



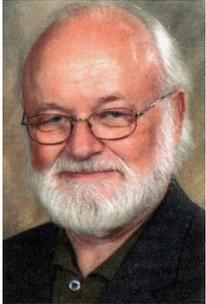
AROUND THE BEND



Volume 17, No.11

Published for Riverbend Residents

November 2015



President's Corner

November, 2015

It's November already. Our 2016 Riverbend budget has been approved by the board and we have negotiated the contents of a new Comcast contract. We continue to do the work that will result in a new roof for our building. A couple of new items that we need to alert everyone about are our front vestibule and our US Post Office mailroom. Following is more about these issues.

1) Our roof is an ongoing project. Our Building Facilities Committee has created a working group to lay out what work we want an engineering company to do on our behalf. When the working group has completed their work, we will ask two firms to give us a quote on their part of the roof project. Once we have selected an engineering firm to look after our interests on our roof project we will prepare and sign a contract with them. They will then guide us through the remainder of the project including helping us write roof specifications and creating a bid package to send out to several qualified roofing contractors. Our engineering firm will oversee the project as the contractor proceeds to replace our roof. We will keep you posted as the process moves forward.

2) As you know, we have been working on getting a new bulk-use contract with Comcast, our current TV and internet provider. We have negotiated for several months and have had a presentation by Comcast describing the services they hope we will purchase in our new bulk contract. A few weeks ago our manager, Sandy, indicated that she had just read our bylaws again and she wasn't sure we had the legal right to add internet service to our bulk

service contract with Comcast. I was concerned, but didn't really take it seriously.

However, as we got closer to completing our negotiations I asked Sandy to contact our lawyer and ask his opinion. On the evening before the Board meeting, he emailed his opinion to Sandy. He confirmed her reservations. Our bylaws don't forbid including internet; however, our bylaws do not include internet service in the list of approved amenities that we can offer as a bulk amenity. Interestingly, our bulk HVAC service contract is also not on our list of approved bulk contract services.

So, our new bulk service contract with Comcast will only provide us with the X-1 HD service. Our monthly unit cost for this service will be \$35.18 including taxes and fees. Currently our monthly unit cost for Basic TV service is \$29.48 including taxes and fees. So our monthly costs will go up \$5.69. While our current service is only Basic TV, starting January 1, 2016, we will be receiving Comcast's X-1 HD service plus one X-1 HD Set Top Box and two HD-DTAs. Currently we pay \$9.95 a month for HD service and an additional \$9.95 for each HD Set Top Box that we use. This will provide a nice cost savings for all of us who currently subscribe to Comcast's HD service. We will keep you informed as we proceed toward the New Year and our new Comcast contract. Our contract includes a maximum of a 3% increase each year of the five year contract. It also will stipulate that we can upgrade our service if we wish.

3) You may have noticed that the two potted cedar trees on either side of our vestibule have been replaced. Also, you may have noticed the rust on the window frames on both side walls of our vestibule. We have received two bids to replace the frames and put in double glazed windows at the same time. The bids were within a couple hundred dollars of each other. We anticipate that this work will be completed in November.

(Continued on following page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

4) When our mailboxes were installed, special locks were put in place that were keyed so we could use our unit keys. Several extra replacement locks were purchased. Also, our two mailbox walls hold approximately seven extra boxes that were neither needed nor used.

Over the years many of our mailbox locks have worn out. We have used all the backup locks and most of the locks from the extra boxes. This type of lock is no longer available, and there are no retro fit locks we can use on our current mailboxes. So we need to replace all our boxes with two walls of new boxes. We have received a quote and we may need others.

The US Postal Service does have some very proprietary requirements. Our Building Facilities Committee is taking up this discussion. We will keep you informed as the process moves forward.

5) This coming year, we will be looking to upgrade our Riverbend bylaws to include bulk internet service and of course our bulk HVAC maintenance service.

Our 2016 budget is now available to all unit owners. If you are an owner you may come to the office and receive your copy of the budget which will include a cover letter, a budget narrative and a spread sheet that will let you know what your fees will be in 2016. We will do our best to answer questions and if there is enough interest we will have a town meeting to try to answer any questions and concerns.

As always, feel free to sit in on any and all committee meetings. They are all open meetings. We all need to not only share our concerns but also ideas. We hope to explore all possibilities except those that will not reflect good stewardship for our building and our community. Let's work together!

*---Bert Schlabach
President, Riverbend BOD*

Election Results – Riverbend BOD

The results of the 2015 BOD election were announced at the Annual Meeting on October 8.

Cecilia Frenkel and Priscilla Sammet were elected for one-year terms and Ruth Jacoby, a three-year term.

Board members are:

- President – Bert Schlabach
- Vice-President – Shirley Thorpe
- Treasurer – Ruth Jacoby
- Secretary – Cecilia Frenkel
- Director – Priscilla Sammet

Outgoing President, Terry Wilford was elected to be our second representative on the LWVA Board.

General election – November 3, 2015

The General Election for the Commonwealth is held for the purpose of electing the following offices:

- Members of the Commonwealth of Virginia Senate and House of Delegates (all seats.)
- Loudoun County Constitutional Officers.
- Loudoun County Soil and Water Commissioners.
- Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.
- Loudoun County School Board.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. LWVA's polling place is Belmont Ridge Middle School, 19045 Upper Belmont Pl. The LWVA bus will be available for transport to and from the polls. Remember to bring your VA voter ID card!





Management Corner
Sandy Swarr

November 2015

Just a few reminders of the Riverbend Rules are below:

Riverbend Rules and Regulations state “All persons shall be properly attired when appearing in any common area of the property including stairwells, lobby, elevators, community buildings and any other public spaces of the Condominium.”

Use of Loading Dock

Cleaning service contractors must enter through the loading dock entrance at the rear of the building with their cleaning equipment. To gain admittance at the loading dock, please instruct your cleaning contractor to push the call button and wait for the guard to answer. They should be ready to identify themselves and give the unit number and resident’s name of the unit they are cleaning.



Smells from cooking

We have received a few complaints regarding cooking smells in the hallways. Please be sure that when you are cooking to use your exhaust fan to ventilate your unit and do not open your windows. When windows are open, cooking smells will be pushed out into the hallway and may even go into other units. Thanks for your cooperation.

Please have a wonderful Thanksgiving! Gobble, Gobble.



From The Engineer
Bryan Crosley



Storage Bins

Prohibited items: Items not to be placed in storage bins are carpet, padding, mattresses, box springs, upholstered furniture, empty cardboard boxes, and anything flammable, e.g. cleaning solutions, gasoline, kerosene, oil based paints, paint thinner and cleaning rags. In accordance with fire regulations NO items are to be stored above the yellow painted line. Please check your storage bins



ASAP since we are due for the inspection at any time.

Water infiltrated one of the storage rooms during the last heavy rains. The storage bins that had their items off the floor or in plastic containers fared well, but not so good for those who didn’t. So

please store your items up off the floor, in plastic bins and covered.

Around The Bend is a publication of the Communications Committee of Riverbend at Lansdowne Woods Unit Owners Association and is available on our web site at <http://riverbend-lwva.org>. The appearance of advertising within this publication is neither a guarantee nor an endorsement by the Committee nor Association of the product, service or company or the claims made for the product in such advertising.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities

Southwest Indian Art and Turquoise Jewelry

A discussion on Pueblo Indian Pottery and various art items made by this American Indian tribe will be presented to Riverbend residents on November 7, at 7:00 p.m. in the party room. George and Sue Viener's large collection of Pueblo art was acquired on several trips to the Southwest. We will have the opportunity to see the details of the art work up close after the discussion. Also, this same evening Anne Miller of Potomac Ridge, will also discuss her collection of turquoise jewelry. George, Sue and Anne, Torch Club members, previously presented this interesting talk at a recent Torch Club dinner meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Decorations for the Holiday

The Monday after Thanksgiving, November 30, Riverbend will be busy preparing to decorate the lobby and party room for Christmas. The many boxes of decorations will be rescued from their resting place. The trees and the garland will be fluffed and made ready for placing. Holiday ribbon, twinkle lights and several colors of ornaments will add the finishing touches. Please join us on Sunday, December 6, at 2:00 p.m. to help hang the ornaments on the trees, visit with Santa and enjoy some refreshments. The Activities Committee will furnish the punch and all are invited to bring a plate of favorite Christmas cookies to share.



Big Thanks

Jackie Lev Dahl visited the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department on October 5, and presented our donation and expressed appreciation for all that they do for our community. Thanks Jackie, for your continued service to the AVFRD.



Jackie with Bob Thomas, President of the AVFRD Board of Directors.

Gail Young is a volunteer at the AVFRD and helped us coordinate several speakers from the fire department for the fundraiser dinner. Thanks, Gail.

A lot has been said about volunteers here at Riverbend and how they are always around when needed. That is true of all who helped clean the party room after the International event on October 4. Thanks to all of you for your helping hands. A special thanks to Tehmi Jamaspian for all of her detailed work on the International Pot Luck Dinner and to the committee members for all of the work necessary to make the dinner a big success.

Enjoy the beautiful weather and I hope to see all of you at the tree trimming.

---Cathy Black, Co-chair

Dates To Remember

Sunday, November 1 -- Daylight Saving Time ends

Tuesday, November 3 -- Election Day

Monday & Tuesday, November 9 & 10 -
Window washing

Wednesday, November 11 – Veterans' Day;
Office closed

Thursday, November 12 –
Viener/Miller presentation; 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 14 –RB Dinner Club;
5:30 p.m. – Crossroads Restaurant

Thursday, November 19 – BOD meeting; 2:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 19 – Deadline for
Around the Bend

Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day;
Office closed

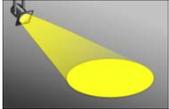
Friday, November 27 – Lunch Group;
12 p.m.; Crossroads Restaurant

Please note: A New Time for Bridge

Starting on November 3, bridge in the Riverbend party room on Tuesday evenings will begin at 7 p.m. All bridge players are welcome.

All events take place in the Riverbend party room unless indicated otherwise





In The Spotlight

Nin-Hua was a child of privilege. Her father was Minister of Charge d’Affaires representing the Nationalist Chinese government in Chungking at postings throughout the world. She only lived in China for six years and studied her native language for only three. Instead, she remembers a childhood in Indonesia, Venezuela and Thailand. She remembers English classes in international schools and private tutors at home. There were household servants, elegant dinners with important guests, and worldwide travel.

World War II meant upheaval for Nin-Hua and her family. In 1941 the Chinese Embassy in Indonesia was evacuated and they found themselves on a Dutch cargo ship, SS Rotterdam, sailing the Atlantic for 30 days while avoiding enemy vessels in the Pacific. After stops in Australia and India, the family eventually flew across the Himalayas to Chungking. There, they experienced the horrors of war. “There were frequent air raids. Food was scarce and often rationed,” she says. But by 1944, they were off to South America for a new posting in Venezuela.

After 25 years with the diplomatic corps, Nin-Hua’s father retired and the family returned to Indonesia. She excelled in school and was active in church. Upon graduation from The Methodist English High School in 1953, she was off again, this time on a full, church-sponsored scholarship to Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. The three-week journey opened new vistas. For example, Nin-Hua vividly remembers the sights and sounds and tastes of Singapore. She also remembers down time on board ship. “I read ‘War and Peace,’ the entire 1720 pages,” she says.

In the summer following her junior year, she received an invitation from her only Chinese relative in the United States, “Uncle” Alfred Chow, to visit him and to fish in upper Michigan. He wanted her to meet good friends of his – Lillian Wu and her brother. She agreed to come.

Fu-Shan was the son of peasants whose families had farmed the land near Peking (now Beijing). Both of his parents were able to take advantage of free educational opportunities and eventually became doctors. Fu-Shan’s English studies began in middle

school and continued at university in Taiwan. In 1952 he received a scholarship from the Catholic Church to study engineering at Regis College in Denver, Colorado. He, too, was off to the United States.

In 1955 Fu-Shan was in an advanced-study program in structural engineering at Marquette, in Wisconsin. His sister, Lillian, was dating Alfred Chow. That summer, Fu-Shan agreed to join them on a fishing vacation.

Mimi and Larry Wu, our Riverbend neighbors, have amazing stories to tell. Their earliest years as children of Chinese parents, with the backdrop of WWII; their fated meeting on that fishing adventure in Michigan; their marriage and rearing of a family; and their adoption of America as their home are captured in the book Mimi wrote and published, entitled “What I Remembered Best.” It details their various jobs; their path to citizenship; and their experiences abroad, including many years in Saudi Arabia when Larry worked for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. It’s a memoir filled with love and humor, as well as a travelogue complete with descriptions and details. Mimi is happy to share their story. Copies are available in our party room library.



In a few weeks, we’ll gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. Some of us, like the Wus, are ourselves immigrants. Others must look to our parents or grandparents or beyond to find that first brave soul who left the known to venture to the unknown. But as Americans we share the same story.

We are a nation of immigrants, lucky enough to enjoy the riches those immigrants have contributed. Happy Thanksgiving!

--- *Bernie Nakamura*

Is there an immigrant somewhere in your family tree whose story is particularly interesting? If so, consider sharing it with us. Write a brief summary, including specific details, and slide a copy under my door at unit 717, or email it to me at bernienak@gmail.com. I will collect the contributions, edit them lightly and send them to “Around the Bend” for publication. --- *B. N.*

Community Services

Loudoun Museum:

The Loudoun Museum opened in 1967. Its collection of artifacts reflect the story of Loudoun County's role in American history from its founding in 1757 through its growth into the 21st century. It is the only general history and cultural museum of Loudoun County. The museum's mission is to collect, preserve,



interpret, and display objects that document the history of Loudoun County, one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, and to educate the public about that history. The museum's main building is two combined houses, built circa 1850. One house is filled with museum exhibits. The other house has been used since the early 1900's as a meeting place for the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, one of the oldest and largest non-political and non-sectarian fraternal and service-oriented organizations. A small log cabin next door to the Loudoun Museum, formerly a silversmith shop dating back to 1764, is used for museum programs.



A video presentation which provides a historical overview of Loudoun County is available for viewing prior to a self-guided tour of the museum. The museum collection consists of over 8,000 items displayed on a rotating basis, including period clothing, photographs and post cards, war-time uniforms and helmets,



arrowheads, tools and implements, textiles and needlework, locally made cabinets and chairs, musical instruments, lamps, glassware, silver and porcelain tea services, books, maps, and archival documents.

A recent article in "The Washington Post" described the Loudoun Museum as the "little-known museum that has housed and

promoted the history of confederates and Native Americans, politicians and unsung Virginians." As a result of necessary funding cutbacks, the long term future and financial stability of the Loudoun Museum, a non-profit charitable organization, are currently in the hands of a panel of community leaders who are weighing the Loudoun Museum's options by looking at the viability of alternatives such as corporate sponsorship, fundraising and revenue producing opportunities, and Loudoun County's possible purchase of the museum.

The Loudoun Museum is located at 16 Loudoun Street SW, the quaint historic site in downtown Leesburg where it has been for nearly 50 years. The museum is open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. The admission fee for seniors is \$1.00. For additional information, contact the Loudoun Museum at website: www.loudounmuseum.org or call: 703-777-7247.

Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging Provides Free Medicare Counseling:

Medicare beneficiaries are allowed to re-evaluate and change Medicare prescription drug plans every year between October 15 and December 7 to assure having the best plan to meet current prescription needs. Medicare Counseling is available at the



Loudoun County Area Agency on Aging office through the Virginia Insurance Counseling and Assistance Program (VICAP). This program offers free, unbiased, confidential assistance and counseling on Medicare and Medicare Part D (prescription drug coverage). With the help of this Medicare counseling program, perhaps a drug plan with lower co-pays, better prescription coverage and / or lower premiums might be found. To evaluate and possibly change your drug plan during the current enrollment period, Medicare Part D worksheets must be completed and submitted to the Area Agency on Aging office by November 20. Worksheets are available online at:

www.loudoun.gov/aaa

Worksheets are also available at all Loudoun County Senior Centers, and can be mailed to you, at your request, by calling: 703-737-8036. The worksheets elicit salient information about your current prescription coverage and prescription drug needs.

(Continued on following page.)

(Continued from previous page.)

Alternatives for returning the worksheets to the Area Agency on Aging office are included on the worksheet form, i.e. mail, email, fax, or drop-off. After analyzing your worksheet, certified counselors will subsequently contact you to discuss your Medicare Part D options for 2016 and answer your questions. Loudoun County’s Area Agency on Aging office is located at: 20145 Ashbrook Place, Suite 170, Ashburn; telephone: 703-777-0257.

Medicare Scam Alert Reminder:

Medicare scams are increasingly prevalent during Medicare’s open enrollment period. As discussed in this column last month, it is important to remember that Medicare and Social Security will never initiate a telephone call asking you to provide any personal information, your Medicare number and / or your Social Security number, and will never call you seeking payment.

— Anita Zatz

More displays from the Loudoun Museum



A variety of antique lamps.

An antique spinning wheel.



<i>Communications Committee</i>	
Chairman/Editor: Virginia Laughlin	
Layout/Production: Virginia Laughlin & Barbara Bracebridge	
Editorial Staff: Maria Kelly, Bernie Nakamura, Beth Schlabach, Bonnie Wohlford and Anita Zatz	
Distribution: Marge DeSimone, Bobbie Brennan, Elyn Chace, Bea Childs, Lorraine Eiermann, Cecilia Frenkel, Maria Kelly, Jackie Lev Dahl, Judy Martinowsky, Ann Robinson, Pat Scheffel, Betty Simmons & Peg Ware	
Board Liaison: Shirley Thorpe	

<i>Management Staff</i>	
Phone: 703-724-7800	Fax: 703-724-4345
General Manager: Sandy Swarr manager.riverbend@gmail.com	
Assistant Manager: Debbie Merriman assistant@relw.org	
Building Engineer: Bryan Crosley	
Assistant Engineer: Ed Nelson	



Remember to visit our web site at <http://www.riverbend.lwva.org>