

Rutherford Civic Association

Summer 2017



National Night Out Tuesday, August 1st 7:00 – 9:00 PM at the Rutherford Pool

- **Meet with elected representatives, police, and firefighters**
- **Learn about anti-crime strategies**
- **Promote neighborhood spirit**
- **Have fun and enjoy free ice cream**
- **Learn about Rutherford's own Neighborhood Watch program**

This event is open to everyone in the community. You do not need to be a pool member to attend.

National Night Out – America's Night Out Against Crime

From 7:00 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday, August 1st, Rutherford residents are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights, and spend the evening at the pool with neighbors and community officials. By getting to know our neighbors, we can promote great community relationships, and take the lead in reporting suspicious behavior and crime to the police.

Please leave your porch light on at 7:00 PM and join us at the pool!

Braddock Nights Performances Return to Rutherford Park

Braddock Nights are back! These free musical performances happen on Friday evenings, 7:30-8:30 PM, in Rutherford Park. Bring a blanket, a picnic, and the whole family for a fun evening under the stars! Shows are canceled due to inclement weather. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to the start of the show for updates.

JULY

- 7 -- Orquesta Tropikiimba (Afro-Cuban Orchestra Salsa)
- 14 -- David Bach Consort (Jazz)
- 21 -- Cool McFinn (Irish/Folk)
- 28 -- Little Red & the Renegades (Zydeco)

AUGUST

- 4 -- Gina DeSimone and the Moaners (Blues/Swing)
- 11 -- Barefoot Movement (Bluegrass)
- 18 -- King Teddy (Swing)



Community Update: Paving Scheduled for Rutherford Streets

VDOT will be resurfacing Rutherford streets in 2017. While there are no firm dates given for the work, it has been scheduled and should take place while the weather is warm. Streets bordered by Guinea Road and Olley Lane, between ElJames Drive and Little River Turnpike (including Hobart Court and part of Bexley Lane) are on the list. As soon as we receive information on specific dates for paving, we will let you know.

New Neighbor Welcome Kits

The Rutherford Civic Association has put together a “welcome kit” for new neighbors, as a way of saying hello and making them feel like a part of our community as soon as they move in. The welcome kit includes a current directory, the most recent newsletter, an FAQ sheet with helpful information about community amenities and services, and a Civic Association stadium cup. If you have a new neighbor on your block, please let your Area Vice President or Block Captain know, or email Anne Prior at annesprior@cox.net so we can make sure they receive a Welcome Kit and are included in the community directory.



Website Now Offers PayPal

Have you checked out the Rutherford website yet? New features are added regularly...and one that we're excited to offer is PayPal. This feature makes it easy for Rutherford residents to contribute their \$20 annual donation to the Civic Association. You'll still have the option of sending your donation in the envelope provided with the Fall issue of the newsletter, but using PayPal makes it quick and easy to make your contribution to our community. Stop by www.rutherfordcommunity.com and see what the website has to offer!



Join Your Neighbors for the Rutherford Fall Stroll!

Since the First Rutherford Spring Stroll was such a success, we're doing it all over again! Back by popular demand, the Rutherford Stroll, Fall Edition, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 1st, from 5:00-6:00 PM. Don't miss this chance to step out your front door, stroll our neighborhood streets, and greet neighbors you know or haven't yet met. Stay tuned for more information on the community listserv, Facebook page and Nextdoor.com.



CERT Volunteer Update



Would you know what to do if a disaster hit our community? And first responders weren't able to come for the first 24, 48, or 72 hours? Some Rutherford residents have been trained as

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers, which means they have basic disaster response skills and can help others when professional responders are not immediately available. In particular, we'd like to be prepared to assist neighbors who may have specific issues during a disaster, such as a hurricane or snowstorm that takes out electrical power or prevents you from driving your car.

First: if anyone in your household is disabled or has special needs, please consider registering with the Fairfax "Special Needs Registry"

(<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/needs-disabilities.htm>). This will give you priority status with Fairfax emergency first responders during any disaster.

Second: Of course, in any disaster situation, our first thoughts are for the safety of our own families. Once loved ones are secure, neighbors and friends may be able to help out with others in need. We are looking into the idea of a voluntary "opt-in" list of neighbor resources in case of disasters, such as people who want to share their skills (medical training, HAM radio licenses, etc.) or tools (snow blower, snowplow, chain saw, generator, four-wheel drive vehicle, etc.) for emergency purposes when the official first responders are delayed. Have ideas to help? Stop by and chat with us at the Rutherford CERT table at National Night Out, August 1st at the Rutherford Pool.



What Should Our Slogan Be?

The Board has received a number of great suggestions for our community slogan. We plan to choose the winner at the November civic association meeting – stay tuned for date and time, and come cast your vote!

Handling Neighbor Conflicts

From your RCA President, Julia Wilson

Occasionally I receive calls asking how to address a problem with a neighbor. Sometimes it's something that needs to be addressed in a hurry, like someone starting a construction project that encroaches on property lines. Sometimes it's a safety issue, like a leaning tree. Or, it's a long-standing issue that has finally reached a breaking point, like noise on weekends or a barking dog. Here are some basic guidelines to consider:

Start now, before an issue even arises: Get to know your neighbors. Talk while you rake leaves. Find out what you have in common. Socialize occasionally. Having a connection with someone makes it easier to work together and handle conflict.

Focus on the long game: You may be neighbors for a very long time. Weigh the costs and benefits of broaching the issue. Is the problem long-term? Is it a small annoyance, or an issue of safety, disturbing the peace, property damage or property values?

Check your attitude:

- Ask yourself how you can address this while maintaining a positive relationship for the long term.
- Be ready to offer solutions, even ones that may involve some compromise.
- Give your neighbor the benefit of the doubt. Maybe they don't realize there's a problem. Maybe they've always lived in an apartment and don't see how their choices affect others. Maybe their cultural values of neighborhood life differ from yours.

When you are ready to approach your neighbor:

- **Timing:** pick a time when you are rested and in a positive frame of mind, not a moment of anger. Also be sure your neighbor isn't busy or in a rush.
- **Create a positive environment for communication:** a friendly chat over the fence, perhaps even inviting your neighbor over for dessert or a beer.
- **Meeting with your neighbor face-to-face** shows that you value their input, and insures you've

been understood. Avoid email, voicemail, notes, or angry messages on the listserv.

Where to begin:

- Start by explaining the concern from your point of view, without using accusatory words. "When your tree branches hang over my roof, my gutters block up and overflow in heavy rain and my basement gets wet," rather than, "You haven't bothered to lop your trees so my gutters are overflowing."
- Focus on mutual concerns when possible, like property values or avoiding damage.

Problem solving:

- Speak in terms of solving this together.
- Listen to your neighbor's side. Avoid interrupting. Nod to show understanding.
- Work out a solution that's acceptable to both of you. For a bigger problem, or one with potential legal consequences, write down your plan and each keep a copy.
- Don't expect to solve everything in one conversation. Agree to meet again to give each other time to think things over.
- If things become contentious or begin to escalate, take a break. Agree to talk again at another time.
- If you cannot reach an agreement, seek advice from an RCA board member, county supervisor and/or the county agency related to your issue.

Building community is an investment. Build strong connections with your neighbors and keep the long game in mind when conflict arises.



Revised County Noise Regulations

Effective in February, 2017, Fairfax County adopted revised noise ordinances for residential areas. While most regulations are unchanged, there have been minor alterations to times, type of activity, etc. For a complete listing of noise regulations, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance.

**Rutherford Civic Association
Reference Numbers**

President	Julia Wilson julia.wilson@yahoo.com	703-978-1019
Vice President	Jennie DeVeaux Garon jennie.deveaux@icfi.com	703-764-3899
Secretary	Renee Faulkner renee.faulkner@yahoo.com	703-945-3499
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Neighborhood Watch	Christine Brim christinebrim1@gmail.com	202-379-6776
Rutherford Playgroup	Melanie Srivisal melaniekjacobs@yahoo.com	202-997-8319
Directory	Anne Prior annesprior@cox.net	703-764-0466
Newsletter	Anne Prior annesprior@cox.net	703-764-0466
Rutherford Website	Evan Flint evanflint@gmail.com	
Rutherford Pool	Jasen Blacksburg jblacksburg@yahoo.com	703-426-4702

**Yahoo Group Offers Quick and
Easy Connections with Neighbors**

For a free and easy way to get the latest neighborhood news, join the Rutherford e-mail group. As a member, post questions or comments and use the forum to discuss neighborhood happenings and consumer issues.

To sign up, follow these three steps:

1. Send an email to this address:
RUTHERFORDCA22032-
subscribe@yahoo.com with no subject or message in the e-mail.
2. You will then receive a message back that says, "Please confirm your request to subscribe to RutherfordCAyahoogroups.com."
3. Simply reply to this message, again with no subject or message, and that's it. You are now a member.



**More Resources: Rutherford Community
Facebook Page and Nextdoor.com**

Rutherford Facebook Page: www.facebook.com; search "Rutherford Community Fairfax VA" to find our Facebook page.

Nextdoor.com: www.nextdoor.com; click on "Join Nextdoor" to get started.

-----Sponsorship Corner-----

The Rutherford Civic Association wishes to thank Harry Hink of HB Services for his continuing support of the Rutherford Civic Association newsletter, and Kevin Duff for mowing and keeping the Rutherford median strip neat!



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