

# Richland Forest HOA

2011

## **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting - Monday, October 24**

The annual meeting is coming up this month. It starts at 7 pm on Monday, October 24th and, if past meetings are any indicator, we can expect attendance by maybe a half dozen of our 156 homeowners. In order to satisfy quorum requirements for this meeting, we always rely on signed proxies from at least a dozen homeowners. So, if you're not planning to attend (and, statistically speaking, I'm pretty sure you're not), please at least sign and return the proxy included with this newsletter. That will save us from having to go door-to-door (as we have in every year past) to obtain enough proxies to conduct the meeting according to our by-laws.

Included with this newsletter is a Petition of Candidacy letter and form for nominations. It is perfectly all right (even encouraged) to nominate yourself if you have an interest in volunteering for a three year term. The Board meets once every two months to accomplish the necessary action to represent your interests to our management company.

## **Goodby Summer, Hello Leaves!**

It's going to be time to rake soon. Please remember that your bags of leaves, along with any other yard waste, should be placed on the curb for pickup on Wednesdays and *not* with your trash.

## **...and the Snow follows shortly after that!**

I'm sure we'll have snow long before you receive another newsletter (heck, we might watching fireworks on the mall before I get another newsletter out!). Street plowing will still be done by Centex since they still haven't completed the closeout and turnover to VDOT.

We had a fairly mild winter last year and hopefully we don't get a repeat of the 2009-2010 season. Those of you with sidewalks in front of your house, keep in mind that county ordinance requires you to clear those within six hours after a snowfall. If it's an overnight snowfall, you should have it cleared by noon of the following day.

## **...and Christmas tree disposal**

OK, this may sound like I'm really jumping the gun, but since you're not likely to see another newsletter by year's end, I refer you to our website for updated information on pickup dates for your trees:

**[www.richlandforest.com](http://www.richlandforest.com)**

## Fireside Chat with your HOA President

My name is Steve Satre and I'm your neighbor, living on Antler Court. I joined the Board in 2007 when I attended an annual meeting and just felt like someone had to volunteer. I have lived in Richland Forest since 2001 and I probably didn't attend more than two annual meetings in my first six years here, so I fully understand the typical homeowner apathy towards HOA meetings.

When I joined the Board (filling out two years left in someone's term), I took on the job of writing newsletters and those have been mine you've seen since 2007. I've fallen behind in the job and this is the first one in 2011 — a result of unbridled procrastination. I've been meaning to get one out since last Spring and now, with the Annual Meeting looming, I'm under the gun to issue one.

Another function I filled for my first few years on the Board was Chairman of the Architectural Review Control Committee. This wasn't a huge demand of my time. I just needed to review applications sent in by homeowners to be sure that they complied with the HOA's architectural guidelines (which are posted on our website).

Somehow, in 2009, when my term was up, I found myself "re-elected" for another three year term (the competition could not be described as "fierce"; in fact it was non-existent, which was the reason I re-enlisted). The Board President during that time, Sheila Singleton, did a fantastic job of keeping our meetings on track and focused on Board business. But Sheila decided to take a break from the Board last year and somehow I ended up in as President. My performance to date can only be described as "adequate" (though some may differ with this).

Fortunately for me (and all of us), the rest of the Board consists of some really great people:

Colleen Long has been on the Board as long as I have and her husband, Jeff, is a past President. Colleen has handled the Traffic and Parking Committee for years and she has lately assumed the responsibilities of secretary, providing the minutes to our meetings.

Charlie Peng came to a regular Board meeting a couple of years ago and volunteered to join. He took on the position of Treasurer and has done a great job for our HOA.

The latest person to join the Board as Vice President is Chris Cook, a new homeowner in Richland Forest over on Jackpine Court. Chris moved here from Arlington last year and immediately got involved with the Board. Chris has taken on maintenance of our web site and most recently has filled the vacancy as head of the Architectural Review Committee, left vacant when I became President (by-laws prohibit the President from being a Committee Chair).

These three people alone are enough to keep me involved, but we are also fortunate to have some involvement from past Board members. Sheila Singleton still attends meetings and always has good advice and input for the Board. She is also heading the Closeout Committee, staying on top of the builder closeout issues. Pam Valatka, a member of the Board since way before my involvement, still takes an interest in landscaping for the HOA and we receive frequent input from her. Natalie Rose, a former Board member, still provides our web services and is there for any web-related issues.

I hope to see some of you at the Annual meeting and if you do decide to get involved with the Board or a committee, you'll be doing it with some great people who happen to be your neighbors.

## Keeping Up Appearances

Our homes are now about 17 years old and showing signs of age. Many of us (me too!) have had to replace garage doors and some have already needed extensive roof work. Every year, our management company conducts a walk-around inspection of our houses and provides a report to the Board. We pass these observations on to the homeowners in question so that they can make the necessary repairs.

Some of the other common things we see are mailboxes that need to be replaced, shutters and/or doors that need painting, and yards gone wild (i.e. little or no upkeep evident).

## Trash Cans — PLEASE! Put Them Away!

It's a perennial problem: trash cans remaining on the street or in plain view on driveways. It only takes a little effort to store them properly (i.e. out of sight), so please save us the trouble of having to hound you on this. And please don't place your trash can on the street until the evening prior to trash day.

## Basketball Hoops

There are several "temporary" basketball hoops throughout the Richland Forest area. (I say "temporary" because some of these have been in place for years.) If your basketball hoop is in the Right-of-Way (on the street), you're may find that VDOT will not be quite so accepting of these hoops after the final closeout by Centex.

It has also been noted that we have a couple of more permanent basketball hoop installations in the neighborhood. Any such permanent installations require prior written approval by the HOA and the owners of these can expect to hear from us.

## Dominion Homecoming Parade

Dominion High School's Home Coming Parade is scheduled for Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Come out and see DHS marching band and floats from all our local community groups. The parade will start at Meadowland Elementary School at 5:00pm and end at Dominion High School.

If you have a group that is interested in marching in the parade, please contact TJ Magill at [tjmagill@verizon.net](mailto:tjmagill@verizon.net).

Please note the following roads will be closed at times during the parade (4:45pm-6:00pm):

**Sugarland Run Drive** (from Meadowland Elementary to South Cottage)

**South Cottage** (from Sugarland Run Drive to Seneca Ridge Drive)

**Seneca Ridge Drive** (from South Cottage to Augusta)

**Augusta Drive** (from Seneca Ridge Drive to Dominion High School)

# From the Warehouse of Useless Knowledge...

- 99% of the solar systems mass is concentrated in the sun
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear
- Einstein couldn't speak fluently when he was nine. His parents thought he might be retarded
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable
- Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing
- The characters Bert and Ernie on Sesame Street were named after Bert the cop and Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's "Its A Wonderful Life"