So Long Summer

Sadly, summer is ending. And, what a summer it has been. We’ve seen frequent rain that made our lawns grow so fast we couldn’t mow fast enough, assuming we could find a break between the rainfall to mow. We’ve had several back-to-back, unbearably hot, 90-plus days that made those rainy days look good. We’ve also had more than a few unseasonably pleasant, spring-like days—especially lately—that made us long for more like them. Yet, despite the contrary weather, this summer our Grounds and Maintenance Committee have given us beautiful common areas to enjoy for years to come. More about that inside.

Pool Closes, Schools Open

Labor Day, the traditional end to summer, comes late this year, so we get to enjoy the pool a bit longer. The last day the pool will be open is Labor Day, Monday, September 7. Of course, you can continue to enjoy the trails, playground, and picnic areas after the pool closes. September 8 is back-to-school day.

Welcome New Neighbors

This summer, several families have decided to make Fox Chase their home. As you see them out and about in the neighborhood, please introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

Thank You Volunteers!

We cannot say it enough...thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our neighbors who volunteer many hours during the summer months to maintain the pool and grounds.
Fox Chase Pride

Dan Soper, chairman of the Grounds and Maintenance Committee, and his top-notch, go-to, dream team have spent many hours of their summer improving the amenities area and maintaining the grounds.

Amenities

If you haven’t been to the amenities area this summer, please drop by next time you’re out. The area behind the pool has been transformed into a small park with playground, benches, picnic tables, grills, and newly planted trees.

Virginia Playground Services installed the playground, grills, and tables. Stanfield Paving installed walkways leading from the trails to the playground and picnic areas. Lawn Solutions Turf Care planted four Elm trees.

Dan and committee members Kevin Kelly, Doug King, Shane Musselman, Mark Shevchuk, and Wayne Worrell cut and placed timbers for the picnic pods, prepped the area with landscaping fabric, and filled the area with gravel, which they then compacted. They also placed signs at the playground and lake, and used the leftover gravel to fill in those annoying holes along Fox Gate Drive and Fox Chase Lane.

Their oversight and labor have given us all an amenities area to be proud of and enjoy for many years. By doing that, they also have improved our property values and helped attract buyers to Fox Chase.

Grounds

As if by magic, hundreds of acres of grass are mowed during the summer months. According to Dan Soper, “When it needs to get done, it just gets done.” Seven dedicated men, not magic, get the job done. Dan goes on to say that Fox Chase is “blessed to have men like these who take their free time and serve the community.” Those men are John Bowles, Dick Cook, Jim Grau, Shane Musselman, Mark Shevchuk, and Wayne Worrell. Their volunteered labor saves the HOA a great deal of money, helping to keep HOA dues low for all of us. So please, thank them next time you see them.
Keeping the Pool Open for All to Enjoy

While some Fox Chase volunteers keep our grounds looking good, others open and close the pool every day. Nicole and Will Whittier work together as committee chairs, with assistance and advice as necessary from past committee chair, Jennifer Stockli. The Whittiers have responded to issues while on vacation and Will dealt with an issue within a 12-hour window between vacation and a business trip. The willingness of volunteers, like the Whittiers and Dan Soper, who take on huge responsibilities, means that the HOA does not have to pay vendors to provide those services. And that means, our dues stay low. So, thank you Nicole and Will and your go-to teams of families who open and close the pool each day; thank you Burris, Cercone, Crews, D’Albis, Morton, Musselman, Radel, Soper, Waisiuta, Weems, and Wilson families.

Those families don’t just unlock gates to grant access to the pool for the day and lock them again at dusk. They also keep the entire pool area, pool house, and gazebo clean and tidy. They keep an eye on the condition of the water, furniture, umbrellas, pumps, and septic system. They solve the problems they can solve, and alert the Whittiers and HOA board to the problems they can’t. Some of the tasks they perform are unpleasant, such as cleaning the restrooms, but they perform those tasks nonetheless. So, please, if you have enjoyed using the pool this summer, thank those families for making it possible.

New Look On the Way for www.fox-chase.org

While the Grounds and Maintenance Committee members have been sprucing up the amenities area, Dave Frey has been sprucing up the website. Dave, who also serves on the HOA Board of Directors as Treasurer, is working on the website’s new look in the extra minute or so that he can find among his current responsibilities to his day job and family, and the HOA. Nevertheless, be on the lookout for the launch of the new website soon. In the meantime, information on the current website is still being maintained and is up to date.

Dave’s wife, Tish, maintains the information on the website and also serves as the HOA’s unofficial director of communications. You should recognize her name from community-wide emails. She also receives emails sent to info@fox-chase.org and answers and/or forwards them as appropriate.

In an effort to keep expenses low, the HOA relies on the website and emails to keep homeowners current on neighborhood news, rather than use mass mailings. Tish, HOA Board members, and committee chairs will never use Fox Chase residents’ email addresses for anything other than official Fox Chase business.
2015 Neighborhood Social Events

Our community-wide social events are great opportunities to get to know our neighbors. Unless otherwise noted, events will take place at the amenities area. Check your email inbox and the bulletin board at the entrance for more information prior to each event. Or, contact social@fox-chase.org.

Block Party September 5
One last summer bash then its back to school. We’ll get started around 1 PM. Bring meat that your family enjoys for the grill, your favorite drinks, and a side dish to share. Adult beverages are allowed, but no glass bottles please.

Visit with Santa December 11
Bring a camera to capture your children’s special moments while sharing hot chocolate and cookies with Santa. Time to be determined.

Cookie Swap December ?
We don’t know when and where yet, but we do know what to do when we get there. Bring three dozen homemade or bakery cookies to swap and take home a variety of cookies for your family to enjoy.

Ladies Night Dates & Hostesses
Adult women 18 and over are welcome at Ladies Night, so ladies take some time just for you. We took a break for summer, but will get started on a regular schedule again in September. Festivities begin at 7:30 PM, but drop by anytime after that. We usually go until 11 or so. Bring a snack or dessert to share and your favorite beverage.

Saturday, September 12 — Barbara Shevchuk
Friday, October 9 — Nancy Bowles
Saturday, November 14 — Lisa D’Albis
Saturday, December 12 — TBD

If you can host the December Ladies Night and Gift Exchange, please contact Lisa D’Albis at social@fox-chase.org.

Contact Us
Fox Chase Home Owners Association
P. O. Box 455
Locust Grove, VA 22508

General Information info@fox-chase.org
Board of Directors board@fox-chase.org
Architectural Review Committee (ARC) arc@fox-chase.org
Amenities/Pool amenities@fox-chase.org
Grounds & Maintenance grounds@fox-chase.org
Social Committee social@fox-chase.org
Treasurer dues@fox-chase.org
Neighborhood Watch neighborhoodwatch@fox-chase.org

Visit us on the web at www.fox-chase.org

Schools open Tuesday, September 8. Our children will be out in full force mornings and afternoons. Please adhere to the 25 MPH speed limit in the neighborhood, and be alert to students walking to and from and waiting at the bus stops. Always stop for school buses loading and unloading students—it’s the law. Parents, please talk to your teenaged drivers about safe driving habits.