On the President’s Mind...

“First impressions are lasting impressions…”

To that end, HOA President Barbara Shevchuk has indicated that we will continue to improve the front entrance and overall appearance of the neighborhood. We have contracted with a new lawn care company, Liberty Lawn & Landscaping, to maintain the front entrance and are working with them to add some year-round color along the stone wall and possibly update the median. We also encourage all homeowners to take a critical look at their houses and yards and spring clean as required. Please see the tips from the ARC on what to look for.

We also intend to build an additional canoe rack near the pond. There is a charge to use the canoe racks, which can be paid with HOA dues. Anyone leaving a canoe on the amenities property will be required to properly store it.

Thank You, Volunteers!

Volunteers get the work done and we appreciate all of ours. You help make Fox Chase a great place to live and keep our dues low by doing work that we would otherwise have to pay others to do.

A special thank you goes to Dan Soper and Jennifer Stockli. Dan, our new Grounds and Maintenance Committee Chairman, was doing so much work around the neighborhood that assuming the role of chairman was a mere formality. For the past few years, Jennifer has had ultimate responsibility for the pool and has put in many hours of her limited spare time. Thank you both for your hard work, neighborhood pride, and personal enthusiasm.

The Browns wish to thank their neighbors who helped clear the large tree that recently fell onto their property. Your assistance was invaluable. Just one more example of what makes Fox Chase a great neighborhood to live in.

We talk to each other and we borrow and lend/Such treasures they are, my neighbors and friends.

- Ellen Bailey
Common Grounds

Spring is officially here, but the winter seems to want to hang on. Nevertheless, it is time to think about getting the common areas ready for warm weather. The Board has hired a new contractor, Liberty Lawn & Landscaping, to maintain the front entrance. Liberty has an A+ Better Business Bureau rating and co-owner Timothy Walter is a class A contractor. Timothy is offering a 35% discount to Fox Chase homeowners who use Liberty’s services for their own yards.

Project Work Day, Saturday, April 12

Our work days are great opportunities to meet neighbors and contribute to Fox Chase’s overall appeal, which benefits us all. We have a lot to do and how much we get done will depend on our turnout. Our “to do list” includes: cutting back the weeds, blackberry brambles, and Johnson grass along the common areas behind the pool; opening the banks of the pond and seeing what we can do about the erosion there; removing trash; planting and mulching areas in front of the pool; building a new canoe rack; power washing the bridges; repairing handrails and replacing boards on the bridges; and repainting street signs. Should it rain, we’ll reschedule in May.

Respect our Common Grounds

Please do not drive any motorized vehicles — cars, trucks, motorcycles, mini-bikes, go-carts, ATVs, etc. — on the amenities property, including the asphalt trails. Only authorized vehicles necessary to perform periodic maintenance may drive on the grounds.

Remember...

The ARC must approve:

- New mailboxes, exterior doors & lighting, pools, decks, porches, driveway extensions, sheds, etc.
- Any exterior color change
- Landscaping (e.g., adding or removing trees or shrubs, creating large gardens, etc.)

Trailers, boats, & campers must weigh under 7,500 lbs & may not be visible from the street.

If in doubt, please ask: arc@fox-chase.org

Making Fox Chase Look Good One House at a Time

As the weather warms and we turn our attention outside, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) encourages everyone to survey their houses and take corrective action (i.e., cleaning, replacing, repainting/re-staining, etc.) as necessary. Look for:

- Faded or damaged shutters (unless the fading is severe, treating your shutters with Armor All® can revive them)
- Stained roofs
- Damaged, dirty, or stained siding, decks, and trim
- Damaged, dirty, or stained mailboxes and posts

The ARC will give everyone the next month or so to attend to those things before sending out letters where necessary. If you require professional services, such as pressure washing, coordinate with your neighbors. Many companies offer discounts to homeowners when they provide services to multiple homes within one neighborhood on the same day.

Check out Liberty Lawn & Landscaping and take advantage of the 35% discount offered to homeowners.

www.libertylawnandlandscaping.com
Happenings in the 'Hood

- Grounds Project Work Day, Saturday, April 12
- Easter Egg Hunt, Sunday, April 13
- Yard Sale, Saturday, May 17
- Pool opens Memorial Day weekend
- Block Party, Saturday, September 6

Pooling our Resources (Pun Intended)

Let's be honest, keeping the pool open and well maintained requires a lot of work ... more than what just a few people can do. Therefore, we ask all homeowners, especially those who use the pool, to volunteer. We have big jobs and small jobs — with plenty of volunteers, maintaining the pool is "many hands make light work." Specifically, we need residents who will assume responsibility for the following:

- Scheduling — Ensuring we have enough volunteers to open and close the pool daily, and creating and maintaining a schedule for those volunteers.
- Opening and closing — Opening and closing the pool per the schedule and completing a checklist of tasks, which includes checking the level of the pool water and cleaning debris from the pool. Depending on the total number of volunteers, this typically is week-long commitment once or twice during the season.
- Maintaining the key cards — Ensuring all residents in good standing (i.e., who have paid HOA dues) have functioning key cards and acknowledgements of the pool rules on file.
- Maintaining the pool deck — Ensuring all furniture is clean and in good condition at the beginning and end of the pool season, and maintaining the furniture throughout the season (e.g., periodically inspecting all furniture and umbrellas, and ensuring they are secured during storms). This might also include overseeing the purchase of replacement furniture and umbrellas.
- Maintaining supplies — Ensuring supplies needed to maintain the pool and pool house are available in sufficient quantities.

The BOD will provide guidance for completing the above tasks and Jennifer will continue to liaise with our pool maintenance contractor. To volunteer, please contact amenities@fox-chase.org.

Help Wanted

Volunteers to help keep the pool open for all to enjoy. If you and your family enjoy using the pool, contact the amenities committee at amenities@fox-chase.org to volunteer.

Ladies to host Ladies Night. Contact the social committee at social@fox-chase.org to claim a month. So far, only June and December have been claimed.
A Word From Our Treasurer...

Winter seems like it just won’t go away, but here’s something that will warm your thoughts … Again, based on our current fiscal situation and outlook, the Board has decided that no increase in dues will be needed for 2014. Dues will remain $660 for single lots and $1,110 for double lots. Dues will be collected in two installments with the first due by May 31 and the second, by October 31. So look for notices in the mail in a few weeks or so. Don’t forget that we have the PayPal® option through our website (www.fox-chase.org) to pay dues with a credit card.

Our Finances in a Nutshell

For those of you who did not attend the Annual meeting in January, I’ll highlight a few key points … We came in under budget in 2013 by roughly $14,000. The Board feels that our reserve fund is adequate for our needs and has decided to increase the budgets for grounds and pool expenditures for 2014. The Board will continue to monitor our current fiscal needs as well as projections for the next 5, 10, and 25 years and respond accordingly.

As always, the Board prides itself on transparency with the community. If, at any time, you would like a copy of the financial reports that are presented at the board meetings each month, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Volunteers Help Keep Our Costs Down

Thanks to our volunteers who serve on the Board and various committees and maintain our amenities areas, we’ve been able to keep costs down. Without them, we would be forced to hire a Property Management Company and/or Pool Management Company, which would increase our yearly expenses by $30,000 to $35,000. So, keep up the good work!

We all look forward to seeing you out and about in the community soon! That is if Spring ever really does arrive…

Dave Frey, Treasurer

Keeping Watch

We ask residents to continue to keep watch in the neighborhood — get to know those who live around you and look out for each other and, as you drive, bike, walk, and jog through the neighborhood, be alert to suspicious activity. If anything looks “hinky,” call the Spotsylvania Sheriff Department’s non-emergency number: 540.582.7115. Some residents have complained about speeding cars; report speeding to the non-emergency number as well. Those calls help determine where the deputies patrol. The more patrols we have, the safer Fox Chase is.

Informative content — to include general crime prevention information and links to relevant websites — is coming soon to www.fox-chase.org. Look for it sometime this summer.

Please respect our neighborhood. Refrain from littering, pick up trash when you see it, observe the 25 MPH speed limit, and look out for each other.