



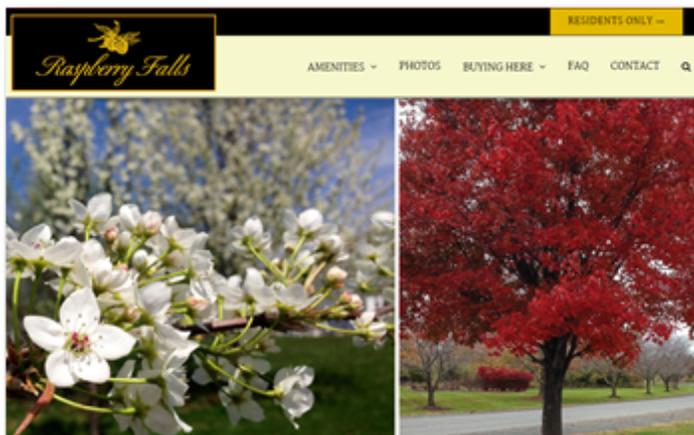
2016 Fall Newsletter

New Community Website

By Jessica LeBlanc, Resident

Unless you're 12 years old, I bet you find it challenging to keep up with technology – social media, in particular. Personally, I like to keep a limited digital footprint – I value privacy over emojis – but I get that I'm in the minority here. While over-sharing on a public social media account isn't my gig, I do appreciate the efficiency of *receiving* information online rather than by snail mail or phone calls. I'm a one-stop shop kind of gal, and I'm elated whenever I can find what I need with a simple click of a mouse or scan of my thumb. Bottom line – I want our new Raspberry Falls community website to be a one-stop shop.

Great news! The Communications Committee has been working for nearly six months on a new website for our community that will bring both residents and potential residents the information we need to be engaged and empowered in an attractive and easy-to-navigate format. **The website will be as attractive as our community is and will serve as your one-stop-shop for information.** *Continued on Page 4...*



What's Inside

Did You Know?

New Community Website	1
Paying it Forward	2
Personal Safety Tips	2
Garden Winterization	2

Get Connected!

Social Events Calendar	3
Neighborhood Directory	3
Connect on Facebook	3

Looking Ahead

2016 Elections	4
Classifieds	4



Paying it Forward*By Dave Putt, Resident*

Election season is upon us, including electing our HOA Board of Directors. I know other elections are happening also, but if you’re like me you are probably growing weary of THAT election cycle! This article is supposed to be about nominations for the board, but I’m going to first talk about committees.

I’ve been participating on the Communications Committee for the last year or so, and it’s been a great experience. Jessica, Caroline, Marcia, John and I have met monthly over that time, sharing banter, booze and even some light bickering on occasion. I’ve enjoyed working with some good and fun people who have given a bit of their time to make the community better. More importantly we made some progress with our website, social media sites, directory and other items.

*Continued on Page 3...***10 Personal Safety Tips**

1. When you leave town, ask your neighbors to:
 - a. Park in your driveway;
 - b. Pick up your mail;
 - c. Put trash bins in front of your house for pickup
2. Use light timers on your interior and exterior lights, varying the on/off times
3. Notify your bank and US embassies when you travel overseas
4. Do not personalize your child’s clothing or backpacks with their full names
5. Lock your home and vehicle windows and doors
6. Keep your car keys on your nightstand; use the panic button to set off the car horn/alarm in an emergency
7. Set your “home” address in your car’s GPS to somewhere near home, but not your home address
8. Travel with a door wedge; do not rely on hotel door chains
9. Carry your keys in your hand when walking to your car in a parking lot
10. Keep batteries, candles, water and non-perishable food in your home

Quick Tips to Prepare the Lawn and Garden for Winter*By Nancy Caldwell, VCE Loudoun County Master Gardener*

I must admit, I enjoy the end of gardening season as much as I do the promise of spring. It means a much-needed break from garden chores, and a chance to get to other projects. But before hanging up the garden gloves, plan to prep the lawn and garden for winter. Here are some tips to get started.

Clean up flower beds – but not too much

Not so long ago, experts recommended removing every last scrap of dead plant material from the garden to prevent overwintering bugs and disease. Now we know that leaf litter, hollow plant stems and seedpods provide habitat for native bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. More bugs means more food for insect-eating birds like chickadees and bluebirds. Seed pods and berries left intact are also an important food source for birds. So instead of cutting back spent flowers to the ground, leave them until early spring. Focus instead on removing dead or diseased plants, and ensuring there’s a layer of mulch or compost to protect less winter-hardy perennials and shrubs.

Repurpose fallen leaves

Shredded leaves are a nutrient rich resource that makes wonderful compost, and it’s free! Instead of bagging fallen leaves from the lawn and disposing them, rake them up and run over them a few times with a mulching lawn mower. The shredded leaves can be layered on perennial beds and vegetable plots, where they will decompose and enrich the soil. Once shredded, leaves can even be left on the lawn adding valuable nutrients and helping to break up compaction.

Store garden hoses and planters

Garden hoses can be expensive, and they’re easily damaged by winter’s freeze and thaw cycles. Disconnect them from spigots, fully extend them and allow them to drain completely before moving them indoors. Terracotta and ceramic pots are susceptible to cracking when exposed to freezing temperatures. Empty, clean, and bring them inside until spring while disposing of used potting soil.

For more seasonal lawn and garden tips, or to learn about becoming a Loudoun County Master Gardener volunteer, visit our website at loudouncountymastergardeners.org. Applications are being accepted now for the 2017 annual training class. Expertise not required!

Neighborhood Directory

The Residents Only portal on the Raspberry Falls website contains a Neighborhood Directory. The directory is designed to store the names, addresses and contact information of every resident in Raspberry Falls, making it simple for us connect with one another. The information is viewable only to Raspberry Falls residents and can be updated at any time. Logon to www.raspberryfalls.org/directory today to verify and update your family's information!



Paying it Forward, continued...

All five of the RF committees (Communications, Covenants, Elections, Landscape, and Social Affairs) are important to the Board. They interact with each other in a symbiotic way:

- When Board members have help, they can focus on strategic community issues like traffic, home values, water, and community improvements.
- Talented people (like those in our community) will want to serve on the Board if they know there are committee members to help out.
- The more committee members there are, the easier it is to get work done as it can be meted out in smaller chunks.

The two go hand in hand. Fortunately we are in a good place with a cadre of volunteers on each committee.

Now regarding board nominations - I would encourage anyone who has entertained running for the Board to do it now. It is a great time to jump in, as each Board member will have a set of minions like me to help out (although I think I may be the dead weight in our bunch...).

If you're not ready for that commitment, please consider volunteering on a committee. We'll have a chair and a beverage of your choice waiting for you!

Connect with Friends and Neighbors on Facebook

Raspberry Falls hosts a Facebook page for residents (search "Raspberry Falls Residents") that has become a lively forum for our community. Residents connect with questions and discussion, and ALL community announcements are shared here as well.

If you're seeking a babysitter, carpet cleaner or plumber, or if you want to engage with your neighbors about topics such as social events, local activities, or the latest good news from Loudoun Water, come join the fun!



SAVE THE DATE

2016 Social Calendar

OCTOBER – TBD

Charity Event at Clubhouse

NOVEMBER 20 – 7pm

Tree Lighting Happy Hour

Support Toys 4 Tots

DECEMBER 3 – 7pm to midnight

Winter Holiday Celebration

2017 Social Calendar

MARCH 11

Shamrockin' Casino Night

APRIL 8 & 22

Easter Egg Hunt & Yard Sale

MAY 29

Pool Opening Party

JUNE 9

2nd Saturday Ice Cream Social

JULY 1

Ice Cream Social & Bike Parade

AUGUST 12

2nd Saturday Ice Cream Social

SEPTEMBER 4

Pool Closing Party

Support LAWS

OCTOBER 14 & 28

Yard Sale & Halloween Parade

NOVEMBER 19

Tree Lighting Happy Hour

Support Toys 4 Tots

DECEMBER 9

Winter Holiday Celebration

Board of Directors

Christine Goodrum, President

Russ Laraway, Vice President

Caroline Martin, Secretary

Cindy Klebonis, Treasurer

Bill Farawell, Director

www.raspberryyfalls.org

Board of Directors – 2016 Elections

There are three Homeowner's Association Board of Director (BOD) positions up for election this fall. Position terms vary from one to three years. The election ballot will be mailed to each home in October and the election will take place at the **Annual Meeting on December 6th at 7pm** at the Raspberry Falls Golf and Hunt Club.

Residents who wish to be a candidate in the election must submit a completed and endorsed Nominating Petition form to Brian Cramp, Cardinal Management, no later than **Friday, October 14th**.

Serving on the HOA BOD is a unique opportunity to engage with our energetic neighborhood and to help effect positive change that benefits the entire community! Feel free to contact the current BOD with any questions at raspberry.hoa.board@raspberryyfalls.org.

New Community Website, continued...

For those of you who love to interact via social media, our new website will link to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. There will be a calendar that you can click on to add RF events to your own calendar so you'll never miss an opportunity to have fun with neighbors. When you log in to the site, you will be welcomed and given important updates. For example, you may be reminded that your election ballot is coming due, that you can RSVP for the next HOA party, or that your deck application is being reviewed by the Covenants Committee and has 20 more days left in its 45-day approval window. You can look for a reputable babysitter, plumber or financial advisor in the classified. If you *are* that reputable babysitter, plumber or financial advisor, you'll be able to advertise for free. If you're curious about traffic, Loudoun Water's latest plans, or homes for sale in Raspberry Falls, you'll find it all here, at **www.raspberryyfalls.org**!

Once the new website is launched, residents will receive an email directing them to log in and update their password and household information. If you do not currently receive emails from the HOA, please email raspberry.hoa.secretary@raspberryyfalls.org.

The Communications Committee plans to launch the new website before the end of September, so get ready to like, double-tap and tweet in celebration!

Classifieds

 <p>Molly Grubbs Babysitter, Pet sitter, house sitter</p> <p>16330 Hunter Place Leesburg, VA 20176 703-822-1713 mrglee22@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Christie Goodrum REALTOR® Century 21 Redwood Realty</p> <p>571.275.5556 (mobile) 703.790.1859 x 2119 (office) christie@c21redwood.com Licensed in Virginia</p> <p>www.facebook.com/christieinrealestate/ www.christiegoodrum.c21redwood.com 17 Loudoun St. SE Leesburg, VA 20175</p>	 <p>Your neighborhood contractor</p> <p>Steve Gotschi 703.230.ROOF (7663) www.dryhome.com</p> <p>ROOFING SIDING WINDOWS GUTTERS SKYLIGHTS SUN TUNNELS Leaks Missing Shingles Repairs Replacement</p>	 <p>Tim Moore Director 211 Gibson St. NW, Suite 103 Leesburg, VA 20176 Phone: 571-258-0111 • Fax: 571-258-0112 tim@visitingangels.com • www.visitingangels.com/nova</p>
 <p>ANTONIA KORBY DESIGN</p> <p>— 703.303.7759 —</p>	<p>Laura Maschler REALTOR Centurion Society Member NVAR Multi Million Dollar Sales Club</p> <p>CENTURY 21 New Millennium 6629 Old Dominion Drive McLean, Virginia 22101</p> <p>Direct: 571-338-3961 Office: 703-556-4222 Fax: 703-783-4003 Email: llmaschler@gmail.com</p>	 <p>Solar Solutions For All</p> <p>Making Renewables Affordable for Everyone! Become Energy Independent!</p> <p>info@solarsolutionsforall.com - 571.252.9717</p>	<p><i>Would you like to see your business advertised here? Watch for the next call for ads in the Spring and reply with your business card!</i></p>