

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reston, Va. – Fairfax County officials are warning that the season for sightings of copperhead snakes is already upon us. According to county wildlife biologists, there have been reports of the snake throughout the county, including the Hunter Mill area of Reston and they are calling this an “unusually high number” of sightings county- wide for this time of year.

The only report in Reston is that of a dog suffering a bite in the Lake Fairfax area. The dog survived.

Therefore, both county wildlife officials and Reston Association environmental management staff are encouraging you to take precautions.

For your safety:

- Keep grass and vegetation mowed short on private property – Snakes like to hunt in tall grass.
- Stay on the sidewalk and park trails.
- Supervise children at all times.
- Do not approach a copperhead - NEVER pick up a snake.
- Keep dogs on leash at all times
- Do not overturn rocks or logs
- Wear appropriate protective clothing when outdoors.

In case of a copperhead snake bite:

- Stay calm.
- Do not apply a tourniquet.
- Keep body part immobilized and area level with heart.
- Seek immediate medical attention (nearest hospital).

How to keep the snakes away:

- Remove potential habitats such as mulch, trash, wood piles.
- Drain standing water pools.
- Wear gloves, long pants and boots when working in your yard.

Facts about copperheads:

- The Northern Copperhead is a native to Northern Virginia.
- It is the region's only venomous snake.
- Habitats include rock outcroppings, woodpiles and debris.
- The diet includes: frogs, toads, salamanders, beetles, cicadas, grasshoppers and caterpillars.
- Copperhead young are born in the late summer or early fall.

For more information on copperheads or other local wildlife, please visit the Fairfax County Government Website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife .

If you have questions or copperhead reports, call the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist at 703-324-0240.

You can find more information from Virginia's Department of Game and Inland Fisheries: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/information/?s=030016>

ABOUT RESTON ASSOCIATION

Reston Association is a large community association with approximately 62,000 members. An elected board of nine directors –one from each of four districts, four at-large and one representing owners of multi-family dwellings oversee the community of Reston.

There is a place where life hearkens to simple pleasures - a walk around the lakes - the laughter of children in the pool - a tennis match with new friends - a nature walk along one of the community's trails. Meet your neighbors and get involved.

For more than four decades, Reston, Virginia has been that place. One of the first "new towns" founded in the mid-1960s, the Reston community has held tightly to its founding principles - of "Live, Work, Play and Get Involved." It is a place where everything you need is just outside your back door. You will find more than a home in Reston. You will find a way of life.

#####30#####