

Armfield Farm Connection

SPRING 2012

President's Message



Happy Spring everyone! Our annual community meeting will be held on May 24th at 7 pm at Franklin Middle School. Our guest speaker this year will be our Virginia State Senator Janet Howell. We hope to see you there, but for those unable to make it, we still need your participation. This year we have added in the option to e-Vote for our annual elections. You will receive information in an upcoming mailing with the link and code to eVote. You will still be able to return a paper ballot if you prefer, but eVoting will hopefully increase the number of homes that participate. The next issue of the

newsletter will include a recap of the annual meeting or you can reach out to any of the Board members for information on what took place.

I am very excited about the recent installation of our two new playgrounds at Springhaven Drive. It is always a great feeling when we can cross something off of the long list of maintenance items we have in our community. We also plan to repair and repaint the basketball court by the Springhaven Drive storm water retention pond as soon as the weather permits. Our last major project this year will be to start tackling our walking paths. Our community has almost two miles of walking paths and many sections are in desperate need of repaving. Our plan is to spend about \$20,000 this year on paths. We are currently obtaining bids on a number of sections.

It's hard to believe the grass has already started growing again. 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/edge your lawns and remove weeds from flowerbeds.

Rob Shear
President
Armfield HOA
president@armfieldfarm.org

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Our annual community meeting will be held on May 24th at 7pm at Franklin Middle School.

Kindergarten Registration

Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be five years old by September 30, 2012 and live within the school's boundaries. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary/. Please call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500 if you have a child who meets these requirements. Registration packets will be mailed home in early April.

There will be two opportunities for parents to register their children on a first-come first-serve basis: Monday, April 16th from 2–7PM and Thursday, April 19th from 4–7PM.

Children who are registered during these times will receive an invitation to our Kindergarten Orientation to be held on May 7th. For more information about starting school in FCPS please access <http://www.fcps.edu/start.htm>

Virginia Immunization Requirement for Tdap

Attention 5th Grade Parents

Prior to entering 6th grade, all students must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT or Td).

Please check your child's immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it and that you **provide documentation to the school prior to June 19, 2012**. This documentation can be a copy of your child's immunization record, or a note from your physician listing the date of their most recent Tdap booster shot.

The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child's physician. Immunizations required for school are also available at the Fairfax County Health Department at no charge. Students receiving immunizations at the Health Department must be accompanied by an adult, and students should bring their immunization records to the Health Department clinic with them.

It is most important that you attend to this matter soon!

Save the date:
The Armfield Farm
Swimming Pool will open
again Memorial Day
weekend (May 26th)!

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www.armfieldfarmswim.com

Stingray Success

Stay in the CSL White Division 2012

After winning two "A" meets last year, our Armfield Farm Stingrays will remain in the Colonial Swim League (CSL) White Division for Summer 2012. This will present a great opportunity for the Stingrays as we compete against larger teams with a larger talent pool. Regardless of the division in which the Stingrays swim, all will certainly benefit from the experience, the quality coaching, the camaraderie, and new found friendships. Jose Castillo, Team Rep the CSL has stated, "No matter what level of competition the Stingrays are up against, we always bring our A game."

Swim Team Parent Meeting

Mandatory Parent Meeting on **April 18, 2012**, at Lees Corner Elementary School 7:30-9PM in the Upper Theater. **One parent per family must attend.** The main objectives of this meeting will be to choose Committee Chairs, familiarize new members with the AFST online registration process and discuss volunteer sign-up. *Child(ren) must be able to swim at least one length of the pool unassisted.

Registration opens on April 18th after the Parent Meeting.

If you'd like to sponsor our team or know of a business that would be interested, please contact Jeanette Castillo at jeanette@armfieldfarmswim.com. Sponsorship fees are \$250.



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Kids @ Work

Armfield Farm presents Kids @ Work — space for youth in high school or younger to promote their services within the neighborhood. Please e-mail **communication@armfieldfarm.org** to update your information and/or confirm your listing. The deadline for the Summer issue is June 10th. Our Facebook Group is also a resource for those wishing to advertise their entrepreneurial spirit.

Andrew DeLeon (15)	703-464-5192	Pet Sitting/Walking; Lawn Mowing; Babysitting
Michael DeLeon (13)	703-464-5192	Pet Sitting/Walking
Heather Donnelly (12)	703-435-8278	Pet Sitting; Mothers Helper; Babysitting
Shoshana Gordon (14)	703-709-8237	Pet Sitting; Babysitting*
Bryanna Kerbuski (18)	703-850-3487	Pet Sitting; Babysitting
Collin Reardon (15)	703-707-9317	Babysitting*; Pet Sitting/Walking
Nick Reardon (13)	703-707-9317	Babysitting*; Pet Sitting/Walking
Jeffrey Rhoads (13)	703-471-6895	Pet Sitting/Walking
Megan Rhoads (16)	703-471-6895	Babysitting, Pet Sitting/Walking
Nicole Rhoads (17)	703-471-6895	Babysitting

* CPR and/or Red Cross Certified

Parents please discuss who your teen is working for and when, wages, responsibilities, and availability. The Armfield Farm HOA encourages staying within the community, but assumes no responsibility for any activities that result from Kids @ Work.

Spring Community Yard Sale - June 2nd

The 2012 Armfield Farm Community Yard Sale will be held on June 2nd from 8am to noon in the parking lot of the community pool. This will be the third year that the pool parking lot will be cordoned off for sellers and shoppers. However, due to a reduced number of residents coming to the pool, spaces will not be assigned in advance. Depending upon the number of sellers at the pool, please expect that the sale location will be closest to the tennis courts and then expanded if necessary.

For the last two years, dozens of residents packed up their wares and headed to the pool grounds or set up shop in their driveways. Due to requests from members on some of the smaller courts and drives, we held our first centralized group sale in 2010 to draw in potential buyers. And come in they did, as over a hundred cars of shoppers made their way to the pool. As before, the HOA will advertise in local newspapers and social media websites.

There is still a need for a volunteer to head up the day-of coordination for this event. Please contact Kay via e-mail at **social@armfieldfarm.org** if interested.

Social Committee Update

The social committee is starting to plan this year's Spring Fling. Due to chilly weather last year near Easter, the date with year will be Sunday, April 29th from 2 to 4 pm. A high school student in the neighborhood has offered to coordinate a one-mile run / walk / bike / scooter ride for all ages around the community to encourage exercise, being outdoors and neighborhood togetherness. I hope that everyone who comes out for the Spring Fling joins us. We also plan to have the wildly popular face painter, an obstacle course and cookie decorating. Be on the look out for opportunities to volunteer! Students needing community service hours may work this event for credit.

Due to the recent rainout of the community cleanup day, another will be planned in late Spring / early Summer for additional service hours and to support the NEPP grant. Also keep watch for the grand opening of the new playgrounds.

The summer will bring a 4th of July party and, of course, the annual Family Picnic near the end of August. Good times will be had by all!

Questions? Comments? Want to help out? Contact Kay at social@armfieldfarm.org

Tennis courts are for resident use only. If you need the lock combination, please contact Dan at 703-707-6404.

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this is not intended as a solicitation of the listing.

Recent Home Sales (courtesy of Rosemary Graham)

Street	Model	List Price	Sold Price	Sale Date
Armfield Farm	Essex	\$463,000	\$455,000	Jan 16, 2012

The market is picking back up. Look for more sales in the next issue. Keep up the great look in the community so all of our home values improve.

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Armfield Farm HOA Awarded \$4,000 County Grant

In March, the Fairfax County's Assistant to the County Executive for Neighborhood Services announced that Armfield Farm HOA's application had been selected for a \$4,000 Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP) grant to replace sections of the walking paths that connect portions of our community. In the fourth year that the NEPP has been in operation, 72 applications were submitted requesting \$300,000. Only 31 projects were awarded funding. HOA President Rob Shear thanked Treasurer Susan Hanson for spearheading the application. Shear continued, "We are currently obtaining bids to repair a few sections of the paths this year. Our long term plan is to repave all of the paths, but we are spreading the job over a number of years to limit the per year cost to our community."

The Board of Supervisors established the NEPP to utilize the talent, creativity and resources of county resident, along with the resources of county government, to ensure the sustainability of all Fairfax County neighborhoods. The Walking Path Replacement project was selected, in part, to further connecting the various developments within our HOA together and because of community input from last years survey demonstrating the project's value.

As part of the grant conditions, the HOA will need to provide matching funds from our operating budget, complete the project with the year, and provide sweat equity in volunteer hours to beautify the community. The Social Committee will be organizing activities throughout the year and this is a great way for students to get service hours and help the neighborhood at the same time.

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What's In A Name

Does our community have an identity crisis? From a Facebook discussion that erupted in February, 50 posts and comments were entered in less than a week about the entrance signs (monuments) at the four entrances to our community. Some cited the lack of cohesiveness and the confusion presented by visitors to the area (especially visiting swim teams); others referenced the balance test between the cost of purchasing these signs and spending money from the budget on other areas such as pool furniture and repaving the walking paths that were identified in last year's survey (the entry signs were not proposed by any respondent). Depending upon the design work, layout, rendering, masonry, lighting, and landscaping, estimates have come in at several thousand dollars each.



If you are interested in this topic, please remain involved in the discussion, either by posting on our social media options or e-mailing president@armfieldfarm.org.

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Architectural Review Board Guidance

Very few people like to be told 'no' when they are designing a project for their own house, but even fewer like to be told 'no' after construction has already begun. Unfortunately, some owner choices in the past year have left them in violation of the community guidelines and having to take additional steps out of pocket to correct the problem. The ARB has seen a few concerns more frequently than others.

- 1) If the work is going to change the outside look of your house, an application is needed. This includes changes of color for siding, garage doors, and trim. Most violations result from perfectly approvable changes that never were requested. These requests stay in your ownership file and can be helpful in documenting what was done should you sell your property.
- 2) Storage Sheds. There is a limit of 80 square feet of surface area and no more than seven feet tall. It should aesthetically blend in with the house and though it should be obvious, sheds can only be installed on the owner's property.
- 3) Driveways. If you have a one car garage and a one car apron, your driveway should not be able to park two cars side by side.
- 4) Trash Cans. With multiple service providers, there seems to be a can on the street every day, however when not in use, cans need to be stored out of sight. In front of your garage or along a visible side of the house is not permitted. Recurrent violators may face a hearing and fines.



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Virginia Senator Janet Howell to Keynote Annual Meeting



After chairing the Privileges and Elections Committee that drew the new Assembly borderlines, Senator Janet Howell was elected to fifth term in the Virginia Senate. Representing now a district that spans from Chantilly to Clarendon, Ms. Howell will speak on the most recent General Assembly session and what the outlook is for the next several years. The Annual Meeting will take place at Franklin Middle School at 7pm on May 24th.

If you can not make the annual meeting, please go online, mail, or deliver your proxy vote before the meeting begins.

There will be a drawing for both for those who come in person and those who send proxies.

Dulles Discovery South Construction Starts

In February, construction crews from the Peterson Companies started work on the Dulles Discovery South campus which will stretch from Route 28 to Centreville Road, and from Air and Space Museum Parkway to the Sully Plantation/St. Veronica Catholic Church. The first month was marking and clearing vegetation to get ready for future phases of the project. The utility relocation work will be the first to proceed followed by earth work on the site probably commencing in April. Commencement of foundation work on the building will not start in earnest until the summer. The target for the completion of the first building is June 2014. The majority of the construction traffic for the site work will access the property from Route 28 through Air and Space Museum Parkway as the primary access, with an access point from Centreville Road being secondary.



Upcoming Events At A Glance

APRIL

- 17 - Income Tax Filing Deadline
- 18 - Swim Team meeting
- 26 - HOA Directors Meeting, 7pm

MAY

- 24 - Annual HOA Meeting, Franklin Middle School, 7pm
- 26 - Pool Opens

JUNE

- 2 - Garage Sale, Pool, 8-Noon
- 10-12 - Celebrate Fairfax!, Govt Center
- 28 - HOA Directors Meeting, 7pm

Local Farmers Markets

Wednesdays

Frying Pan , 3:30-7 pm, May 2 - Oct 24

Thursdays

Herndon , 8am - Noon, May 3 - Oct 25
Old Town Herndon, 777 Lynn Street

Saturdays

Reston , 8:00 am - Noon, May 5 - Oct 27
Lake Anne Village Center



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Springhaven Drive Playgrounds Replaced

On March, two new playgrounds were opened up for use in the Springhaven Drive vicinity. This project caps off a multi-year budget plan to repair/replace/refurbish some of the assets in various sections of the community.

One of the playgrounds, northwest of the Springhaven/Beech Down Drives intersection, replaces a wooden structure that became unsafe and no longer had replacement parts available. It was replaced with a system in a castle and rainforest motif that includes three slides (including the dragon slide pictured), a vertical adventure tube, and a deck-deck vine climber.



The playground at the southwestern corner of the intersection replaces one of two basketball courts, a recommendation from last year's survey results. Additionally, it re-establishes a play area at this site lost in 1997 to arson. This component area includes swings, a slide, rock wall, and a Spinami (an upright spinning whirl that accommodates lots of kids at once pictured at left).

The remaining basketball court is contracted to be resurfaced once the warm weather has stabilized. Walking paths around these playgrounds will be resurfaced at a later time.



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president@armfieldfarm.org

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social@armfieldfarm.org

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Michael Hanson
communication
@armfieldfarm.org

Website

www.armfieldfarm.org

We're on the web!
armfieldfarm.org

Volunteer Opportunities Available

If you've ever wanted to give back to your community, there are a number of ways to get involved, from as simple as posting a comment on our Facebook page, voicing a concern to our property manager, or welcoming a neighbor to planning a social event or serving on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Rob at president@armfieldfarm.org.

Word Search

How well do you know your community?

Find all 21 street names

B	E	E	C	H	D	O	W	N	H	X	M	N	B	C
Y	Q	T	P	A	O	L	I	B	D	R	A	E	E	N
D	R	Q	X	D	O	O	W	T	A	H	C	D	L	O
I	E	S	S	X	W	B	E	F	E	H	I	R	L	V
T	Y	F	B	P	N	I	D	S	T	T	L	A	E	K
T	E	N	D	F	R	L	N	O	S	L	E	G	R	K
A	M	I	Z	Y	E	I	P	D	P	E	G	W	O	V
N	K	L	M	I	H	M	N	Y	M	K	N	E	S	X
Y	C	A	F	B	T	T	B	G	A	O	A	K	E	S
W	O	M	Y	F	U	R	I	H	H	B	R	S	T	Z
D	R	H	D	R	O	F	R	E	V	A	H	E	R	Z
A	B	I	J	M	S	N	C	P	L	V	V	N	E	I
L	R	V	A	C	L	A	R	Y	S	A	G	E	E	J
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