

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Out and About	2
Board Update	2
President's Message	3
Pool Opening	3
Windy Days and Trash	4
Neighborhood Watch	4

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Issue 18—Spring 2010



Semi-Annual Garage Sale

One man's trash is another man's treasure!

Thinking about remodeling your garage? Get a head-start - and make a few bucks for the remodel - by cleaning out that garage during the Garage Sale on Saturday, **April 10th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. If you don't have anything to sell, take a leisurely stroll through the neighborhood and see the great things your neighbors are willing to sell or negotiate for a reasonable price. Wouldn't that elk head look great on your wall?

Have items which didn't sell and you simply don't want back in your house? You can donate them to several area non-profits. For household items and clothing, drop them at The Back Porch (7838 Richmond Highway; www.ucmagency.org) which supports UCM on Fordson Road. ACCA Furniture Program (703-256-9513; www.accacares.org) will take gently-used furniture donations; call to arrange for a free pick up of most furniture items.



Community Clean-Up Day

The Grove needs some helpful attention after a difficult winter!



All Grove residents are invited to meet and greet your neighbors on Community Clean-Up Day. Please join fellow homeowners as we volunteer to remove trash and debris from the Grove's common areas during the spring Community Clean-Up event on **Saturday, April 17, from 9-11 a.m.** (rain date April 24). Volunteers should meet at the Pool House promptly at 9:00 a.m. Please wear long pants and closed toe shoes. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. We look forward to seeing many of our regular volunteers and meeting new neighbors and friends.

Yard Sprucing Tips

The heavy snow from this winter has taken a toll!



Grab your yard gloves and pruners to spruce up your front landscape beds. During the Community Clean-Up Day, Palmer Property Maintenance will be on-site to offer helpful tips on yard clean-up and to demonstrate proper pruning techniques. A truck will be available to haul away *yard waste* only. Palmer will also have a limited amount of mulch for residents to use in their yards. Mulch availability is on a first-come, first served basis.

Out and About ~ Random Tips for Your Use and Consideration

As we welcome warmer weather, we anticipate bright flowers, green grass, and full foliage. Some of us – perhaps even many of us – look forward to priming our green thumbs and powering-up the mowers, trimmers, clippers, etc. Yard maintenance is one of the most effective ways to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful. At the request of many homeowners, we've streamlined the administration of our landscaping covenants. We have also reduced the time for a homeowner to remedy any unapproved or non-standard landscaping prior to assessing a fine. Your Board would prefer to avoid fines and appreciates every homeowners' efforts to maintain curb appeal in The Grove.

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Warmer weather also makes our streets and sidewalks a hub of activity with walkers, runners, dog walkers and children playing. Please consider this one more plea for drivers to follow the speed limit! Last year's homeowner survey showed speeding in The Grove to be a primary concern. Additional homeowner input during the monthly HOA meetings indicates speeding as an on-going issue. For the safety of all our neighbors, please slow down when driving on the streets in The Grove.

Properly maintained front yard lights are another helpful tool to improve safety in The Grove. As a reminder and effective April 2, a new resolution requires homeowners to ensure front yard post-lights operated by a photocell are in good working order. This resolution provides aesthetic

value, while improving safety and security for the neighborhood. If your lamp is not working, first try to reset the GFI circuit breaker (generally in the garage). Next, try replacing the light bulb. (The outdoor energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs are long-lasting.) If the light continues to fail, you may have to replace the photocell. These can be purchased at Lowe's and Home Depot. You may want to consider having an electrician replace the photocell for you.



And for the health of our neighbors, please pick up after your pets when they relieve themselves. The Covenants Committee may cite residents who do not comply and may ultimately report the situation to Fairfax County as this is a violation of county regulations.



Please pick up after your pets when they relieve themselves.

We can all be proud of the results of the Covenants Committee's most recent inspection. Many of the trashcans that were previously left outside were removed. And, we had very few repeat offenders. There were a few new infractions. Please remember that the toter cannot be placed outside before dusk the night before trash pickup, and it must be removed by the evening of the scheduled pickup.

Building a Better Grove ~ compiled by Shelle Mancl, HOA Secretary

Your HOA Board of Directors continues to focus on actions that will build a better Grove community for all homeowners. The 2010 business meetings began with a flurry of activity as the Board moved forward with the following actions:

- Approved a Lawn Maintenance Policy Resolution detailing homeowner responsibilities and enforcement policies.
- Appointed several new committee members, to Social and Architectural. We welcome the new members and thank them for stepping up!
- Approved a Front Yard Lamp Maintenance Policy Resolution to address the numerous outages that affect the attractiveness and safety of the community.
- Approved the purchase of new community name plaques for the entrance monuments to correct a spelling error.
- Approved a contract for removal and storage of the pool cover.

We continue to encourage all members to attend the monthly business meeting, and to actively participate on committees and in community events. Enjoy the beautiful spring weather, and we hope to see you at the Garage Sale and Community Clean-up Day!



YARD SALE Saturday, April 10 * 8:00 AM—1:00 PM

President's Message: Get Happy!

~ Jim Preston, HOA President

Ted Leonsis, the owner of the Washington Capitals, is a happy man. And with a winning team like the Caps, how could he not be happy? In his book, *The Business of Happiness: Six Secrets to Extraordinary Success in Life and Work*, Ted claims that it's not a winning team that makes him happy. In fact, Ted asserts that it is his active participation in the Washington Capitals Community - and all the communities in which he participates, including his neighborhood community - that makes him happy.

Spring is a great time to build a community by going outside and meeting your neighbors. We have a great place to live and great people who live here. Take some time to get to know each other and maybe even find that you feel happier by being an active part of your community. In addition to the social benefits, building a strong community is another way to enhance the security of our neighborhood. We have two great opportunities to meet people: the Community Garage Sale on April 10th and our Community Cleanup on April 17th. Both are terrific ways to meet new friends, and do something for your community.

Palmer's Property Maintenance, our landscaping contractor, will start the spring project list very soon, including lawn mowing of the front yards for townhomes. Please remember, homeowners are still responsible for the sides and backs of your homes as well as for any shrubs and landscaping.

Finally, one more call for committee members. More neighbors are volunteering all the time, which helps to spread the workload. People are enjoying the opportunity to serve their community. I even hear tales of laughter and enjoyment coming from some committees! Send a note to Board@gathm.com and we'll put you to work! (But not too much.)

Thanks for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at the next HOA Board of Directors monthly meeting!

Communications News

Want to help contribute to the newsletter? *Join us for our committee meeting, Thursday, April 7 at 7593 Grey Goose Way, 7-8 PM.*

The regular newsletter columns from Supervisor Jeff McKay, "did you know" and "welcome to the neighborhood" will return in the next newsletter. Also, advertising will soon be offered in the newsletter and on the web site.

Please email communications@gathm.com if you are interested in advertising or to contribute to the newsletter.

Splish, Splash—The Pool is Opening

~ Pamela Roberts, Communications Committee

Summer is fast approaching and once again it is time to prepare for the opening of our pool. By now, you should have received information in the mail on our pool rules and procedures for summer 2010. Some of the highlights are including:

- ✓ Pool season: May 28, 2010 to September 13, 2010
- ✓ Hours of operations:
- ✓ Monday-Friday, Sunday, and Holidays:
10:00am-8:00pm
- ✓ Saturdays: 10:00am-10:00pm
- ✓ What's New! - Vending machines will be installed with light snacks and drinks.

As we prepare for the season, keep in mind the following few tips that can help keep you, your children and your neighbors safe:

- ✓ Floating toys are not lifejackets or approved flotation devices and should not be used as such.
- ✓ Never leave a child unsupervised near a pool; and, do not use flotation devices as a substitute for supervision.
- ✓ Practice touch supervision with children younger than 5 years old; this means that the adult is within an arm's length of the child at all times.
- ✓ If there is any type of rain or inclement weather forecasted, do not swim or be near a pool.
- ✓ Never have glass near a pool, if it breaks it can cause damage to a pool and injure those walking barefoot.
- ✓ Remember to keep toys away from the pool area - young children playing with the toys could accidentally fall in the water.
- ✓ Never let your guard down.

We look forward to seeing you at the pool!

Pool Passes

The 2010 stickers are pink as are the guest passes. The 2010 sticker should be placed over where the prior year is printed. Replacement passes are \$5.00 each and additional Guest passes are \$10 each. Checks for payment must be received with the request. We will not issue replacement or additional passes without the payment first.

Residents should allow two weeks for processing from the date the application and/or payment is received in our office.

Owners must be in good standing to receive their passes.



Spring Issue 2010

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Windy Days and Trash

~ March Winds. April Showers May Flowers

Managing those March winds can be challenging – especially on trash day. It is amazing how trash days are windier than other days. Some residents have raised concerns about having to pick up light trash that has been blown out of the recycling bins. We contacted American Disposal for tips on how to keep trash in the bins.

They provided the following suggestions:

- ✓ Residents can place all the cans, bottles and glass at the bottom of the bin and placing newspaper or cardboard on top with a brick or rock on top to weigh it down. *[They ask that bungee cords not be used as it slows down the team picking up the trash.]*
- ✓ Residents can use paper bags or clear plastic bags to secure the recycling inside the recycling bin. Only clear plastic bags can be used – do not use dark plastic bags.
- ✓ Residents may order the 64-gallon recycle carts with lids which also helps keep items from blowing loose in the community.

To order the recycle cart, there is a \$75 one-time fee and you call ADS at (703) 368-0500 or visit www.americandisposal.com.



Neighborhood Watch Meeting Thursday, April 15, 7-9 PM

7593 Grey Goose Way
Officer Clift, Fairfax County, will
speak.

RSVP: ghmneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com

Street Cleaning in the Grove Monday, April 19 8:00 AM—4:00 PM

Please park in your driveway so sweepers
can clean the streets.