all the details at the Rescue Reston website, <http://rescuereston.org>.