



Prosperity Heights Homeowners Association Newsletter

November 2004

IMPORTANT WINTER TRASH, RECYCLING AND YARD DEBRIS INFORMATION

Please note that there will be NO recycling pickup on Thanksgiving Day. Your recyclables will be picked up the following week. As Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Saturdays this year, these holidays do not affect our AAA pickups. Please do not put your holiday trash at the curb prior to Monday evening, as it will make a mess and invite rodents and other animals into our neighborhood.



Christmas trees will be collected on January 5 and 12. REMOVE ALL

TINSEL AND ORNAMENTS FROM THE TREES.

Yard debris collection will end on January 12, and resume the first week of April. During this time, you should put yard debris out with your trash. In case of inclement weather, you can check the AAA website at www.aaatrash.com.

PROSPERITY DAY!



October was a fun and busy month here in Prosperity Heights. We kicked it off with Prosperity Day on October 2. Despite a forecasted 80% chance of rain, residents made their way down to Ararat Court and managed to stay dry and enjoy the party. Some of the helpful residents cleaning up the event did get rained on at the end, but by then nobody seemed to mind so much. This type of event could not exist

without the participation and cooperation of the residents of our neighborhood, and especially the residents of the host court. It shows great community spirit to have so many volunteers contribute to the success of the day.

About 250 residents, young and old, gathered for our annual block party, and enjoyed good food, good fun, and a good community event. When asked what the best part of Prosperity Day was, most attendees said meeting new neighbors and getting a chance to catch up with other friends in the neighborhood was the best part. Of course, there were also many games and activities for the kids, including a



magician, face painter, clown, moonbounce, and crafts. It was nice to watch the kids in the neighborhood coming together and enjoying themselves so much.



This year three of our local elected officials were in attendance as well. Congressman Tom Davis, State Senator Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, and Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth all came by to chat with residents about local issues, including bond referendums for the November election.

New this year, we had a used book and CD swap. Many residents went home with a handful of new books to curl up with. We also had a representative from the American Red Cross come to discuss disaster preparedness with residents. These two new activities were certainly aimed at the grown-ups in attendance.



Prosperity Day began with the traditional bike decorating contest and parade. About 20 kids decorated their bikes (and some tricycles) and paraded up and down the court. The winner, for the second year in a

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Who's Who . . .

PROSPERITY HEIGHTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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703-591-2414

Contact: Linda Belisle

Disclosure Packet: Contact the
Disclosure Department

TRASH AND RECYCLING:

AAA Rainbow

4619 West Ox Rd., Fairfax, VA 22030

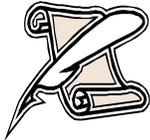
703-818-8222

STREET SIGNS:

Fairfax County: 703-934-2840

ALL OTHER ROAD SIGNS:

VDOT: 703-383-8368



From the President . . .

Greetings Neighbors~

Whew! What a fall we're having here in Prosperity Heights! It was great to see so many of you at Prosperity Day and the Halloween Parade last month! We aren't finished yet, however. On November 14, we are having our first Welcoming Committee event for new residents, and before the year is out, look for a new slide at the playground on Monarch Lane. These community activities are just small visible aspects of your homeowners association at work to enhance the enjoyment of this neighborhood we have all chosen to call home.

Our annual block party is such a great way to get residents out of their houses and interacting with their neighbors. Of the people I asked, over 90% said they met new people at Prosperity Day. Of course I always enjoy meeting dozens of new people with each block party we have. And while I'm thrilled that 250 of you chose to spend your Saturday with us, I am curious why the rest of you don't attend (scheduling conflicts aside). The 250 people who attended actually represent less than 30% of the homes in our neighborhood. If you have any ideas for activities that would entice more of the community to attend, I urge you to contact me. It does seem that there is a misconception among some residents that the block party is just for the kids, but while they may be the loudest attendees, this is simply not the case. In addition to the eating and socializing opportunities, other activities that were geared toward the adults included the local elected officials in attendance, the American Red Cross presentation, the book/CD swap, the Fairfax County police officer who was answering questions about community issues, the Mary Kay table, and the Homeowners Association table. Hopefully those of you who haven't attended in the past will consider stopping by next year. And again, if you have any ideas for future activities, please contact me.

Of course Prosperity Day would not be possible without the dozens of volunteers. While I would love to thank each and every one of them by name, that simply isn't possible. I really appreciate the residents of Ararat Court for their participation and cooperation, especially those who allowed us to use their property and/or electricity for the activities. I would also like to heartily thank the following people (in no particular order) for going above and beyond to assist in the success of the block party: Sandy & Alex Gibbs, Lynne & Steve Boveri, Phil & Gillian Gibbs, Joan & Joel Sitrin, Claudia Abrishami, Alejandra Lorenzo, Jin Kang, Carolann & Keith Fulk, Beth & Jim McTigue, Krista Stephens, Bob Borsato, Gina North, Nancy Lee, Charlie Banning, Chris Wanman, John & Juanita Gladys, as well as my parents and my husband.

Speaking of Ararat Court, it has come to my attention that there is concern among some homeowners that the path from the end of Ararat Court to Strathmeade is no longer easily accessible. Despite the fact that this has been a common shortcut for many years, there is no easement, and this area is private property. Due to some disrespectful users of the path, the homeowners at the end of Ararat Court have had to

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Did You Know?

YOU CAN INSURE YOUR SEWER AND WATER LINES

As our homes age, so do the sewer and water lines that run to them. Some homeowners may not know this, but repairing those sections of water and sewer lines that run from the street to your home is your financial responsibility—Fairfax Water will not pay for it. As several of our residents can sadly attest, digging up and repairing these underground lines if they leak or rupture can cost thousands of dollars. It can also temporarily ruin lawns and landscaping.

While this is not an endorsement of Dominion Virginia Power, we wanted to spread the word that you can purchase insurance for these lines through them. For a small monthly fee, Dominion Virginia Power offers insurance on sewer and water lines that will cover major repair costs. The monthly fee for insuring the water line is \$3.25 and the sewer line \$5.25. All fees can be added to your monthly electric bill. For more information, visit Dominion Virginia Power's website at <http://retail.dom.com/products/index.jsp>

From the President, continued



cope with theft and litter. I would ask that we respect the private property of all the residents of our community.

As I look out my window at the leaves covering my lawn, I can't believe how November snuck up on us. Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and the next thing we know we'll be shoveling snow. All my best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season as we finish out this year.

~Andrea

Acorn Montessori & Day Care

Prosperity Heights resident and certified



Montessori teacher with over 15 years of experience offers full-day or half-day care for infants and children up to five years old here in the neighborhood.

Please call Ruwani Ranatunga at 703-208-1778 for more information.

New to Prosperity Heights?

If you moved to Prosperity Heights in 2004, please plan to attend the

*Prosperity Heights Welcoming Committee
Wine & Cheese Party*

*To be held Sunday, November 14
5:00-7:00 pm*



Please contact committee chair Beth McTigue for more information and to RSVP by November 12 at james.mctigue@verizon.net. Additionally, if you are NOT new to Prosperity Heights, but would like to join the Welcoming Committee, please contact Beth.

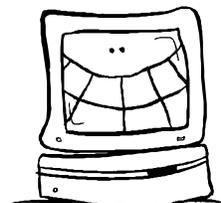


PLANNING ANY EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS?

Please contact Bob Santoro at ACC@prosperityheights.org with all requests for exterior alterations, such as decks, exterior paint colors, fences, etc. Please allow 30 days for review.

Visit Our NEW Prosperity Heights Website!

WWW.
prosperityheights.org



Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps

Residents of Prosperity Heights should be aware that Fairfax County has organized a plan in the event of a bioterrorism attack. One of our homeowners, Patty Giesecke, is a member of the first-alert team, and says that while the organization is ongoing, an efficient plan is in place for our neighborhood.

For more information, or to register with the Fairfax Medical Reserve Corps program (also known as the Bioterrorism Medical Action Team program), you can go to www.fairfaxmrc.org or contact the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-5423 from 9:00 –3:00 Monday-Friday.



Looking for a Babysitter?

Are you in need of a night out, or even just a chance to get things done around the house? If so, please contact Brittany (16) or Bethany Boveri (14). Both are experienced babysitters, with lots of practice and Red Cross/Inova certification.

HALLOWEEN PARADE: OCTOBER 31!

As the sun was setting on Sunday evening, October 31st, nearly 50 ghosts, goblins, princesses, wild animals and superheroes gathered at Van Court for the third annual Prosperity Heights Halloween Parade. They then ambled (encircled by local paparazzi, of course) down Monarch Lane to Sevan Court where homemade cookies and juice boxes awaited them. It was a beautiful evening and a festive crowd. Thank you to Sandy & Alex Gibbs for once again hosting the end of the parade in their yard. Check out the pictures on our website, www.prosperityheights.org.



Leashes and Scooping: It's the Law for Dog Owners



While most of our neighborhood dog owners are law-abiding—leashing their pets and cleaning up after them each day—some are not. We would like to remind dog owners about their responsibilities in our community.

Many neighbors continue to see dogs running unleashed, sometimes without an owner in sight, and/or finding dog waste on their property. In one recent case, a young school child stepped in dog waste left in the middle of the sidewalk near the bus stop. In another horrifying case, a dog on a walk with his owner was attacked by two dogs who were leashed but whose owner did not control them.

In Fairfax County, keeping pets on a leash and off your neighbor's property is more than simply considerate; it's the law. To quote Chapter 41 of the Animals and Fowl section of the Fairfax County (legal

Code, "it is against the law to allow animals to trespass...on another person's property." It is also "against the law to allow animals to run loose... dogs must be restrained by a dependable leash." Fairfax County Animal Control is authorized to pick up loose dogs; the fine is \$20 and up, plus \$10-per-day board.

The law also states that "the owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of waste deposited by such dog on others' property." According to Providence Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth's office, failing to scoop up after your dog is a class 4 misdemeanor, punishable with fines of up to \$250.

So please, if you are not doing so already, leash and clean up after your pet. And, if you know of dog owners in neighboring communities whose dogs visit regularly, show them this article.



PROSPERITY DAY!



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row, was Pippa Gibbs, winning a \$10 gift card from Toys R Us as well as a voucher for tokens, pizza and drinks at Chuck E Cheese. Second place went to Jack Gibson and third place was Samaria Dellorso, each winning a voucher from Chuck E Cheese. The first, second and third place winners also received ribbons to proudly display! The three runners-up were Mihindu Samarasinghe, Spencer Conley, and David Gibbs, each winning a voucher for a free dessert at Silver Diner.



Certainly the easiest way to win something at Prosperity Day was to enter the door prize. Of course there wasn't a stated limit on entries so one enterprising young resident of Ararat Court actually entered nearly 30 times. It was no shock, of course, that she won one of the prizes. Perhaps next year there will be a limit. Area restaurants and businesses generously provided us with enough gift certificates to allow a door prize drawing every half hour during the party. The winners, and their prizes were:

- * Beth McTigue, \$25 gift certificate to Celebrity Delly
- * Phil Gibbs, \$25 gift certificate to Old Hickory Grille
- * Bonnie Wittenberg, \$25 gift certificate to Merrifield Garden Center
- * Anish Chatterjee, \$25 gift certificate to Sweetwater Tavern
- * Chandani Rana, a dozen bagels and sandwich from Einstein Bros. Bagels
- * Mihindu Samarasinghe, a dozen bagels and sandwich from Einstein Bros. Bagels
- * Sandy Gibbs, \$10 voucher for Pizzeria Uno's



A Prosperity Day tradition that seems to be gaining popularity is the 3-legged race. The competition was fierce this year, but the team of Bethany Boveri and Lisa Kaujan took first place, with each winning a ribbon, a free entrée at Silver Diner, and an order of wings from Grevey's. Second Place went to Erin Dellorso and Gianna Summa, each winning an entrée and dessert from Silver Diner. A big congratulations to the team winning third place despite the heckling from some of the other contestants... Lynne Boveri and Bonnie Wittenberg each took home a voucher for a free entrée at Silver Diner.



Lastly, the final way to take home a prize was the Prosperity Day Trivia Contest. Contestants had to walk around and find the neighbors to complete 25 questions, such as "someone who lived/ worked 500 miles from the North Pole", "a family with identical twins", "two couples who have been married for over twenty years", "someone who has lived in four houses in Prosperity Heights", and "the very first resident of Prosperity Heights." The winners and their prizes were:

- * First Place: Mike and Vicki Hayes, winning a \$25 gift certificate to Sign of the Whale AND a free dessert from Silver Diner.
- * Second Place: The Boveri Family, winning a \$25 gift certificate to Glory Days AND a free dessert from Silver Diner
- * Third Place: Phil and Gillian Gibbs, winning a \$25 gift certificate to Glory Days
- * Fourth Place: Sandy Gibbs, winning an entrée and dessert from Silver Diner
- * Fifth Place: Beth McTigue, winning a \$10 voucher from Pizzeria Uno's

Congratulations to all the winners of the day, and thank you to all the local businesses who supplied these prizes!





Seven Fall Preparation Steps For Homeowners

Most homeowners know the importance of weatherizing windows and doors, but are you aware of the damage that can occur to your foundation, roof, or plumbing if you don't take the proper steps this fall? Before the weather grows colder it's important to prepare for winter to prevent costly damage and ensure home safety.

GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

- Clean gutters and downspouts frequently throughout fall to prevent build up of leaves and debris.
- Be sure water is not coming down behind gutters and that all support brackets are securely in place.
- Check to ensure water drains properly and doesn't pool.

WINDOWS AND DOORS

- Inspect and repair any loose or damaged window or door frames.
- Install weather stripping/caulking around windows and doors to prevent drafts and lower heating bills.

HEATING SYSTEMS

- Replace the filter in your furnace.
- Consider having a heating professional check your heating system to ensure optimal performance and discover minor problems before they turn into costly major repairs.
- Clean your ducts to better your heating system's efficiency as well as to reduce household dust.

PLUMBING

- To prevent pipes freezing and bursting, ensure that the pipes, as well as the wall cavities where they reside, are well insulated.
- Be sure that you know how to locate and turn off the water shut-off valve in case pipes do freeze.

CHIMNEY AND FIREPLACE

- Call a professional in to inspect and clean your chimney.
- Test your fireplace flue for a tight seal when closed.
- Consider installing a carbon monoxide alarm near the fireplace and furnace.

ATTIC VENTILATION

- Be sure attic insulation doesn't cover ventilation vents in the eaves. This helps prevent winter ice dams on the roof. Be sure ridge vents and vents at eaves are free of plants and debris.
- Check bird and rodent screens for attic vents to prevent any unwanted guests.

LANDSCAPE AND YARD WORK

- Now is the best time to fertilize and reseed your lawn. Prune your trees and shrubs after the leaves turn to encourage healthy growth in the spring.
- Trim any tree limbs that are dangerously close to power lines or the roof of your house.

PROSPERITY HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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