

Lake Forest Community Association

lakeforestcommunity.org

Special Edition

February 2012

Huntsman Lake Dam Rehabilitation Project

LFCA received the following update from Dipmani Kumar, Project Manager. Schnabel Engineering is completing the design under contract to Fairfax County. A preliminary design submittal has been made and (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and County staff have provided comments on the design. Schnabel is responding to the comments and incorporating them in the final design which is due by May 30. The County has also initiated the acquisition of easements that will be required for this project as well as preliminary work for permits that will be required. The County plans to hold a public meeting sometime in April to obtain input on the design.

Based on the current schedule, construction was expected to start in the early fall of 2012. However, NRCS has just learned that funding for the federal cost-share of the project was not received this fiscal year. This may delay the project by a few months. There will be more information on the schedule at the public meeting.

Eagles at Huntsman Lake.

Nancy found this great link to a news video covering the Eagles at Huntsman Lake. Check it out. Magnificent!! Bald eagles have been seen flocking to Huntsman Lake, along with many more common seagulls, this winter. News Channel 10 covered the story and interviewed local residents as they watched the soaring, majestic birds. A Fairfax County employee interviewed at the Lake explained that the unseasonably warm weather may have caused a rather large fish kill that attracted the birds there. To see the full story, log on to:

[http://www.news10.net/video/1411973054001/1/Bald-eagles-flocking-to-Huntsman-Lake.](http://www.news10.net/video/1411973054001/1/Bald-eagles-flocking-to-Huntsman-Lake)

Architecture Review Committee

If you are planning to add an addition or change the exterior of your house, see the web site for restrictions, form and contact person (Al Brooks). **Remember, the Lake Forest Community Association Architectural Standards states that detached sheds are not allowed and fences must be no more than 4 ½ feet tall.**

Smoke Detectors

We have been reminded each year, or even twice a year (usually when we move the clocks ahead or back), to put new batteries in our smoke detectors. Most of us understand and do check them for battery life by listening for a noisy bleat when we push the test button. But, did you know that we should be replacing the smoke detectors at least every 10 years? I discovered this when I bought several earlier this year. In the print – fine print for many of us – I read that smoke detectors need to be replaced about every ten years. Considering we live in a neighborhood that is over 30 years old that means some of our smoke detectors should be replaced as either they might have lost some of their sensitivity or they deplete the batteries too quickly. [Sam Packer]

Fire Safety Notice - Additional Information

As a general fire safety matter, it is advisable to install smoke detectors in all levels of your home and change batteries annually. If you have a smoke detector at the top of the stairs on the second level that is wired to the house you may wish to replace it as these older smoke detectors are not as sensitive as today's models. Also, some houses built in the community may still have the original, Federal Pacific circuit breaker. LFCA recommends that residents with this model box contact a licensed electrician to inspect their circuit box to determine if it meets current code requirements. In addition, the fire department recommends that all households plan both an emergency escape route and an alternate escape route from the home to be used in case of fire. These simple measures can help ensure the safety of your home.

Community Parking Districts (CPD)

In 2011 the following parking restriction was approved for the Springfield District.

Community Parking Districts (CPD), which covers our district, prohibit the parking of watercraft, motor homes, campers, trailers, vehicles greater than or equal to 3 axles, vehicles with a GVWR greater than or equal to 12,000 lbs., and vehicles transporting greater than or equal to 16 passengers (except school buses) on public streets in residentially zoned areas. Vehicles parked in violation are subject to a \$75 fine for each violation and may be towed at the owner's expense. Maps of existing CPDs are posted on the CPD maps page. See fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/rtp.htm.

Trees

We've had a lot of trees come down on homeowner property and common property. Be aware of leaning trees on your property and report any on common property. If the tree(s) are on common property, the HOA will assess it and cut it down if deemed a hazard. If the tree is on common property, and you cut it down before we've had a chance to do it, it's at your expense. Contact Dan Kolcun of any common area tree problems.

Paths

In the spring, we will be checking the paths for repairing and/or asphaltting. If you are near a path and notice a particularly hazardous place, let us know. Also, it would be very helpful, if homeowners who have a path next to or near their home to sweep leaves or cut back any ivy or grasses that are infringing on the path.

AAA Trash and Recycling

The HOA has had an agreement with AAA for a rate of \$69 a quarter. We anticipate a change in the rate but don't know what that will be as yet. We should be receiving more information on this soon.

Common Property Maintenance

Our contractor, Premium Lawn and Landscape, will continue to maintain our common property including the areas around the signs at the entrances of our neighborhood.

Cash for Schools Program

Giant and Safeway are again sponsoring this program for schools. Register your school by going to www.giantfood.com and www.escrip.com for Safeway. If you don't have any school age children, you can still register. Our neighborhood schools are Orange Hunt Elementary, Washington Irving Middle School and West Springfield High School.

Stolen Vehicles

There have been reports of stolen vehicles occurring right from the driveway. These vehicles either left the keys in the car or had the car running in the morning.

Take heed of the following tips in an effort to help reduce the opportunity for these crimes to occur:

- o Do not leave your car running or unattended with the keys anywhere in the vehicle
- o Do not leave valuables or other personal property in your vehicle
- o Be alert to your surroundings - If you "See Something, Say Something"
- o Report any and all suspicious activity to the non-emergency line, 703-691-2131, or 911, if appropriate

Dog Owners

Please pick up after your pooch! And, remember they must be on a leash.

Snow Removal

Just a reminder that it is a homeowner's responsibility to shovel the walk in front of, or around the corner for corner lots. If there is a school bus stop by your house, be a good neighbor and shovel a path for the children and/or keep the piled snow low so drivers can see the children. Have a teenager in the house? Give them that job. Also, if the plows are coming through, please move all cars to your driveway so the plow can get close to the curb.

To report road hazards and pot holes, contact VDOT service Center 24/7 at 1-800-367-7623.

Annual Meeting

We will have our annual meeting in June. Date, time and location to be announced on the message signs at the two entrances...Modisto Lane and Maritime Lane. And by post card or e-mail.

Good Numbers to Know

Report potholes (or any road maintenance issues) to VDOT at 800-367-7623; damaged or missing street name signs to the County Sign Shop at 703-877-2800; clogged/flooded storm drains at 703-877-2300; burned out streetlights to Dominion Power at 703-866-4357.

E-Mail Addresses

If you haven't given the HOA your e-mail address or need to update it, please send the change to Pete Misuinas at pmisuinas@hotmail.com. These addresses will be kept private and not given out to anyone or any organization.

Check out our web site for e-mail addresses and phone numbers of the board members.