



ReView

Golf Course View Cluster Association

September 2004

Landscape/Tree Committee Report

The Landscape and Tree Committee is busy working on plans for future projects to maintain and enhance our common property. Earlier this week the committee met with the landscape designer from Main Street Landscape to finalize plans to re-landscape the "forsythia bed" along the Reston pathway behind courtyard E. The plan, which will be presented to the board of directors in October, involves the removal of all the existing forsythias, hibiscus, lonicera and mulberry plants. The new landscape design will include "dry riverbeds" to better manage the water runoff in the area and plantings of "Sparkleberry" deciduous hollies, ornamental grasses and bird/butterfly-friendly perennials, cone flowers, black-eyed susans and the like. The project is budgeted at \$5000—the same amount we've spent on each of the other phases of pathway renewal.

Main Street Landscape is also preparing recommendations regarding the specific kinds of trees, shrubs and perennials we should plant in common areas when we need to replace current plantings. The plan will identify plant materials that are both likely to do well in various locations and maintain a consistent look throughout the neighborhood.

Also underway this week is a tree survey conducted by Blade Runners to identify and assess the status of all of the trees on common property. The report and map of the cluster's trees will give us the first comprehensive assessment of our trees since the late 1980s, and will aid us in working with residents, contractors and Reston Association to maintain our lovely landscape going forward.

On Friday, the committee did a walk-through of the neighborhood with Blade Runners to review cluster expectations for landscape maintenance through the remainder of this year and into 2005.

Based on comments from residents, the committee's current priorities for landscape renewal priorities for 2006 are re-landscaping the entrance to the cluster near the swimming pool, replacing or restoring the cluster sign, improving the signage that identifies courtyard addresses and beautifying the natural areas beside the lower playground. If you have any suggestions for areas that need enhancing, please contact one of the committee chairpersons or send us an email at gcvca@golfcourseview.org.

October Board Meeting

The October board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at 7:30 pm at 2204.

Interested residents are invited to attend.

Budget Planning For 2005 Begins

The October meeting of the board of directors will focus on identifying the cluster's budget needs for 2005. The various committees will propose projects to be undertaken next year and their estimated costs. Prior to this meeting, Treasurer Bob Williamson will hold a meeting of the cluster Finance Committee on Tuesday, September 21, 7:00 pm at 2206. This meeting will focus on planning for the cluster Reserve Fund. Interested residents are encouraged to attend both the Finance Committee meeting and the board meeting.

In November the board will formalize its budget recommendation and present it to the community for comment. The final budget will be approved by the board in December.

Can We Work Together?

While we own our own homes, we live in close proximity to our neighbors. Everything we do around our houses affects someone else in one way or another. Over the past few months residents have shared several concerns with the board that affect us all.

This past year many of us have undertaken major home improvement projects. Every home renovation or landscaping project produces debris of one sort or another. Neighbors can understand and accept the mess while the work is in progress, but it's important to get rid of the debris as soon after the work is completed as possible. If the debris seems too large to put out for the regular trash collection, you can arrange with Potomac Disposal Services to pick up large items on Fridays. The number to call is 703-560-8866. If you need to dispose of a large appliance like a refrigerator or freezer, the number to call is 703-445-8717.

Dog owners are required by Fairfax County law to clean up after their pets, and Reston Association provides "mutt mitts" in a dispenser beside the swimming pool. A number of residents have called to complain about dog droppings on sidewalks, on parking lot islands and in grassy areas that are commonly used by walkers. If you are a dog owner, please be sure you clean up after your pet.

Now that fall is around the corner and the days are getting shorter, many of us must be out and about in the dark. We all know that street lighting in Reston is minimal, and that adequate lighting is essential to our safety and the security of our property. It costs only pennies a day to turn on your front and back lights. We'll all be safer if everyone turns on their front porch lights at dusk.

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Website

www.golfcourseview.org

E-mail

gcvca@golfcourseview.org

Cluster Website Update

The Cluster Communications Committee has begun work to update and enhance the cluster website and make it more responsive to your needs and interests. The goal is to update the information on the site and revise the structure of the site to make it easier for you to locate the information you seek.

To accomplish this, we need input from you. If you have thoughts about the kind of information you'd like to see on the website or have had problems finding the information you need, please let us know. Send us an email at gcvca@golfcourseview.org or contact Darrill Anderson.

We also want to feature photographs of the neighborhood on the website. If you have photographs that show off our neighborhood, please share them. We can use either prints or digital files. We will return your prints to you unharmed.

Cluster Directory

It's been two years since the cluster directory was last published, and the board is planning to update the directory in the next few weeks. If you have moved into the neighborhood in the past year, please contact Sandy Dresser or send an email to gcvca@golfcourseview.org with your name(s), address and telephone number.

The directory is distributed only to residents to promote effective neighborhood communications.

Concerns About Parking On Golf Course Square

Many residents have expressed concerns about the number of cars parked on both sides of Golf Course Square since Newbridge improved the walkway and added stairs to the street last spring. While we are not sure what can be done about this safety hazard, the board has decided to pursue the issue with Fairfax County and the Virginia Department of Transportation. We'll let you know what we find out.

Drainage Problems Around Courtyard E To Be Addressed

In August several board members met with residents of Courtyard E who are experiencing drainage problems. At its September meeting, the board asked Drainage Committee chairperson, Gary Voegele to begin the process of finding an engineer who can help us clarify the problem and recommend solutions. We'll keep you posted on our progress with this issue.