



Fernbank Fanfare April 2022

President's Message

Dear Fernbank Residents,

It is that time of year again when Fernbank is bustling with activity! As the weather warms and the flowers bloom, we all start to come out of hibernation. It is always nice to see our neighbors out and about. Did you know that if you walk around all cul-de-sacs of Fernbank, you would have walked 4.2 miles? It is a great neighborhood for walking, biking and being greeted by dogs! When driving, please be mindful of the 24 mph speed limit, be sure to come to a complete stop at the stop signs, and give pedestrians plenty of room when passing. Thank you for looking out for the safety of others.

This year, Fernbank's annual unit owner meeting will take place on Sunday, June 26th. Every year, the unit owners vote on new Board members and a budget for the next fiscal year. There is also the opportunity for residents to learn about what our committees do, ask questions, make suggestions and provide feedback to the Board. The Board would love to hear from you! This year's meeting will be in person at the Club at Cress Creek with a live Zoom component for those who cannot attend. More information will be sent out in the upcoming weeks.

As always, Fernbank Unit Owners Association welcomes volunteers! In this issue you will find descriptions of the various committees. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please reach out to us via Fernbankatcresscreek@gmail.com or contact the committee chair directly.

Best Regards,

Lisa Beard

Hurrah, Spring has Sprung

Submitted by Elisabeth Staro, Beautification Committee

There are welcome signs of activity and renewal everywhere, birds are singing sweetly. Now is the time to take stock of your yard: the good, the bad and the ugly. Can you see through your windows? Are shrubs scraping your house or covering your walk? Are those pesky weeds cropping up? Get your weeding done now before they settle in, flower and spread.

Make a “to do” list. Look carefully at your trees and shrubs. Do they need shaping, trimming, or removing? Unless they are flowering ones (trim right after flowering) now is a good time to tidy them up. Remove damaged, crossing, and crowded limbs. Shaping trees when they are young is best to develop good structure. Pruning and shaping are important for plant health and beauty. Avoid Crape Myrtle Murder with annual selective pruning. Lopping off the tops is bad for them and all trees.

Make generous safety zones under your trees. This protects the roots and trunks from mowers and whackers. It then creates a new planting place for green mulch, such as thyme to help the tree. You can also mulch with many other products, but the more natural the better. Do NOT mound mulch up against a tree trunk or shrub stems, this will choke them. Mulch depth should be three inches and three inches away from the trunk with the appearance of a donut rather than a volcano around your tree. Mulch helps to keep roots cooler, moister in hot weather and warmer in winter. Choose your mulch carefully; cheap unknown sources may contain weedy surprises. Use Preen in your mulched areas! It does not kill weeds (sorry, they still need to be pulled, with as much root system attached as possible) but it prevents new seed germination and improves conditions over time. It does not harm surrounding plants and trees, pets or children. It does help you!

Last but not least, DO NOT plant tender annuals too early! Mid May is still the target for planting. The soil has had time to warm up enough not to shock new plants and the danger of a late frost has past. You can have your plans and purchases made but keep them in a protected space, covered at night if needed, or in your garage. Resist the warm days in mid-April...pull weeds instead.

The best overall planting time is approaching, nurseries will be stocked with new materials for now, but realize supply chains are also affected in this business. If you like something, ask, read the tag, and look it up to make sure it is suitable future size, deer

resistant and buy it. If you are looking for ideas as to what to plant be sure to check out the updated Fernbank recommended plant list, which is located under the Architectural Review Committee on the Fernbank website www.fernbankatcresscreek.org. Feel free to call me if you have questions, would like to volunteer (many fun opportunities) or chat about your gardening plan. Elisabeth Staro 301-305-6064.

Creatures Great and Small

According to Safety and Roads Committee member Tim Murphy, the 2021 annual Urban Deer Hunt, which ended on January 15th had a harvest of 12 deer, a mix of does and bucks in the Fernbank community. The Department of WV has approved the Urban Hunt for 2022 but the dates have not yet been publicized and are not likely to be announced before early September. We should have details for you in the next newsletter.

As the Fernbank deer are roaming the yards and checking out the bird feeders (a herd of seven stop by this writer's birdfeeder in the evening often around cocktail hour), those of us fond of humming birds are waiting in great anticipation for the arrival of our ruby-throated friends. According to the Spring 2022 Hummingbird Migration Map & Sightings a hummingbird was spotted in Hedgesville on April 14th and in fact, one was spotted on Greystone Drive on April 24th so, be on the lookout, get the nectar or sugar water ready and hang those feeders!

Our tiny friends will begin to leave in September and all will be gone by mid-October. West Virginia hummingbirds need 53 hours of flying at their average migrating flight speed of 30 mph to fly to the most distant Mexican border 1,600 miles away.

Just so You Know

The Safety and Roads Committee has followed up regarding the downed streetlight on Fernbank Drive. The power company confirmed replacement was still on the schedule once the parts are received (so goes the supply chain). The committee also would like you to know that the Sheriff's Office has been notified regarding speeding on Shepherd Grade Road coming over the hill towards the entrance for Fernbank. This month they will begin randomly patrolling the area.

Spring is Busting Out All Over Fernbank



Meet Your Neighbors

Submitted Heidi Boyd, Communications Committee

As you are aware, there has been a lot of change in the community the last couple of years with many houses and lots being sold. Unfortunately, the pandemic left us minimal opportunity to meet and socialize with new members of the Fernbank Community. Without further ado, we would like to introduce three charming couples.



Connie and Charles Clonch moved to Shepherdstown from Portland Oregon in September 2020. They first visited Shepherdstown when their daughter was married at the Bavarian Inn in 2019. They fell in love with Shepherdstown and decided it would be a great town in which to retire.

The couple started looking for a house when their older daughter, who lives in DC, had her first child in 2020. They also have another daughter and two more granddaughters in Iowa. Connie is a retired energy economist in the electrical utility industry. Charles is currently working remotely as a procurement agent for a Boeing Company subsidiary. As West Virginia natives, the move to Shepherdstown brought them home after being gone for more than 40 years. They are looking forward to becoming more active in the local community now that things are opening up after all of the COVID shut downs.

Linda and David Ronan, originally from New Jersey, relocated to Shepherdstown in December 2021 with Amber, their aptly named Vizla. The pandemic proved they could both work from home and they decided it was the right time to move closer to two of their three grown daughters, who reside in Alexandria, Virginia and Hanover, Pennsylvania.

They have been married for 34 years and have one grand baby they enjoy visiting in Pennsylvania. Linda works in HR for Commvault and David is a CFO for Essay Group. Linda enjoys gardening while David enjoys tinkering in his workshop. The local Civil War sites, the many breweries and wineries, and their





continued hunt for a pizza that compares to a NJ pie keep them busy in their spare time.

Melody Stevens and David Landsberger divide their time between Chincoteague, Virginia and Shepherdstown – which offers the best of both worlds – a place at the beach and a place in the mountains.

Melody relocated from Washington, DC to Shepherdstown three years ago when she retired as assistant vice-president-finance of a large trade association. St Peter’s Lutheran Church was a major factor in Melody’s decision to move to Shepherdstown. It was during her move that she and David met, fell in love, and decided to spend the rest of their lives together.

David’s professional career includes running a company that sells primarily laboratory and scientific equipment and chemicals with a medical subsidiary that sells rehabilitation aids for the disabled. Before retiring, he moved from New Jersey to Chincoteague to open a new branch of his company. David has had a permanent home on Chincoteague for the past 15 years.

Although they are both “retired”, they continue to work. David invests in real estate and builds homes, and works with nonprofits including the WMCA of the Chesapeake, Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Eastern Shore College Community College, and others. In addition, earlier this month at the April Executive Board Meeting David was appointed by the Board to fill the remainder of Julie Siler’s term. David is looking forward to working with the Executive Board and the ARC committee.

Melody is a volunteer treasurer of the Island Community House that sponsors “Village Neighbors”, a group that supports aging in place (similar to Shepherdstown’s SAIL) and she serves on the board of directors for the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. Melody is looking forward to working with the Beautification Committee. When they are not volunteering, Melody and David enjoy camping and are eager to hit the road and explore the United States.



How Can You Help?

Are you looking to get more involved in the Fernbank community? Did you know you could volunteer for any one of our seven committees? Bring your talents to the table we need you! New volunteers are always welcome to participate. Perhaps the following committee descriptions will spark your interest and enthusiasm.

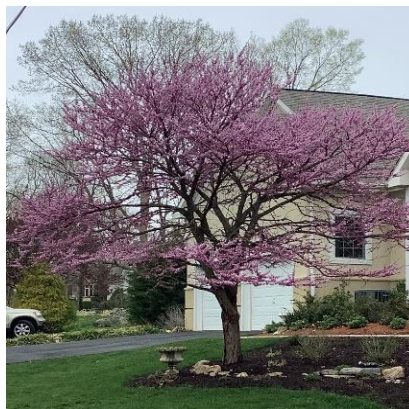
- **Architectural Review Committee (ARC)** - ARC reviews unit owner plans for new builds/site development, exterior improvements and landscaping. The committee is responsible for helping Unit Owners adhere to our Design Guidelines that provide a basis for maintaining consistency of development, while respecting the natural setting and allowing for individual taste and expression. If interested, contact Betse Hinkley.
- **Beautification Committee** - The Fernbank Beautification Committee (FBC) engages residents in projects and partnerships that enhance the beauty and appeal of our community. The FBC is responsible for the landscaping and maintenance of common property areas, for devising a long-term strategic plan, and for assisting ARC. If interested, contact Elisabeth Staro.
- **Communications Committee** – The committee is responsible for maintaining an on-going flow of relevant communications between residents and the Executive Board and committees who serve their members. Through email, newsletters, the website, notices and mailings, residents are kept apprised of important information, events and special meetings. If interested, contact Piper Dankworth.
- **Covenants Committee** - The committee advises the Board respecting the Association’s Covenants and Bylaws and performs other related functions as requested, including ensuring the “Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions” is maintained in a complete, current and accurate state. If interested, contact Steve Schatken.
- **Safety and Roads Committee** – The committee’s safety responsibilities are concerned with matters that may present danger or harm to Fernbank residents such as speeding, street light outages, an unleashed dog or fallen trees. The committee is also responsible for the maintenance of roads. In addition, the committee oversees the FUAO Pets and Other Animals Rules and the annual Urban Deer Hunt. If interested, contact Cory Klein.

- **Social Committee** - The committee develops and executes activities for the Fernbank Community. Events such as the annual picnic, holiday party, themed dinners and happy hours, create opportunities for residents to socialize, meet their neighbors, and enjoy casual involvement in the community. If interested, contact Cindy Morrow.
- **Welcome Committee** – The Committee welcomes new Fernbank homeowners with a visit and gift. Owners receive a copy of the most recent member directory and local resources information. The committee ensures that owners receive a copy of the Declaration of Covenants and Architectural Design Guidelines. The committee also collects primary contact information to ensure that new members receive all FUAO communications. If interested, contact Betse Hinkley.

Friendly Reminders

You know it is spring when the air is full of the sound of humming mowers. Please remember that commercial mowers are urged not to mow after 5:00 PM on Friday and Saturdays, and not at all on Sundays. It is the responsibility of the resident to ensure that their commercial mowers follow these recommendations.

With the warmer weather, walkers abound. All residents are expected to have their dogs on a leash when walking outside their property and dog waste should be picked up immediately and disposed of properly. Residents should adhere to the signage posted by the Course at Cress Creek, which states only golf patrons are permitted on the course; please be mindful of this by not walking dogs on the course. We thank each of you for respecting the guidelines in order to keep the community a beautiful, safe, and peaceful place to live.



Editor's Note: Piper Dankworth - Thank you Lisa Beard, Heidi Boyd and Elisabeth Staro, for your submissions and a special thank you to the Clonch's, the Ronan's, David Landsberger and Melody Stevens for allowing us to get to know you. Happy spring everyone!