

Forest Hills

Community Association



The Newsletter of the Arlington County Forest Hills Townhouse Community

June 2016

Frank Shoup - FHs Newsletter

Mosquito Control

As Summer approaches, mosquitoes are sure to make their appearance in Forest Hills. Besides the nuisance from biting, mosquitoes can cause diseases for both people and pets.

What you need to know

All mosquitoes need standing water to develop from eggs to adult, and in the summer, they can do that in as little as 4 days in a ¼" of water in an upturned bottle cap. The key to controlling mosquitoes is to eliminate the standing water where they breed.

A common breeding site in Forest Hills has been birdbaths and other lawn ornaments. An untended birdbath can breed an acre of mosquitoes. Other common items that hold standing water are clogged gutters, flower pots, patio furniture, tarps, plastic bags, black corrugated drain pipes, yard debris, etc.

Last year when residents realized that many of the water meter pits at the curb had standing water and were breeding large numbers of mosquitoes, steps were taken to treat the pits and seal them up. This resulted in a significant reduction in the number of mosquitoes in the neighborhood and demonstrated the effectiveness of controlling breeding sites.

What you can do

Check around your house and yard on a regular basis, and especially after rain storms, for potential breeding sites. Dump out all those things that collect standing water every few days, and put clippings and other debris in the trash. Use Mosquito Dunks and/or Mosquito Bits if you have birdbaths or similar items. They are safe for people, pets, birds, fish, and bees; they only affect mosquito larva. Mosquito Bits can be scattered on soil, in flower pot trays and similar places. Mosquito Dunks can go in birdbaths, and can be tied in place with a string in drain pipes. You can get them at places like Lowes and Home Depot. Ask a neighbor to check on your yard if you'll be away for more than a few days.

Use a fan on your patio if you're going to sit outside. Mosquitoes are weak fliers, and a good breeze will keep them away.

Useful Links

<http://health.arlingtonva.us/environmental-health/mosquito-information-center/>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westnile/>

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/MosquitoControl>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosquitoes>

<http://www.mosquito-va.org/nuisance.htm> (Virginia Mosquito Control Association)

<http://mosquito.ifas.ufl.edu/> (University of Florida)

<http://www.mosquito.org/> (American Mosquito Control Association)

<http://www.summitchemical.com/> (Mosquito Dunks and Mosquito Bits)

Newly Elected Board Members

Frank Stearns, Carolyn Sand,
David Simonson, Karen Smith,

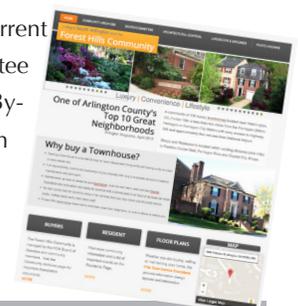
2016-2017 Board Officers

President	Elaine Freeman	2017
Vice President	Rick Carter	2017
Secretary	Karen Smith	2019
Treasurer	Pat Henriques	2018
Asst. Treasurer	Carolyn Sand	2019
Director	Frank Winkel	2018
Director	Frank Stearns	2019
Director	Mal Mackinnon	2018
Director	Mike Petrina	2018
Director	Bob Pastusek	2017
Director	Frank Shoup	2017
Director	Dave Simonson	2019

NEW Forest Hills website

<http://www.foresthillstownhomes.com/>

Remember to visit the FHs Website for current newsletters and financial reports, committee member listing, Forest Hills Community By-Laws, Forest Hills Community Declaration of Covenants, Newsletter Articles, links to important information and Board or Committee email contacts.



Sprinklers

The Forest Hills sprinkler system was activated on Wednesday, June 8. For the benefit of new neighbors, as well as a few of the older ones, here is some information and a little advice on the Forest Hills sprinkler system.

A map of the sprinkler system is attached. Below is a brief description of the FHs system.

- There are 7 control boxes, which control about 400 sprinkler heads in 58 zones. This system provides irrigation to the community grounds, but some neighbors have their own systems installed to water their private property.
- The sprinkler contractor will start up the system sometime in late June (depending on the weather), will provide periodic inspections and service in May, July and August, and will shut down the system in the Fall.
- The watering times and durations of each of the 58 zones are programmed separately. Most sprinklers operate 3 days a week for 15 to 30 minutes, usually between midnight and 4:00 AM. These times and durations can be varied during the season to accommodate changing weather and growing patterns.

Advice for residents:

- Look out for damage to sprinkler heads in your area. Sometimes damage occurs from grounds maintenance or normal wear.
- Also look out for a need to change the spray patterns of individual sprinklers. Sometimes foliage patterns change over the season or grass cuttings can build up around a sprinkler head.
- Minor adjustments to controllers or sprinkler heads can often be done by the highly skilled and motivated members of the community sprinkler patrol – John Magee and Frank Shoup – so when you find problems or have questions, contact them.
- Major repairs will require the services of the contractor (at additional costs). These should be requested by advising Frank Shoup or John Magee of the nature of the problem.
- The sprinkler zone watering schedules will be published when the system is activated. It will be adjusted during the season as weather and growing conditions vary.

Our community sprinkler system waters only the common grounds, and that many neighbors have their own private systems. So if you have a private system, remember that it is your option when to have it activated.

FHs Board Meeting

The next FH Board meeting will be held Tuesday, July 5th at the residence of the FHCA President, Elaine Freeman, 1803 S. 24th Street at 7:00 PM. Residents are welcome. Remember to give a minimum of three days notice that you plan to attend. Future Board and Committee meetings are listed on the FHs website.

From the Arlington Police

Since May 11th we have had eleven (11) reported incidents of either theft from a vehicle or theft of a vehicle. The activity has been in the following areas (all of them are in relatively close proximity to each other):

1300-1500 block of S. 28th Street
2800 block of Army Navy Drive
600 block of S. 22nd Street
1100 block of S. 18th Street

The best that we can figure out, the time of the incidents are in the overnight hours. In most cases (but not all) there is little evidence to indicate that force was used to gain entry; please remember, and remind others, to lock your vehicles. In a recent case where an arrest was made for the same kind of offense in another part of the county, the suspect relayed that he looks for unlocked vehicles in order to keep a low profile.

If you observe suspicious behavior or hear anything unusual, please call us immediately by either dialing 911 or on our non-emergency number 703-558-2222. One of the vehicles stolen from the area was recovered outside of the area and two juveniles have been arrested on charges in that jurisdiction. Our detectives are following up on the case.

Our patrol officers will be conducting extra checks in the area.

Captain Kamran Afzal

Arlington County Police Department
Commander, 2nd District Police Team/School
Resource Officers
703-228-4327; kafzal@arlingtonva.us

Please Lock Your Cars!



Vendors List

Many of our neighbors have had experience with various kinds of services done by companies and individual contractors, and we have found it useful to share these in the attached list. This will be updated as new contributions are received, and will be posted on the website. New contributions will be appreciated.