



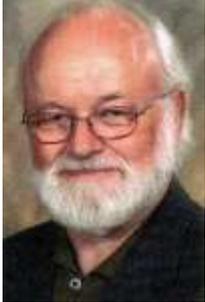
AROUND THE BEND



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President's Message October 2017

I thought September had just started and suddenly it is October! October is full- on Autumn! Wonderful colors in the trees, and fall flowers. Even the grasses in the meadows and hedges are quite beautiful. It is a lovely month that ends with a rather ghostly celebration! Heh! Heh! Heh! Heh! Ohhhhh! We can use a little fun just now, don't you think! Actually, several of my favorite people have birthdays this month! Especially my lovely wife! In between these moments of recognizing the beauty around us and celebrating birthdays and Halloween there is work to be done. Here are few project updates:

Our Roof Project

After months, even years of planning, our roof project is underway. Because of the need for regular updates, sometimes daily updates via BuildingLink, I will not go into much detail in this newsletter article. But I will say it is a relief to, actually be doing our roof replacement and all the other associated projects. I am, and I think we all are, very thankful that our Head Engineer Bryan is managing this project. And of course, we are so grateful to both Debi and Ed for the extra effort they are making on our behalf.

Also, I am very pleased that you all have been so understanding and supportive. There is a lot of disruption and inconvenience associated with this project and your patience is so very much appreciated. The length of this project will test our patience. Our contractor projects early March as our roof

project completion time. However, that estimate is totally weather dependent. Personally, I will be surprised and very pleased if we can complete our roof repairs by then. Much depends on our winter. We will be shutting down operations during rain, snow and temperatures below 45 degrees. Also, there can be no work on the roof with sustained winds over 15 mph. So, pray for a mild winter and quiet breezes.

BuildingLink

We are still a long way from fully using our new communications tool, BuildingLink; however, we are using it for regular communications about our roof project. So far so good. If any of you who have finely-honed software skills and wish to explore and learn about all the benefits of BuildingLink and then share with us, I encourage you. Let me know of your interest.

At our last Board Meeting

As I announced at previous board meetings, we achieved enough votes to approve a By-Law change that will permit us to include internet service as a bulk service. Incidentally, we are the last of the buildings at LWVA to include internet access as one of our bulk service amenities. Our attorneys have submitted our By-Law change to Loudoun County and it has been recorded.

We have been negotiating with Comcast for the best deal they can provide us. We will get Performance Tier internet service and they will provide a suitable wireless modem for each unit. Unit owners must take responsibility for the modem; if it is somehow damaged or missing, you will be responsible. If it doesn't work properly that is Comcast's responsibility. However, there will be no charge for the modem on your Comcast bill. For all of this, each Riverbend unit will pay an additional \$28.95 per month. There will be a 5% annual increase.

The Board was provided with two budgets; they were identical except that one included the \$28.95 per month and the other did not. The Board voted to approve the Comcast Contract and then voted to approve the 2018 budget that includes the additional costs for Comcast’s Internet Service. I will sign the contract and submit it to Comcast with the intention of beginning this new service when our new budget begins on January 1, 2018.

I know this is an extra burden for some of you who do not have computers. I encourage you to consider acquiring one. We have skilled computer users in our building who would be happy to help you learn how to use it. Electronic media is the state of today’s communication and every new unit buyer will expect to have internet service as an amenity. The vast majority of us who are currently buying internet service individually will save from \$40 to \$70 each month.

The Riverbend Annual Meeting

Don’t forget to vote for the board members. Even though we have an equal number of candidates as open positions, it is still important to vote. There is one 2-year term and two 3-year terms. The candidate with the fewest votes will serve the 2-year term. The candidates with the most votes will serve the two 3-year terms. Votes will be counted on the evening of the Riverbend Annual Meeting which will be held October 12 at 7:00 pm.

At the beginning of the meeting, Carol Meals, the chair of our Budget & Finance Committee, and Ruth Jacoby, our Treasurer, will present our 2018 Riverbend Budget and outline the state of our finances. I will report on the overall state of our Riverbend Association and cite some of our successes and accomplishments for this past year and project some of 2018 goals we hope to achieve. After that, Memory Porter, our chair of the Election Committee will announce the results of our election and the newly-seated Board will elect the officers who will serve as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The remaining Board member will serve as a director.

Our Activities Committee will provide light refreshments. We look forward to seeing you at this important annual event.

Some Closing Thoughts

We are still in shock about the abrupt departure of our Manager Sandy Swarr. She was not only very competent but had become a good friend to many of us. However, we cannot dwell on our surprise and sadness; we must move forward to find a new Manager for Riverbend. The Board is interviewing potential candidates for the position. We are very hopeful that we can find a new Manager soon.

We are very appreciative of all your patience as we work to do the tasks that Sandy so ably accomplished every day. Debi has been doing an exceptional job. She has a steep learning curve, so please be understanding.

Also, as I mentioned in our last Board Meeting, if you are feeling a little hot under the collar or wish to speak rather firmly or forcefully to our staff, please turn around and walk away until you feel you can talk politely and gently. If you are still feeling unhappy, please talk to me.

Come to our many wonderful events and informative meetings. We like and need participation from everyone. Firsthand knowledge and experience is always more reliable than a rumor.

*---Bert Schlabach, President
Riverbend Condominium Association*



New AC units stored on our roof in the generator area.

--- Photo courtesy Bert Schlabach

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Activities

Our building's month long fundraiser for the Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department will end on September 30. At the time of this writing (9/23/17,) donations totaled \$6,251.00. This total could change before the closing date of September 30 and the final total will be posted in the mail room. This has been a busy year for us at Riverbend with the up-grades we are having done to our homes, but we never forgot to make a donation for the members of the AVFRD and their on-going efforts to answer our call when we have an emergency.

A big thank-you goes to our guests at the fundraiser dinner, Assistant Chief Kyle Stephens and his wife Amanda, for joining us and taking the time to talk and answer some very interesting questions on the functions of the fire department. Thanks to Gail Young for all of her assistance.

A lot of hard work went into the AVFRD fundraiser dinner by all of the members of the activities committee. Thanks to each of you. A plan for the dinner begins a month before. Shopping for the number of dinner reservations (79 with our guests) is no easy task. And keeping track of the Firemen's boot by the office staff every day is time consuming. Thank you Debi for your help which is always appreciated. And then there is Mary Smith, the treasurer of our committee. Mary made several trips a day to the lobby to check the firemen's boot and take charge of the checks. But it did not end there. Mary kept track of the reservations by the checks and signatures, and made a final accounting of the number of checks and the combined total. All checks are accounted for, before they are turned over to Gail Young for delivery to



the Fire Department. Thank you Mary for all you do for the committee. That is a short version of what work was done by some very important people who made this year's fundraiser come together. Along with your donations, it was a BIG success.

October Calendar:

October 12 at 7:00 p.m. is the Riverbend Annual Meeting. All residents are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

On October 19 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a photography presentation on the Northern Lights. If you never had the privilege of viewing the lights in the Northern sky, you will be amazed by the beautiful wonders of nature you will see during this presentation by Denise Silva, Riverbend resident. Don't miss this night of beauty. Light refreshments will be served.

November Calendar:

Riverbend residents will be celebrating Thanksgiving early with a Harvest Dinner that is planned for November 16. This will be a fun time for all who attend and share their favorite side dish or dessert. Circle the date on your calendar and begin your plans for the dish you will bring. More details in the November newsletter and a poster will be in the lobby closer to the date of the dinner.

SAVE THE DATES;

October 12, Annual Meeting

October 19, Northern Lights Presentation

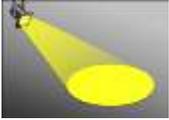
November 16, Harvest Dinner

See you at the annual meeting...

Cathy Black, Co-Chair

Please Welcome

We extend a warm Riverbend welcome to Eva Cseke who has come from Springfield, VA. Eva now resides on the third floor.



In The Spotlight

We have a youngster in our midst! Who is he and what is he doing here? We catch a glimpse of him as he returns from work in the evenings and often at our Friday Happy Hours. But do we know him?



Marco Popadiuk came to this country from Brazil in 1991. He was “disillusioned with the politics” in his country and “saw no future” for himself there. He had been unable to get the training in computer science which really interested him. Instead, he’d completed his degree in physical education and had been working at a bank for seven years to fund his schooling. He was ready for a change.

One day, a friend came to his bank to close her account and withdraw her savings. When he asked her what was happening, she told him she was going to the U. S. “When?” he asked. “In two weeks,” she replied. Marco’s immediate question was, “Can I go with you?” And so he did.

Marco had \$3,000 and a visa from a previous visit. He spoke no English. While the destination had originally been New York, the friends settled in Florida which at that time allowed for renewable work permits.

His work history mirrored that of many new immigrants as he struggled to earn an income and build a life. Over the next several years, he had jobs at McDonald’s, in a restaurant, at a Winn Dixie supermarket. He studied English at Fort Lauderdale High in the evenings. Eventually he took a clerical position with Nabanco, a clearinghouse for credit card transactions.

In 1999, Marco got a job offer from VISA. The company was attempting to establish a program to compete with American Express Travelers Checks. Marco became an “implementation analyst/account manager.” And, at last, the world of IT was open to him.

At VISA, he learned how the in-house computer functions of a business coordinate with outside

entities and control the flow of interactions. He says, “I had crash courses on using a data base for reports and analyses. I became a network analyst and learned about routers, servers, binary connections and manipulation of numbers. It was on-the-job training.” Three years with VISA only magnified his interest in computer science. He loved the work.

Like so many corporations, VISA had to cut costs during the 2007-2008 recession. They closed several of their monitoring centers, including the Miami branch. Marco was offered a transfer to their new Ashburn, VA, location. He accepted.

So, our youngster here at Riverbend is an IT specialist. He’s clearly a “Left-Brain” guy: logical, analytical, objective. Correct?

However, a visit to the condo he shares with his partner, Mike Hines, tells a different story. From the gorgeous orchids he nurtures along with multiple other plants on their balcony to the sculptures, paintings, collectibles and varied treasures in bronze, pottery, tiles, blown glass, oils, and watercolors, here is a person with an appreciation for beauty. An artsy “Right-Brained” guy: creative, intuitive, subjective.

Marco learned the ins and outs of auctions. For a time, he’d buy at local auctions and then sell at Georgetown’s Flea Market. “I made good money,” he says. But he and Mike kept favorites for themselves, including a whimsical cookie jar collection featuring Winnie-the-Pooh and Miss Piggy, that Mike enjoys. Stained glass, however, is Marco’s preferred art form.

Raised by Orthodox parents who were immigrants to Brazil from Ukraine, Marco spent lots of time in churches. He was fascinated by the “amazing stained glass” and the architecture and history of the buildings. While reading a magazine one day, he stumbled on an advertisement for an antiques store which showed a Japanese scene depicting stately cranes. He took the picture to a stained-glass studio, hoping they would duplicate it for him. When they said it wasn’t doable but that he could take classes, he signed up. And he was hooked.

After experimenting to master the complicated skills of selecting, cutting and grinding the glass to the pattern he'd prepared, wrapping copper foil around the edges, and soldering the pieces together, he completed his first piece, a French angel fish.

The Japanese cranes were his second effort. It took him months to find the perfect glass colors and about three more months to create the window. The result is spectacular. Marco is happy to welcome Riverbend residents to see this treasure. Just contact him in Unit 606.

So, is our neighbor Marco a left-brain- or a right-brain-dominant person? He's obviously neither and both. He proves the latest in scientific research which debunks the dominance theory and insists that the two hemispheres of the brain work cooperatively. And, he proves just how multi-faceted many of our Riverbend neighbors are.

We're lucky to have this interesting youngster in our midst.

--- Bernie Nakamura



Marco Popadiuk with "Japanese Cranes"

--- Photos courtesy Bob Nakamura

**From the Engineer
Bryan Crosley**

As we have started the roof project now, please be mindful of where you walk and drive around the building since it will be a beehive of construction.

Thank you.



Unit number shown on a new AC compressor

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COMMUNITY SERVICES**Loudoun County Update:**

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (VDVS) recently opened an office in Loudoun County. The new office is part of a state-wide effort to expand veterans' access to federal and state benefits. The Loudoun VDVS Benefits Office is located at Lakes at Ashbrook, Building 2, 44345 Premier Plaza, Suite 200, Ashburn. It is open weekdays from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. For additional information, call [703-995-9998](tel:703-995-9998).

Inova Loudoun Update:

Inova Loudoun Hospital recently received high rankings in the annual Best Hospital survey by *U.S. News*, which evaluated more than 4,500 medical centers nationwide, rating them in areas such as clinical specialties and common medical procedures. Readmission rates, patient experiences, patient safety, and quality of nursing care were analyzed. Inova Loudoun was ranked seventh in the D.C. metro area and fifteenth in Virginia (out of 130 hospitals in the state).

Inova Loudoun has continued to maintain its Advanced Certification and Gold Seal of Approval as a Primary Stroke Center, a designation awarded by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and the American Heart / American Stroke Association. This certification recognizes facilities that make exceptional efforts to meet the unique needs of stroke patients and optimize patient outcomes. Inova Loudoun has had this special quality care designation since 2009.

The topic of Inova Loudoun's upcoming Ask the Expert community lecture is "Latest Advances in Hearing Loss Treatments." This lecture will be presented on Wednesday, November 8, at 6:00 p.m., at the Inova HealthPlex - Ashburn, 22505 Landmark Court, 1st Floor Conference Room, Ashburn. For more information about this free lecture and to register, or to view the list of community lectures currently scheduled at Inova's various campuses, go to inova.org/AskTheExpert, or call [855-694-6682](tel:855-694-6682).

Loudoun County Public Library - 1 Book 1 Community:

Some of us have previously participated in the Loudoun County Public Library "1 Book, 1 Community" annual fall event. This countywide reading program is for Loudoun County residents from middle school age through senior citizens. Its purpose is to promote and encourage community dialogue and understanding through the shared experience of reading and discussing the same book. This year's book selection, *Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai, is a *New York Times* best-seller, a Newberry Honor Book, and a winner of a National Book Award. The story is inspired by the author's life-changing year of 1975, after the Fall of Saigon, when she, her mother and her brothers left Vietnam and resettled in Alabama. This coming-of-age novel, told in a series of short free-verse poems, has been praised for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Free copies of the book are available at Loudoun County Library's Outreach Services at Lansdowne Woods Clubhouse on the first and third Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., and at all Loudoun County library branches. Also, free eBook copies can be downloaded from lcp.overdrive.com through November 30.

Loudoun County Public Library - Free Notary Services:

Loudoun County Public Library now offers free notary services at its eight branches. Call your local branch library to confirm that a notary public will be available to assist you with your legal-document needs at the time you plan to be there. For additional information, go to library.loudoun.gov/Services/Notary or contact your branch library. For Loudoun County Public Library locations, hours and telephone numbers, go to library.loudoun.gov/Locations-and-Hours or call the Loudoun County Public Library Administration office at [703-777-0368](tel:703-777-0368).

— Anita Zatz



The Adventurous Eater

By Judy Kory

Apna Kabobs / Moby Dick

I noticed recently that Coney Island Diner has changed its name. It is now Apna Kabobs. I was pleased to learn they have the same all-day breakfast menu, so it is still my go-to place for their breakfast special: 2 eggs, 2 strips of bacon, and 2 pancakes for \$4.49 Monday through Friday before 10 a.m. It can't be beat. But what about the changes?

The menu has expanded its scope. You'll still find sandwiches, burgers and fries; but now there are interesting choices like tandoori, curry and kabobs. There are also lots of vegetarian options.



Kubideh is seasoned ground beef grilled on a skewer. At Apna it's called Seekh kabob; \$12 gets you meat off the skewer, fresh crisp salad, rice, a loaf of pita bread, a dish of chickpeas, and the chef's specially blended sauce. Normally you'd get a white cucumber sauce and a green hot sauce, but here the blend is terrific. A lunch buffet is being planned with a reduced price for seniors from 1 to 2 p.m during the week. I hope it starts soon! Apna Kabobs, .44121 Harry Byrd Hwy (Route 7), Ashburn, VA 20147, [703-729-4144](tel:703-729-4144).

To compare, I checked out the kabobs at Moby Dick in the Ashbrook Commons Plaza. Kubideh costs \$10 for 2 skewers of meat, rice OR salad, and



half loaf of pita bread made right there. The salad had mixed greens, but the cucumber slices were not fresh enough for me. The meat was soft and tender, but not as

flavorful as Apna. Moby Dick has no wait staff. You place your order and pay at the counter, then

pick it up when it's ready. Their menu includes calorie counts for all their items. Moby Dick House of Kabobs, 20020 Ashbrook Commons, [703-858-3999](tel:703-858-3999).

Rudy the Robot at Riverbend

Rudy the Robot, a “personal assistant” developed by INF Robotics, Inc., in Fairfax, VA, paid a recent visit to Riverbend.



Ruth Jacoby arranged for Rudy's visit.

Anthony Nunez, CEO of INF Robotics, Inc., introduced Rudy. the Robot.



Rudy was welcomed by a crowd of interested Riverbend residents. A lively Q&A session followed the presentation.

