

Rutherford Civic Association

www.rutherfordcommunity.com

May 2008

Community Yard Sale

Saturday May 17

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Get ready for the Rutherford Yard Sale on Saturday, May 17. The yard sale will be advertised in the Washington Post and on Craig's List, and signs will be placed at neighborhood entrances and on Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike.

Yard Sale Signs. Pre-printed yard sale signs will be available at Jeannine Braun's home at 9304 Shari Drive starting Sunday, May 11. Look for the box in front marked "Yard Sale." You can display yard sale signs and arrows at the ends of the street where you'll be selling to attract buyers.

Neighborhood Yard Sale Maps. If you would like to be included on a map of those who are selling, email your street name to Mariya Curry at mariyacurry@yahoo.com by Tuesday, May 13th. Maps showing sellers' locations will be available for pick-up Thursday through Saturday (May 15-17) in the "Yard Sale" box on the porch of Jeannine Braun's home at 9304 Shari Drive. You can grab a map while you are picking up your yard sale signs and arrows.

Additionally, we are trying something new this year! Copies of the maps will be put in sleeves attached to Yard Sale signs at the main entrances to Rutherford in order to direct shoppers to the right locations within our neighborhood.



Civic Association Meeting

The Civic Association annual meeting was held April 29 at Little Run Elementary. We held our election of officers, and voted in a new president, Keith Robertory.

Keith has been a resident of Rutherford for nearly 25 years, although not all at the same time. He lived in the neighborhood as a child, then his parents moved away from Sonata Court when he went to college at George Mason University. Time passed and he ended up back here at Rutherford -- interestingly enough, not at his suggestion. Keith's wife, Susan, was randomly driving through the area looking for potential homes. She called and said "I've found this nice neighborhood and I'm on a street called Braeburn. Do you know where that it?" The rest is recent history. Keith and Susan have two children: Thomas (2-1/2 years) and Sophia (7 months).

We appreciate the willingness of all of the board members to serve. A complete list of Civic Association officers can be found on page 2.

Rutherford Spring Festival

Sunday, June 1

2 - 4 p.m.

Rutherford Pool

Everyone is invited to attend this free neighborhood festival and enjoy games, food, and the pool. Remember to bring or wear your bathing suit! You do not have to be a pool member to attend this fun community event.

Carnival
Games



Moon
Bounce

Pool Fun



Cotton
Candy

Hot Dogs



Volunteers are needed to help with games and food—great for community service

hours! Contact Erin Deer at robanderindeer@cox.net or at 703-503-7856.

FAIRGRADE Advocates Grading Policy Revisions

Rutherford's own Megan McLaughlin has helped to launch FAIRGRADE, a parent-driven research/advocacy group that was created in January 2008 to review Fairfax County's grading policies. The group is concerned that Fairfax County's relatively tough grading scale means our students are at a disadvantage regarding college admissions, merit scholarships, honors programs, and good-driver discounts.

In most jurisdictions, scores of 90 to 100 are considered A's, while in Fairfax County students have to earn a 94 in order to receive an A. Also, Fairfax County gives only a half-point to students in advanced placement (AP) classes and gives no extra weight to grades in honors classes, while most other districts add a full point to advanced placement grades and either a half or whole point to honors grades.

The group has met with Superintendent Jack Dale and has given presentations at a number of county schools. For more information, contact FAIRGRADE at fairgrade.fcps@gmail.com.



Rutherford Sign

The Rutherford sign on Braeburn Drive provides a welcome entrance to our neighborhood and has been braced for additional support. Some people have asked whether we could erect a brick sign which would have a longer life than a wooden sign. Unfortunately, the answer is no. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) owns the land and their regulations require "breakaway" signs on median strips, meaning that if a car hits the sign, the sign will break instead of the car. Please help us keep our sign looking good by watching out for vandals.

Rutherford Civic Association Reference Numbers

President	Keith Robertory	703-426-0577 (Keith@robertory.com)
Vice President	Erin Deer	703-503-7856 (robanderindeer@cox.net)
Treasurer	Fred Zamon	703-425-8098
Secretary	Rob Calderon	703-323-1363
Neighborhood Watch	Jack Lockwood	703-323-0865
Directory	Gil Braun	703-425-9016 (TheBrauns85@earthlink.net)
Newsletter	Linda Zack	703-425-2035 (familyzack@aol.com)
Play Group	Melinda Van der Ploeg Fallon	703-323-1227 (Dblbright@cs.com)
Rutherford Pool	Babette Korn	703-978-1467
Rutherford Website	Chris Brim	703-425-3267

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Cool Fairfax County Cool Rutherford Your Cool Household

Fairfax: A Cool County. In 2007, Fairfax County became a "Cool County" by making commitments to achieving climate stabilization through reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. According to Board of Supervisors Chairman, Gerald Connolly, "*Cool Counties focuses on steps local governments can take to reduce emissions, while recognizing that climate stabilization requires comprehensive and aggressive federal legislation. By partnering with local civic associations, local governments can help provide the tools that citizens need to reduce their carbon footprint.*"

What is the Cool Counties initiative? The Cool Counties initiative seeks to marshal the resources of all 3,066 counties across the nation to address the challenges climate change poses to our communities.

Participating counties commit to four smart actions:

1. reducing our own contributions to climate change through our internal operations;
2. demonstrating regional leadership to achieve climate stabilization and protect our communities;
3. helping our community become climate resilient;
4. urging the federal government to support our efforts.

Want to live in a Cool Household? Visit this website to see how the choices you make in your daily activities can impact the air we breathe and learn how you can make a difference in your own home:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/neighborhoods/my-household.htm>

Here you will find guidelines to help the environment and your household. Guidelines are provided for each of the following areas:

1. **My Home**- Energy efficiency, phantom loads, recycling, appliances
2. **My Transportation Choices**-Commuters, bikes, buses, trails
3. **My Yard**-Composting, pervious materials, rain barrels, trees
4. **My Personal Choices** -Local food, shopping bags, vehicles

Will Rutherford become a Cool Neighborhood? If at least 20 percent of Rutherford households agree to follow these guidelines, Rutherford can soon become a Cool Neighborhood. Watch for more news soon.
Contact: Jim Colby at Colby.jim@gmail.com

Handyman Hints and Helpers

Greenscaping

It's spring again, and that naturally means spending more time in our yards. The EPA suggests incorporating "Greenscaping" practices to improve the health and appearance of our lawns and gardens while protecting and preserving natural resources.

Practice natural lawn care

1. Mow higher, mow regularly and leave clippings on lawn. Leaving clippings on your lawn will not cause thatch build up, but will make your lawns healthier. The key is not to let it get too long. I like to mow with a bag at the beginning of the season to help pick up leftover winter leaves and then again in the fall. When bagging your grass clippings pick an area in the rear of the yard where you can start a compost pile. Even if you do not garden, the compost will make your life easier and save landfill built up.

2. Fertilize, Water Wisely. Choose natural, organic or slow releasing fertilizers to reduce run-off and leaching. Water deeply, but infrequently, to moisten the whole root zone. Spraying your hose on the grass does not work.

Core aerate in the fall to improve root development and water penetration. Follow up with over seeding thin areas of the lawn with a grass seed recommend for this region. If applying sod, remember the sod must remain soaking wet (muddy like) for the first two weeks or it will die. I also recommend applying a slow release lime pellet in the spring and fall. After all, we do live on Virginia clay.

**Remember, part of your spring clean up is to have your gutters cleaned. I also recommend you buy extensions for downspouts to drive the water away from foundation.

HB Services, LLC is locally owned and operated by Harry Hink. Check us out on the web at www.hbservices.biz or call (703) 764-0498 for further information.



Rutherford E-mail Group

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

1. Send an email to this address:
RUTHERFORDCA22032-subscribe@yahoo.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.



Found - A camera was found on the street at the corner of Dowell and Ashmead on April 4, 2008 at about 5:00pm. To describe--and claim--the camera, contact Mary Rizek at 703-323-1627.

Kevin Duff, KC & Company
Professional Lawn Service
540-752-9453
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10 years of experience in the Rutherford area

Wanted: Newsletter Editor

The Civic Association needs a new Newsletter Editor! The editor is the "eyes and ears" of the Rutherford community and is responsible for producing our neighborhood newsletter (about five times a year). The editor also maintains contact with neighborhood organizations and is a member of the Civic Association's Executive Board. It is a rewarding job and doesn't take a lot of time. Please contact Linda Zack at familyzack@aol.com or 703-425-2035 for more details.

Thank You to our Outgoing President

Thank you to Mary Ann Beck for serving two years as the Rutherford Civic Association President. During Mary Ann's tenure, she has worked hard to help Rutherford continue to be a great neighborhood. Among her accomplishments are:

- representing the Rutherford community by working with county officials to protect the interests of our neighborhood;
- spearheading an effort to protect Rutherford and Long Branch Stream Valley Parks by replacing invasive plants with native species, and educating residents about the dangers of dumping waste in our streams and parkland;
- participating in community discussions regarding new building along Olley Lane;
- keeping residents informed about county zoning restrictions and making sure zoning issues in our neighborhood are investigated.

The community is grateful for the countless hours Mary Ann has dedicated to these initiatives on behalf of the Rutherford Community.



Guest Speaker Provides Landscape Advice

At our annual meeting on April 29, speaker Richard Barfield from Area Landscaping gave great advice about keeping our gardens and yards looking great. Among his tips:

Shrubs – This is a great time of the year to fertilize shrubs, and he recommends organic granular fertilizers. Although there are exceptions, a general rule of thumb is to prune deciduous plants (those that lose their leaves) between October and April, and prune evergreens (those that hold their leaves) in May and June. The best time to prune azaleas is right after they flower.

Grass and Shade – Richard pointed out that there is **no** shade-loving grass. Grass grows in the sun. Instead of lawn, he suggests that in shady areas you consider ground covers, retaining walls, and shrubbery. Most houses in Rutherford have at least some shade and need to look at shade-loving plants.

Trees – Because of last year's drought, you may see some die-back and broken branches in your trees this year. Taking off dead branches can help a tree remain healthy. For specific questions, he recommends calling an arborist.

Did you know that Area Landscaping has been in the neighborhood for 55 years? That is longer than our Rutherford homes! To reach Richard Barfield at Area Landscaping, call 703-323-0123.

Rutherford Pool Opens Memorial Day Weekend

Summer is just around the corner... and so is the perfect place to beat the heat – Rutherford Pool! The pool opens Saturday May 24, 2008 at 11:00 am.



The long weekend concludes with the annual **Memorial Day Pool Opener Party on Monday, May 26, 2008 from 5 to 7 pm.**

The Rutherford Community is encouraged to join for food and fun! Chicken, salad, chips and drink will be provided.

Renovations for the pool are finishing up and we proudly invite the Rutherford Community to come see the beautifully updated pool and facilities. **All community members are also invited to use the pool on June 1st during the Rutherford Spring Festival.**

Membership applications will be available at both parties or call (703) 978-1467 to receive an application packet. **To all Rutherford Pool Members – effective May 1, 2008 - if you refer someone purchasing a summer or bonded membership you will receive \$50!** This promises to be a fun and exciting summer at the pool! We look forward to seeing you.



New Neighborhood Directory

A new Rutherford directory will be printed this fall. We need your help to make certain all the addresses are correct.

The Block Captains are being asked to update information for the houses on their routes. However it will be a big help if everyone, both new and long-time residents, will contact their Block Captain if their name, address, or phone number needs to be updated. If you would like to correct your directory information but do not know who your block captain is, contact Linda Zack at familyzack@aol.com or at 703-425-2035.



AAA Trash Rates

On July 1, the AAA trash rate will rise to \$78.00 per quarter (\$26.00 per month). The cost increase is a result of rising gas prices and other higher costs. Thank you to Jack Lockwood who negotiated this very reasonable increase. Other AAA customers will begin paying almost \$3 more a month, and new AAA customers pay substantially more than our rate.

If you are not receiving the Rutherford rate, call AAA customer service at 703-818-8222 and tell them that you are a member of the Rutherford Civic Association and should receive our negotiated rate.

For up-to the minute news on AAA trash rates, as well as many other neighborhood issues, join the Rutherford Email Group (see page 3 for instructions).