
RICHLAND FOREST

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting – October 14, 2009 7 p.m.

Please mark your calendar for this meeting. Your involvement will make this a better community. And by “involvement”, I simply mean showing up to this meeting and voicing any concerns you have about Richland Forest. But if you are interested in taking that involvement a step further, we need to fill 3 positions on the Board of Directors and we are hoping to elect new members at this meeting. You should have received a letter in the mail recently which includes a Petition for Candidacy. Please take a moment and consider volunteering a little of your time (believe me, it’s not a big commitment!) to help keep Richland Forest a nice place to live. October 14th is a Wednesday and the meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Cascades Library.

You *can* make a difference!

Your presence, your vote, and your viewpoint counts. In our last annual meeting we barely had the required quorum required to conduct the business for that meeting, i.e. electing new officials. And several proxies were used to achieve the quorum! What does this mean to you? It means that your views and opinions weren’t heard and that a *few* made all the decisions that affect the *many*. Yes, I am part of that “few” and you can trust us, as fellow homeowners, to try to do what’s in the best interest of Richland Forest. But, really, wouldn’t you like to, at least once a year, stop in and hear where your dues go and meet some of your neighbors? Please consider it.

Quarterly Dues

If it feels like you are getting a bill from us every time you turn around, there *is* a schedule for these dues. The *due* dates are:

February 1
May 1
August 1
November 1

See our web site home page for information about online credit card payments or automatic payment. Dues can be mailed to:

Richland Forest HOA
c/o GHA Community Management
PO Box 105007
Atlanta, GA 30348-5007

Neighborhood Watch

Deputy Spurlock of the Loudoun County Sheriff’s Department will be attending our September 9th meeting to discuss the formation of a Neighborhood Watch in our community. If you’ve read the police reports in the local newspapers, you know that there has been a spate of car break-ins and home break-ins in the past few months. It behooves all of us to be aware of what’s going on in our neighborhood. Please attend if you would like information or to get involved.

Have you visited our Web Site?

One of our Board Members, Natalie Rose, has created and maintained our web site for several years now. There is a lot of information here including schedules for upcoming meetings, an archive of past newsletters, our Design Guidelines, and links to other useful sites (such as utilities and services we all use). Set a bookmark in your browser for <http://www.richlandforest.com>

CSI Special Item Pick Up

CSI will recycle numerous metal items, such as bikes, tire rims, bed frames, metal pipes, etc. They will also accept bulk items, such as dryers, stoves, dishwashers, etc. As these items require special handling, you will need to call CSI's customer service department at (703)444-3181 to arrange pickup.

In some cases, there may be a separate charge associated with the pickup, so please call CSI to determine the cost before placing them at your curb. Once scheduled, the item will be picked up on recycling day (Wednesday).

Landscaping

Those who live along Augusta that have bushes, vines or trees growing through the fence or hanging over it should trim these away from the fence. Besides presenting an unkempt look from Augusta, this overgrowth may affect the life of the common area fence, which will end up costing all of us when it's time to repair or replace it.

In general, keeping the trees and bushes in front of your home properly trimmed enhances the look of our neighborhood and keeps up our property values. If you have overhanging vegetation which impedes normal pedestrian traffic in front of your home, please prune this enough to provide at least a 6 foot clearance.

Trees Under Attack!

Many of the Leland Cypress trees growing throughout our neighborhood have an incurable fungus, which is very contagious. It causes the branches of those trees to die and look brown. It may only be one small area, or the entire tree may eventually die of this fungus.

If you notice that your Leland Cypress has a brown branch you should remove the branch and clean your saw or clipper with rubbing alcohol. If the tree has died you should have it removed. If we address this problem now we may be able to save the hundreds of other Leland Cypress which are growing in our neighborhood. They provide privacy, a sound barrier and are a good windbreak, as well as a natural habitat for birds and animals.



Please Drive Carefully

School will be starting up about the time you get this newsletter. Be mindful of the speed limit along Augusta near the high school and watch for kids of all sizes walking to and from bus stops.

Open House at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve

On September 20, 2009 the Friends of Banshee Reeks and Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services will be co-sponsoring an Open House at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve from 11 am to 3 pm.

Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve exemplifies the beauty of Virginia's rolling countryside and the wildlife that calls it home. The preserve consists of 725-acres of forests, successional fields, ponds and streams and over two miles of frontage on Goose Creek, one of Loudoun County's two designated State Scenic Rivers. The County-owned preserve contains unique wildlife habitats and offers recreational and nature study opportunities to Loudoun County residents and visitors from all over the Mid-Atlantic region.

The mission for this Open House is to promote and celebrate the environmental, cultural and historical stewardship of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve among county residents, schools and businesses through exhibits and activities that engage and inspire the entire community. The event creates an opportunity for citizens to visit and "Get up close and personal with Banshee Reeks".

There will be exhibits, activities and family oriented interactive demos focusing on stream monitoring, bird banding and monitoring, amphibians and reptiles, native and invasive plants, rain gardens and many more areas of citizen science. In addition, there will be guided nature and archeological walks, hayrides, and bluegrass musicians on the back porch of the Visitor Center!

Come out for a day of fun and learning for the whole family and enjoy Loudoun County's own beautiful Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

[The Friends of Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, Inc. (FOBR) is a nonprofit organization of volunteers who support the preservation and conservation of Banshee Reeks. The group's goals are protecting, enhancing, and preserving the natural, physical, and cultural heritage of the preserve.]