



Prosperity Heights Homeowners Association

Newsletter

September 2010



Prosperity Day!

Sunday, October 3, 12:30-4:30 pm

Plan to join your neighbors on Sunday, October 3 from 12:30 – 4:30 pm on Monarch Lane (by Monarch Court). It should be loads of fun for everyone with good food, a magic show, a moonbounce, balloon sculptor, face painting, caricature artist, crafts, contests, and other activities. We hope to have a handful of our local elected officials there again this year, so if you have any issues to discuss, this is your opportunity.

For those of you who have never been to Prosperity Day, it is our big annual block party for Prosperity Heights residents. It's a great way to get to know your neighbors! This year's festivities will be located right on Monarch Lane. Your Homeowners Association will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, Boca burgers and all the fixings, as well as soda, juice and water. The grills will be going until about 2:30, so be sure to come get some lunch! Please return the response form in this newsletter as soon as possible (preferably not later than September 18) so that we know how much food and beverages to purchase. You are also welcome to email us the information.



The response form also lists the volunteers we need as well as items we need to borrow from residents to ensure the success of Prosperity Day. Your help will be greatly appreciated!

Back by popular demand -- for the second year, we will be raffling off 2 \$25 iTunes giftcards for any teenagers who want to volunteer for shifts during Prosperity Day. Help is needed at the crafts table, popcorn machine, set-up, and clean-up. Volunteers will get one entry for every half hour of volunteering. The drawing will occur at the conclusion of clean up. Parents, please encourage your teenagers to volunteers!



The party will kick off with the ever-popular Bike Decorating Contest/Bike Parade. Contestants should meet at the entrance to the block party (near the lower end of Happy Heart Lane) at 12:30 sharp to start the parade. (Please decorate bikes in advance!) Everyone is encouraged to come to enjoy the creativity and cheer for each of the participants.

Kids and adults alike shouldn't miss the magic show at 1:30! So grab some food and come find a seat.

More Information is on Page 5!

Important!

In addition to the grilled items that will be provided (until about 2:30), we are asking residents to please contribute food (see below for what to bring). If time, energy or talent is lacking in your kitchen, feel free to bring something yummy from a store or restaurant. *If you have a particular specialty dish, please feel free to bring it. Ethnic dishes are encouraged.*

Please tape a piece of paper or index card to the food you bring telling what it is (including main ingredients), and don't forget serving utensils. In addition, if you'd like your dish back after the party, please use masking tape and a permanent marker to label it with your name and phone number. **PLEASE BRING FOOD TO THE PARTY BETWEEN 12:00-2:00** so everyone can enjoy it.

If your last name begins with:

A-M: Please bring a salad or snacks (chips, pretzels, fruit, veggies & dip, etc.)

N-Z Please bring a dessert



Who's Who . . .

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:

Craig Dellorso

email:

president@prosperityheights.org

Vice President:

Steve Boveri

email: boveri5@verizon.net

Treasurer:

Keith Fulk

email: kwfulk@aol.com

Secretary:

Andrea Shore

email: ProsHeights@aol.com

Director:

Bill Foster

email: tfos@verizon.net

Director:

Beth McTigue

email: jjmctigue@msn.com

Director:

Gina North

email: thenorths@cox.net

Director:

Ellen Perris

email: eperris@cdwg.com

Director:

Heath Weems

email: heath.weems@yahoo.com

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

STREETLIGHT OUTAGES:

Report them to

Dominion Virginia Power

888-667-3000



Letter from the Editor . . .

Dear Neighbors,

It is with some sadness, and yet also some relief, that I am leaving the HOA Board of Directors. After over eight years on the Board (nearly all of which was spent as President or Secretary), it is time for me to step down and encourage others in the neighborhood to step up. It has been an eventful and productive term on the Board, and such a pleasure to get to know so many Prosperity Heights residents over the years. The accomplishments I'm most proud of are bringing back Prosperity Day after its brief absence (and ramping it up to the extravaganza it is today), introducing our fun Halloween Parade, helping get the website up and running, producing three neighborhood directories over the past 5 years, and writing the neighborhood newsletter for 7 years. I truly hope that these traditions will be carried on in the future by the Board.

I got involved all those years ago because I read in the newsletter that the block party was being cancelled due to a lack of volunteers. Reading that was sad and frustrating, as I was just starting a family and wanted to meet the neighbors and plant some roots. Let's face it, the neighborhood is only as good as we make it... and in Prosperity Heights that means residents have to volunteer. Don't be afraid to get involved, and don't sit back and think someone else will do it. As I found out back in 2001 with that note about the block party, someone else *doesn't* always do it. You don't have to be President of the HOA... start small — volunteer for Prosperity Day, attend the Annual Meeting, walk in the Halloween parade (or just come out and watch), just get involved. We are lucky to live in such a lovely neighborhood — and I'm not just talking about well-kept yards. Let's do our best to keep it that way.

Hope to see you all at Prosperity Day next month!

Fondly,

Andrea Shore

Halloween Parade!

Mark your calendars for our ninth annual Prosperity Heights Halloween Parade! Before trick-or-treating, bring your ghouls, goblins, superheroes and princesses to show off their costumes and strut their stuff! The parade is on Halloween night -- Sunday, October 31, at 5:30 pm.

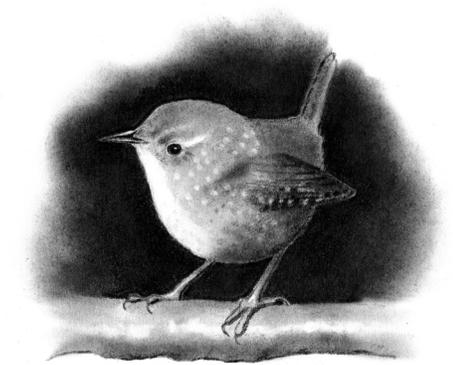
PLEASE NOTE: We are reversing the route this year. We will gather on Van Court to start the parade, and end on Sevan Court. Join us at the Cobers' House, 8462 Sevan Court, after the parade for cookies and juice. Like to contribute treats? Just email Andrea Shore to let her know. Residents not participating in the parade are encouraged to come out and enjoy the show!!



CLEAN WATER

is essential for communities, families and wildlife

Here's how **YOU** can help keep your water clean



Educating Prosperity Heights About Storm Drains & Clean Water

Every time it rains, storm water runoff carries litter, oil, grass, pesticides, pet waste, and herbicides into the storm drains that feed directly into the local Accotink Creek, which then feeds into the Potomac River, where we get our drinking water. The Accotink Creek is also the home of aquatic life and a water source for wildlife.

That's why this September a team of volunteers will be marking all the storm drains in Prosperity Heights with a small, flat label reading "No Dumping—Drains into Accotink Creek." It's a program to educate the Prosperity Heights community about how they can help keep our waterways and drinking water clean, so we can have healthy families and a thriving ecosystem that nurtures wildlife. Remember, we are all one big ecosystem! The Storm Drain Project's goal is to educate people so Non-Point Source Pollution is minimized.

What is Non-Point Source Pollution?

Our local waterways, such as the Accotink Creek that runs through Eakin Park, are all affected by Non-Point Source Pollution. Non-Point Source Pollution is a type of pollution that does not come from one point, such as a sewage plant or an industrial discharge pipe. Instead it enters waterways in stormwater runoff from farms, streets, construction sites, suburban lawns, roofs and driveways. This runoff often contains toxic substances, pathogens and sediments that go directly into the storm drains that feed into the local waterways, that feed into the Potomac River where Fairfax County gets its drinking water.

We ALL Cause Pollution

We all cause Non-Point Source Pollution, but the good news is that we can also minimize it by taking certain steps. Anyone who has or uses land contributes to NPS pollution.

What Are the Types of Non-Point Source Pollution?

1. **Nutrients** are substances that helps plants and animals live, but when nutrients are in excess they are toxic. Fertilizer and animal waste are the major sources of harmful nutrients that get into the Accotink Creek. Nutrients cause an overabundance of algae that uses up oxygen in the water. This causes other life in the water to die and sometimes causes "dead zones" for miles, where nothing can live.
2. **Sediments** are soil particles carried in rainwater into the streams and creeks. Sediment is caused by erosion from construction, development and the removal of trees. Sediment blocks sunlight to plants and suffocates fish, crabs, and other sealife.
3. **Toxins** are chemicals that are harmful to humans and wildlife. Examples are herbicides, pesticides, gasoline, roadway salt, household chemicals, car oil and battery acid.
4. **Pathogens** are microorganisms caused by human and animal waste. This is why it's important to always pick up after your dog or cat.

How You Can Help Keep Our Water Clean

Everyone wants clean water. You couldn't live very long without it. Below are a few simple things you can do to help keep your local waterways and drinking water clean for your family.

1. It's best NOT to fertilize your lawn at all, but if you feel you must, get a soil test done. You can pick them up at any public library or sometimes at local farmer's markets. Never fertilize when heavy rain is likely. Try to prevent fertilizer from getting on driveways, sidewalks or roadways because it will wash directly into the storm drains. If it does get on pavement, sweep it onto the grass.
2. Avoid pesticides and herbicides, but if you must use them, follow the directions on the packaging and use sparingly.
3. Always recycle motor oil. It can be recycled at local gas stations. It's illegal to dump oil or throw it in the trash. Remember, one quart of dumped motor oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of drinking water.
4. Collect all pet waste before it gets washed into the storm drain. Don't forget to pick up waste in your fenced-in yard too!
5. Mulch or compost grass clippings or leaves. A mulching lawn mower is a great choice. Or put yard waste out in clear bags on Wednesdays for pickup.
6. Use porous surfaces such as flagstone, gravel, stone or interlocking pavers instead of concrete or asphalt.
7. If you wash your car, it's best to take it to a carwash because they have strict recycling requirements for the water they use. Use biodegradable "green" soap when washing your car at home.
8. Pick up litter you see in front of your house or in the surrounding areas, especially in or near the storm drain runoff areas.
9. **Take all hazardous waste to 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 between 8am and 4pm for proper disposal. Call 703-324-5068 for more information.**
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/dishphw.htm

More Information

Storm Drain Info: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/stormdrained.htm
Watersheds: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds/accotinkcreek.htm
Hazardous Waste Disposal: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/dishphw.htm
State Information: www.dcr.virginia.gov/soil_and_water/index.shtml

This project is approved by Prosperity Heights Homeowner's Association and is authorized the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. This project is funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund through the sale of Chesapeake Bay license plates. If you have questions about this project call your neighborhood Watershed Specialist Kristin Rule at kruella@gmail.com or 703-472-7375.



Prosperity Day!



Sunday, October 3, 12:30-4:30 pm
Monarch Lane

RESPONSE FORM

Please complete this form and return it as soon as possible,
BUT NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18,
to Andrea Shore at 3365 Taleen Court, or email the information to prosheights@aol.com

*Please refer to the Prosperity Day article in this newsletter for
details about the events of the day!*

We will need loads of volunteers!! Please let us know what item(s) you can assist with:

- _____ Set-up (roughly 10:30 am-12:30 pm)
- _____ Decorations (roughly 10:30 am-12:30 pm)
- _____ Clean-up (roughly 4:30-5:00 pm)
- _____ Grilling/food preparation (times you are available: _____)
- _____ Monitoring games/activities
 - _____ Adult (times you are available: _____)
 - _____ Teenager (times you are available: _____)
- _____ Charity collection (times you are available to help staff the table: _____)
- _____ Bike Contest judges
- _____ Other contest judges

We also need to borrow certain items from residents. This will help with the success of Prosperity Day and also help keep our rental costs down. Please let us know if you could loan us any of the following items (please write the quantity):

- _____ Grill
- _____ Cooler/tub
- _____ Freestanding umbrella or tent/canopy (the kind that is open on four sides)
- _____ Child-size plastic chairs and/or children's picnic tables

We are relying on your responses to gauge how much food/drinks to purchase. Your prompt response will be greatly appreciated.



Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

_____ YES, I do plan to attend! Number of adults (age 14+): _____

_____ No, I do not plan to attend. Number of kids (aged 2-13): _____

More Prosperity Day Info!

continued from page 1

Again this year, we are collecting books, food and cleaning supplies for the Ronald McDonald House located at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Please take a few minutes to gather some items to bring along with you to Prosperity Day. We will have a table at the party where you can drop off the items. Please see the article below for all the details. Please **ONLY** donate items found on this wish list, and **ONLY** during the block party.

If you are a representative for a home-based business such as Creative Memories, Discovery Toys, Mary Kay, Pampered Chef, Longaberger or Party Lite, and would like to set up a table, please contact Andrea Shore. Only one representative per company—first come, first served.

If anyone works for or owns a business (shop, restaurant, spa/salon, landscaping company, photography studio, etc.) that would like to donate a prize (gift certificate for products or services) for Prosperity Day, please contact Andrea.

And if you think you might want to just sit back and watch the festivities, bring a chair with you. (But label it clearly with your name.) Still have questions? Don't hesitate to contact Andrea Shore at prosheights@aol.com.



Prosperity Day Charity Collections

Due to the success at Prosperity Day for the past few years, we are again collecting items needed by the Ronald McDonald house located on the Inova Fairfax Hospital campus. The global Ronald McDonald House program began in 1974 based on the idea to provide a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. Since that time, more than 10 million families around the world have benefited from the comfort provided by the Ronald McDonald House. The majority of their operating funds come from the general public, individuals and corporate donors. The one down the street is the only one in Northern Virginia.

Below is the list of items needed for the Ronald McDonald House. Please note that we are **NOT** collecting clothes of any kind. We will be collecting donations from 12:30-4:00 at Prosperity Day.

- * Safeway, Giant, Target or Home Depot gift cards in \$20 increments
- * New toys (NOT used toys) like board games, puzzles, dolls or balls
- * New books (NOT used books)
- * G-rated movies
- * Batteries (all sizes)
- * Liquid laundry detergent and color-safe bleach
- * Dishwashing liquid
- * Clorox Disinfecting Wipes
- * Liquid antibacterial hand soap
- * Wet and dry Swiffers
- * Disposable food containers (like GladWare)
- * Ziploc bags - regular and freezer - all sizes
- * Spaghetti sauce; canned tuna fish
- * Hot chocolate and/or juice boxes (100% juice)
- * Cup-a-soup
- * Creamer for coffee
- * Individual cereals or breakfast/granola bars
- * Individual snack cups (pudding and fruit cups) that do not need refrigeration
- * Individual, mirowavable entrees that do not need refrigeration
- * Travel size toiletries (deodorant, shaving cream, shampoo, toothpaste)



News from Camelot Elementary School

Camelot Elementary School welcomes Suzanne Seitz, one of our Prosperity Heights residents, as the new PTA President. She has a rising 1st grader at Camelot as well as two daughters in college at UVA.

Mark your calendars for Back to School Night on September 16 at 7:00 pm. Also, the PTA will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on September 24.

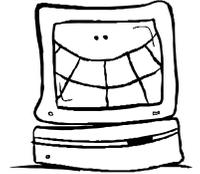
Additionally, Camelot has a McDonald's McEducator night fundraiser on October 13 -- all sales from 5:00-8:00 pm (including the drive thru) benefit the school! Updates will be posted on Camelot's PTA website at www.camelotpta.org.



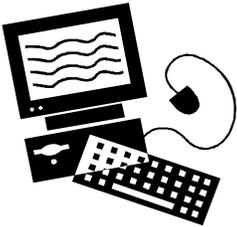
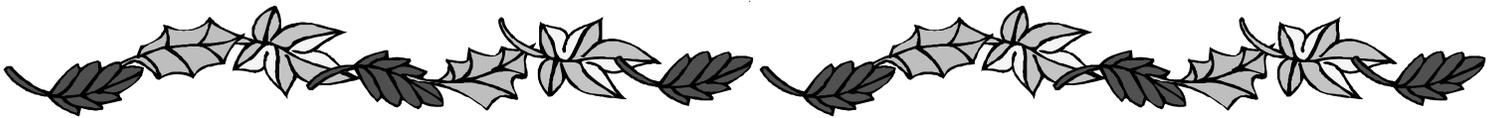
Looking for a Babysitter?

Are you in need of a night out or someone to look after your pet? If so, please call Brittany (22), Bethany (20) or Kayleigh (17) Boveri. All are experienced babysitters and are also available for yard work.

Visit the Prosperity Heights HOA Website:



www.prosperityheights.org



Looking for in-home computer support?

TechieTeachers.com provides assistance with WIRELESS networking, computer upgrades, Internet safety features, and general trouble-shooting at reasonable rates. Video production and editing (including slide shows for weddings, reunions, graduation, etc.) as well as VHS to DVD transfer also available. Contact Scott at slieberman@techieteachers.com for more information.

PROSPERITY HEIGHTS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

c/o 3340 Monarch Lane
Annandale, VA 22003