



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2000

RESULTS OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Hunters Green Cluster Association was held on December 7, 1999 at the Reston Community Center. Thirty-eight homeowners attended. The annual budget proposed by the Board of Directors was approved by the membership. Quarterly dues payments in 2000 will remain at \$175 per quarter for the fourth consecutive year. (New legal interpretations of Virginia law and the relevant language in the Reston Deed of Dedication will necessitate a change in the way the monies included in the dues payments are "classified." More information about this will be included with the first billing in January.)

Each of the Board members reported conditions and accomplishments in his/her respective area of responsibility, and in particular, what projects had been completed under the Strategic Plan that was approved by the membership last June. It was announced that the playground at the upper end on Indian Ridge Road will be upgraded just before Christmas (see section following).

Two positions on the Board of Directors were filled by election. Katharine Hunter was elected to a full three-year term and Simon Rakoff was elected to fill the remaining year of Maureen Burns' term. Subsequent to the elections, the Board, on behalf of the HGCA membership, presented a plaque to Jim Allred, recognizing his leadership and many contributions during the past 12 years (4 consecutive terms) as President of the Association. At its first meeting, held the following night, the new Board met, elected officers, and assigned major responsibilities. Your new Board of Directors for 2000 are:

Arthur Hill, President	703-264-1178
John Piper, Secretary and Vice President for Services	703-620-2177
Bill Holmes, Treasurer and Vice President for Finance	703-758-2580
Katharine Hunter, Vice President for Natural Areas	703-476-9095
Simon Rakoff, Vice President for Grounds	703-758-9191

PLAYGROUND UPGRADE COMPLETED

On December 30, the upgrade and replacement of equipment was completed on the playground at the upper end of Indian Ridge Road. Have your kids put on their coats and mittens and try a jump on the "U-Bounce" or the "Rock-and-Roll" bars, or scaling across the rings and sliding down the fire pole ... and then scaling the platforms to set out on a hopscotch across the "Bounce Buttons." The equipment that has been installed differs from the more conventional equipment at the other playgrounds. It conforms to the latest federal safety standards and with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

TALKIN' TRASH

If you have noticed loose garbage in the vicinity of where you placed your bags on trash collection days, it is the work of a flock of crows that have appeared to have taken up residence nearby. By the time that the trash collectors arrive, the crows have already picked apart your bags looking for tasty morsels. If the contents of your bags are strewn about by crows or other creatures, you, not the trash contractor, is responsible for the clean-up. Please invest in an inexpensive plastic garbage barrel, and place your garbage bags inside the covered barrel for collection. Plastic bags or boxes containing absolutely no food scraps or food containers can be placed at the curb without a problem. Also, in order to comply with Reston Covenants, please do not set out your trash before the night preceding collection day, and likewise, please retrieve your empty trash barrels from the sidewalk as soon as you arrive home on collection day. A couple things about recycling: paper recyclables include only newspapers and magazines. Cardboard boxes or containers are not recyclable. Secondly, if you are recycling #1 and #2 plastic bottles, please remove and dispose of the caps, which are not recyclable. If you have questions, please call John Piper, the contract administrator, or refer to the Trash and Recycling Guide that was distributed in 1999.

REPORTING WATCH LIGHT OUTAGES

To preclude duplicative reporting to Virginia Power, please report any Watch Light outages to John Piper, 620-2177. Reports should include the pole number, if it can be determined, and the address of the nearest home.

CLEAN GROUNDS

Please remember that refuse and personal items should not be placed or kept on common ground. That includes deadwood, firewood, building materials, grass clippings, and prunings from your trees or shrubs. Refuse of this type can be cut into short lengths, bagged or bundled, and left at the curb on trash collection days. Special Christmas tree collections will be made on Wednesdays, January 5 and 12.

MEMBER RIGHTS

At the Annual Meeting, the Directors covered a number of rights that each Association member has:

Open Meetings - Board meetings are subject to the Virginia "sunshine" law. Members have the right to attend any Board meeting and some did during 1999. You can find out the date, time, and place of the next Board meeting by contacting any of the Board members. As an alternative, you can send a letter of request once a year to the Board, asking to be advised in advance of any Board meetings during that year. Since Board meetings are generally held in the home of one of the Directors, the Board has a policy requirement of 48 hours advance notice by any member desiring to attend a meeting. The purpose of this is to provide the Board with an estimate of attendance so that the meeting can be moved to a larger venue if necessary.

Open Financial Records - Members have the right to inspect the Association's books and financial records upon request to the Treasurer. The only part of the records that are not open to you are individual homeowner account records other than your own. The Association's annual financial report is a public document and is included in the Resale Disclosure Packets provided to new members. If you wish to receive a copy of the 1998 (or earlier) financial report, or a copy of the 1999 report as soon as it becomes available, contact Bill Holmes.

Owners List - The list of homeowners (but not necessarily who resides in the house) is public information. If you would like to have a list of all HGCA homeowners, request one from Bill Holmes. If you have Internet Web access, you can also search for owner information by address at the web site of the Fairfax County Office of Tax Administration. The URL of that site is: <http://www.co.fairfax.va.us/dta/re/propadd.asp>

STRATEGIC PLAN

The HGCA Strategic Plan, originally approved in June 1999, is a "living document" that documents the progress on planned progress and reflects new projects added to the plan. If you are aware of any facilities, item, or areas that should be addressed in the Strategic Plan, please contact any Board member. If you would like a copy of the current version of the Strategic Plan, request one from Bill Holmes.

DRB REQUIREMENTS

Members are reminded that exterior alterations to your home or grounds must be approved by Reston Association's Design Review Board in advance of any work. Note that all applications to the DRB must bear the signature of Arthur Hill, President of HGCA. Under the covenants, Reston Association can require removal of any modifications that did not go through the approval process.

DIRECTORS-IN-TRAINING

In his campaign flyer, Al Yamada recommended that members consider taking a turn at serving on the HGCA Board of Directors. How about it? Have you ever considered serving as a member of the Board of Directors? Were you unsure what would be involved or how much of your time it would take? Now you have a no-risk opportunity to find out. At its first meeting, your new Board of Directors voted to establish a Directors mentoring program. Members who are interested will be invited to attend all Board meetings to observe how the Cluster's business and operations are administered, and to participate in that administration to the extent they were willing. If you are interested, please contact any Board member.