

September 2010



# THE ACORN



## FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I am pleased to announce that **Sheila Hautbois** has agreed to join the Board as Director until December, when the Board will look to install two new members. **Sheila** served as our Treasurer for five years before recently stepping down. Welcome back! So once again, this exemplifies my plea for a couple of homeowners to consider serving the community. That would be service for two, please, and thank you for your consideration.

Unfortunately, we have had some community vandalism to our entry monuments and pool recently. This caused the pool to close for a day for cleanup. We have advised the police of these activities and will be reviewing other avenues to deter this type of crime. There is no curfew for juveniles in Fairfax County, but if you see juveniles out at a time of night where there is little likelihood that good things are happening, you can call the local police for a response.

Work on the traffic calming continues as we seek to obtain signatures of those homeowners where traffic calming devices will be installed. Once that is complete, we hope to have the community meeting in September, with a community vote to follow. Stay tuned.

**Architectural Review Board.** The Architectural Review Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. on September 14th at a location to be determined to review all completed applications received at least

*seven days* before the meeting. An agenda and the meeting location will be posted on the FOEHA Web site ([www.foeha.org](http://www.foeha.org)) prior to the meeting.

**ARB August 17th meeting results:** Three applications were submitted—two for changing the paint color on homes and one for installing an egress window. All applications were approved.

**The End of an Era.** This month, the ARB bids farewell to **Doug Knoche**, who has stepped down as Chairman. **Doug** is a long-time community activist, having served on the Board of Directors from 2003-2006 (including as President in 2005); after completing his term as President, **Doug** took over the ARB. **Doug** returned to the Board of Directors as Vice President from October 2006 until the end of 2007 to fill the remainder of the term of a Board member who had resigned and then resumed leadership of the ARB in January 2008. So thank you, **Doug**, for your tremendous contributions to Fair Oaks Estates.

Thanks also to ARB stalwart **Michael Guarino** for agreeing to take over from **Doug** as Chairman.

**Contact information.** Sequoia Management is your primary contact for submission of ARB applications, requests for re-sale packets, and reports of ARB violations. Contact Jan Fenton, Fair Oaks Estates Homeowners Association, c/o Sequoia Management Company, Inc., 13998 Parkeast Circle, Chantilly, VA

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20151-2283, 703-803-9641, 703-968-0936 (fax), or e-mail [jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com](mailto:jfenton@sequoiamanagement.com).

**Open Space Committee.** Unfortunately, this month the Alder Woods Drive entrance solar lighting and sprinkler systems were vandalized once again. It occurred on the night of Thursday, August 19th, and a vandalism report was filed with the Fairfax County police. The solar lighting system has been there for 20 years and has been undisturbed except for this incident and a previous one in January. Both systems have been patched back together and are working. Full repairs will take another couple of

weeks. We are trying to make these systems less vulnerable.

In other news, we trimmed the shrubs at both entrances; fertilized the trees around the dry pond at the West Ox Road entrance (trees from the landscaping that we did last year); and cleared brush that was encroaching on the path to the tot lot.. There's quite a bit of tree work to be done, and we're working with our tree contractor to schedule the work. Several trees in the common area were blown over in the recent storms.

## FROM THE PAGES OF THE ACORN

Here's something a bit different. The September 1986 issue of *The Acorn*, under the heading of "Local Color," noted some significant events in the area that most of us probably would be hard-pressed to place in history:

- 1962 -- Dulles Airport opened
- 1964 -- Interstate 66 opened outside the Beltway
- 1967 -- First homes in Greenbriar built
- 1973 -- Chantilly High School opened
- 1977 -- McDonalds opened at Greenbriar
- 1980 -- Fair Oaks Mall opened
- 1980 -- First home construction began in Fair Oaks Estates
- 1981 -- First resident moved into Fair Oaks Estates
- 1982 -- Interstate 66 opened inside the Beltway

And, in line with the vandalism that occurred in August, the September 1986 issue of *The Acorn* also featured a long "Crime Watch" article on this very subject. The following extracts might be of interest:

- "Virginia law covers vandalism under several sections of the criminal code. One section deals with vehicles such as cars or boats and prohibits the tampering with or removing or damaging any parts of the vehicle. A separate section deals with the destruction, defacement, or other damage to any other person's real or personal property. A final section specifically prohibits the damage or destruction of any trees, shrubs, or plants growing on another person's property or on any public land (read 'Fair Oaks common grounds')."
- "Offenses under the first two articles are punishable as Class 1 misdemeanors, and those under the third section as Class 3 misdemeanors. The punishment for a Class 1 misdemeanor is confinement in jail for up to 12 months and a fine of up to \$1,000, either or both. Punishment for a Class 3 misdemeanor is a fine of up to \$500. Additionally, the Court can order restitution of damages as part of the sentence—including a levy on parents for damages caused by their children."

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**FAIR OAKS RECREATION ASSOCIATION (FORA) NEWS**

We are heading into the last few days of the summer season. Time does go by quickly! We hope that everyone enjoyed the summer as much as we did.

The annual End-of-Season Party is scheduled for Sunday, September 5th. This “members-only” party is from noon until 4:00 p.m. There will be a snow cone machine, food will come from Red, Hot, and Blue, and we’ll have hot dogs and burgers for the kids. If your last name begins with A-M, please bring a side dish to share. If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a dessert to share. We also are looking for volunteers to help with setup, cleanup, and the buffet. The sign-up sheet is in the office, or please e-mail [social@fairoaksrec.com](mailto:social@fairoaksrec.com) to let us know you’d like to help!

The annual dog swim will be held on Monday, September 6th, at 5:50 p.m.

Remember to check <http://www.fairoaksrec.com> for the latest news on your pool.

**FAIR OAKS ESTATES BIKE CLUB**

Our membership has grown following the initial article about the club in the July issue of *The Acorn* and the “From the Editors” column last month. Two new Fair Oaks Estates residents, along with two individuals from outside our community, are now enjoying the Saturday morning rides with us. On any given Saturday, we usually have four to six cyclists who ride various distances, based on their schedules and conditioning. Regardless, all are welcome! During August, we’ve ridden from Reston to Leesburg and back on two occasions and from Leesburg to Purcellville and back once. In September, we’re planning a ride from The Carolina Barbecue in Ashburn to Purcellville and back, followed by a barbecue treat at the restaurant. Also on the agenda for the fall is a ride from Davidsonville, Maryland to Annapolis and back.

Last month’s issue of *The Acorn* also noted that we’re considering a name change for the club, and we’ll probably select a new name soon. At the end of the day, however, this club is not about a name, riding long distances, breaking speed records, or modeling the latest biking attire. Rather, we’re just a group of guys who want to have some fun, see some sights, and get some exercise! If you’re interested in joining us, feel free to contact **Tim Dyer** or **Rich Stana** to express your interest. There is no initiation fee, there are no dues, and there is no official uniform. Helmets and good cheer are mandatory, however.

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### IT'S SEPTEMBER—THE SNOW CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND

**Once More on Vandalism.** As you have heard, the neighborhood experienced a rash of vandalism in August. The Fair Oaks Pool was extensively vandalized on the night of 23-24 August. There was a mail box, a For Sale sign, numerous solar landscape lights, a lifeguard stand, umbrellas, and a planter thrown in the pool. Another mailbox was found outside the fence. Several lifeguards spent all day cleaning the pool, and pool members missed a day of swimming. Due to the number of residences involved, Fairfax County police came out, and a police report was filed. If you have any information about this incident—or the damage done to the solar lighting at the Alder Woods Drive entrance the previous week—please contact the police or any member of the Homeowners Association or Recreation Association Board. We hate to say it again, but most vandalism is done by juveniles. Parents, know where your kids are and what they're doing, and teach them to respect the property of others. And kids, please don't put your parents through the awful experience of having the police come to your house because they have evidence that you've been involved in a crime.

**Save Those Baby Food Containers.** My kindergarten class at Colin Powell Elementary School would appreciate if you would save empty Gerber plastic baby food containers and lids so that we can use them for our banks. The children each have a job and are paid with real pennies every day when they complete their jobs. After they have saved a certain number of pennies, they can shop at the class store. Many of the items in the class store are "recycled" small toys from friends and family members—anything that a five- or six-year-old would treasure. When you are cleaning out, please think of us! For further information or pickup, please call **Marianne Stana** at 703-620-2290 or e-mail [mhstana@gmail.com](mailto:mhstana@gmail.com). Thank you in advance!

**Koi Time Again.** The ZNA Potomac's 17th Annual Koi Show will be held at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna. The gardens are located off of Beulah Road, between Route 7 and Route 123. Hours for the koi show are Saturday, September 11th, from 9:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, September 12th, from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. Admission is free!

**Persistent White Squirrel.** Our Open Space Committee Chairperson, **David Boggs**, saw the little rascal on August 3rd at the usual site near the West Ox Road entrance.

**Reminder: For Women Only.** The GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club invites area women to attend the second of our series of "The Power of One." Join us for brunch with guest speaker Michele Bevington, founder of Freedom Petals, which provides flower arrangements "to bring smiles—petal-by-petal—to our recuperating service members and their families at Walter Reed Medical Center, Mologne House, and Fisher House at the Walter Reed Complex." *The date is Wednesday, September 15th, from 10:00 a.m. until noon at the Chantilly Regional Library. Reservations are required.* Please contact Barbara Cale at 703-378-6009 or Sandy Lawson at 703-620-0574 or e-mail [westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com](mailto:westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com) to reserve seating. Bring a friend to hear Michele, meet our members, and enjoy light brunch fare.

The WFCWC's first regular meeting of the 2010-2011 year will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 20th, at the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. This will be our Kickoff and Get Acquainted meeting for the year, and guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served. WFCWC meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month, September through May, at the Greenbriar Community Center. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org) or [www.gfwcvirginia.org](http://www.gfwcvirginia.org) or call President Barbara Levermann at 703-631-7830 or Vice President Jackie Ware at 703-378-8551.

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### FAIR OAKS SHARKS SWIM TEAM SEASON WRAPUP (more next month)

The Fair Oaks Sharks had a fantastic season! They were undefeated until the very last meet of the season and finished with a record of 4–1. More importantly, they were honored with the Division 12 Sportsmanship Award. All the teams in the Division vote for the swim team that had the best sportsmanship all season, and the Sharks won. Way to go Sharks! The coaches were a huge part of the team’s successful season. A big thank you goes to Head Coaches **Billy Norfolk** and **Alison Griffith**, Assistant Coach **Kyle Ford**, and Age Group Assistant Coach **Rob Ikeda**. The Sharks broke several pool records this season and sent five of their swimmers to the NVSL Individual All Stars Meet in August.

### FROM THE EDITORS

It’s September. Back to school! Let the learning begin! In this spirit, Mr. Editor will share a concept he just learned about that illustrates the principle that “continuous learning” is something we should all strive toward. This month, it’s all about disambiguation.

Disambiguation in Wikipedia is the process of resolving the conflicts that arise when a single term is ambiguous and so may refer to more than one topic that Wikipedia covers. For example, the word “Mercury” can refer to an element, a planet, a Roman god, an old US space program, and many other things. Disambiguation is required whenever, for a given word or phrase on which a reader might search, there is more than one existing Wikipedia article to which that word or phrase might be expected to lead. In this situation, there must be a way for the reader to navigate quickly from the page that first appears to any of the other possible desired articles. Not every ambiguous term needs to have a disambiguation page; if there are only two meanings, then a “hatnote” at the top of one article to provide links to similarly named articles or disambiguation pages may be sufficient, according to Wikipedia.

Now it gets a bit more complicated. A double disambiguation is a link to a disambiguation page from another disambiguation page. This kind of disambiguation is typically more specific than one with a simplified name, but mercifully, this kind of disambiguation is relatively rare in Wikipedia. When a more specific title is still ambiguous—but not enough so to call for a double disambiguation—it should redirect the reader back to the main disambiguation page or a section of it. This aids navigation and helps editors to avoid creating new articles under the ambiguous title by accident.

In cases where there are several possible choices for disambiguating with a class or context, Wikipedia recommends using the same disambiguating phrase already commonly used for other topics within the same class and context, if any exist. If there are three or more topics associated with the same term, then a disambiguation page should normally be created for that term—in which case disambiguation links may or may not be desirable on the specific topic articles.

Got all that? There will be a test.

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