

# Rutherford Civic Association

www.rutherfordcommunity.com

April 2007

## --President's Message--

### An Enormous Thank You to Our Neighborhood Watch Volunteers

Rutherford's Neighborhood Watch Program, under the able leadership of Ed Gross, Pete Moss, and Jack Lockwood has been in operation for over 25 years.

Eighty volunteers, many of whom have been with the program for 20 years or more, devote approximately two hours every month and a half to patrolling our streets, and helping to keep Rutherford a safe and secure community. It is comforting to know that Rutherford is one of the safest neighborhoods in our area.

In conjunction with the Civic Association, the group also sponsors our National Night Out and Ice Cream Social at the pool each summer. THANK YOU Neighborhood Watch!!!

New eyes and ears on patrol are always welcome. If you would like to help out, please call one of the following coordinators:

Jack Lockwood, 323-0865  
Pete Moss, 978-8498  
Ed Gross, 978-5173

## Gardening Help Needed!

Do you have a green thumb? Long-time volunteer Lois Semerad needs help maintaining plantings on the median strip on Braeburn Drive by the Rutherford sign. Duties include planting flowers, trimming bushes, and mulching periodically. All expenses are reimbursed by the Rutherford Civic Association, and mowing is taken care of by volunteer Kevin Duff.

If you can help, contact Lois Semerad at 703-323-0605. This would be a great project for a couple, a family, or a parent-child team.



### Little Run Plant Sale Saturday, April 28 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Beautiful annuals and hanging baskets will be available for sale at Little Run Elementary School on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Pre-ordered plants are available for pick up, and extra plants are available for those who did not pre-order. The plants will dress up any yard, and all proceeds benefit the PTA.

## Mark Your Calendars

Little Run Plant Sale.....Saturday, April 28  
Annual Meeting..... Tuesday, May 15  
Community Yard Sale.....Saturday, May 19



### Annual General Meeting

Tuesday May 15, 7:30 p.m.  
Little Run Elementary School

The Civic Association holds only one general meeting annually--this year on May 15. We encourage everyone to come out to meet your neighbors; recognize the Boy Scouts who have contributed so much to Rutherford; and hear about real estate trends in our area.

A local panel of realtors and a real estate appraiser will discuss current trends in home sales in Rutherford; what type of home improvements bring the most return on the dollar; and how Rutherford compares to other communities in the Frost-Woodson school pyramid.

We will also hold elections for our slate of officers and discuss a possible emergency outreach program for Rutherford. The current Civic Association Officers have agreed to serve a second term if elected. If anyone else would like to be considered for one of the four principal positions--President, Vice President, Secretary, or Treasurer-- please contact Linda Zack at [familyzack@aol.com](mailto:familyzack@aol.com) or at 703-425-2035 by May 5, 2007.



## Community Yard Sale



The Rutherford Yard Sale will take place Saturday, May 19 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

This spring, clean out old unwanted things—or find new treasures—at the Rutherford Yard Sale. The Civic Association will advertise in the Washington Post and place signs at neighborhood entrances in order to increase business for the yard sale.

If you would like a packet of pre-printed Yard Sale signs to direct people to your sale, you can pick up a packet at Jeannine Braun's home at 9304 Shari Drive starting Sunday, May 13. Look for the box outside in front marked "Yard Sale." For questions, her phone number is 703-425-9016.



## WELCOME TO THE POOL

Everyone is welcome at the Rutherford Pool! The pool opens Saturday, May 26, at 11:00 a.m.

We look forward to another successful and fun summer. There are plenty of social activities planned, and we will cheer on our Swim and Dive Teams. Encourage your neighbors and friends to join us as we enjoy the water, volleyball, sun, grills, and a summer of fun and friendship.

Please come out on Sunday, May 6, 13, and 20 for pool clean up days, starting at 11 each day. There will be food and drinks. This is a great opportunity to earn community service hours, and once again, have a pool that we can all be even more proud of. There will be free guest passes to those who help, the more help, the more passes. See you all at the pool.

For more information on Rutherford Pool activities and membership, visit the Rutherford website at [www.rutherfordcommunity.com](http://www.rutherfordcommunity.com) or call Paul Tiffin at 703-323-1823.

--Paul Tiffin, President, Rutherford Pool



## Rutherford E-mail Discussion Group



Keep informed of neighborhood news by joining the free Rutherford e-mail service. Follow these 3 easy steps:

1. Send an email to this address: RUTHERFORDCA22032-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with no subject or message in the e-mail.
2. You will then receive a message back which says, "Please confirm your request to subscribe to RutherfordCAyahoogroups.com.."
3. Simply reply to this message, again with no subject or message, and that's it. You are now a member.

## Rutherford Civic Association Reference Numbers

<b>President</b>	Mary Ann Beck	703-978-2157 ( <a href="mailto:maryannb1@verizon.net">maryannb1@verizon.net</a> )
<b>Vice President</b>	Erin Deer	703-503-7856 ( <a href="mailto:robanderindeer@cox.net">robanderindeer@cox.net</a> )
<b>Treasurer</b>	Fred Zamon	703-425-8098
<b>Secretary</b>	Rob Calderon	703-323-1363
<b>Neighborhood Watch</b>	Jack Lockwood	703-323-0865
<b>Directory</b>	Gil Braun	703-425-9016
<b>Newsletter</b>	Linda Zack	703-425-2035 ( <a href="mailto:familyzack@aol.com">familyzack@aol.com</a> )
<b>Play Group</b>	Melinda Van der Ploeg Fallon	( <a href="mailto:Dblbright@cs.com">Dblbright@cs.com</a> ) 703-323-1227
<b>Rutherford Pool</b>	Paul Tiffin	703-323-1823
<b>Rutherford Website</b>	Chris Brim	703-425-3267

[www.rutherfordcommunity.com](http://www.rutherfordcommunity.com)

## Guinea Road Closed to Through Trucks



The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has responded positively to the Board of Supervisors' request--and to our Rutherford Civic Association petition--and has agreed to close Guinea Rd between Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike to through truck traffic.

Trucks with their point of origin or destination along this segment of Guinea Road are not affected by the prohibition, but oil tankers and other large trucks now using Guinea as a cut-through between Braddock and 236 can no longer do so. Signs will be posted by VDOT shortly.

Many thanks to Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova for initiating the Board of Supervisors' request to VDOT, and to the many neighbors who signed our petition.

Once the signs are posted, anyone observing trucks in violation of the new restrictions (e.g., oil tankers going to and from the storage facility on Pickett) should report the incident to the police non-emergency number, 703-691-2131.

Information provided to the police should include the truck's license plate number and state, and any company name or other identifying information. The date and approximate time of the observation should also be provided. The police will then send a warning letter to the vehicle owner. If there is a continuing pattern of violations, police cruisers will be stationed on Guinea Rd to ticket drivers of the trucks.

-- Mary Ann Beck, Civic Association President



## Boy Scouts Improve Ecosystem in Rutherford

Prospective Eagle Scout Spencer Adams from Boy Scout Troop 1525 is leading an effort to replant native species in Rutherford Park. He and other troop members will work on the park area near the tennis courts where invasive English ivy was removed. The new native plants will help restore the natural habitat of the park and provide food and shelter for birds and other animals.



At Rutherford's Spring Meeting on May 15, the Civic Association will make a gift of camping equipment to Troop 1525 to thank them for their hard work in Rutherford Park and along the Long Branch Stream Valley Trail.

An additional benefit to Rutherford will take place when Colin Rice, a prospective Eagle Scout from Boy Scout Troup 50, marks storm drains in Rutherford to remind people not to throw waste products down sewers. His efforts will help keep pollution out of our creeks and rivers.

## Low-cost Rabies Clinic And Dog Licenses

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter will host its next low-cost rabies clinic for dogs, cats, and ferrets on Sunday, May 20, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.. The clinic takes place at the Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The cost of shots is \$10--cash only, no credit cards. All dogs should be on leashes and cats in carriers.

Dog licenses will be sold separately at the clinic and cost \$5 for altered dogs and \$10 for unaltered dogs. Proof of a pet's spay or neuter is required to pay the lower fee.

Additional 2007 rabies clinics will be held on the following Sundays:

July 15

September 16

November 18

For more information about the rabies clinics, visit the Fairfax County Animal Services Division at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices>.



## Fresh Air Fund Needs Host Families

Share your summer with a New York City child!

Each summer the Fresh Air Fund provides free summer vacations for thousands of inner-city children from New York City as part of its Friendly Town program. Children visit host families for two weeks across 19 Northeastern states and Canada.

This summer children will be visiting in Northern Virginia from July 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. For information on becoming a host family, please call Cindy Kronlage at 703-426-1616.



## New Trees will Provide Shade in Rutherford Park

By early May, look for five new shade trees near the playground at Rutherford Park. The Civic Association is arranging for the planting of five 12 to 14 foot-high trees: 3 Autumn Maples, 1 Willow Oak and 1 Pin Oak. We hope that someday soon the trees will provide relief from the sun for those using the playground.

Please help us maintain these new trees by not letting children hang on them or climb on them while visiting the park.

--Linda Zack

## County Zoning Restrictions --It's the Law--

### Housing

Rutherford homes are zoned for single-family occupancy. It's everyone's responsibility to maintain the high quality of our community by reporting apparent zoning violations. The County Zoning Ordinance states,

"As a matter of right, a dwelling unit may be occupied by not more than one (1) of the following:

- One (1) family, which may consist of one (1) person or two (2) or more persons related by blood or marriage with any number of natural children, foster children, step children or adopted children and with not to exceed two (2) roomers or boarders with a Home Occupation Permit.
- Two (2) single parents or guardians with not more than a total of six (6) of their dependent children, including natural children, foster children, step children or adopted children, functioning as single housekeeping unit.
- A group of not more than four (4) unrelated persons functioning as a single housekeeping unit

All major renovations or additions to a residence require building permits. Some additions and changes are never allowed, such as installing a second kitchen in a single-family home.

### Commercial Vehicles

The parking of commercial vehicles is permitted in all residential zoning districts, subject to a limit of one commercial vehicle per dwelling unit and the following limitations:

- a. No solid waste collection vehicle, tractor and/or trailer of a tractor-trailer truck, dump truck, construction equipment, cement-mixer truck, wrecker with a gross weight of 12,000 pounds or more, or similar such vehicles or equipment shall be parked in any residential district.
- b. Any commercial vehicle parked in a residential district shall be owned and/or operated only by the occupant of the dwelling unit at which it is parked.

### Report Zoning Violations

If you observe apparent zoning violations, report them to the County by contacting the Department of Zoning Enforcement at 703-324-1300, or report online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/zoning.htm>.

The name and phone number of the person making the complaint is requested, but kept confidential. Once a complaint is made, an inspector is dispatched within 5 to 7 days.

### Keep Rutherford Informed

Residents who report apparent zoning violations are asked to inform Rutherford president Mary Ann Beck so that the Civic Association can maintain a central database of complaints. She can be reached by email at [maryannb1@verizon.net](mailto:maryannb1@verizon.net).



## Handyman Hints and Helpers

Once again we find ourselves preparing Spring to-do lists for around our homes. Two of the easiest projects you can do yourself to save money are to fix those raised and warped decking boards and perform some basic maintenance on your ceiling fans. The following tips will help with these projects:

**Wood decks** - should be sealed once every other year. I recommend a clear sealer. Colored stains are always harder to match after cleaning.

**Deck boards** - should never be face-nailed, but many are. If yours are, there's something you can do that's much less expensive than replacing the deck:

- Pull the nail, using a flat bar on the nail and a putty knife to protect the wood from the bar.
- Drive a new screw -- one made for decks -- into the hole where the nail was.

**Ceiling fans** are wonderful aids in heating and cooling, but they do need a little attention twice a year. Every fall and spring you should:

- Check for an oil hole on top of the motor -- if there is one; add 5 - 6 drops of light machine oil.
- Clean the motor housing -- dusty isn't it!
- Clean each blade and blade iron -- use a little Murphy's Oil Soap® if necessary, never a detergent. Dry each piece with a soft cloth as you go.

--Harry Hink, HB Services

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighborhood Watch is considering instituting an outreach program to those in Rutherford who may need special assistance during major emergencies.

The proposed pilot program would not be a substitute for normal Fairfax County emergency response services. Instead, volunteers would attempt to provide short-term assistance when county resources are overwhelmed and unable to respond in a timely manner—for example, during major snow or ice storms, hurricanes, or extended power outages.

Special needs might include individuals on oxygen, the visually impaired, and those with limited mobility or requiring special medical attention, such as transportation to kidney dialysis or other medical services. During major emergencies, program volunteers would contact these community members to determine specific needs for assistance, and how best to respond with the resources available.

The Civic Association is conducting a survey to determine if there is a desire for such an emergency outreach program, and if there are sufficient community resources to respond effectively. **If you need assistance, or can provide assistance, please fill out the survey and return to Jack Lockwood by May 3rd.**

### Thank You to...

**Bill Anderson** who has agreed to water and monitor the five new trees planted in Rutherford Park near the playground.

**Harry Hink** from HB Services who is sponsoring the Rutherford newsletter. Harry's support means that more civic association funds are available for Rutherford activities and projects.

**Lois Semerad** for nearly 10 years of work on the Rutherford median strip. She needs help (see page 1) but is willing to stay involved.



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## Rutherford Emergency Outreach Survey

Please complete survey if you have special needs or could offer assistance in emergencies.

### I. Special Needs

In the event of a major emergency, I would welcome a Neighborhood Watch volunteer contacting me regarding possible assistance in meeting the following needs: (Specify the nature of any physical limitations and the support needed.)

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Emergency Resources

In the event of a major emergency, I am willing to be contacted by a Neighborhood Watch volunteer to provide assistance to those in need. (Please specify the resources you have available (e.g. snow plow, four wheel drive vehicle, emergency medical training, etc.), and any constraints on your time.)

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Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send all survey responses to Jack Lockwood at 9128 Hurst Court, Fairfax, Va 22032 **by May 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

To send the survey easily, fold this sheet of paper along the dotted lines on the reverse side, stamp, and mail. Based on the survey results, and discussion at the Civic Association's general meeting on May 15, a decision will be made on the feasibility of an outreach program.