

**July
2009**

RANDOM HILLS COMMUNITY NEWS



VOLUNTEERISM IS ALIVE AT RANDOM HILLS

A few months ago, a group of homeowners in conjunction with the Board of Directors decided to lead some volunteer projects to see if we could get a few work projects done for the community and to see if we could get people to volunteer. We started off with a small project - a community clean-up day whereby we just met on a Saturday with trash bags and gloves and we picked up trash in the public areas of our community. I realize that this doesn't sound that glamorous, and it isn't, but it needed to be done. The good news is that people came and we got the entire community picked up in about 30 minutes, got a little exercise and we got to know our neighbors. As you can see in the picture, we had a lot of young helpers who did an awesome job of picking up our neighborhood. We found all kinds of trash and debris - the most unusual probably being a lawnmower blade.



Since this project was such a success, we decided to make the next project a little bigger and more challenging (see page 3). We are hoping that as other projects come up, we can continue to count on our community volunteers. To find out about other volunteer activities, please sign-up for membership to the Random Hills Big Tent site:

www.bigtent.com/group/rhca

Laurie Crum - Newsletter Editor

Please help us save a tree and association expenses (a.k.a. your dues) by submitting your email address to us and receiving this newsletter electronically in the future.

Email addresses should be sent to:

webmaster@randomhills.org



2009 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING



It's that time of year again for the annual member's meeting on:

July 20th at 7:00PM at the Fairfax County Government Center, rooms 2 & 3.

(please note that the vote will be for two new board members rather than one as stated in the annual meeting notice mailed to you previously).

Some likely agenda items will include a vote for two new board members, discussion about the ARC committee and recruitment of ARC committee members, a budget report, and much more. Having good attendance at this meeting will allow board members to hear the concerns of homeowners. So mark your calendars and make plans to attend this important meeting.

STAY INFORMED BY JOINING "BIG TENT"



As of this writing, we currently have 57 members of our Big Tent website. This is a good start, but having everyone on Big Tent will make it a wonderful communication tool for Random Hills. What is Big Tent? Big Tent is a website that allows groups and organizations to have an online discussion forum. Danielle Bencivenga and our webmaster, Dan Gaffin, manage the site. This group is only for Ran-

dom Hills homeowners so you can know that you will be interacting with others from Random Hills. If you have wanted an opportunity to meet your neighbors, share information, swap recipes, learn about community events, find a babysitter, get a recommendation about a good contractor, or join the Random Hills Moms Group, you can now join Big Tent and start a discussion about what interests you. These discussion groups will be moderated and inappropriate content will be removed. It is also important to remember that this is an informal and not the place to go to interact with the Board of Directors or any board approved committee, or communications with Service First Management Corp. To apply for membership, go to:

<https://www.bigtent.com/groups/rhca>



LANDSCAPING VOLUNTEER PROJECT:

Our second volunteer project was to create perennial flower gardens at the pool and at the Random Hills sign. Previously we've used association money to pay our landscaping contractor to plant annuals in these flower beds. At a board meeting we discussed the idea of saving this annual expense by planting perennials that will grow from year to year rather than planting annuals that will die every year. So with board approval, I purchased the plants and the volunteers brought their garden tools and talents and we got all the plants planted in a matter of a few hours. The front flower bed contains bright red color with Knockout Roses, purple color with Marcus Salvia, and



Volunteers Pictured from left to right: Jay Perilla, Jennifer Perilla, and Maddie Perilla

some lime green ground cover called Creeping Jenny. The back bed has day lilies which bloom with yellow flowers, Georgia Peach Heuchera (also called Coral Bells) and some Dianthus with bright red flowers. Plants used at the Random Hills sign include more Knockout Roses and two dwarf Arbor Vitae. Some other volunteers who also deserve recognition are



Volunteers pictured from left to right: Rebecca Sobel, Michelle Borel, Jennifer Perilla, Maddie Perilla, and Kaitlyn Sobel

Susan Moore, Charlie Viars and Paul Becker. Susan helped out at the pool and Charlie & Paul planted annuals at the island tips along Random Hills Rd. since perennials may not withstand the winter road treatments. Hopefully our new plantings will create lasting beauty and save us some money. - Laurie Crum- Newsletter Editor

The Finished Product at the Pool !!!



SOMETIMES THE ARC CAN HELP YOU

We all know - or should know - that the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) helps us to maintain standards for our community and helps us to maintain our property values. Logically, we know why we have an ARC. Yet when it comes to our own homes, most of us don't like the idea of having to seek permission prior to changing something on the exterior of our homes. As previous ARC chairperson, I have received a few emails from homeowners that weren't very nice. However, a short time ago I received the nicest email from a homeowner actually thanking the ARC for making him aware of some decayed rake boards on his home. A neighbor had the proper vantage point out their window to see the decayed boards up near the homeowner's roof and notified the ARC requesting some action. The ARC committee member responsible for that section of the neighborhood gave the homeowner a door tag repair notice. The homeowner hired a contractor to make the repairs and found out that the rake boards were indeed rotted and they were able to save themselves from having more costly repairs by catching the problem in time. The homeowner actually emailed the ARC to thank us for catching this problem for them before it was too late. This is a good example showing that the ARC is not always the bad guy. It's also a good example of a neighbor speaking up when he sees something wrong.



The ARC committee members are volunteers who are trained and appointed by the Board of Directors to uphold our community standards and, believe it or not, we like to help our neighbors too. At the upcoming annual members meeting, the Board of Directors will be seeking more volunteers for the ARC. If you can volunteer some time to your community, the ARC is a great way to help.



Laurie Crum - Newsletter Editor

VANDALISM IN RANDOM HILLS



We unfortunately have a vandal in our midst. Someone has been leaving corn cob remains, trash and feces on some of the benches in our community. Nancy O'Connell of Service First Management Corp. reported that this vandalism has been ongoing for sometime in neighboring communities and now it has spread to Random Hills. The police are aware of the problem and short of a police stake-out, we all need to be vigilant and call the police if we see anyone in the act. It may come to the expense of installing surveillance cameras to catch the vandal. If you have any information, please notify the Fairfax County Police so we can catch this vandal.





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