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## President's Message

I am pleased to report that the Board has established contract review procedures to ensure that all contracts contain essential enforcement provisions should it be necessary to assert the Association's rights upon default by the contractor. Board members review the contracts before they are signed and checks written to insure the contracts are fair and enforceable, that the contractors are licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and surety bonded and insured by a comprehensive liability policy to minimize the Association's liability.

Considerable time has been spent working to resolve the front entry irrigation and lighting issues. We are pleased to report the irrigation system is now functioning well and the restoration of the entrance lighting remains a top priority. Thanks to Jim Scanlon for taking the lead in resolving the lighting to the front entry. As of press time, the electrical contractor has found two shorts in the circuit that will require some excavation.

It is almost time for the opening of the pool. To be ready in time for opening over the Memorial Day weekend, substantial efforts are being directed to power-wash and paint the dilapidated pool house and address some plumbing problems.

I encourage every owner to come to the monthly Board meetings. If you have an issue that you wish to put on the agenda, please contact Liz Quatrevaux. The Board and committee members enjoy the benefit of knowledge and support from many of our homeowners, whose time and talents do not go without sincere thanks. The Board welcomes your questions, comments and suggestions on how we can best serve the needs of every member of the Association.

Ken Curtis, President

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## Vice President's Report

### Entrance Lighting

It is an extremely frustrating task. We have chipped away at the problem, spending money a bit at a time without attaining the ultimate objective of getting power to the west wall. The alternatives, though, deem it prudent for us to have patience, i.e., we could bite the bullet and spend a lot of money going right to the solution of boring under the streets to install conduit, but we have a fiduciary responsibility to spend GOHA funds wisely. On the positive side, each

iteration reveals another possible approach to solving the problem without incurring considerable costs.

There is a high probability that the short in the underground cable from the island to the west wall is either in the 10 feet between the island lights and the island curb, or under the sidewalk near the west wall, not under the street; the substructure of the street has not been disturbed, but the other two have been, i.e., planting on the island and reconstruction of the sidewalk, either of which may have nicked the cable.

We are having the cable scanned to determine the short location, and if it is as indicated above, we can initiate repairs that would save us a considerable amount rather than boring under the streets.

### Streets

Willis Shafer, Fairfax City Street Division Superintendent, recommended that we have our street cracks sealed, three fractures repaired and all streets seal-coated. The contractor that the City uses for small jobs, Tibbs Paving, was contacted. Their representative, Lester Jacobsen, came out and examined our streets. He sent us a copy of their previous proposal and said that they would stand by their previous prices, but the proposal does not address the specific three repairs. We will solicit additional proposals from Tibbs and others to give us a sense of what the repairs, crack sealing and seal-coating would cost before proceeding.

### Power Washing Retaining Walls

We are proceeding to have all of our retaining walls power washed. Bob Duryea is taking the lead in getting this done.

### Retaining Wall Behind 9941 & 9943 Great Oaks Way

The soil sinking is being caused by a separation in the drain piping; a minor repair will remedy the situation.

Jim Scanlon, Vice President

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## **Architectural Control Committee Update**

### 2012 Survey

The 2012 survey is ready to start in May. Overlooked or otherwise undone, uncorrected issues will be picked up on the 2012 survey. All cited issues must be remedied no later than September 30, 2012. We hope to have everything done and reported to the Board by June 30, with letters out to owners by the end of July. Only owners with violations will receive a letter this year. So please save the Association the postage – get your to-do list done now!

### Approval Process

Please use the ACC approval request process for all exterior modifications, whether to your house or the landscape. Please allow enough time for the ACC to review the request before you start. The form can be found on the website at [www.goha.us](http://www.goha.us) under ACC Documents.

### Refuse and Recycle

Collection day for Great Oaks is Friday. Please, please keep containers and bags in your garage until Thursday evening. We are receiving a lot of complaints about trash being put out as early as Monday morning.

Garden debris and yard waste needs to be bagged and stored for regular trash collection on Friday. Please do not rake, sweep, blow or otherwise deposit yard waste (sticks, twigs, tree limbs included) to the curb. Unless you have arranged for a special pickup with the City, please do not store yard waste bags or piles of debris in the street.

Trash cans and recycle bins are to be stored in the garage after collection day on Friday.

### Play Equipment

A gentle reminder that permanent play equipment on individual lots is not permitted. Temporary play things are fine so long as stored inside when play is done. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

### Spring Real Estate Market

It's that time of year and the spring real estate market is in full swing. Welcome to our newest neighbors at 3809 Hemlock Way! Let's make a concerted effort to keep Great Oaks looking beautiful, manicured and well maintained so we keep the home value trend moving upward.

Bonnie Curtis, ACC Chair (Acting)

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### **Ask Great Oaks**

Some of the front entrance lights have been out for a long time. Are they going to be fixed anytime soon? Signed, In the Dark

Dear In the Dark: As noted in the President's and Vice President's messages above, and as of press time, the electrical contractor has found two shorts in the circuit that will require some excavation. Thanks are due to Jim Scanlon for taking the lead in pursuing resolution of our front entry lighting problems.

Bonnie Curtis, ACC Chair (Acting)

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## **Recycling Tips from the City of Fairfax**

### Spring is a Good Time to Reduce Your Waste

Go on a trash diet! Reducing your waste is not only a good thing to do but a money saver. While we don't pay individually by the pound (many jurisdictions around the country have adopted a method called "pay as you throw") for our waste disposal in the City of Fairfax, we pay as a community to dispose of each pound of garbage we generate. Americans generate an average of 4.4 lbs. of trash per week, per person! In the City of Fairfax right now we are generating twice that!! Simple measures can take a big bite out of the amount each household throws away.

Here is a 4 step plan:

Step 1: Recycle! Cardboard and paper in particular are very heavy (think how much a full file box weighs!) We pay by the pound for any paper that goes to the dump. But our recycled materials pay their own way (the cost of recycling is covered by the reselling of the material).

Step 2: Buy products with less packaging. The largest category of stuff in landfills is packaging materials. Hard to believe? Consider that almost every piece of food we buy comes wrapped in some way.

Step 3: Use reusable bottles and containers. Let them infiltrate your habits in a highly successful way (water, lunch, food storage, shopping bags). It is not recommended to reuse plastic that is meant for one use only such as water and soda bottles due to concerns about chemical leaching.

Step 4: Compost. As much as 2/3 of residential garbage is compostable (especially after you have carried out steps 1-3). Do not put anything containing cooking oil or meat in compost.

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## **Welcome Home, Barbara**

Our neighbor, Barbara Hayes, Mike's wife, is in rehab at home after suffering a stroke on March 11. She was taken initially to Inova Fairfax Hospital and weeks later to Inova's Mt. Vernon rehab center. She returned home on the weekend of April 15.

Barbara's daughter, Beth Covil, has set up a page for Barbara on the website CaringBridge.org. It includes Beth's own summary of what happened, a journal on progress Barbara is making, and a guest book in which friends can send their well wishes for Barbara's full recovery. The link to reach her page:

[CaringBridge / Barbara Hayes / Welcome](#)

We all can hope that someday soon Barbara will be out walking her black poodle, Rudy, once again. But until that day we wish her a steady recovery.

## **FYI -- New Business Zoning Application in our Area**

The Great Oaks Homeowners Association has been notified of a zoning application for our area: Al Radon Market, to be located at 3220 Old Pickett Road. According to the application, the plan is to open a Middle Eastern Grocery Market to serve the community surrounding Fairfax County. They plan to sell packed and canned imported food, drink, and sweets, as well as local poultry and meat. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Zoning Office at 703-385-7820.

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### **Board of Directors/Officers Update**

<b>President</b>	Ken Curtis	<a href="mailto:kcurtislaw@msn.com">kcurtislaw@msn.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Jim Scanlon	<a href="mailto:jamesscanlon@me.com">jamesscanlon@me.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Iain Williamson	<a href="mailto:Iainldwilliamson@hotmail.com">Iainldwilliamson@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Member At Large</b>	Vacant	
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Quatrevaux	<a href="mailto:efq0816@gmail.com">efq0816@gmail.com</a>

### **Committees**

**Maintenance:** Jim Scanlon

**Landscaping/Trees:** Iain Williamson (Chair), Charlotte Eddy, John Harold

**Architectural Control Committee:** Bonnie Curtis, (Acting)

**Long Range Planning:** Jim Scanlon

**Contract Review:** Jim Scanlon

#### **Communications**

- Newsletter: Liz Quatrevaux & Dick Olson
- Website: Merideth and Chico Barroso

**Erosion Remediation Committee:** Tom Briggs

**Block Captains:** Dick Olson

**Neighborhood Watch:** Dick Olson

**City Liaison:** JJ FitzGerald

**Social Committee:** Christie Rudolph

**Pool (seasonal):** Patrick Le Floch

**Snow Removal (oversight/seasonal):** Iain Williamson

### **Next Board Meeting**

Monday, May 21, 2012

Fairfax High School, Room J101

7:00 to 9:00 pm