



AROUND THE BEND



President’s Message April 2017

Great News! Someone just donated \$1,000,000 to our building! Wow!!

APRIL FOOL!! Sorry, it is still up to us to pay for all the maintenance and amenities of our building. I do from time to time enjoy wishful thinking, don’t you? We have many things on our to do list, and here are updates for a few of them:

Our Roof Project

After receiving recommendations from the Building Facilities and Budget and Finance Committees our Riverbend Board selected Function Enterprises, Inc. as our roof replacement contractor. Facilities Engineering Associates (FEA) prepared an American Institute of Architects (AIA) formatted contract for both Function Enterprises and ME Flow. As you know, they will be working together on the roof to accomplish our roof replacement. After a basic review, we sent the contract to our lawyer, Bruce Eastmunt of Chadwick Washington. He has reviewed the two contracts and after some modifications they were returned to us. Sandy and I have agreed that we are well-protected and the contracts have been sent to Function Enterprises and ME Flow for their review. I am sure we will see changes and when negotiations have been completed, committees will be notified. We are hopeful that we can sign the completed and Board approved contracts in May.

Kitchen & Bath Supply Valves Project

This project is completed. We are very pleased. Only 20 or so of our neighbors declined to participate. For a project with voluntary participation that is pretty good. We have 229 units and each participant paid the cost of replacing the valves in their own unit. We are very grateful to all of you who participated and we are indebted to our staff for their efforts organizing, coordinating and managing this project. And, we are very appreciative of ME Flow’s participating plumbers. They were quick, careful, considerate and polite. We had many good reports from our residents. Issues did occur and are being quickly resolved. This will make changes to our unit toilets, sinks and faucets much easier and less costly. It will also save our association a good deal of time and money.

Financial Management Transition

Most of the early issues with changing our financial management company have been worked out. There are still problems and the learning curve for our community staff as well as for Barkan continues; however, we are moving forward. Thanks to our unit owners for their patience, and thank you to Sandy and Debi for helping us move through this difficult transition process.

LWVA Landscape Concerns

Toward the end of May, LWVA’s Building & Grounds Committee will be doing their twice-a-year walk about to see the condition of our campus landscaping. This year they are asking each building’s Building Facilities Committee to provide a list of concerns around their building as well as other common interest areas on campus. This item will be on the agenda of April 6 Building Facilities meeting. Please, report your concerns to the Building Facilities Committee on or before the meeting. Also, you are always welcome to attend

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the LWVA Building & Grounds committee meeting and offer concerns and compliments.

Three Issues of Concern

1, Over the past several months we have noticed that our building is using 1,200 more gallons of water every day than in the past. We have looked high and low for leaks and have found nothing that will account for this amount of water loss. Finally, we think we may have found the cause. Apparently, many of us have been waiting to fix water leaks in our toilets and dripping faucets until after the valve change project completion. We have distributed two little blue pills (not that kind of little blue pill) to each unit and ask you to put one in each toilet tank so you can observe blue leaking into the toilet bowl. Please use them! And please have repairs made to any toilet or faucet that may be leaking, even just a little leak. All of us pay for water. Let's save water!

2, We have observed that several pet owners are letting their dogs relieve themselves right outside the 1st floor door and even in our garages. I know that our dogs have emergencies from time to time. But, what we have observed is more than the occasional accident. Our Riverbend pet relief area is in the backside of our building on the far side of the parking lot, not on the building side of the parking lot. Please consider your neighbors whose back yard is right next to the path. It is quite impolite and irresponsible to allow pets to relieve themselves on either side of that path and definitely in the garages.

3. There are several smokers living or visiting our building. We do not have regulations about smoking in your units/homes. We do have regulations that do not permit smoking in the building corridors, lobby, party room and patio, garages and in front of the building. We have provided a smoking

area in the loading dock area, and that is the only place other than your unit where you are permitted to smoke. It is especially inconsiderate of your neighbors and building visitors to smoke in front of our building. Please STOP!

A Couple of LWVA Project Updates

The repaving of our asphalt paths will start soon. Obviously, you will not be able to use those paths during the project. Sidewalk concrete repair will also be affecting our walking patterns. This summer we will be doing our periodic seal coat and restriping of our streets and parking areas. This will also disrupt campus life. And, we will be making the walls at our Riverbend traffic circle white and nice again. These are all great improvements to our campus. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these projects.

Enjoy this new and lovely Spring and all the wonderful spring flowers and blooming trees!

Come to events and meetings and hear the discussions. We like and need participation.

*---Bert Schlabach, President
Riverbend Board of Directors*

Board Highlights: An unofficial summary. Once the Members have approved the minutes they will become official record and can be viewed online or in the Riverbend lobby.

At their March 23, 2017 meeting, the Board took the following actions:

- Reaffirmed Action in Lieu for exception granted for unit 302.
- Reaffirmed Action in Lieu for Emergency Repairs to Boilers 1 and 2
- Approved request for exception for Unit 406 and submitted to LWVA for consideration.



**Management Corner
Sandy Swarr**

Valve Replacement Project

The valve replacement project has been completed. Thank you for your participation and patience during this project. Please do not forget to pay your balance due.

Spring is here and it is time for Riverbend's Spring Cleaning!

Spring Maintenance Schedule

HVAC inspections and filter change by ME Flow will take place from April 3 through April 7. Letters have been delivered to your unit with your schedule.

Window Washing is scheduled to take place on April 26 and April 27, weather permitting. If you need screen removal or replacement, please complete the form that was delivered to you and drop the form and check at the Management Office by Friday, April 14.

Other Spring Maintenance Items by Planned Building Services

- Chandelier Cleaning – April 18
- Tile Cleaning (G Level) – April 19
- Trash Room Floor Cleaning – April 20
- Party Room and Lobby Carpet Cleaning – April 21
- Power Wash Garages and Loading Dock – April 25



**From the Engineer
Bryan Crosley**



Prevent Kitchen Drain Clogs

To help prevent drain clogs in your unit and throughout the building, don't put these items down the drain or through the garbage disposal: oil and grease, rice, banana peels, orange peels, apple peels, potato peels, celery, spaghetti or macaroni, just to name a few. When you use your disposal or sinks, always use plenty of water to wash it down with.

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Welcome

Please join us in welcoming Victoria Wagner who comes from Reston, VA, and is now in Unit 1011.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities

A brunch is planned for April 22, at 11:00 a.m. in the Party Room. The menu for the brunch will include several breakfast casseroles prepared by the members of the Activities committee, and a variety of several yummy dishes to please the palate of our guests. More detailed information will be on the poster that will be in the lobby by the mail room, SEVERAL DAYS before the brunch. This poster information will give instructions on what is needed to; make reservations for the brunch. Add your name to the sign-up sheet that will be on the table in the mail room; prepay by check, payable to the Riverbend Activities Committee (RBAC), and put your check in the Activities committee drop box on the wall by the managers 'office. Your check for the brunch will need to be submitted at the time you add your name to the reservation list. The dollar amount for the brunch and all details will be on the poster and sign-up sheet for the brunch. Please read all information carefully. And again, the poster for the brunch with all detailed information will be in the lobby several days before the brunch.

A Pot Luck is planned for May 13. This event has always been a favorite of the Riverbend residents. The favorite dishes prepared by the attending dinner guests will be on the menu.

A Sweets and Coffee Night, with Live Music is on the calendar for June 15. Music will be provided by the Instrumental Ensemble of Lansdowne Woods. I hear this group is sensational. Make plans to attend. You will not want to miss this toe-tapping night.

The annual celebration of July 4. will be a barbeque dinner with the great food that makes the day's dinner a big success.

A recap of the dates for your calendar

April 22, Brunch

May 13, Pot Luck

June 15, Sweets and Coffee and Live Music

July 4, Barbeque

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And before I close, how many of us were at the photography presentation on Thursday night the 23rd of March? If you did not attend, you missed a beautiful trip up the northwest coast of the United States through the photos and narration of Geff Bourke and Denise Silva. What a way to travel! A Big Thank You from the Riverbend residents to Geff and Denise for another wonderful night. We look forward to more of your beautiful work in the future.

Thanks to all members of the Activities committee for all that you do. You are the hands that keep us all happy.

I hope to see all of you at the Brunch.

---Cathy Black
Co-Chair

Civil War Liaisons

Resident Carol Cutrona will present two one-hour programs on April 11 and 18 at the clubhouse on the topic of "What Really Happened Between the Sheets and Beneath the Stars During the Civil War?" Loneliness, fear of death and isolation prompted all sorts of love relationships. This will be a frank, lively and often humorous look at the sexual encounters of the day.

See April *Connector* for further details.

Bunco Anyone??

Come and join our Bunco group on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the Riverbend Party Room. This is a fun dice game for men and women. It's \$5.00 to play and all money is returned to the players as winnings. Players can learn the game as they play. For more information call Cathy Black, or Gini Laughlin. Phone numbers are in the directory.

Community Services

Great Falls Park:

Great Falls Park is a beautiful, interesting 800 acre site along the banks of the Potomac River in northern Fairfax County. Its impressive cascading rapids and several 20



foot waterfalls result from the increasing speed and force of the Potomac River as it drops nearly 80 feet in less than a mile while flowing over a series of steep, jagged rocks. The force of the river then subsides as it proceeds down into a narrow, deep, cliff lined gorge. Activities at the park include viewing the waterfalls, exploring ruins of one of the nation's first canals, walking along the clifftops of the Mather Gorge, viewing exhibits which tell the story of the park's history and geology, participating in guided history and nature walks, and hiking, bicycling, and picnicking.

The Potomac River in the Great Falls area was once a trading place for American Indians and early colonists. George Washington believed that constructing a series of canals to make the river navigable from the East Coast to the Ohio River Valley would stimulate trade and bind the country together. He supervised the construction of the Patowmack Canal, a system of canals which required the building of locks to bypass the rapids in the Potomac River. Remnants and ruins of this canal system and its locks are preserved in Great Falls Park, including stone walls of the uppermost lock.

Great Falls Park, approximately 16 miles from Lansdowne Woods, is located at 9200 Old Dominion Drive, in Great Falls / McLean. It is open seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. until 30 minutes after sundown. The Visitor Center is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The park entrance fee is \$10 per vehicle (free with Senior Park Pass.) Handicap accessible parking is available in the main parking lot. Two of the three overlooks for viewing the waterfalls are handicap accessible, as is the Patowmack Canal Trail to the Potomac River

holding basin. Exhibits and programs on the upper floor of the Visitor Center are also accessible. For additional information about the park, its Visitor Center, guided tours, fee free days, etc., go to website www.nps.gov/gfnp or call 703-757-3101.

Loudoun County Recent Scam Incidents:

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office recently received reports of the following scams:

1. IRS phone scam: A person called, claiming to be an IRS agent, and said the victim owed money to the IRS. The victim was told to go to a nearby store and buy iTunes gift cards and wire money. The IRS recommends the following actions if you get a phone call from someone claiming to be an agent:

- * If you know you owe taxes, call the IRS at [800-829-1040](tel:800-829-1040) to speak with an employee about a payment issue, if there really is such an issue.

- * If you know you don't owe taxes, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at website www.treasury.gov/tigta/ or call 800-366-4484.

2. Dominion Power bill scam: A fake Dominion Power representative called about an overdue bill and threatened to turn off the person's electric power unless some form of immediate payment was made. Dominion Power never requests payment over the telephone and never requires payment be made with a pre-paid debit card. It recommends the following:

- * If a customer is behind on a monthly bill, they should contract Dominion Power to set up a payment plan. Dominion Power always notifies a customer on their monthly bill before power is disconnected

- * If a customer is suspicious of a caller, they are encouraged to get information, including the caller's name and phone number, before hanging up and reporting the call to the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office.

- * Before a customer gives any personal information to a caller, they should always call Dominion Power at [1-866-DOM-HELP](tel:1-866-DOM-HELP) to verify that the company is attempting to reach them.

— Anita Zatz



The Adventurous Eater

By Judy Kory

D.C. Prime and Eddie Merlot's

Let's say you have a special occasion coming up, you'd like to go someplace nice, you don't want to go too far, and you feel like steak. We have two nearby upscale restaurants that might fit your requirements. Take the Loudoun County Parkway to the left for DC Prime and to the right for Eddie Merlot's. Both are beautifully decorated, open for dinner only, provide attentive service, offer fresh seafood, keep the noise level down so conversation is easy, and everything is a la carte. I personally enjoyed DC Prime's background music – instrumental versions of soft rock from the sixties.

DC Prime is locally owned, one of a kind. Their meat comes from a single source in Chicago, their seafood from a single source in Massachusetts. The kitchen is open, and the huge bar looks like a fun and comfortable place to hang out. We tried the French onion soup, which was tasty, but had lots (almost too much) cheese and bread. The nearly entrée sized Caesar salad with fresh anchovies was covered in shaved cheese, generously dressed, and delicious. The



bread basket had both fruited and French bread served warm. For sides we tried the mashed potatoes and creamed spinach. Portions were quite large, and we took quite a bit home. The potatoes were good, the spinach stringy and plain. Prime beef steaks arrived nicely charred, cooked as requested, and very flavorful. The bone-in New York strip was more difficult to cut. Sharper knives might help. The Fillet Mignon was delicious. Neither of us could finish our meat. We splurged on dessert. Key lime pie was terrific, but again too much. The blueberry bread pudding came with extra blueberries, tasty, but served cold. Our attentive



waiter boxed up our leftovers, and split the sides between us. The manager also checked on us, and since it was a birthday celebration, the desserts were complimentary. With a drink but no dessert or tip, our bill came to about \$90 each.



Eddie Merlot's is a much larger organization with restaurants in nine states from Arizona to Virginia. The parking valet was at my car before I could get the door unlocked. We felt important from the first moment. Our server Kenneth did a great job of explaining the menu and made excellent recommendations. All their meat is hand-cut in house, and their signature beef (around \$100 per steak) is compared to Kobe beef. We tried the beet salad – the most beautifully presented dish ever, and the lettuce wedge. The wedge comes with eggs, bacon, tomatoes, pickled onions, olives, and a choice of dressing. The beet salad, with cucumbers, avocados, oranges, celery, and goat cheese, has a lemon basil dressing. Don't miss it! For vegetables we tried the asparagus and the creamed spinach. The asparagus was good, but, oh my, the spinach was amazing! With smoky bacon and cheese blended in we fought for the last morsel. Our prime beef steaks



were cooked as requested. Both the fillet mignon and New York strip were nicely seared; the fillet was very tender, the strip was more flavorful. Portions were reasonably sized, appropriate to share and we finished it all. Without drinks, dessert, or tip our bill came to about \$65 each.

So which is better? You'll get a good meal at either place. Prices and ambience are comparable. For a perfect meal, go to Eddie's for the beet salad and spinach, then head over to DC Prime for the fillet or a bone-in prime rib. DC Prime's website includes menu prices. Eddie Merlot's does not. Call for reservations: DC Prime [703 840-2099](tel:703-840-2099), Eddie Merlot's [571 510-3898](tel:571-510-3898).



Earth Day 2017

Earth Day, celebrated on April 22, 2017, was conceived in 1970, by then U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin who began this environmental movement after seeing the global damages wrought by the huge oil spill in Santa Barbara, California.

Started as a grassroots movement, Earth Day grew over the years, gaining public support for the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and contributed to the passage of several important environmental laws.

In 1990, Earth Day was celebrated world-wide and according to the Earth Day Network, 200 million people in 141 countries participated in the event.

This year's focus is to promote environmental and climate literacy in order to educate citizens on the concepts of the threats posed by climate change and to inspire defensive actions to protect our environment. You can pitch in and help clean up any of the region's parks or attend a family event that includes learning ways to improve our environment and make a difference. Events take place throughout the month of April.

- The EPA's [Earth Day website](#) offers suggestions for events and activities, project resources, and ideas for teachers and community-service volunteers.
- [Earth Day Network](#) provides information on how to take action and become involved in environmental programs.
- The United Nations declared April 22 as [International Mother Earth Day](#) and lists Earth Day events worldwide.



The 79th annual Ladies Board Rummage Sale will take place on October 14 and 15 in Leesburg. Proceeds benefit patient care and fund various special programs at INOVA Loudoun Hospital. In addition, more than \$100,000 in nursing scholarships is awarded annually.

You are invited to make donations of new or "gently used" items for the Sale. The pick-up date for your donations is Tuesday, May 16, 2017, beginning at 9:00 a.m., when they will be collected at the Riverbend loading dock. If help is needed with getting furniture to the loading dock, please call 703-771-2985 or email at www.RummageLadies@gmail.com.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, April 8 --- Riverbend Dinner Club;
Crossroads Restaurant; 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9 --- Palm Sunday

Monday, April 10 --- Passover begins at sundown

Friday, April 14 --- Good Friday

Sunday, April 16 --- Easter Sunday

Thursday, April 20 --- BOD meeting; 2:30 p.m.

Friday, April 21 --- Deadline for

Around the Bend

Saturday, April 22 --- Earth Day

Thursday, April 27 --- "Declutter & Organize";
10:00 a.m.

Friday, April 28 --- Shredding Day

All events take place in the party room unless noted otherwise. Also, please note dates for Building Maintenance programs are listed in the Manager's Corner on page 3.