



# HUNTERS GREEN

C L U S T E R

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2000

### STATUS OF STRATEGIC PLAN

Despite a late start, all Strategic Plan projects that were scheduled for this year are now underway or already completed. The Board had considerable difficulty earlier in the year in finding a reputable handyman who was willing to follow through with a contract to refurbish the equipment on the main playground, the basketball court, and all the benches and tables in the Cluster. That work is now in progress. Additionally, the equipment replacements for the two tot lots in Hunters Green Court are on order and installation is scheduled for the last week of October. In response to a request from a number of the moms in the Cluster, a spring-mounted rocking horse will be added to the equipment already installed in the tot lot at the end of Indian Ridge Road.



Playground Repairs

New plantings have been placed in the planters that border that tot lot. Additionally, the large overgrown hedge of evergreens has been removed from the corner on Indian Ridge Road adjacent to 11720. This hedge was creating a blind spot, making it difficult to see traffic approaching from the opposite direction when traveling up or down the street. The Board wishes to thank Christine Sauer who made arrangements and supervised these two projects.

### NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO THE BOARD

Board Director Simon Rakoff and his family moved away from the Cluster during the Summer. At its meeting on August 15, the Board appointed Bob Deans to fill the remaining four months of Simon's term. Bob has been participating in the Board's Director Mentoring Program and has attended all the Board's meetings since the beginning of this year. Bob has assumed the duties of the Vice President in charge of grounds maintenance. Bob's phone number is 703-391-1579.

### FINANCIAL REPORT AVAILABLE

The Cluster's financial report for 1999 has been completed and copies are available to any member upon request to Bill Holmes, Cluster Treasurer (703-758-2580). The Board wishes to thank Jerome Pederson, who again this year performed a review of the Cluster's books on behalf of the membership.

### PARKING SURVEY

The Board wishes to thank all those who have responded to the parking survey that was mailed out in the middle of August. To date we have received forms and

comments from 78 of the 118 residences. If you have an opinion on this subject and have not yet sent yours in, please do so before the deadline of September 30.

## **HELIPORT VOTED DOWN**

Thanks to heavy attendance and participation by residents of the Cluster at the meeting of the RCA Planning and Zoning Committee in July, the heliport that was being considered for installation on the roof of the Morino Institute across Sunrise Valley Drive from the Cluster was soundly defeated by unanimous vote of the Committee. The Committee recommended that if the applicant wished to pursue the issue, they should seek a site on the other side of the toll road in a commercial area at a respectable distance from any residences.

## **BACKYARD HABITAT PROGRAM**

On the last page of this newsletter is an information sheet concerning Reston's program to establish itself as a Certified Backyard Wildlife Habitat. Board Director Katharine Hunter is collecting information to help promote Hunters Green Cluster as a certified habitat. Please read the sheet and call or e-mail Katharine with information regarding features of your own yard.

## **CLUSTER WEB SITE UNDER DEVELOPMENT**

The Board has decided to establish a website for the benefit of the Cluster membership and the public at large. Current plans are to make available the Cluster's public documents as well as much of the same information that is provided to new residents in the cluster resale packet that is given to all new buyers by the sellers of houses. Also, the website will provide news of interest to members that in itself is not so important as to warrant publication of a special newsletter. Bill Holmes is undertaking development of the website. If you have any recommendations or suggestions, please contact him. As an interim measure, the Board has established a temporary e-mail address for the Cluster. Currently, you can e-mail the Cluster Board at [HGCAMail@home.com](mailto:HGCAMail@home.com). This address will change at the time the Cluster website goes "live."

## **YOU BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!**

That line from the old "Hill Street Blues" really should apply to everyone. Too many residents are still traveling too fast on our roads. At the proper speed of 15 MPH, it takes only 60 seconds to drive the entire length of Indian Ridge Road. Even 20 MPH is too fast and would save you only 15 seconds. The next time you drive down one of our streets, take a glance at your speedometer; you may be surprised.



Give 'em a brake!

## **TALKIN' TRASH AGAIN**

We've said this before, but some folks are not getting the message. The only paper products that can be recycled by our trash collector are newspapers and magazines. Cardboard, food boxes, office paper and everything else must go into the regular household trash. Also, please do not set out your recyclables in plastic grocery bags; use paper bags or recycling bins. And once again, please bring in your empty trash containers by evening on trash collection days. (That is a requirement stated in the Reston Association covenants.)

Lastly, it has been noted that some residents are dumping brush, dead limbs, or prunings into the natural areas of the common ground. Please dispose of them by bagging or bundling them and placing them at curbside on trash collection days.

## **POOPED AGAIN**

The Board continues to get complaints that some pet owners are still not in the habit of cleaning up after their pets. All we can do is to plead that people do the right thing. However, if a member submits a complaint to the Board in writing identifying offenders by name, date, and time of offense, the Board will write a letter of reprimand to the offenders. Alternatively, members can always contact Fairfax County Animal Control with the information, and they will issue the offenders a citation.

As a service to Cluster pet owners, Board member Bill Holmes has ordered a carton of Mutt Mits cleanup bags and is willing to resell them to Cluster pet owners at cost. Mutt Mits are the same environmentally friendly disposal bags that Reston Association makes available in dispensers at RA recreation sites. Used bags can be disposed of in household trash or in one of the Cluster's outdoor trash barrels. You can check out these baggies and also get a tutorial on non-messy bagging techniques at the following website: <http://www.pickupmitts.com/mittspage.htm>.

## **THEFT AND VANDALISM**

The Board had been in the habit of setting out temporary signs in the last week of each quarter reminding members of the approaching deadline for paying their dues, but unfortunately the signs were stolen in the last week of March of this year. Also, the trash container at the main playground was torn off its support post sometime after 11:30 pm on July 2. Three youths in their early teens were observed walking in the direction of the playground around midnight that night. If any resident knows anything about either of these incidents, please contact any Board member. Also, in the future, the Board would like to be informed of any incidents of theft or vandalism. Residents should also notify the Fairfax County Police; the Police have been authorized to patrol in the Cluster on a random basis.

## **ANNUAL MEETING**

Looking ahead to end of the year, the Annual Meeting of the Association is scheduled for Tuesday evening, December 5, 2000. Put that date on your calendar. Official announcement of the meeting along with the agenda and draft budget for 2001 will be published in a later newsletter around mid November. Two Board directorships will be up for election at the meeting. If any member wishes to run for one of these positions, please notify Arthur Hill.

## Backyard Habitat Program for Hunters Green Cluster

As you may know, Reston is participating and promoting The National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program or "gardening for wildlife." Our cluster has begun work toward adding us into the large number of "certified habitats."

Now it is time to collect information from you, the residents of Hunters Green Cluster. You may participate in many ways from planting wildlife-friendly plants and shrubs to putting out bird feeders and birdbaths and birdhouses. You may already be participating without knowing it! We want to stimulate your participation and interest.

Please call Katharine Hunter at 703-476-9095 and tell her what you have already done in your own "backyard" (or front yard). We are interested in what may provide food, water, shelter, and breeding places for those who share our environment - and need our help in this area where natural environments are being plowed under on a daily basis. (Please leave a message on my machine or e-mail me at: khunter@erols.com).

Things to look for in your "habitat":

Potential homes or denizens, rock formations for homes, water ponds, nesting boxes, nesting shelves, meadow, prairie, or scrub patches, for wildlife. Consider your actual feeders as well as the kinds of plants/trees/shrubs you have that bear fruit, seeds (acorns), nuts, pollen, etc.

Here is a list to get you started:

Oaks, maples, evergreen cone-bearing trees, naturally fallen tree trunks with hollows, rock formations, birdbaths, garden ponds, butterfly bushes, native honeysuckle, native pines (white pine is not native and has only a 20 - 30 year life span).

Birdbaths: \_\_\_\_\_ (You do not have to give up your birdbath to eliminate mosquitoes - just keep your birdbath clean. Do turn over empty flowerpot dishes, do not store old tires outside where they collect water... etc.) Do you keep water available throughout the year?

Birdfeeders: \_\_\_\_\_ (Do you feed throughout the year?)  
Types of feed: \_\_\_\_\_ (songbird, sunflower, millet, suet cages etc.)

Number and types of trees:

Large \_\_\_\_\_

Small \_\_\_\_\_

Shrubs \_\_\_\_\_

Groundcover (dense, evergreen) \_\_\_\_\_

Log piles \_\_\_\_\_

Annuals and Perennials:

\_\_\_\_\_

Which animals/birds take advantage of your backyard habitats: Birds, squirrels, bats (yes, they are welcomed helpers in the fight against bugs), frogs, dragonflies, praying mantis, ladybugs, etc.?

Things to do: Call The Wildlife Federation 703-790-4434 <http://www.nwf.org/habitats>, Reston Association or Fairfax Audubon Society 703-281-3256 for listings of recommended plants, trees, shrubs. Build a bat house! Do leave fallen trees that can be homes for animals and birds.

Things NOT to do:

Do not trim your trees and throw the branches in the natural areas as this kills off the more fragile plants and encourages the junk/sturdy plants like poison ivy, pokeweed, and 'the thorny plants. Do not use the natural area as storage or junkyards for things you no longer want or need in your yard or house.