

# RICHLAND FOREST NEWSLETTER

Richland Forest Homeowners Association

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

Winter 2006/2007



**WISHING EVERYONE A  
HAPPY AND SAFE  
HOLIDAY FROM THE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS!**



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**Welcome to the Winter 2006/2007 edition of the newsletter. We would like to introduce our new board members and committee chairs, effective January 1, 2007:**

Jack Jernigan, President  
Jeffrey Long, Vice President  
Sheila Singleton, Secretary  
Sue Kysela, Treasurer

Directors:  
Shonnie Dennis  
Natalie Rose  
Pamela Valatka

We also have new committee chairs and we are looking for residents to volunteer to help with these committees:

Architectural Control: Sheila Singleton  
Landscape: Pamela Valatka  
Snow Removal: Shonnie Dennis  
Developer Closeout: Shonnie Dennis  
Traffic & Parking: Jeffrey Long  
Communications: Natalie Rose

All of this information and more can be found on our web site: [www.richlandforest.com](http://www.richlandforest.com).

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**Want to be a part of your Community? Get involved now! Contact one of the Committee chairs to join. See the web site for more information.**

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**It's that time of year again:** Please remember that ALL public sidewalks on your property must be shoveled. It is the homeowner's responsibility as well as a county requirement and your liability. Help keep the kids safe as they walk to school.

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**Reminder about Trash:**

Please remember...All trash and recycling containers should be stored out of view at all times,

except on the evening before and days of trash/recycling collection. Thanks!!

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**More on trash and recycling:**

Yard waste pick-up runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>. During these months, please place yard waste into paper bags. Dirt, rocks or sod will not be collected. Branches can be tied in small bundles and should be no longer than 4 feet in length, 2-3 inches in width.

**Christmas trees will be picked up the first two Wednesdays in January.**

**Recycling:**

Glass bottles and jars

Plastic, #1 & #2 only

Metal food and beverage cans

Paper products: newspaper, magazines, catalogs, mixed paper (office paper, brochures, glossy paper, etc), paper bags

Cardboard: corrugated cardboard & paper board boxes (i.e. cereal boxes, shoe boxes, etc). Boxes do not have to be broken down.

**Special or large-item pick-up:**

CSI will recycle numerous metal items (bikes, tire rims, bed frames, etc), or bulk items (dryers, stoves, etc). Please CALL CSI prior to placing on curb to schedule a pick-up: 703.444.3181.

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**Parking & Traffic:**

There is a 'secret back way' to avoid route 7 that is used by many people in the Cascades and Seneca Ridge areas. It involves cutting across Mayapple and Ducksprings to also avoid the stop sign at Seneca Ridge and Augusta. On a recent school morning a car count was performed just at the hour that the middle and high schools were opening. The observation had approximately 50 cars cut through and 7 more make U-turns at the corner of Ducksprings and Bullrush. To the observer this morning did not seem as busy as some as the traffic did not largely back up too far past Bullrush

where on a normal day people have difficulties backing out of their driveways on Ducksprings and making a right onto Ducksprings from Bullrush. This non-scientific traffic study is part of the ongoing discussions about appropriate measures to make our neighborhood streets safe for children walking to school and residents during their commutes.

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**Neighborhood Watch:**

The board discussed a neighborhood watch program. This program has taken many forms since colonial times, but has always been effective. The initial research shows that the most effective program will involve coordination with the citizens and the sheriff's office. The mechanics of this program and the level of involvement are currently not well understood by the board, but will be reported as we know the best way to enact such a program to provide a level of safety and security in our community.

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**Architectural Control:**

The Homeowners' architectural rules on garage doors and deck materials are being amended. Watch the web site or come to a Board of Director's meeting for more information!

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**Developer Close-Out:**

We are still awaiting Permit Approval from Centex for the installment of our Richland Forest Community Entrance Signs.

Paving on Augusta has been completed along with the NEW 4-way median stop sign at Backwater and Augusta.

Centex is still in the process of replacing Trees along Augusta and the common Areas of our community.

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## **Alarm registration – It's the law**

Did you know that if you have a home alarm that you are required to register it with the Sheriff's Office? It was news to me. I was researching a different topic (see elsewhere in this news letter) and I discovered that there is a False Alarm Reduction Unit and an ordinance to address this issue. This also alerts the Sheriff's office that there is an alarm installed and active in your residence.

This new ordinance requires homeowners and businesses with alarms to register with the Sheriff's Office and also includes a fining system for frequent offenders. The fines are logically set to address the matter of false alarms which naturally direct resources to these and away from necessary public safety and investigative work. In short you are granted 2 free false alarm responses per year, then the fee escalates to \$100.00 for the third alarm escalating by \$50.00 per response up to the ninth incident where the fee escalates by \$100.00 per incident and starting at the fifteenth response the escalation is \$1,000.00 per call (the math says that the ninth alarm is \$350.00 in fees and the fifteenth would cost \$1,850.00). Although these figures might seem extreme by the time you pass the fifteenth incident so does the idea that there could be fifteen false alarms at a residence per year!

After the third incident there is a requirement that the alarm system be inspected and after the sixth false alarm that the system be upgraded. Failure to take actions to maintain or upgrade your alarm system, when notified by the False Alarm Reduction Unit to do so, will result in the alarm user being placed on a "non-response" status. This means that deputies will no longer respond to

requests for dispatch from the monitoring center for alarm activations at the alarm user's location until such time as the required inspection is performed.

Please see the Sheriff's office website at <http://www.loudoun.gov/sheriff/alarms/index.htm> to learn more and register your alarm.

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## **Thank You to Sheryl Dufour:**

The board and residents would like to thank Sheryl Dufour for her service to Richland Forest. Sheryl has served the community in many ways over the years as a member and executive on the Richland Forest Home Owner's Association and will be missed. Thank you so much for your time, service and commitment to your community and your neighbors.

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## **Let Us Hear From You**

Do you have a question, comment or suggestion? The Board encourages any homeowner to responsibly write, e-mail or call any member of the Board concerning any aspect of Richland Forest. Board members will respond as quickly as they can, but please remember that Board members are all volunteers with jobs and families and so your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated.

All contact information can be located on the web site; general comments can be directed at [info@richlandforest.com](mailto:info@richlandforest.com).