A Word from the President

2015 started on a sad note with the fire on Fox Gate Drive. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to the Hill family. Words cannot adequately express our condolences on the loss of their mother and daughter.

Because the fire brings to the forefront of our minds the importance of fire safety in the home and having an escape plan, we are publishing a second newsletter on fire safety. That newsletter also will give information on how you can help the Hills, who lost everything, as they settle into a new home.

Welcome Spring

Spring is in the air and our Grounds and Maintenance Committee will soon send out information about the annual spring clean up. Volunteer help is always appreciated and helps keep costs down.

I am pleased to announce that our neighborhood amenities will be expanding this spring with the addition of a playground and picnic area, which should be ready by the time the pool opens. You can read more about it on the next page. The social committee also is planning a spring block party to kick off the pool season.

Thank You Volunteers!

I cannot say thank you enough to all the homeowner volunteers we have. Thank you to all who head up committees and thank you all who work to get things done around the neighborhood. We know that you have families, jobs, and other commitments and appreciate the work you do for us in your limited spare time.

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New Amenities on the Way

For a few days this spring, we’ll see an abundance of activity near the pool as we take another step toward fulfilling our original vision of Fox Chase’s amenities. We have enjoyed the pool and the walking trails for a few years now. By summer, the area behind the pool will gain a small park comprising a playground, benches, grills, and picnic tables.

The playground will be designed for children between the ages of 5 and 12. Play activities will include a cog wheel, cyclone, rock wall, twist-and-turn climber, and slide. (See the graphic below, which is taken from the manufacturer’s online catalog.)

Virginia Playground Services (VPS), Inc., from Ashland, Virginia, will provide all playground equipment and materials, and complete all site work and installation. All activities and materials will meet or exceed applicable safety guidelines. The playground area will measure approximately 40’ x 40’ and be surrounded by a plastic border; the ground surface will be covered with bonded rubber mulch. Two benches facing the playground will allow parents and grandparents to supervise their children’s play. Two grills and two picnic tables will be provided by VPS and installed in concrete adjacent to the playground by neighborhood volunteers during a project work day.

Because our actual budgets have been substantially less than our projected budgets for the past few years — thanks to responsible fiscal management and the volunteers who do work we would otherwise pay vendors to do — we have funds available to cover the entire cost of these additional amenities. Therefore, these new amenities will have no effect on our HOA dues. Dues will remain $660 for 2015 and are due by the end of May. Statements will arrive in your mailboxes soon.

Why are amenities important to a neighborhood? Amenities:

- Provide exercise and recreation for residents
- Help create a sense of community
- Increase property values
- Attract home buyers

Please respect our neighborhood. Refrain from littering, pick up trash when you see it, observe the 25 mile per hour speed limit, and look out for each other.
New Canoe Rack, New Policy Enforcement

Last fall, volunteers constructed a new and bigger canoe rack. Beginning this spring, the policy for storing canoes and john boats on the amenities property will be strictly enforced.

All residents who want to keep their canoes and boats near the lake must register them and pay a $25 annual fee. Upon receipt of payment, the HOA will issue a decal. That decal must be displayed on the bow of the canoe or boat. The fee must be paid every year; new decals will be issued every year. Canoes and john boats without decals must be removed from the amenities area after each use and properly stored on the homeowner’s property.

Forms for registering canoes and john boats will be mailed with the dues notices. The form also will be available for download on www.fox-chase.org.

When not in use, canoes and john boats must be stored on the rack. Any canoe or boat not stored on the rack, or stored on the rack without a decal, will be removed from the amenities area without further notice.

Verizon Fios Anyone?

Many neighbors have been overheard saying they would like to have Verizon Fios as an alternative to cable or satellite. Getting Fios in the neighborhood is possible … but only if you make your voice heard by following the steps below. If enough homeowners request Fios (at least 30%), we might just get it.

2. Select the Can I Get Fios? button. The Check Availability window will appear.
3. Type your address and zip code in the appropriate fields and select Continue. A new window asking, Looking for Verizon Fios?, will appear.
4. Select Sign up here. The Future Notification window (which is secure) will appear.
5. Complete the Contact Information fields and select Submit.

As the weather gets warmer, we start to think about our outside chores and home improvements. Please remember...

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) must approve:

- New mailboxes, exterior doors and 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, and campers stored on your property cannot weigh more than 7,500 pounds and may not be visible from the street.

If in doubt, please ask: arc@fox-chase.org
2015 Neighborhood Social Events

The Social Committee kicked off 2015’s social events with the annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 29. Many other social events are on the calendar for the year and we hope you take these opportunities to get to know your 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 May 23
Welcome summer and the beginning of the pool season, and check out the new play area. Time to be determined. Bring meat that your family enjoys for the grill and your favorite drinks, and a side dish to share. Adult beverages are allowed, but no glass bottles please.

Saturday at the Pool June 20, July 18, August 15
Bring a picnic and enjoy a day at the pool with your neighbors.

Block Party September 5
One last summer bash then it’s back to school. Time to be determined. Bring meat that your family enjoys for the grill and 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 ?
The date, time, and place is to be determined but the rules remain the same. Bring 3 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. Festivities begin at 7:30. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage.

Saturday, April 18 — Donna Lambert
Saturday, May 16 — Evelyn Bickley
Saturday, June 11 — Mary Blackmoor
Saturday, September 12 — Barbara Shevchuk
Friday, October 9 — Nancy Bowles
Saturday, November 14 — Lisa D’Albis
Saturday, December 12 — Christy Maupin