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The rainy weather didn’t dampen the spirits of the exhibitors and the attendees who visited them at the 2014 Reston Home & Garden Expo on October 11th. The Reston Association (RA) Conference Center was transformed into an energetic Expo hall full of local companies who provide goods and services in the Reston area. From interior designers to tree specialists and everything in between, Reston homeowners could talk to experts and make appointments to have necessary work done in their homes.

In addition to the opportunity to meet with the many service providers, attendees could also participate in one of three seminars including: “Let Covenants Work for You” (RA Covenants staff), “How to Choose a Contractor” (Mark Fies, Synergy Design & Construction) and “Color Trends in Interior Design” (Amelia Vallone, Amelia Vallone Interiors). All in attendance agreed they learned valuable information and appreciated the chance to ask questions and get more information in a personalized manner.

The event couldn’t have been possible without the support and participation of the sponsors and exhibitors which included:

**Premium Sponsor:**

**Community sponsors:**

- HB Services, LLC, Synergy Design & Construction, Brothers Paving & Concrete, American Disposal Services, Nova Foam Concrete Leveling, Cosi,
- Apple Spice, Nova Spray Foam Insulation, Covis – Potomac, Pest Management Services, Inc. PMSI & Amelia Vallone Interiors.

**Exhibitors:**

- RA Environmental Resources,
- Moss Building & Design, Enlightened Lighting, LLC, Keller Williams Realty, LEAP, RA Covenants,
- HomeFix Corporation, National Realty, Reston Historic Trust,
- Total Remodeling Systems.

As the expo continues to grow in numbers and relevance, staff is planning on making it an annual spring event, starting in March 2016.

**Fall Reminder**

Regularly clean gutters and downspouts. Make sure all drainage areas are unblocked by leaves and debris. Clogged gutters can cause water to pool on your roof, resulting in leaks. Poor gutter maintenance can also lead to problems with siding, windows and doors.
**Board Changes**

Do you have a new president, new treasurer or new director?

If you have answered “yes” to this question, please click on the link and complete the respective form (cluster or condo). Once you have completed the form you may email it to keeyana@reston.org

All submissions must be completed by the president or vice president. All submissions will be verified before changes are made.

[click here for cluster]
[click here for condo]

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**Habitat Heroes Projects**

Our native trees, ferns and wildflowers are under attack by invasive plants like English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle and bamboo. We need heroes like you to join us in rescuing Reston’s beautiful parkland from these aggressive plants. These fast growing aggressive plants escape from people’s yards and threaten local ecosystems, taking away vital food and habitat from already stressed wildlife populations. Please join us and spend a couple of hours in our parkland protecting our natural areas. We meet the fourth Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. – Noon during the months of March – November, except August.

You don’t need to be an expert to assist in protecting our forests and help us restore Reston’s forests to their natural state. Our volunteering opportunities each month provide you with all the training you need to become an honorary Habitat Hero. We do a lot of invasive removal year-round. In the fall, we also focus some of our efforts on replanting of shrubs and trees as it is the best time of year to plant for maximum survivability and site success.

For all projects: Please wear long sleeves and long pants to protect against biting insects, thorns, and poison ivy. There is poison ivy at all sites.

Bring gardening gloves if you have them. RA will provide some tools, gloves, snacks and water.

**Stop the Choking Hazard**

Saturday, November 22
10 a.m.–Noon

Help protect the Sanibel Drive by removing the English Ivy that is battling native plants for a place to grow. Thick ivy can accelerate rot by holding in moisture, which can also attract mosquitoes. Please park at the cul-de-sac on Sanibel Drive. Then walk down the asphalt path turning behind the houses to the left. There is poison ivy at this site.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Ha Brock, RA volunteer and community outreach coordinator, at habrock@reston.org or 703-435-7986.

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**Storm Drain Marking Project**

What can you do to protect our local streams, lakes and the Chesapeake Bay? One way is to participate in the Storm Drain Marking Project.

Our storm drains prevent flooding of roads and neighborhoods by carrying rain away from streets and sidewalks. Unlike water from our taps, water flowing into our storm drains is not treated.

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Are you receiving RA News every Friday? Sign up here to get all Reston Association news delivered to your in-box every Friday.

Covenants Cares

If someone you know in Fairfax County is experiencing homelessness, he or she is encouraged to come and sleep in a safe place.

Call one of the county’s community shelters:

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter
11975 Bowman Towne Drive in Reston near the Reston library, 703-437-1975, TTY 711.

The Bailey’s Crossroads Community Shelter
Bailey’s/Culmore area, at 3525 Moncure Ave. on the corner of Moncure and Columbia Pike at Bailey’s Crossroads. 703-820-7621, TTY 711.

The Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter
Richmond Highway (Route 1) near Fort Belvoir, at 9155 Richmond Highway. 703-799-0200, TTY 711.

Fall Reminder

Do a fall safety check by testing smoke alarms and put in fresh batteries. It is very important to have working detectors in your home. A smoke alarm can save lives in a house fire.

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Storm drains connect directly to our streams and empty into our lakes. Trash, pet waste, motor oil, paint and other materials dumped or washed into storm drains pollute our watersheds and ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. Markers on each storm drain remind all of us to keep storm drains and our streams clean.

By contacting Nicki Bellezza, Reston Association’s watershed supervisor, you can be a part of the Storm Drain Marking Project. Since there are over 4,000 storm drains in Reston, many volunteers are needed to mark the storm drains and to help educate the community about the connection between the storm drains and our streams and lakes. Everybody is encouraged to participate.

Many storm drains in Reston are on private roads. In order for volunteers to mark the drains, clusters need to grant permission first. Contact your local cluster board member and get your neighborhood involved today.

Reston community members armed with knowledge

The students of Fairfax County weren’t the only ones to go back to school recently, as cluster and neighborhood association board members also grabbed their notebooks and headed to workshops at the RA conference center.

The presentations in August and September were in response to questions and suggestions made by cluster board members and covered the topics of “Legislative Updates” and “Parking Issues & Concerns”. The first workshop, presented by Reston Association (RA) legal counsel, Ken Chadwick, of Chadwick, Washington, Moriarty, Elmore & Bunn, P.C., gave attendees an overview of the latest regulations and policies coming out of Richmond which have a direct impact on cluster residents and their policies. Attendees received valuable information as well as a copy of the 2014 Virginia Statutes Reference Book regarding regulations pertinent to community associations.

In September, residents participated in an interactive dialogue focused on the parking issues, concerns and restrictions many clusters are facing. Ken Chadwick again presented, along with Paul Davis from the office of Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and Katy Defoe with the Fairfax County Police Department.

To get your project started or for more information, contact Nicki Bellezza at 703-435-6560, Nicki@reston.org.

The Storm Drain Marking Project in Reston is sponsored by the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District, the Virginia Department of Transportation-Northern VA District, and Reston Association.

Also on hand were officers from Traffic Enforcement and the Towing Coordinator office. Residents were able ask questions from the panelists as well as talk with one another about how they handle issues in their own clusters.

These workshops were presented as part of an ongoing effort to provide outreach and education to Reston community members. Be sure to check www.reston.org for future opportunities.
The Advisor

The Advisor is a quarterly online newsletter for cluster, condo and single family homeowners in Reston.

COVENANTS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Covenants Director
Anna Varone

Covenants Managers
Kim Dobbin/Julie Loy and Barbara Ramey

Covenants Advisors
Robert Chambliss/Margo Collins
Tricia Filbert/Sarah Marsden
Lucy Renault/Taycha Wolfrries and Trevor Wright

Covenants Assistants
Thalia Rembis and Vanessa Tucker

We are always looking for new ideas and articles for The Advisor. For more information visit the Reston Association website at www.reston.org

Fall Reminder
Seal cracks and gaps around windows and doors with weather-stripping and caulk to save energy and preserve heat inside your home.

Reston Association Wants to Connect With You

For efficiency and assistance in communicating important messages to our members, Reston Association maintains a database of contact information for all cluster and condo associations in Reston. This roster includes items such as contact information for the cluster and condo boards, including a list of officers and their contact information, the management company’s contact information (if applicable), cluster or condo mailing addresses, and the name of the assigned covenants advisor.

Keeping the cluster/condo roster information up to date is useful for both internal RA staff and our community members as they work with the association. Part of the Design Review Board (DRB) process for homeowners in a cluster or condo association includes obtaining the signature of a cluster or condo board officer. Covenants staff often refers to the database to direct homeowners on who to go to for that signature. RA will accept the signature of the president, vice president, secretary or treasurer only as currently listed in the RA roster. Making sure that contact information is up to date is a substantial help to homeowners.

Covenants staff also consults the roster to assist homeowners with matters that are specific to the cluster or condo.

For example, questions about parking, guest parking, snow removal, trash/recycling and cluster/condo common areas are often referred to the cluster or condo board as RA usually does not have purview over those items.

Finally, RA staff often checks the roster to see who homeowners or their agents should contact in regards to disclosure documents for the cluster or condo. RA, as the master association, provides resale disclosure documents to owners when they are selling their homes, but those homeowners that live in clusters or condos must also obtain disclosure documents from the cluster or condo association. Having a specific contact person in the roster helps RA assist homeowners, agents and title companies during that process.

Updating your cluster or condo board contact information can be done a few ways. A form is available on the RA website that can be filled out and submitted. The form is available here: cluster/condo contact form.
Cluster or condo board members can also contact RA directly via email (keeyana@reston.org).
Finally, you can also contact your covenants advisor so they can assist you with the process.

Cluster and condo board information should be updated with RA anytime the officers/board members change. This way we can ensure we are providing members with the most up to date and accurate information.

If you would like to access the form, it is available on the RA website here: Cluster/Condo Contact.