## **Armfield Farm Connection**

**SPRING 2010** 

## President's Message



Happy Spring everyone! Hopefully by the time this newsletter arrives at your home, the big piles of snow and sand will be all but gone. There is an article further on in this newsletter devoted to the snow clearing issues we had in our neighborhood.

Our annual community meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Franklin Middle School. We have two board positions up for election this year and currently only one person has put their name up for consideration. Volunteering

for the HOA board is a great way to participate your neighborhood. We are the most local of governments and everything you do has a direct impact on the community. We will be mailing out the formal interest letter soon, but if you are interested, please contact me at president@armfieldfarm.org.

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Our current chairman of the Architectural Review Committee, Charlie Dutton, is looking to retire. We need to find a replacement for him or architectural change reviews could take much longer to be approved. If you are interested in chairing or joining the ARC please let Charlie know at arc@armfieldfarm.org.

We resubmitted our application for the special parking district to Fairfax County in January. The special parking district will prevent large trucks, trailers, RV's, and boats from parking on our streets for more than two days at a time. We managed to get almost 70% of the community to sign the petition. You should see the big yellow signboards from the county at the entrances to our community soon announcing the date of the formal public hearing to approve the parking district. I really appreciate the hard work of the volunteers who went door to door to gather the signatures.

It may be hard to imagine today, but pretty soon the grass will start growing and the weeds will be sprouting up in our flowerbeds. Most homeowners do a great job keeping their lawns mowed and beds cleared, but we do have some who owners do not take pride in maintaining their property. It only takes a few lawns with tall grass and weeds to make the whole block look bad. Please take the time to mow your lawns and remove weeds from flowerbeds. HOA volunteers will be out placing warning door hangers again this year to homes that are in violation of ARC guidelines. Please take action quickly if you get a warning notice or letter. You can review our ARC guidelines at www.armfieldfarm.org

On a final note, if you are a member of Facebook, be sure to join the Armfield Farm HOA group. This group made it much easier to communicate during the big snowstorm. If you are not a member of Facebook, you can email me your address and I will add you to my distribution list.

Rob Shear

President
Armfield Farm HOA

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## **Spring Fling - April 25th**

The social committee is coming out of it's winter dormancy! Unfortunately, Santa could not come visit us this December, since his fire truck was due on one of our very heavy snow days. But we will soon be kicking off the new year with our Spring Fling. It is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 25th from 1-3pm at the community pool. We will be having a lot of fun with moon bounces, face painting, cupcake decorating and lots of other entertainment. Come and see what fun this years' activities will be!

## **Spring Community Yard Sale - June 12th**

In the past, the community has only advertised a date for the yard sale and each household wanting to participate has loaded up their driveway with their things. It seems that fewer people are participating these days, so we are going to try doing a true community yard sale this year - June 12th from 8am to noon in the parking lot of the community pool.

Each person who wishes to sell will be assigned two parking spaces in the lot, so that all buyers can go to one central location and wander around. We will be assigning parking spaces on a first-come-first served basis about a month in advance. This will give everyone lots of time to tag and decide what to get rid of for spring cleaning.

## WS Awareness Week, May 9th - 15th, 2010 (Walk on May 15th)

Williams Syndrome is a rare genetic disorder which occurs about once in every 10,000 births. Individuals with WS often have medical problems such as cardio-vascular and gastrointestinal disorders, moderate to severe learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders. They are also extremely friendly and engaging with good verbal skills and a love of music.

Armfield residents Malia & John Anderson, longtime supporters of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the National Williams Syndrome Association, would like to announce the inaugural Chantilly WS Awareness Walk. The walk will be held at the Armfield Farm pool parking lot on Sat., May 15, 2010 at 10 am. with registration starting at 9am. The route will go up Armfield Dr. to Centerville Road, back down Lees Corner Road, returning into the neighborhood at Springhaven.

If you are interested in participating in the walk you can register in advance by contacting Malia at 703-478-0987 or by email at wschantilly@gmail.com. The cost to walk is \$10 per person/\$25 per family. Pledges are not necessary, but Malia has forms and you are welcomed to ask for support from friends and family. They are also looking for volunteers to help with running the course and registration.

The local Girl Scouts will also be holding a breakfast bake sale before the walk to raise money to support the Ronald McDonald house. Please come out and show your support by walking or cheering on the walkers!



## CALLING ALL SWIMMERS

ages 5 - 18
to share the fun
of being on a Summer
Swim Team
Pool address is
3567 Armfield Farm Dr

e-mail for more information to armfieldfarmswimteam@gmail.com

Chantilly, VA 20151

## Save the date:

The Armfield Farms
Swimming Pool will
open again on
Memorial Day
weekend!



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### **Math for Parents**

To all parents of upper elementary, middle and lower high school students: Here is your chance to improve your own math skills and your ability to help your kids with their homework!

Your neighbors Kay Shear and Cindy Merrick, both mathematicians, are organizing a parent-help group. We will teach the Fairfax County Public School curriculum and answer all of your questions (without actually doing your kid's homework - that's for you to do!). Come and refresh your memory or learn the stuff you never really "got" in school.

Or . . . are you really good in math? Would you like to participate in this neighborhood workshop as a parent tutor or student tutor? We are also looking for parents or older students to be available to answer questions and work one-on-one.

We plan to start this program in the fall of 2010. We will meet at a home in the neighborhood, probably once week, in the evenings. There will be a fee, paid monthly, to cover preparation and copying.

So, here is the question: is there interest in such a class in the neighborhood? If so, what grade (s) would you want to be addressed?

Please write back to Kay at kayshear@mac.com or Cindy at csmerrick@yahoo.com

## Kindergarten Registration - Monday, May 3rd

The Lees Corner Elementary School staff is starting to put together information for children in Armfield Farms who will be five years old by September 30, 2010. If you have a child who meets this requirement, please call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed to you prior to Monday May 3rd's registration.

The student registration phone line at 703-876-5219 provides school enrollment for students whose home languages are other than or in addition to English. (Multilingual registrars are available to help families with limited English proficiency.)

For more information about starting school in FCPS, please visit www.fcps.edu/start.htm

## Kids @ Work

Armfield Farms presents Kids @ Work — space for youth under the age of 18 to promote their services within the neighborhood. Please sign up at the community pool to update your information and/or confirm your listing.

Hilary Anderson	703/478-0987	Babysitting, Mother's Helper, Pet Watcher
Whitney Blankenship	703/419-0170	Swim Lessons*
Kendall Douel	703/389-9749	Babysitting *
Nick Gashel	703/867-5242	Babysitting, Swim Lessons*
Aimee Giel	703/344-6183	Swim Lessons *
Bart Gonzalez	703/853-0939	Personal Trainer for adults or teens
Christina Gonzalez	703/853-0940	Babysitting, Dog walker
Marissa Gonzalez	703/853-0940	Babysitting, Mother's helper
Josh Gordon	703/709-8237	Babysitting, Swim Lessons, House /
		PetWatcher *‡
Deanna Jefferson (16)	703/478-0054	Babysitting
Sharese Jefferson (17)	703/478-0054	Babysitting
Thelma Jefferson (13)	703/478-0054	Babysitting
Wes Kerbusk	703/850-6810	Swim Lessons *‡
Lauren Kessier (17)	571/234-2555	Babysitting / Nanny
Alec Martin	703/318-3245	Babysitting, House/Pet Watcher
Christina Mastracchio (10)	703/391-0821	Mother's Helper
Nicole Mastracchio (13)	703/391-0821	Swim Lessons
Cassie Morton	703/282-7582	Baby & Pet sitting, Swim Lessons *‡
Lauren Phillips (15)	703/785-8916	Babysitting
Lark Sine	703/803-9722	Babysitting / Dog Walker

Parents please discuss who your teen is working for and when. They should be in the Armfield neighborhood. It would be great to discuss wages, responsibilities and availability as well.

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## Weichert, Realtors' Invite us in...we'll bring results If you poperly is unanily but the rob with a to be in the property in

## Recent Home Sales (courtesy of Rosemary Graham)

Street	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy *	Model	Days on Market
Armfield Farm Dr	\$370,000	\$370,000	0	Falmouth	0
Beech Down Dr	\$350,000	\$350,000	0	Dover	8

<sup>\*</sup> Seller payment on behalf of the purchaser

While sales were slow since December, the next quarter is already shaping up to be very positive.

## **Community Connection**



Earlier last year, to increase the sense of community, the Homeowners Association created a social networking group for the community on the popular website Facebook.com.

Facebook is a social utility that connects people and groups to advertise events and exchange information. During the second blizzard this winter, a furious discussion took place about snow clearing strategies. And important local information has been posted, like Eda Casanova's Safety Alert posting - that has been summarized on the opposite page. There are already over eighty members as of this printing. To join, please search for "Armfield Farm Homeowners Association" on the www.facebook.com webpage.

### **Local News**

• With all the heavy snow and rain we've been getting, you have probably noticed all the trees and bushes we have lost in the neighborhood. The HOA is in the process of getting them removed for approximately \$7000. There are currently no plans to replace them.

• If your teeth are rattling from all the potholes left over from the storms, you are not alone. Contact VDOT at www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp to report potholes, damaged guard rails, broken traffic signs and lights, or for animal, tree and trash removal.

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

• The HOA is looking for volunteers to replace Polly Murray as the newsletter distributor as well as Charlie Dutton as ARB chair. They have both served the association for many years with distinction and would like to pass the baton to newer members of the community. The At-Large seat on the HOA Board will also need to be filled at our Annual Meeting. And last but not least, the social committee is always looking for helping hands to put together our neighborhood events. If you are interested in helping out, please email Rob at president@armfieldfarm.org.

## **Safety Alert for Women**

Women need to be careful of walking their doggies out alone or being on paths alone in general! After 13 years, police are still hunting for the East Coast Rapist, who has returned to the Northern Virginia Area. He is black, he smokes and he is right-handed. He is in his early to mid-30s, is fit, stands about 6 feet tall, likes wearing camouflage clothes and black hats, and once had a badly chipped tooth. The man studies women carefully. He watches them leave for work and walk home from the mall, and he notices whether they lock their windows and doors. He knows when they are most vulnerable and when they are home

alone with their children. He stalks them in neighborhoods he knows well. Then he rapes them and vanishes. **Please stay** 

## 2010 Census

You have probably already gotten several mailings and seen the advertisements on TV, but we are going to reiterate the importance of filling out and returning your 2010 Census forms. The data collected will have an enormous impact on everything from procuring funding for local road improvements to Virginia's representation in the Federal Government. You will also save the cost of requiring a person come and knock on your door.

The form only takes a few minutes to fill out but will shape the next ten years!



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#### **CAPITOL Property Management**

## **Armfield Farm Homeowners Association**

To our Armfield Farm Neighbors,

The Armfield Farm Homeowner's Association (HOA) Guidelines, as laid out in the association's Architectural Design and Maintenance Standards, have been written with the intent of assuring homeowners that the character and appeal of the neighborhood is maintained. This in turn, protects property values and enhances the community's overall environment.

As a reminder to residents to maintain their property, we have listed on the backside of this letter some of the guidelines that are most frequently overlooked by our homeowners and renters. Additionally, we remind homeowners & renters that any <u>architectural and/or exterior changes require an application and approval.</u> To gain approval for changes, submit an application to the Architectural Review Board (ARB) using the *Armfield Farm Homeowners Association Exterior Alternations Application* (related changes can be included on the same form).

The Armfield Farm HOA Board and Capital Property Management Company are committed to ensuring that residents remain compliant with the guidelines set forth in the association's Architectural Design and Maintenance Standards. If/when compliance is not followed, applicable penalties will be applied to homeowners and renters who violate the guidelines.

For complete details of the **HOA Guidelines**, go to: www.armfieldfarm.org The *Application for Exterior Alterations* form is located within the HOA guidelines, page 36, or contact the property management office at:

Dan Gordon, CMCA
Capital Property Management
3914 Centreville Road, Suite 300
Chantilly, VA 20151

PHONE: 703-707-6404

FAX: 703-707-6401

Thank you for complying with these guidelines and regulations set forth by *Armfield Farm Homeowners Association*.

### Things to remember when living in the Armfield Farm neighborhood...

(Guidelines will be enforced; penalties will be applied to the violations.)

#### TRASH

Trash containers must be stored so that they are not visible from the street or in public view.

Yard debris and trash containers are to be placed at the curb no earlier than 6:00 pm or dusk, on the evening before pickup. At all other times, trash containers and yard debris are not permitted to remain in public view.

#### LAWN/GARDEN

- Turf areas and lawns are to be mowed and trimmed at regular intervals, maintaining a height of up to four (4) inches. Trimming around foundations, lampposts, garden edging, and sidewalk and curb edging is required. Trimmings must be removed.
- Flower and plant beds must be kept in a neat and orderly manner, including trimming of shrubbery. When mulching, use only shredded/chipped wood or natural color stone, <u>not white</u>.
- Vegetable gardens must be located between the rear line of the house and the rear property line. All gardens must be neatly maintained, including the removal of stakes, weeds, trellises and dead growth.
- Approval is required for all natural or man-made exterior decorative objects located in front yards/flower beds, or which are visible from the street. Exterior objects include items such as: bird baths, ponds, fountains, wagon wheels, sculptures, statues, lighting, light fixtures, stumps, driftwood, fee standing poles of all types, decorative signs, gingerbread and/or additional moldings that are attached to the house.
- Gas lanterns that burn out must be replaced. Replacements wicks are available at Capital Property Management Office.

#### HOME EXTERIOR

- Continued maintenance of the exterior of the house and other structures is required. This includes decks, fences, sheds, playground-type equipment, driveways, mailboxes, walkways, gas lanterns, paint and/or rotting wood of trim, garage doors, etc.
- *Approval is required* for all exterior color changes. This includes changes to siding, doors, concrete, shutters, trim, roofing, garage doors and other exterior structures.
- Storm/screen doors must be full-view and compatible with the architectural style of the house and the entry door. Doors can be the same color as the entry door or immediate surrounding trim, white, black or brown.
- All windows in the house must have grids (mullions) or NO grids at all. The exterior appearance of all windows must be consistent, meaning that partially missing or broken grids are not permitted.
- Homes with single car garages cannot expand the width of their driveway to accommodate two cars. Driveway entrances also cannot be widened.

#### **STORAGE**

**Firewood must be kept neatly stacked and located to the rear of the residence**, within owner's property line and not readily visible from the street.

Storage of lawn or snow removal equipment, barbecue grills is not permitted in the front or side yard.

#### MAILBOXES/FENCES

- Mailboxes must be straightforward in design and mounted on simple natural wood or metal posts. Posts may be natural or painted in earth tone colors of black, dark brown, dark green or the same color as the trim\* of the house. (Trim is defined as the fascia boards and window trim. Trim does not include siding, shutters and front door colors.)
- All fences must be constructed from unpainted wood or wood treated to withstand the elements and they must be maintained. White vinyl fences and chain link fences are not permitted.

#### HOME BUSINESS

Home-based businesses that attract large numbers of vehicles to the neighborhood are not allowed. Fairfax County permit is required, no signs or other advertising device is allowed, and no exterior storage of business-related materials is allowed.

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## Oh Baby!

Congratulations to all the new moms we've had in Armfield in the last year! Since we had our own little bundle of joy last November it seems like we've been seeing balloons and storks pop up every other week throughout the neighborhood.

I would just like to take a moment and pass on one of the neat things I've discovered in the past few months. The nearby Fairfax 14 movie theaters hosts a special movie for moms the

## **Upcoming Events At A Glance**

#### **APRIL**

- National Cherry Blossom Parade

- Baby Picture, Fairfax 14 Cinema, noon

17-18 - Dani's Duds Children's Consignment Sale
Dulles Expo Center

22 - HOA Meeting, 7pm

25 - Electronics Recycling,

I-66 Transfer Station, 10-3pm

25 - Spring Fling, Armfield Pool, 1-3pm

#### MAY

1 - 2010 Reston Pet Fiesta (petfiesta.org)

21-23 - International Gem & Jewelry Time

Dulles Expo Center

Electronics Recycling,
 I-66 Transfer Station, 10-3pm

 - Annual HOA Meeting, Franklin Middle School, 7pm

#### JUNE

3-6 - Herndon Festival 2010 (herndonfestival.net)

- Community Garage Sale, Pool, 8-Noon

- HOA Meeting, 7pm

- Electronics Recycling,

I-66 Transfer Station, 10-3pm

#### Wednesdays

Frying Pan Farmers Market, 8 - 12:30 pm, May 6 - October 28 Old Town Herndon, 777 Lynn Street, next to the Red Caboose

#### **Thursdays**

Herndon Farmers Market, 8am - Noon, May 7 - October 29 Old Town Herndon, 777 Lynn Street, next to the Red Caboose

#### Saturdays

Reston Farmers Market, 8:00 am - Noon, May 9 - October 31 Lake Anne Village Center, Reston theaters hosts a special movie for moms the third Thursday of every month. They sell snacks for moms and babies, turn up the temperature in the theater, provide stroller parking and even have diaper changing stations. Check out National Amusements Baby Pictures website for details on what movie is scheduled. Previous first run movie showings include Precious and The Ghost Writer.

As I come across things like this (like February's Mothers of Multiples consignment sale at Chantilly High School), I will post them to the Facebook site. I invite everyone to do the same so we can all benefit.

Susan Hanson
Communications Co-chair

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## Have Plow, Will Travel

By Bonnie Hobbs - CentreView Newspaper

After 28 inches of snow blanketed the area, Feb. 5-6, trapping multitudes of residents on their streets, they needed a "knight in shining armor" - or, even better, a man with a plow - to come to their rescue. And for many, Centreville's Bill Casey was just that man.

Actually, Casey helped in several neighborhoods, including Armfield Farm in Chantilly. Resident Deb Cobb said two neighbors with snowblowers cleared her court off Springhaven Drive, so she walked around, taking photos, and saw Casey in his truck.

"Bill saw a guy on Springhaven who had a 3-foot-tall, 6-foot-deep wall of snow between the edge of his driveway and the driving path on Springhaven," said Cobb. "So Bill just drove up and started plowing it. He started ramming away at this huge mass of snow and clearing it for him."

"We were all stunned," she said. "Bill didn't talk to the man; he just pointed at the wall, told the man to get out of the way and did it. I thought it was incredible, and everybody here felt pretty good about it. I knew Bill because Casey's works on my car — they're such nice people."

Read more about how Bill helped our neighborhood at connectionnewspapers.com or by following the linked article on the Armfield Farm Facebook page.

#### **Board of Directors:**

President

Rob Shear president@armfieldfarm.org

Vice-President

Steve Snyder vicepresident@armfieldfarm.org

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Tim Murray treasurer@armfieldfarm.org

Secretary

Greg Seiler secretary@armfieldfarm.org

At Large

## **Vacant**

atlarge@armfieldfarm.org

## **Capitol Property Mgmt**

Manager

Dan Gordon dgordon@capitolcorp.com

#### **Architectural Review Board**

## **Vacant**

arc@armfieldfarm.org

## **Grounds & Roads**

## Vacant

groundsandroads @armfieldfarm.org

#### Social

Kay Shear social@armfieldfarm.org

#### **Communications**

Michael & Susan Hanson communication
@armfieldfarm.org

**Newsletter Distribution** 

## Vacant

#### Websites

www.armfieldfarm.org www.facebook.com

## **Spring-Clean for Your Health**

- Old CDs, DVDs, cell phones, DVD players, computers and 32 inch and under televisions can be dropped at Best Buy.
- You can recycle ink cartridges at Office Depot and Staples. You can also buy different box sizes to fill up with old electronics (like a fax, computer, printer, scanner, or cameras) to drop at the Office Depot.
- Radio Shack will take unwanted MP3 players, camcorders, gaming consoles, cell-phones and other electronics for tradein for gift cards.
- Compact fluorescent bulbs can be recycled at Home Depot.
- All electronics can also be recycled for free at the I-66 Transfer Center one Sunday a month (see event calendar).
- And for all those other items, consider joining other homeowners at the annual garage sale, taking place at the community pool this year.



Timothy T. Murray, CFP®, CDFA™

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## We need your input!

If you know a neighbor who missed out on this issue, direct them to our website: www.armfieldfarm.org. This and other recent issues are there.

If you have any suggestions or events you want to see posted to the newsletter, Armfield website and/or to the Facebook website please email us at communication@armfield.org

