



## From the President

Why not plant native? Every spring we begin to plant, and in some cases, replant our gardens, walkways, backyards, etc. Using plants that are native to our area would benefit wildlife, add to the natural beauty of our region and greatly increase the diversity of the area. Native plants are easier to grow as well, since they evolved in this environment. "According to the National Wildlife Federation, native plants may support 10 to 50 times as many species of wildlife as non-native plants."<sup>1</sup> Most of the wildlife that native plants will attract comes in the form of birds and bees. Both of these species are necessary for pollination and healthy growth of our flora and fauna. Using plants and shrubs to attract birds and butterflies creates a natural habitat as well as a beautiful garden. A few examples of native shrubs are **American beautyberry**, "Callicarpa Americana", **Hydrangea arborescens** (wild hydrangea), **Ilex deciduas** (possumhaw holly), and **Rhododendrum spp** (native azaleas). A few examples of herbaceous perennials are **Actaea pachypoda** (Jack-in-the-pulpit), **Asclepias tuberosa** (butterfly weed), **Dicentra eximia** (wild bleeding heart), **Geranium maculatum** (wild geranium), **Hibiscus coccineus** (hibiscus), **Iris cristata** (dwarf crested iris), **Liatris aspera** and **I. spicata** (liatris, blaxing star, or gayfeather), and **Mortensia virginica** (Virginia bluebells). These are just a few of examples of the many natural plants available to beautify your home. The Fairfax County Park Authority Web site <[www.greenspring.org](http://www.greenspring.org)> has a full listing of native plants and detailed instructions regarding where to plant, when to plant, etc. Country Creek is located between Cox Nurseries on Route 123, and Craven's Nursery on Route 50. The Home Depot, located off Fairfax Circle, also has a gardening center which carries a large selection of native species plants. *Go forth and plant!*

Pamela Frazier  
President, Country Creek Association

<sup>1</sup> Green Spring Gardens Park, developed by Brenda Skarpiol, Curatorial Horticulturist, 2003

## Architectural Control Committee

Spring architectural control inspections were completed in April. A total of 278 houses were cited for discrepancies; most were minor. Responses received from owners about corrective actions contemplated or taken to correct the discrepancies have been positive and very encouraging. The vast majority of owners are taking immediate corrective actions and the results show.

It also became apparent from the responses that definitions of architectural terms will be helpful. We, the ACC, have been remiss in not providing these before, so here are a few:

"Not in harmony" (NIH) – The homeowner is responsible for maintaining the exterior appearance of his unit in harmony with the community. This applies to outside repair, paint preservation, paint color schemes, removal of obstructions, dead trees, or nuisance plantings, etc. An example of NIH is a fence that has been repaired or replaced and is different from the other fences in the row. Another example is a deck that is sealed with colored stain instead of clear stain.

"Grandfather provisions" (GF) – As a general rule the ACC will allow changes that need to be made to conform to the guidelines to be made at the next time construction, maintenance or replacement is necessary. So if you encounter a comment that has (NIH/GF) attached it means that the correction can await the next repair, replacement or maintenance cycle.

"Party fence" – These are the side fences shared by two interior units. The responsibility for the maintenance, repair and replacement of these fences incurs to both parties. Costs associated with maintenance, repair and replacement requires cooperation and coordination between the two owners. This is best achieved by conversation with your neighbor, be he or she a resident or absent owner. In fact

conversation with your neighbor is always a good practice. "Stumble joint or trip joint" – These refer to the joints in your walk that are raised by ½ inch or more and impose a hazard to people on the walkway. They should be repaired because they are also a liability.

"Color schemes" – Colors for the door, trim, shutters and in some cases siding were assigned by the developers/builders during the construct phase of the community. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to maintain the original colors assigned to the house. The original paint is manufactured by McCormick Paint Company and is available through McCormick Paint Works, 8524-G Tyson Road (Tyson's Corner area), (703) 734-0770. If you don't know or are unsure of your assigned colors call the hot line, (703) 255-1470, and we will get the color names for you.

If you have a bay window roof, the paint formula is: one (1) pound of Venus Copper powder mixed with two (2) quarts of Polyurethane.

If you find these definitions useful and wish for more, please let us know and we can provide additional ones in future editions of the newsletter.

## Letters to the Editor

If you have a comment or question about living in Country Creek, put it on paper, sign it, and send it to Letters to the Editor, CCA, Inc., 2897 Sutton Oaks Lane, Vienna, VA 22181. Space is limited, therefore, concerns will be paraphrased and answered as space allows. *Reflections* is published quarterly. We aim for January, April, July and October.

## CCA Board Meetings

Check the Web site for the schedule and locations. During summer the Board does not meet at Oakton High School.

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

### Country Creek Board of Directors

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CCA HOTLINE: (703) 255-1470

Hotline box #1-Disclosure Packets, #2-Architectural, #3-Billing, #4-Grounds & Maintenance, #5-Board Meeting Updates

BILLING INQUIRES: Thompson & Assoc. (703) 938-9115

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- AAA Recycling & Trash Customer Service ..... (703) 818-8222  
Trash pickup Tuesday (+ recyclables) & Friday (+ big items)
- Correct Time..... (703) 844-2525
- Fairfax Co. Animal Control ..... (703) 830-3310
- Fairfax Co. Household Hazardous Waste Line ..... (703) 324-5068
- Fairfax Co. General Information..... (703) 324-3185
- Fairfax Co. Police, Fire and Ambulance (Emergency)..... 911  
Police, Fire and Ambulance (Non-emergency) ..... (703) 691-2131
- Fairfax Co. School Information ..... (703) 246-2502
- Fairfax Co. Web Site:..... [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)
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Our neighborhood is HOT. Sales prices are soaring, contracts are multiple and immediate. The highest offer is not always the best contract. Appraisals are tricky. Escalation clauses are common. "You get what you pay for" speaks volumes. Real estate is often your largest financial investment. You want the best dentists and surgeons to protect your health. **Protect your real estate investments**, make sure that the professional you call is experienced and backed by a company with a proven record. Give me a call. Require me to prove my point. I'm up to the challenge.

Country Creek Association, Inc.  
2897 Sutton Oaks Lane  
Vienna VA 22181



## Country Creek Welcomes Shenandoah Landscaping

The Board of Directors of Country Creek Association is pleased to welcome Shenandoah Landscaping Services to our community. After several months of discussions regarding the landscaping needs of Country Creek, the Board voted to accept the proposal from Shenandoah Landscaping. We feel, as do many of our community members that Country Creek needs to move in a different direction in regards to our landscape needs. The Shenandoah Landscape proposal incorporates a much more comprehensive approach. The proposal addresses our grass problems in several different ways, depending upon the locations. Shenandoah Landscaping has also provided us with a comprehensive multi-year proposal for tree maintenance. Shenandoah will assume all landscaping responsibilities August 1, 2005.

The Board of Directors would like to express their sincere gratitude to AG&E for their service of the last few years. AG&E has worked hard for Country Creek and we appreciate their efforts and wish them continued success.

Be a Good Neighbor!



## Ongoing Maintenance

At long last, we have a light at the steps leading to Vaden Drive, at 9600 Scotch Haven Drive. Also remember you are EMPOWERED. Any resident can, and should, report out or flicking street lights directly to Dominion Power. Call the number on your electric bill. The address closest to the troubled light is needed to make a quick repair.

Regarding the lawns—we have heard you, and we too are disappointed with their appearance. Changes are in the offing and we are on a ten (10) day mowing cycle and doing everything we can to maintain/improve the appearance of the lawns.

Shawn Leigh and Motley Lanes were repaired and sealed during May.

Sidewalk repair and curb painting are contracted for and should be underway soon.

A final request - a plea actually—please pick up your trashcans the same day they are emptied, Tuesday and Friday. And **please** do not store your trashcans in the front near your stoop. This is a prohibited practice and in very poor taste. Also, please do not put trash out in plastic bags the evening before trash removal. Trash may only be placed outside the night before if it is sealed in a covered, plastic trash can—and after dark, please.

If you have any question or suggestion regarding maintenance activities, please ring us on the hot line.

## Safety Tip

Come summer, we light up our outdoor grills. Here are a few safety tips from the Fairfax County Fire Department. If you have a propane grill, make sure you check the connections before lighting up and replace your drip pan. If you have a charcoal grill, make sure it is not adjacent to a wooden deck or fence. Also, never, never, ever light up a charcoal grill on a wooden deck. The Fire Department has responded to many house fires caused by a charcoal grill being used on a wooden deck. It only takes one spark to start a fire. Never leave a lit grill unattended. When done cooking, make sure the coals are completely cool before covering them. Be sure to have a small fire extinguisher close at hand. Fire extinguishers can be purchased at the Home Depot, or any hardware store.

## Nottoway Nights!

Located adjacent to Country Creek is beautiful Nottoway Park. Each summer a series of free concerts featuring a variety of musical acts will be held on Thursday evenings in Nottoway Park. All of the funds used for Nottoway Nights have been raised from private donations and no taxpayer monies have been used. This fact speaks to the outstanding community-business partnerships that exist in Providence District and throughout Fairfax County. Our Nottoway Park plays host to the concert series, providing the setting for a delightful outdoor summer experience. You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner and a blanket to sit back, relax and enjoy the show.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with all aspects of the concert series, from setting up the site and staffing the concerts, to planning and working with Friends of Nottoway, please call Linda Smyth's office at 703-506-6946. This is a great way to meet your neighbors.

JULY 14 Eastern Standard Time (Ska & Reggae)  
 JULY 21 "Yarawi" Musical Art of the Andes  
 JULY 28 John McCutcheon (folk)  
 AUGUST 4 Radio King Orchestra (Big Band)  
 AUGUST 11 Jefferson Street Strutters (Dixieland)  
 AUGUST 18 Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas  
 AUGUST 25 The Vienna-Falls Church Choirs (Sweet Adelines)

Performances are FREE, and begin at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings unless otherwise noted. Concerts are cancelled if it's raining. If there is a threat of bad weather, call 703-324-7469 (SHOW) after 6:00 p.m. for cancellation updates.

## Online Vacation Services

Put your mail on hold from 3 to 30 days online:  
 • [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)

Vacation stops, complaints and compliments:

- <https://subscription.washpost.com>
- <https://secure.washtimes.com>

Summer parties that spill out onto the deck may be a blast for you, but your neighbors will NOT be having as much fun your guests. Be considerate of others—hold the noise down!



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