



# George Mason Forest Reporter

NUMBER 3

[www.gmfhoa.org](http://www.gmfhoa.org)

SUMMER 2010

## GMFHOA ANNUAL PICNIC AND POTLUCK



Ants or not our GMF annual community picnic will be held on September 18 at the Radcliff Park on Sager Road from 4-6

PM in the picnic area. The entrées from Red Hot and Blue, potato salad, beans, paper products and drinks will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring either a salad or dessert to share with others. As always great door prizes will be given.

Volunteers who would like to help with gathering supplies, the set up or clean up call Susan Job at 703-272-7234. This is a great opportunity to meet our new resident as well as the old timers of the neighborhood. Reminders of the event will be sent out via the GMF Alert Net and the signs will be posted at the entrances.



### GMF BOARD MEMBERS

Tena Bluhm - President	703-978-9468
Nancy Sajjadi - Vice President	703-323-0042
Fred Knowles - Secretary	703-426-8204
Vikki Keen - Treasurer	703-426-1776
Charles Cason	703-978-7784
Susan Job	703-272-7234
Paul Kite	703-425-6314
Margo Lockard	703-978-2163
Frank McHugh	703-978-3219
Mike Miller	703-978-5515
Eric Mondschein	703-426-0403
John Sullivan	703-978-4522
Lori Taylor	703-978-1045



## SUMMARY OF GMFHOA BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Complete Board minutes are on the web site [www.gmfhoa.org](http://www.gmfhoa.org)

*The GMFHOA Board meets monthly except in August. Summary of April, May and June 2010 meetings is below*

**A. Latest Treasurer Report:** As of June:

Operating account: \$38,803 Reserve account: \$18,444; CD: \$10,857. All homeowners have paid their annual assessments.

**B. Committee Reports:**

**Grounds Committee:** Tapestry Drive entrance lights damaged during the winter snow storm were replaced. Reappearing potholes from the FIOS installation in 2008 were repaired.

**Bridges and Trail:** Chris Fulmer Enterprises will repair bridge in August. Cost will be \$6000. Silverbrook Landscaping made repairs to promote drainage in the common land. Cost was \$5200.

**Publications** - Preparations are being made to publish the new phone directory. Information sheets will be distributed to residents asking for updates. The information sheets also act as permission to print residents information in the directory.

**Landscaping:** No report

**Social Committee:** Annual community picnic/potluck will be held September 18. The annual children's Halloween parade and party will be October 31.

**ACC Committee** - Responding to complaints of covenants violations, ACC visits were made to request violations be corrected. The violations (Minutes continue on page 2)

## 2011 GMFHOA PHONE DIRECTORIES

An updated GMFHOA phone directory will be published this fall. All residents will receive an information sheet asking for names of adults at the address; addresses; phone number; email address; children's names and ages. Even if your information is unchanged, you must completely fill out the form. This will help catch any former information that was incorrectly entered in the present directory. It also gives your **permission** to publish your information. You will need to indicate that you want to be included in the GMFHOA Alert Net.

This is a major task. Your prompt attention and corporation will help make it easier. Volunteers are welcome. Contact [TenaRB@aol.com](mailto:TenaRB@aol.com)

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### Service Providers

Several residents have expressed a desire to have a "clearing house" of service providers. Joelle Torreele has volunteered to be the point of contact. Residents can contact her about their experience, good or bad with a company or individual. This is not an endorsement of the company or individual. If you have a story to tell or are looking for a repair person or company, contact her at [jjtorreele@gmail.com](mailto:jjtorreele@gmail.com)



(Board Minutes continued from Page 1) consisted of unkempt yards, trash containers in street on wrong days and left in front of garages, trees overlapping sidewalks. Approvals were made for repainting of houses, replacements of windows, a fence and a garage door.

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### Police Presence in GMF Neighborhood

One night in late June, brought a helicopter overhead and multiple police cars in our neighborhood. Two men attempted to steal a 34-year-old man's car in the 10600 block of Braddock Road on Thursday, June 24. The victim was standing outside of his car in a parking lot around 10:30 p.m. when a 2007 BMW M6 pulled up. One of the men exited the car, pointed a handgun at the victim and demanded the keys to his 2007 Honda Civic. The victim complied the suspect got into the car but was not able to drive away. The suspect grabbed the victim's cell phone, fled back into the BMW and both suspects left the scene.

The victim followed them to the area of Red Spruce Road and Braddock Road, where the suspects bailed out of their vehicle and fled on foot. Police responded but could not locate the suspects that night. The victim was not injured during the incident.

On July 15, the police captain from the West Springfield District reported that both men were apprehended and have confessed.

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### COMMUNITY INFORMATION

One more month left to attend free musical performances every Friday evening at Lake Accotick and Royal Lake. Log onto [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock) for details.

The West Springfield Police District publishes a weekly electronic newsletter containing pertinent information for our community and a list of the police beat. Log onto <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/wir.pdf> to read the latest bulletins.

All changes to exterior of homes must be approved by the GMF Architectural Committee. Applications can be obtained at our web site and sent electronically to the ACC chair at

2 [RayBjr@aol.com](mailto:RayBjr@aol.com)



## 2010 GMFHOA CALENDAR

**COMMUNITY PICNIC** **SEPT 18**

**HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTY FOR CHILDREN** **OCT 31**

## Sommerset Olde Creek Pool

Sommerset Olde Creek Pool and Rec Club – better known as SOC Pool – is conducting its late-summer membership drive. Located on Laurel Street at Whitacre Road near Woodson High School, SOC Pool sports a six-lane pool and the amenities offered by bigger pools in a smaller, family oriented environment. If you're new to George Mason Forest or on another pool's wait list, give SOC a try – there's no initiation for new members and fees are prorated when you join. For more information, visit [www.socpool.com](http://www.socpool.com) or call 703-323-9872



## GMFHOA REMINDERS

The GMFH OA Board and ACC continue to receive complaints from residents about overgrown trees, shrubs and vegetation extending over walkways, trash cans left out after trash pick up day and not put away out of sight. Fairfax County regulations require clear walk ways. The GMFHOA covenants require that trash cans are not to be stored so they are visible from the street **A continued problem is dumping of yard cuttings into the common land** which is prohibited. Yard waste is collected weekly by the trash companies, use that service. The dumped materials kill the natural vegetation that filters the water as it flows into the Chesapeake Bay, alters the habitat of wild life and changes drainage. Dumping is a violation of GMF Restrictive Covenants and the Resource Protected Area (RPA) act. The association as well as the individual can be **heavy fined** by state and county law.

### SAFETY TIPS

Take your car keys to bed at night!! If you hear a noise outside of your house at night or someone trying to get inside of your house, press the panic button. The car alarm will be set off and continue to sound until you stop it or the car battery runs out. Odds are the burglar won't stick around and it will also alert neighbors who will be looking out of their windows.

Make sure your address numbers are visible from the street. Paint or have painted your home address numbers at your curb. This is a great aid to emergency responders and will save precious minutes and possibly save your life.

Get the **Braddock Beacon** electronic newsletter from our district supervisor. Learn what is going on in the Braddock District. The newsletter contains the latest updates of traffic, consumer information, free information programs and much more. Contact [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock) to sign up.

If you know a resident who is **not** getting the electronic newsletter because they do not have a computer, contact [TenaRB@aol.com](mailto:TenaRB@aol.com) A paper copy of the newsletter will be delivered to them. If a neighbor remarks are not getting a newsletter anymore, remind them it is now sent electronically. Inform them to contact Tena Bluhm to have their email addressed added to the email GMF Alert Net.

## Door to Door Selling

Several residents have reported solicitation in our neighborhood by teens selling magazines which they claim will be distributed to hospitals. **Always ask to see a license before making any purchase.**

- Solicitors may only operate between the hours of 9 am and 8 pm
- Must present a solicitor's license to any customer who asks
- May not operate in an area where a "No peddlers or Solicitors" sign is clearly posted
- Must provide his/her name and name of the company when asked
- Must provide a detailed, written receipt for any goods sold. And be truthful about the purpose of the solicitation,
- Must leave when asked.

Churches, schools, hospitals and organizations which are registered with the Commission of Agriculture and Consumer Services of the Commonwealth of VA are excluded from the local licensing requirement. To verify they are registered with DVACS to [http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/consumers/cgi-bin/char\\_search.cgi](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/consumers/cgi-bin/char_search.cgi)

Non profit organizations should be carrying a letter or some sort of dated ID stating who they are and the organization's non-profit status.



## Placement of Drains in GMF common land

In recent years due to flooding and erosion of the area around the trail, storm water has been blocked from properly draining into the stream. These areas had become swampy and sites of mosquito infestation. The trails and bridge chair at the direction of the board searched for a contractor and board selected Silverbrook Nursery to correct the problem. The cost for the project was \$5,200. Silverbrook Nursery provides our grass cutting and care. Upon recommendation of the contractor, a majority of the drain pipes were removed, and in their place ditches were dug and filled with rock. This is to eliminate the problem of the drain pipes blocked with vegetation. The problem has been corrected and it seems to have eliminated the problem of standing water. The grounds chair on a periodic basis will monitor the rock areas, removing debris and raking the rock back into place.

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## School Supply and Clothing Tax Holiday

Families in Virginia will get a sales tax break on clothes and supplies for school when the state holds its annual Virginia tax holiday, **August 6-8**. To be eligible for the tax break, school supply items must be priced at \$20 or less, and clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. The tax holiday does not apply to the purchase of computers.

Among the eligible school supplies are art and music supplies, composition books and notebooks, paper, dictionaries, crayons, lunch boxes, pens, pencils, and reference books.

For more information about the Virginia tax holiday, including complete lists of eligible school supplies and clothing items, visit <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/site.cfm?alias=SchoolSuppliesandClothingHoliday>.

## Deer Management in Fairfax County

The wildlife biologist of the Animal Services Division of Fairfax County is asking GMF residents to participate in an online survey to collect information which will be used to develop a deer management program. The loss of natural predators and increased habitat modification has resulted in an abundant deer population. The collected information is confidential. The online survey is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey.deermanagement.htm>

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## GMF Annual Children's Halloween Parade and Party



Mark your calendar now for the annual party for all GMF ghosts and goblins to be held on October 31, 2010. Details will be announced at a later date.

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## Volunteers sought for Citizen's Advisory Committee

Fairfax County has established a program to enhance its ability to communicate with and better service the community. The Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) provides a forum for obtaining citizen input about the delivery of police services, provides a formal process that will facilitate citizen and community cooperation with the police and identify specific and potential problem areas concerning the police. Our district, West Springfield Police Department, is looking for volunteers to serve on the West Springfield CAC. Meetings are on the first Tuesday of every month except for July and August at the district headquarters, 6140 Rolling Road. Presentations by local police bodies and an annual field trip to a correctional facility or police training site is part of the program. For more information contact [wspdcac@yahoo.com](mailto:wspdcac@yahoo.com)

This is a great opportunity for GMF to establish a relationship with our police department.