

RICHLAND FOREST

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Meetings now Bi-Monthly

As a reminder, the meetings of the RFHOA are now held every two months. The next one will be sometime in mid-April. Check the web site (<http://www.richlandforest.com>) for meeting times.

The Big Snow...

After the recent record snowfalls, many homeowners were on the internet or the phone with complaints about how long it took for a plow to come through their street. Those of us on the Board, your fellow homeowners, felt the same frustration. But please consider that for an snowfall of this magnitude (18+ inches), VDOT itself advertises that it may take “up to 6 days after storm ends.” Indeed, after all Richland Forest roads had been plowed, there were still some county roads covered by snow.

It should also be pointed out that plowing of the streets is *not* a budget item for us, i.e. you aren’t paying for it in your dues. Centex has still not completed a builder closeout for Richland Forest and thus they contract the plowing out to KGI at their cost. The only budget item we have for snow removal is for common area sidewalks, such as the sidewalk along Augusta between Duck Springs and Backwater. And that was expensive enough.

So if you think the plowing wasn’t quick enough or you didn’t get your money’s worth, please think again. Yes, it was frustrating, but sometimes life is that way.

When the forecast calls for snow or ice, VDOT strives to meet these goals.		
FORECAST CALLS FOR...	HIGH VOLUME ROADS ARE TREATED/PLOWED...	RESIDENTIAL STREETS ARE TREATED/PLOWED...
0-2 inches	Up to 12 hours after storm ends	<i>Sanding as needed</i>
2-4 inches	Up to 18 hours after storm ends	Up to 36 hours after storm ends <i>Plowing begins at 2 inches</i>
4-8 inches	Up to 36 hours after storm ends	Up to 48 hours after storm ends
8-12 inches	Up to 2 days after storm ends	Up to 3 days after storm ends
12-18 inches	Up to 3 days after storm ends	Up to 4 days after storm ends
18+ inches	Up to 4 days after storm ends	Up to 6 days after storm ends
Ice/Freezing Rain	12 hours after storm ends	Up to 18 hours after storm ends

...and the Aftermath

There's a lot of damage to trees and bushes from this storm and it's going to be an unexpected hit to our budget as we remove downed trees from common areas. Some interesting information from a local newscast regarding this situation and who pays the bill:

- if your tree falls and damages you own house, your homeowner insurance pays
- if your neighbor's tree falls and damages your home, your homeowner insurance *still* pays since the damaged property is yours (time to get vigilant with those leaning trees from your neighbors!)
- if a tree falls on your property and nothing is damaged, you homeowner insurance would *not* pay for its removal
- if a tree falls on your car, regardless of where the tree came from, your car insurance company pays (provided you have comprehensive coverage)

Spring Cleaning!

This is a good time of year to look around your property and see what minor upkeep may be needed to help our community maintain an attractive appearance. The RFHOA Design Guidelines is a great reference for this activity and is available on our web site. To get to it, click on **ARCHITECTURAL FORMS** and you will see the link for **DESIGN GUIDELINES**.

Please Drive Carefully

Watch for children at play!

Spring is here and Summer is just around the corner.

Many children will be out playing in our neighborhood and common areas as the weather warms up. Please be alert, obey the speed limit and help keep our children safe!

The Drive for Charity - May 20

A Public Service Announcement

The Board was recently approached by the organizer of the Drive for Charity, who is looking for ways to promote this event.

The Drive for Charity is an initiative where the toll proceeds from a single day on the Dulles Greenway are distributed to several charities that benefit Loudoun County. Last year, with the help of WTOP and WUSA 9, \$233,000 was raised, 16% more than the previous year. The more cars that travel the road, the more money the charities will receive.

Here's some of the charities that benefited in 2009 and how the money was used...

March of Dimes - funded the NICU Family Support at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children in Northern Virginia. Funds provide a part-time NICU Family Support Specialist to oversee activities of the program, as well as support activities in the program (Patient Care Kits, Parent Education Hours and Patient Safety Classes).

Echo - a Loudoun based organization that finds jobs and provides transportation for people with disabilities purchased 2 12-passenger vans.

Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter - used their funds to provide legal services for victims of domestic violence to obtain protective orders, child support and spousal support so that they may have the opportunity to begin new lives free from abuse and violence.

Fresh Air/Full Care - a Loudoun based all volunteer charity that assist low income working parents to pay for the cost of summer camp for their children. 72 children were sent to various camps throughout Loudoun County.

Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy - provided 4 scholarships for a 2-week Nature camp, expanding their amphibian monitoring efforts, and providing 1000 trees/shrubs which were planted to protect water quality in Loudoun County.

The Dulles Greenway Citizenship Award - 13 students from public high schools in Loudoun County received \$1,000 scholarship. Since 2001, 81 students have received a scholarship for college. Increasing scholarships to \$1,500 this year!