

FAIRFAX HILLS NEWS FLASH



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Neighborhood Activities Summer 2019

Thank you, neighbors, for supporting and participating in Fairfax Hills events. Our goal is to organize activities that bring neighbors together to socialize and get to know each other as well as enjoy our Park.

Second Music Night

The event was organized on June 6th, a Thursday night, to catch neighbors before they headed out for the weekend. The rain held off and we had lots of fun talking with neighbors and listening to the Raleigh band, Backtrack, who entertained us with Top 40's hits from the 70's to current day. This change of pace, with a great lead vocalist, was a success.

The Burger 21 Food truck was on hand to feed us and Falls Village Beer and Wine provided tastings.

Thank You Earl Raupach, Allie Vance, Beth Hamilton and others on the Social Committee for planning and organizing and Emily Ballance and Patti Manning for staffing the nametag table. Thanks to all the other many volunteers including Robert Tucker who helped set up tables and chairs and clean up after the event!



Backtrack Playing at the Park

Our next music event is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 29th (4 PM). We are trying different days and times to accommodate everyone's busy schedules.



Park News

Summer Kickoff Party

Our June festival was a lot of fun! The event included a rock and roll band of local high schoolers. Snow cones and popcorn (thanks to City of Raleigh) and grilled hot dogs and hamburgers were available. Great job at the grill Andy Miller! Lawn games and a Slip and Slide provided extra entertainment. Special thanks to Jen Tucker and Patti Manning for putting together this fun festival and to the volunteers like James Alackness, Karen Sherman, Robert Tucker, and many others!!



The pollinator garden which has been weeded, watered and maintained all summer looks fabulous. Stop by and see the plants and the honey bees, bumblebees, butterflies and other insects that visit the flowers. Get ideas for your own pollinator garden!

The play set and picnic tables were stained and sealed during a successful park maintenance day. Earl removed 2 dead trees and cut up the large pieces.

A BIG **THANK YOU** to Laurie Cochran, Jen Tucker, Sharon Raupach, Robert Tucker, Karl Zinsmeister, Marc Houyoux, Ed Kelley, Kevin Dunwell, Karen Sherman, Earl Raupach, John and Jeanne White, and all the volunteers who have helped with park maintenance!

Attention: We need someone to lead the Plant Exchange Days in order to make these more successful. If you are interested in the plant exchange and/or if you would like to help coordinate, please contact Lauren Elmore at 919-816-7308/ elmorel@hotmail.com



Senior Socials

For years Edith Horne has been organizing monthly breakfasts enabling Fairfax Hills seniors to get together and socialize. This event transitioned to dinner outings in September. The next event is October 3rd at 5:30 PM at the new Cape Fear Seafood Restaurant on Spring Forest Road. Contact Edith to RSVP (919-876-3024). Thank you, Edith, for all you do for our community.

“Did You Know?”

Can you come up with the correct response to these questions? Give it a try and see the back page for answers.

1. Who was honored as N&O Tar Heel of the Week on November 29, 2014?
2. Who is our neighborhood glass blower?
3. Who is the music director at White Memorial Presbyterian church?
4. Who has a dog named Ringo?
5. Who is Athletic Director at Leesville Road High School?

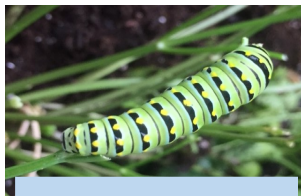


Wildlife Corner

Do you know what monarch and black swallowtail butterfly caterpillars look like?



Monarch caterpillar on milkweed at the Park



Black Swallowtail caterpillar on parsley

Bat Update: Bats don't just eat 1,200 mosquito sized bugs a night, they eat that many **EVERY HOUR!!** Another reason to like bats!

Fairfax Hills Now Part of Midtown CAC

By John White

Raleigh residents are automatically members of their Citizens Advisory Council (CAC). The City of Raleigh has 19 CACs, each representing a different geographic region of the city. CACs are nonpartisan and the only City Council advisory boards that are not appointed by the Council.

CACs have a voice in planning and development issues. Most proposals for rezoning property go before a local CAC for review. Often a person seeking rezoning will appear before the CAC to discuss the proposal. The CAC then votes to recommend either approval or rejection. The recommendation is sent to the Department of City Planning and becomes an input for the rezoning process.

The Midtown CAC has been instrumental in changing original concepts of the North Hills/St. Albans development as well as the Six Forks planned changes. Most people agree that increased density in the North Hills area has worsened the traffic congestion, especially during rush hours. The changes along St. Albans will impact traffic on Six Forks, Millbrook and Falls of Neuse Roads.

Prior to July, neighborhoods north of Millbrook were part of the North CAC and had no voice in the commercial area (North Hills/St. Albans) that impacts our traffic and property values. It took a “grassroots” effort, over thirteen months, to get our neighborhoods transferred into the Midtown CAC. Thank you to those who participated in this effort by signing the petition.

The Midtown CAC meets at 7PM on the fourth Monday of the month at the Five Points Center for Active Adults, 2000 Noble Road. The agenda is published one week in advance on the City's website.

The September 23, 7PM meeting will be devoted to an update of the “St. Albans Midtown Small Area Plan.” In addition, there will be an update on September 28 at Trinity Baptist Church (time to be announced). The update will feature draft recommendations, which will eventually go to City Council and to the Planning Commission.

All Fairfax Hills residents are invited to attend CAC meetings. Come and learn what's going on with the City and what directly affects our neighborhood.



Upcoming Events!

Sat., Sept. 28: Park Cleanup/Plant Exch. 9 AM

Sun., Sept. 29: Music in the Park 4 PM

Sat., Oct. 12: Movie Night and Camping 6 PM

Sat., Oct. 19: Fairfax Hills Annual Mtg/Pig Pickin' 4 PM

Fri.-Sun., Dec. 6-8: Holiday Décor Contest

Fall Gardening Tips

By Laurie Cochran and Betty Cannady

Fall is a great time for lots of gardening tasks when the cooler weather is appreciated by the plants and the gardener. Fall is the best season in North Carolina to plant shrubs and trees, as it gives them time to establish a healthy root system while the weather is warm, but not too hot. Keep them well watered for the first year. Plants added in the spring or summer are often stressed by our hot summers.

Fall is also a good time to re-cut pathways and rejuvenate the soil with layers of compost. Remember to weed, weed, and weed some more.

Cut back perennials, such as day lilies and irises, that have finished blooming. (Betty cuts hers back to about 4 inches high.) Divide thick areas of rain lilies or other perennials. If you have too many, pull some up and give them away! Lift Canna bulbs and other less hardy plants to store for spring planting. Or, if you are feeling lucky, replant them now after a rain. Do not prune spring-blooming shrubs, they should be trimmed soon after blooming. Weed, weed, Weed!

Plant winter annuals like pansies, ornamental cabbage and kale. Spring blooming bulbs like daffodil, crocus, and tulips should be planted now through December. For indoor holiday color, plant amaryllis bulbs in pots.

Remember to fertilize your roses at the end of February.

Starting a Compost Pile

By Laurie Cochran

Fall is an excellent time to start a compost pile in a corner of your yard, and it's a lot easier than you think. Designate an area with room for about two piles of debris. This may be bordered with fencing of some kind, or it can be open-sided. One pile will be the spot where you dump all of your leaves, grass clippings

and organic kitchen scraps (no meat, bones or fat). Do not put weeds on your pile. Mix the pile occasionally with a pitchfork. Rain and sun are good for it.

In late spring, start a new pile next to the first one and designate that as the one for fresh materials. The first pile will soon be decomposed enough to start using it as top-dressing on planting beds, to enrich soil when planting, or as mulch around new plants. Each year, you will have one pile for dumping and one pile for using, alternating their designations with the spring/fall seasons. An added benefit to composting is that it can reduce the amount of leaves piled up on the road in the neighborhood (Editor's note: Last fall there was talk that the City was considering eliminating the leaf pick up program due to ongoing mechanical issues with the leaf collection equipment. This may be a good year to try out composting!)

Answers to "Did You Know?"

1. Terry Beal on Springfield Dr. (Raleigh News and Observer article 10177022)
2. Lisa Oakley on Kingwood Dr.
3. Karl Zinsmeister on Alpine Dr.
4. Sonali Chib and Anuj Baveja on Alpine Dr.
5. Jack Rogers on Fairfax Dr.



On Sept. 15th, the pollinator garden hosted hungry monarch caterpillars on the swamp milkweed!



Ringo and Pals on a rainy day.

Please contact Lauren Elmore (elmorel@hotmail.com) if you have ideas for newsletter articles or want to provide content.