

The ARTiCulator

A newsletter for Arlington Ridge Terrace Condominium owners and residents

Volume 3 Issue 2

April-August 2002

Want to make a difference?

by Pat O'Day

Below are a few ways you can help.

ARTC Board and Committees

Join us in helping our 48-unit community.

- The Officer/Assistant Secretary and Officer/Assistant Treasurer positions are currently available and will be up for re-appointment in October. Both positions each require a few hours a month. So if you'd like to get your feet wet before a full commitment, here's a great opportunity.
- In October, two Board voting positions will be vacant and available. These voting positions are 3-year terms each.
- Two non-voting positions will be available in October and filled by Board appointment—each for a one-year term.
- The Architectural Review and Grounds Committee Chair position is also currently available.

Homeland Security Rep

You can be our Community Representative serving in a new and important position. You'll help ARTC residents be better prepared for emergency situations, such as those that resulted from 9/11/01 events. Some activities would be:

- Serve as point-of-contact in case of county emergencies such as evacuations.
- Distribute materials to educate the ARTC community on contingency plans in case of events such as terrorist attacks or nuclear bomb detonations.
- Work with the Long Branch Creek Civic Association (LBCCA) Rep to establish and implement a simple ARTC emergency preparedness plan.
- Attend LBCCA meetings, as needed.

The Arlington County Civic Federation convened a forum of county, emergency service, and civic association leaders on 5/29/02 to present and discuss various aspects of being prepared for emergencies that affect the public. Although residents of Arlington County can be very proud of the professionalism of emergency response personnel and the effectiveness of the county's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in the face of the September 11 events in our local area, authorities identified some weaknesses in the county's emergency preparedness system. One conclusion was that emergency planning must be taken to a new level in terms of public preparedness and communication. Forum attendees learned that the county has appointed a Public Preparedness Planning Group to work through Arlington's neighborhood civic associations to accomplish this in the community. LBCCA has asked for a representative from each of its neighborhood communities, including ARTC, to work with its rep. This ARTC resident will be providing an invaluable and necessary service to our community. It's a great way to continue making an important contribution in our post-9/11 world.

If you are interested in serving in any of the aforementioned positions, please contact me at 703-836-4830.

Pat O'Day, ARTC President

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ARTC Web Site

Check out our informative Web site at www.ArlingtonRidgeTerrace.com. Thanks to Danielle Harwood!



What can you find on the Web site?

- Contact information including Board of Directors, Management Agent, and committee chairs
- Community events
- Monthly board meeting information, annual meeting information, and minutes
- Policies
- Previous **ARTiCulator** newsletters including these topics of interest:
 - Optimize your A/C
 - Hazardous waste recycling/disposal
 - Landscaping annual plant ideas
 - Condo fee category explanation
 - Broken garage door solution idea
 - Screen/storm door pro's/con's
 - Washer/dryer maintenance
 - Controlling noise disturbances
 - Cigarette butt policy
 - Grill policy



Recent Townhome Sales

Our units are **appreciating** in value—a unit recently sold for \$299,900.

Variations exist among the units in terms of size, floor plans, equipment (such as an elevator), and condition. The writers of the newsletter don't have access to those details to explain variations in prices, or whether the transaction was among family members or otherwise not "arm's length."

Security Corner:

Credit Card Theft

Yes, it really *can* happen to you. If you discover that an unauthorized individual has gained access to your credit card and has been charging your account, here are a few steps you can take to regain control:

1. Call the credit card company to cancel the account.
2. Contact the credit bureaus to file an alert and order a free credit report:
 - Experian 1-888-397-3742
 - Equifax 1-800-525-6285
 - TransUnion 1-800-680-7289
3. Contact Arlington County Police's telephone department at 703-228-4300 to file a report, get a case number, and start an investigation.
4. Visit the Web for additional suggestions; for example: www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs17a.htm.

Reader's Exchange

Share your solutions for maintenance and repair issues. Email your questions or suggestions for future columns to carron2@msn.com.

Reminder to Turn **On** Your Outdoor Water Spigots



Does water not flow from your outside water spigot when you turn the handle? You might need to perform the few steps below to activate it. Before the winter freezing months, the water to your outdoor spigot might have been turned off to prevent damage from occurring due to the water freezing and bursting the pipes.

How do I turn on my outside water spigot?

1. Go outside your home and close (turn off) the faucet.
2. Under the kitchen sink, open the colored brass-bodied spoke-wheeled valve.
3. Go back outside your home and open (turn on) the faucet to verify the water is running.

ARTC Landscaping Update

The amended third phase of the ARTC beautification is to enhance several areas in our community. You might have noticed the colorful shrubs near the archway, plants in common area planter boxes, and plants near the mailboxes.

If you have landscaping ideas or would like to join the committee, please contact Janet Gardner, the chair of our Landscaping Committee, at 703-836-5609.

Will it be your planter box?

In your daily life, do you pass by any of our ARTC planter boxes that have been lovingly decorated? We can feature one in a future **ARTiCulator**. Call Janet with your vote.



to Our Neighborhood

... to Jason & Patricia Winters!

Grill Policy Reminder

Editors' note: Because our community has welcomed so many new residents, we are re-running this article to alert them about the fire code and condo bylaws.

Did you know that **Arlington County Fire Prevention Code** prohibits the storage of propane and other liquefied petroleum gas in our units or anywhere on the property? This code affects our use of grills near our units or anywhere on the property. An ARTC policy announcement was issued May 2000.



Important! The penalty for violating this Code is up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine of \$2,500. **ARTC management** enforces this code by a verbal and/or written notice. If necessary, they **will confiscate any grills, tanks, and bottles that violate any of the "Don'ts" listed below.**

Do's

- **Electric** grills and cookers are allowed on balconies, porches, and patios.
- After using any grill consistent with the Code, you have the obligation to remove it from public view within 12 hours after use (which allows for them to cool) by placing it inside your unit. If you have fenced patio or a porch along Four Mile Run, the grill must be properly maintained and covered when not in use.

Don'ts

- Propane and other liquefied petroleum gas containers are not permitted to be stored anywhere on ARTC premises.
- Grills and other cookers that use charcoal, gasoline, or any other flammable liquid are not permitted for use on balconies or within ten feet of any building.
- Grills must not either be stored on front stoops along South Glebe Road, nor on the mews, more than 12 hours after use.

Editors' note: We both are surprised and pleased with how our electric grills work so well. They are very much like a charcoal or gas barbecue—the taste and grill marks on the food are the same, for example. An electric grill also cleans up like a large non-stick frying pan, is light to carry, and stores easily in a closet.

ARTC Contacts

Board of Directors and Officers

Contact any of us if you have any questions

President, Pat O'Day
703-836-4830

Vice President/Treasurer, Dean Mouritzen
703-836-2026

Secretary/Assistant Treasurer, Linda Barbour
202-452-7956

Officer/Assistant Secretary, *vacant*

Officer/Assistant Treasurer, *vacant*



Committees

Architectural Review and Grounds
Chair, *vacant*

Landscaping
Chair Janet Gardner at 703-836-5609

Newsletter
Chair Wendy Albrecht
wendyalbrecht326@aol.com or 703-683-6805

Assistant Editor Chas Carron
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Welcome/Social
Chair Danielle Harwood at
ArlingtonRidgeTerrace@yahoo.com or
703-836-2026.

Management Agent

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Announcements

Thank you, Heather, Scott, and Dusty. Welcome, Linda.

Thank you, Heather for your great job of Secretary/Assistant Treasurer. Scott, thank you for your work on the rules and regulations handbook (coming soon!). Dusty, thank you for your assistance as Officer/Assistant Treasurer and Architectural Review and Grounds. Linda Barbour has accepted Heather's position.

ARTC Board Meetings

Come join us on Wednesdays at **#3012** at **7 p.m.** unless otherwise announced on:

September 18

October *TBD*

November 20

December 18

