



Across the Fence

The Ashburn Farm Community Newsletter

June 2022 | Volume 34, Issue 6 | Distribution 4,400



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Across the Fence

The Ashburn Farm Community Newsletter

LOOKING AHEAD

Coming in July

- Assessments Due on the 1st
- Board of Trustees Meeting on the 5th
- Architectural Review Board Meeting on the 14th
- Budget and Finance Meeting on the 15th
- Board of Trustees Meeting on the 19th
- Architectural Review Board Meeting and Hearing on the 28th
- Yard of the month submission and voting for July – Look for the email blast with link to vote

IN OBSERVATION OF THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS, THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:

Monday, July 4th – Independence Day

Monday, September 5th – Labor Day

Thursday the 24th and Friday, November 25th – Thanksgiving

Friday, 23rd, and Monday, December 26th – Christmas

Friday, December 30th – New Years

Please contact the Association office to be added to our email blast for alerts about unscheduled closures and more! Email your request to info@afhoa.net to be added today!

ASHBURN FARM ASSOCIATION

21400 Windmill Drive, Ashburn, VA 20147

Main: 703-729-6680 Fax: 703-729-0247

AshburnFarmAssociation.org • info@afhoa.net

Association Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Closed most major holidays

ASSESSMENT INFORMATION OFFICE

Summit Management Services: Homeowners

monthly assessment dues payments

Main: 301-495-0146 Fax: 301-942-3442

summitmanage.com

accountsreceivable@summitmanage.com

Mail Payments To:

Ashburn Farm Association C/O Summit Management

Processing Center

PO BOX 95366

Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-5366

ASHBURN FARM ASSOCIATION STAFF

General Manager Jeremy Cushman • gm@afhoa.net

Director of Operations

William "Chip" Mathews • maintenance@afhoa.net

Architectural & Covenants Director Karen Lowe • arb@afhoa.net

Covenants Department Support Staff

Chrissy Gier • covenants@afhoa.net

Covenants Inspector Rachel Hess • disclosures@afhoa.net

Financial Coordinator Cheri Jean • cjean@afhoa.net

Editor & Administrative Assistant

***Notary Public Kristen Cornwell** • kcornwell@afhoa.net

Administrative Assistant Marie Walton • mwalton@afhoa.net

Maintenance Assistant Ronald Moran • rmoran@afhoa.net

*Notary Public at Large for the Commonwealth of Virginia
(call for information or appointment; \$5/document)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PRESIDENT David Tighe • bot@afhoa.net

VICE PRESIDENT Scott Batchelder • sbatchelder@afhoa.net

SECRETARY Cary Hancock • chancock@afhoa.net

TREASURER Steve Lubore • slubore@afhoa.net

TRUSTEES

Rich Oakley • roakley@afhoa.net

Doug Brewer • dbrewer@afhoa.net

Mark Fedak • mfedak@afhoa.net

COMMITTEES

Architectural Review Board: arb@afhoa.net

Budget & Finance: cjean@afhoa.net

Events: events@afhoa.net

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This is a monthly community publication for the residents of Ashburn Farm. Published by Ashburn Farm Association.

Editor – Kristen Cornwell

4400 Total Circulation mailed to residents and owners.
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DEADLINES:

Display Advertising – 10th of the preceding month

Classified Advertising – 10th of the preceding month

Committee Reports/Community News – 15th of the preceding month

For more information on Advertising Specifications and Guidelines, please see the back pages of the newsletter.

Neither the Ashburn Farm Association, its Members, or the Board of Trustees recommends or endorses any advertiser. The Ashburn Farm Association reserves the right to decline any advertisement for any reason deemed appropriate. Submitted materials are the author's opinion and do not reflect the views of Ashburn Farm Association, its Members, or the Board of Trustees. For the sake of clarity or length, the Editor or General Manager may edit articles.

Ashburn Farm Association Staff

The Association Staff is responsible for enforcing the rules and regulations of the Association. The staff cannot make or change rules nor can they make arbitrary exceptions to existing rules. We are happy to assist you with any questions you may have or provide information. The Association Office is open 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Ashburn Farm

Assessments & General Information

Collection Policy

Assessments are due the first day of each month. Any installment of the annual assessment not paid to the Association within thirty (30) days after the due date shall be considered delinquent and a late charge of \$25.00 shall be assessed to the Owner and posted to the Owner's account every thirty (30) days delinquent.

Home Sales

Effective July 1, 1989, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a new law entitles the "Virginia Property Owner's Association Act". This act required the seller of a home to make certain disclosures to the intended purchaser of their lot. All home sales in Ashburn Farm are subject to the Virginia Property Owner's Association Act. A written request of the Association Disclosure Package and a check in the amount of: \$225.00 for an electronic disclosure (via email) for townhome/single family; \$250.00 for a paper disclosure for townhome/single family; \$100.00 for electronic or paper disclosure for condo; are required to begin processing. A rush fee of \$50.00 may be paid to receive your disclosure within 3 days. Checks should be made payable to the Ashburn Farm Association. A form is available on the website or at the Association office. The completed package will be issued within 14 calendar days to the requesting party or agent. For further information, please contact the Association office.

2022 HOMEOWNER ASSESSMENTS

Assessments	2022 Monthly Fee
Public Street Homes (VDOT-maintained)	\$93.41
Private Street Homes (HOA-maintained)	\$105.10
Condos & Apartments (Privately-maintained)	\$68.95

Please remember that HOA assessments are due on the 1st of each month.

Automatic Payment / Direct Debit (ACH) - Automatic payments are processed once the homeowner has submitted an ACH form to the Association or Summit Management. If you have not submitted a form, automatic payments are not set up. This payment option updates dues to the new amount every year; no further action is necessary.

Recurring Payment - Recurring payments are set up and processed through Summit Management via the account created on their website. If you have set up payments through the website, you must log in to the link below and update your payment amount yearly (<https://onlinepay.allianceassociationbank.com/Login.aspx>). You may also call Alliance Association Bank directly at (844) 739-2331 to update the new amount.

Automatic Bill Payment - The homeowner sets up automatic bill payments directly through their bank account. Homeowners must personally update the dues amount through their bank each year.

Be sure to contact Summit Management if you have any questions concerning your account or payment options:

Summit Management Services, Inc.

www.summitmanage.com • Phone: 301-495-0146

• accounting@summitmanage.com

BOARD BRIEFS

A complete draft of the Board Meeting Minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next Board Meeting, which is held the first Tuesday of each month. A complete set of approved minutes is available on the Association's website, Board of Trustees page: <https://ashburnfarmassociation.org/board-of-trustees/>.

The following Meeting was held on May 3, 2022. President, Dave Tighe, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to **approve the April 5, 2022, meeting minutes as submitted; passed (6/0/0/1) - Mr. Oakley absent.**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Batchelder expressed his thanks to Mr. Cushman and the Maintenance staff for their assistance to Mrs. Batchelder with the clean-up of the creek/stream area; they collected approximately 10 bags of trash from the area.

PUBLIC FORUM –

Mr. Terry Hoffman and Ms. Renee Hamilton, CEO of the Dulles Greenway, were in attendance virtually to make a brief presentation about the Greenway. Ms. Hamilton provided an overview of the history of the Greenway and spoke about toll reform, legislative efforts for change, road improvements, sustainability initiatives, and support for local charities. She also spoke about the upcoming Run the Greenway charitable fundraising event.

Mr. Fedak raised a concern about current technology at the toll booths. He observed that other toll roads take photos of license plates and send bills when EZ Pass system encounters a glitch whereas on the Greenway the arm comes down causing dangerous situations. Ms. Hamilton responded and stated that these changes require legislation and provided a timeframe of 2024 for upgrades.

Mr. Tighe thanked Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Hoffman for their presentation and stated that the Association would send an email blast to the community reminding them of the Run the Greenway event.

Mr. Steve Metch addressed the Board virtually with concerns regarding the change to using QR codes in the newsletter rather than publishing Resolutions in their entirety. His concern is that many residents do not use or may not have access to this technology. He would like to see a return to the previous system for some of the Resolutions. On another matter, Mr. Metch remarked that the Board Minutes are not current on the website and expressed that they should be posted within five business days of approval.

MANAGER'S REPORT – reported by Mr. Cushman.

i. **Common Area Amenities Reservations** – Mr. Cushman brought up the use of tennis courts by outside groups and the need to increase the reservation rate from \$6/hour to \$10/hour for the 2023 season. The volume/frequency of use, especially by organized for profit groups, makes for more maintenance and repairs needed outside of the cycle outlined in the Reserve Study. More data will be available in the Fall, and he will bring this matter back around.

Mr. Cushman discussed the condition of the Pavilion equipment and the need for it to be refurbished. Mr. Batchelder asked whether there were plans to replace the grill. Mr. Cushman stated that the grill is still usable and will be replaced when it becomes unsafe.

Mr. Cushman presented two requests for use of the DeLong Room: one from the Barracuda Swim Team for use of the DeLong Room, deck area and Windmill Pool for a combined parent/adult mixer and swimming event. The second from a homeowner on behalf of the Stone Bridge JV Girls Soccer team for assistance with DeLong Room rental fees that would enable them to host the end of the year Soccer Banquet.

An amended **motion to allow Stone Bridge Girls JV Soccer Team to use the DeLong Room free of charge on May 24th contingent upon receipt of a security deposit passed; (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley absent.**

An amended **motion to allow the Barracuda Swim Team the use of the DeLong Room, swimming pool and deck on either June 23rd or June 30th contingent upon receipt of a security deposit passed; (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley absent.**

Mr. Cushman reported on and supplied photos of the tennis courts, benches, and shed at Windmill Court, all need repair.

ii. **Solar Panel Update** – Mr. Cushman updated that all materials, except the 480V materials for Summerwood Pool, have been received by installer. Lumina will schedule work when all material is in hand; work estimated to take three days.

iii. **Pool Opening, Digital Pool ID Registration & Summer Kick Off** – Mr. Cushman updated the Board that Lost Rhino and the Ashburn Wine Shop will not be able to sell and collect money for alcohol at Summer Kick Off due to it being a private event. Note: ABC licensing will not allow our original arrangement. The Association will need to purchase product from them and sell tickets/collect money. **Motion to approve Ashburn Wine Shop and Lost Rhino Brewery to come to the Association Summer Kick Off and supply wine and beer that is purchased and sold by the Association. Motion passed; (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley absent.**

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

iv. **Common Area Soil Test Results** – Mr. Cushman reported results of soil samples taken in March show the common area uniformly low in calcium and nitrogen. Lime applications and overseeding are not included in the regular landscape maintenance contract. **Motion to approve \$28,000 for lime application to be applied to common area grass passed; (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley absent.**

Architectural Review Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Batchelder reported that all is going well. Homeowners are attending online; there is full engagement at the meetings and collaboration with the homeowners to understand and move projects forward.

Budget & Finance Meeting Minutes, Bank Balances, & Financials

Dr. Lubore reported Mr. Cushman provided a new forecast for expenditures to be made from Reserve Funds; based on that, an investment of \$100,000 from the existing Reserve Fund was made in another bond.

Townhome Neighborhood Committee

Mr. Butler updated the Board about the Committee's education/re-education activity; meeting with Association staff about incorporating some in the Welcome Packets to new homeowners/residents. He and Mr. Cushman spoke about the effects of new signage and re-educating about trash/recycling standards and etiquette. Approximately half of the signs are being used and staff is rotating them every two weeks. Positive behavior noted in areas even after removal of signage. Association staff is working on updating some of the images on other signage that will be used to notify neighbors of unacceptable behavior.

Mr. Butler shared about the progress and status with parking. It was decided to keep working with and through the Association's overflow parking at

Breezyhill, etc., rather than try to implement anything new at this time.

Mr. Butler stated that communal charging stations for electric vehicles was not something that the Committee was overwhelmingly interested in. They are in favor of the manner that Reston is working things.

Action Item: to send email information and photos to the Board.

Mr. Butler advised the Board that he solicited volunteers for the IT Steering Committee but there was no interest as of their last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Trash Service – Mr. Cushman stated that the final bid from Republic was received. He provided a timeline from termination to changeover. Mr. Cushman reviewed the transitional plan with the Board with critical dates and notifications. **Motion to approve change of trash contractor from Patriot Disposal to Haulin Trash starting September 12, 2022; passed; (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley, absent.**

NEW BUSINESS

Asphalt Trail Maintenance & Replacement – Mr. Cushman provided a recommendation from staff to award the work to Dominion Paving and Sealing with funding to come from the General Reserve fund. **Motion to approve the Asphalt Trail Maintenance & Replacement expense and award it to Dominion Paving & Sealing not to exceed \$53,000; passed; (6/0/0/1), Mr. Oakley, absent.**

INFORMATIONAL

Association Delinquent Status Report – There was discussion about several properties. Mr. Cushman reported on his discussions with the attorney. There was discussion about Association responsibility, liability and/or action that might move these to conclusion and allow the recoupment of fees and/or Association costs thus far. **Action Item: follow up with Association attorney.**

· **Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contracts and member concerns, passed, (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley, absent, at 9:08 PM**

· The Board exited Executive Session and **resumed regular session 9:40PM.**

There were no votes taken during the Executive Session; the Board discussed the use of public facilities on Ashburn Farm property, member concerns, and how the Board would like to move forward to positively address them with possible Q&A sessions and in the newsletter.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn, passed, (6/0/0/1). Mr. Oakley, absent. Adjourned at 9:41PM.

Minutes for the Ashburn Farm Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting are developed from meeting recordings and BOT member input by the Recording Secretary.

ESTATE PLANNING

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www.babirakcarrestateplanning.com

ASSOCIATION BOARD AND COMMITTEE DATES 2022:

Board of Trustees meets *the first Tuesday of every month with the exception of July*. The Association sends a reminder via our community notification system of meeting date, a link to meeting agenda, and a link to join the Board meeting remotely.

Meeting dates are as follows:

June 7th, July 5th and 19th, no meeting in August, September 6th, October 4th, November 1st and December 6th.

Architectural Review Board (ARB) meets *the second and last Thursday of each month with the exception of November and December*. Additional information can be found on the Association website in the "For Homeowners" tab, under "Covenants and Restrictions" then "Architectural Review Board", located at the top of the homepage.

Meeting dates are as follows:

June 9th and 30th, July 14th and 28th, August 11th and 25th, September 8th and 29th, October 13th and 27th, November 10th, and December 8th.

Budget and Finance meet *the third Friday* of every month.

Meeting dates are as follows:

June 17th, July 15th, August 19th, September 16th, October 21st, November 18th, and December 16th.

The Townhome Neighborhood Committee meets the third Thursday of every month. If you have questions or concerns about your townhome neighborhood, please direct your emails to townhomecommittee@afhoa.net.

Please call the office with additional questions at 703-729-6680 or email info@afhoa.net.

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CVE

Dominion Paving & Sealing Inc. has been hired to perform work within your community. We will be performing crack sealing, sealcoating, and re-stripping some of your roadways and parking spaces. This project will prolong the life of your asphalt surfaces as well as improve aesthetics in your community. Once completed, this project will not need to be done again for some time. We ask for your patience and understanding while we work in your neighborhood.

Your property will be broken down into **9 Sections** as mentioned below, and is scheduled for the dates listed

June 7th-14th -Crack sealing within all Sections (minimal impact to traffic, no parking restrictions)	
June 20th - Sealcoating/Striping Section 1	YELLOW Area on Map (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 21st - Sealcoating/Striping Section 2	LIGHT BLUE Area on Map (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 22nd - Sealcoating/Striping Section 3	RED Areas on Map (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 23rd - Sealcoating/Striping Section 4	GREEN Areas on Map (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 24th - Sealcoating/Striping Section 5	PINK Area on Map (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 27th - Sealcoating/Striping Section 6	DARK BLUE Areas on Map (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 28th - Sealcoating/Striping Section 7	LABURNUM SQUARE (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 29th - Sealcoating/Striping Section 8	POSTRAI SQUARE (NO PARKING 24 HR)
June 30th - Sealcoating/Striping Section 9	PIONEER RIDGE TER. (NO PARKING 24 HR)

Each Sealcoating Section will close at 7:00 am and will remain closed for 24 hours.

Things to Remember

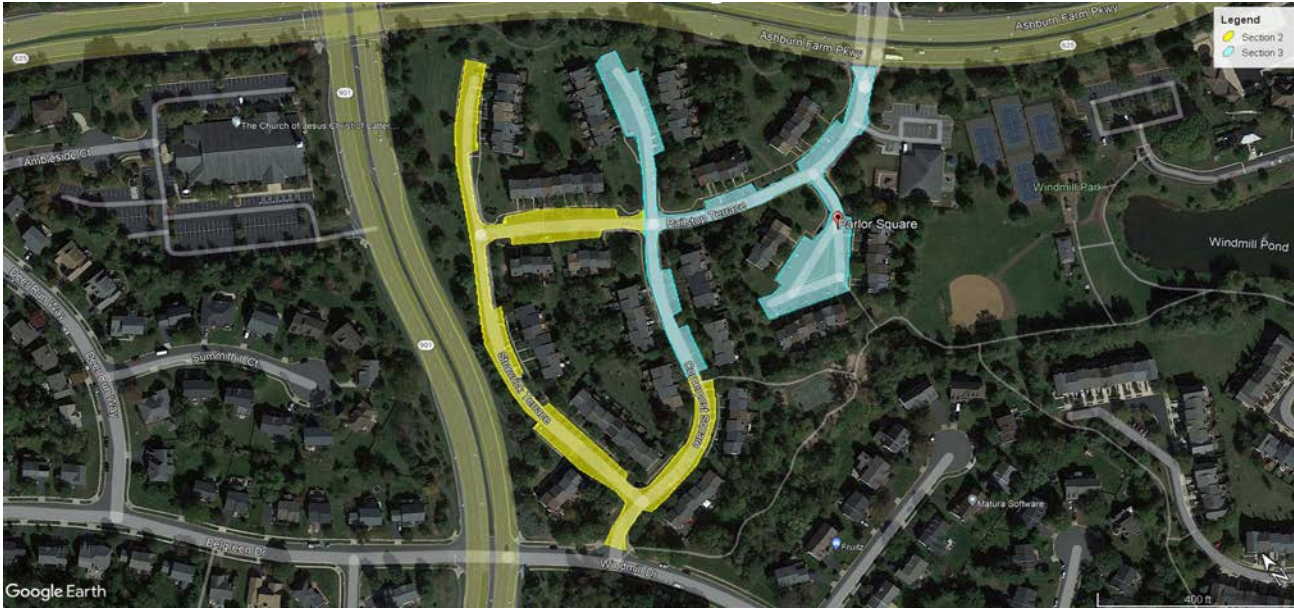
Parking – All vehicles must be out of the affected parking areas by 7:00 am on days when work is scheduled. Any vehicles not moved by 7:00 am **will be towed**.

Vehicular Traffic – No traffic will be allowed on the parking lots and roadways during the time your section is closed. Please abide by all barricades and signs; they are for your safety!

Pedestrians/Pets – Please stay off the asphalt while the section is closed. Walking through wet sealer will result in tracking of the product onto concrete sidewalks and even into your homes. This is costly to clean and is not the responsibility of Dominion Paving & Sealing or the Homeowner's Association.

Weather – All dates are weather dependant. In the event of rain, we will be forced to cancel the project for that day. You will be notified as to when your parking lot has been rescheduled.

Driveway/Garage Parking – You may park in your driveway while we are working, but please realize that the roads will be closed on corresponding dates starting at 7:00 am and any vehicles parked in your driveway will be blocked in for 24-hours. You cannot pull out of your driveway once we have begun sealcoating.



Advertising Information and Specifications

The following information lists the specifications for display advertising in Across the Fence. All advertising is due (copy and payment) by the **10th of the preceding month** of the issue.

Size	Price/mo	Extended Contract*
1/8 Page	\$125	\$112.50/mo
1/4 Page	\$225	\$202.50/mo
1/2 Page	\$400	\$360/mo
Full Page		
Inside Cover	\$850	\$765/mo
1/4 Page	\$235	\$211.50/mo
1/2 Page	\$440	\$396/mo
Full Page	\$925	\$827.50/mo

**Extended contracts refer to advertising commitments for a period of six months or more. Pre-payment of the term is required in order to take advantage of the extended contract discounts.*

An Insertion Order Form must be submitted with ad. Forms are available at the Association Office or via fax and our website. Advertiser must provide in digital form (PDF or TIF files only, PC formatted). Ad are run in full color. Ads will run as-is; no alterations will be made by the Association. Ads exceeding the proper size reserved will not run.

Space Reservation and Payment Requirements

Ad space is limited and reserved on a first come-first served basis. Payment in full is due for ad space before the deadline (except for extended term contracts - these are due at reservation). We do not bill - pre-payment of ad space is mandatory. **Make checks payable to Ashburn Farm Association.** If payment is not received by the deadline, the space becomes forfeited. We will not refund payment due to missed deadlines for copy. Copy submitted must meet the required specifications. We will not be held responsible if copy is not submitted by the deadline even though payment has been received.

Advertising copy and payment can be mailed to:
 Ashburn Farm Association
 Attn: Kristen Cornwell, Editor
 21400 Windmill Drive
 Ashburn, VA 20147

Note: The Editor reserves the right to reject any advertisements for any reason. Ads that are deemed inappropriate or distasteful for this publication will not be run. No political advertising permitted. Advertising orders cannot be canceled after the deadline without prior arrangements. Questions can be forwarded to kcornwel@afhoa.net or 703-729-6680.

It is vital for the Association to be aware of a homeowner's off-site address so that we can provide you with necessary information regarding your property. If you are currently renting or plan to rent your Ashburn Farm property and have not completed the Off-site form, please scan the QR code, must be completed by the homeowner and tenant, and submit the completed form to the Association office. The form can be emailed to info@afhoa.net, dropped off, or mailed to the 21400 Windmill Drive address. The form must be resubmitted with the new lease date should it be extended.

A copy of the Covenants and Restrictions and The Architectural Design and Maintenance Standards must be provided to the tenant. Please contact the Association Office if you would like a digital copy or for the most up-to-date documents.

The Association requires all homeowners renting their property to complete the Off-Site Contact Information Form. The Board of Trustees passed resolution 03111A, which states, "Resolution of the Board of Trustees, 030111A, requires Association Members/Property Owners, to provide a street address and telephone number where they can be contacted regarding Association business & for the purpose of legal notice. Until this information is received & accepted, Association business and legal notice will be delivered to the address on file for the property within the Association."

If you have any questions or concerns regarding a rental property or the form, please contact the Association Office at (703) 729-6680 or info@afhoa.net.



Ashburn Farm Association Digital Pool Pass How to Instruction

Please chose a primary account holder when creating an account as only one account can be obtained per household and the primary account holder must create passes for all household members.

There are two (2) ways that you can apply for your digital pool pass for your household. Please choose one of the following that is most convenient:

1. On your computer, tablet, or cell phone, visit <https://ashburnfarm.mokopass.com/>.
 - Click on the “**Sign Up**” link at the bottom, right of the home screen.
 - Enter your contact information and press the “**Sign Up**” button. Each field must be completed, or your account will be considered incomplete, and we cannot access and process for approval.
 - You will receive a verification email to the email address registered.
 - Access the verification email sent to the registered email address and click “verify”.
 - Follow the prompt on how to create the primary account holder’s pool pass.
 - Click on the **pencil** next to the circle to upload your pool pass photo.
 - ALL photos uploaded must be recent, in passport style against a bare wall. Please be sure to upload a clear passport style photo as they cannot be changed once created.
 - Enter your contact information
 - Upload your registration documentation if you do not currently hold a hard copy pool pass.
 - o **New homeowners:** Must submit the closing papers or a major bill with valid ID.
 - o **Tenants/Renters:** Must submit the Offsite Member Contact Information Form which is completed by the homeowner and tenant. Please contact the Association at pools@afhoa.net to request a copy of the form or scan the QR code labeled “Offsite Contact Form”.
 - Click on “Submit”.

Your application is complete. An Association staff member will review your application, please allow 2 to 3 business days for approval. If approved, you will receive an approval notification at the email address provided along with the next steps to access your pool pass account. If you are not approved, you will receive an email at the email address provided, stating that your account is invalid. Log in to your account and check under the “activity” box located on “dashboard”

page with information explaining the denial. Please email pools@afhoa.net if you need further assistance.

Once your application has been approved, you will receive an invitation to login to your account. This invitation will be sent to the email address provided during registration. To add members of your household account, login to your account at <https://ashburnfarm.mokopass.com/>.

- After you have logged in:
 - Click on “**Pool Pass Request**” on the top left menu
 - Then click on the “**Add New Member**” button. Photos are required for passes of members over the age of nine. Please use the “pool fun” image using the QR Code labeled 2–9-year-old required photo, for all members under the age of nine.
 - Complete the required fields, then click “**Submit**”.
- 2. Visiting the Association Office at 21400 Windmill Drive, Ashburn, VA 20147.

If you are not comfortable registering on your phone/computer or need assistance registering, please stop by the Association Office and an associate will assist you. Please be sure to bring all required documentation needed if you are signing up for the first time.

For a full list of Frequently Asked Questions, please visit <https://ashburnfarm.mokopass.com/faq>.

Contact the Association Office at 703-729-6680 or email pools@afhoa.net if you have any additional questions.



Key Points

- Each year, those with a green thumb spread out mulch to protect their gardens, plants and trees.
- Mulch has lots of benefits for plants including keeping them warm, protection moisture and preventing weeds
- But too much mulch can lead to problems, especially for trees with 'mulch volcanoes' smothering their trunks.

Spring planting season is upon us and a record number of Americans are readying for the annual rite of mulching their planting areas and trees.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to more people taking up gardening, said Paul Cohen, the research director for the NGA and its Garden Research division. Younger gardeners, aged 18-34, and those from non-white homes have helped drive growth, and offset a decline in baby boomer gardeners, he said.

So more of us are growing things. But where does mulch come in? And how do you know you are mulching right and you aren't actually harming – or potentially killing – your plants and trees?

Let's look into the basics of mulch.

What is mulch?

Most popular mulches are bark and wood chips. But other organic substances such as compost, pine straw and ground-up bark or leaves are also placed around flowers, plants and trees.

Organic mulch is "great for every type of gardening, though we recommend different materials depending on the application," said Cheryl Boyer, a professor in the department of horticulture and natural resources at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas.

Shredded bark mulches are what you likely think of when you think of mulch. They are typically made of pine or hardwood tree bark. Some may be called bark nuggets.

What type of mulch is available and recommended where you live can be different as "local availability of mulch often determines what material is used in different parts of the country," she said.



What does mulch do?

Organic mulch protects and fosters plants and trees by maintaining soil moisture, repelling weeds and improving soil quality.

Mulch also keeps the soil around plants and trees warm, helps promote early spring growth of plants and root growth for trees and hinders soil erosion.

Wood chips and bark chips placed around flowers and trees keep "moisture from evaporating from the soil after watering or it rains," said Brooke Edmunds, a community horticulturist with the [Oregon State University Extension Service](#). "Mulch can also keep weed seeds from germinating and makes it much easier to pull out the weeds that do."

Whatever the size of your tree, "all trees can benefit from mulching," she said. "Competition for water from grasses and other ground covers can be eliminated by adding a layer of mulch around trees."

That layer also beautifies your yard or garden and protects trees and plants from other dangers. "A ring of mulch allows you to bring your lawnmower right up to the edge of the mulch, eliminating the need for string weeders," said Virginia Cooperative Extension horticulture agent Adria Bordas. "At the same time, you are protecting tree trunks and surface roots from damage by mowing and clipping equipment."

Stop building 'mulch volcanoes'

You're killing your trees

OK, we now know the benefits of mulch. But you can use too much. When it comes to trees, try to avoid the dreaded "mulch volcano," a volcano-shaped mound surrounding the base of your tree.

Mulch piled up in a 1- or 2-foot tall mound "around the trunks of young trees is taking a good idea way, way too far," said Paul Cappiello, executive director at [Yew Dell Botanical Gardens](#) in Crestwood, Kentucky. "Aside from being bad for your trees, it costs you money – either just materials (if you're doing the volcano building yourself) or materials and labor (if you hire it out)."

The problem? "When the mulch is mounded around trees it will hold that moisture up against the trunk. This can promote decay and rot of the tree," Edmunds said.





to the tree's drip line. But around the base of the tree, pull mulch back so it avoids contact with the trunk. "The soil will stay moist but the trunk won't," Edmunds said.

It's not just trees that can suffer from mulch volcanoes. So can shrubs. "You can suffocate the roots of shallow-rooted species and cause cankers to develop around the bases of susceptible trees and shrubs," Bordas said.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/04/22/mulch-tips-to-keep-plants-trees-safe/7371710001/>

Building a mulch volcano of even more than 3 inches deep is "somewhat like wearing a turtleneck in the summer," Boyer said. "Trees with too much mulch around the base of the trunk experience a wide variety of stress."

This can especially hurt newer trees, which may be planted too low, by covering up the tree's root flare and smothering its ability to exchange oxygen and thrive. Too much mulch can also attract pests and diseases.

Research done at K-State found newly planted trees can grow up to 300% more in the first two years of growth if the grass around a tree is removed, Boyer said. Mulch is used after grass removal to protect that area around the tree.

When spreading mulch around your tree, envision a doughnut. Spread mulch about 3 inches deep, preferably



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LOUDOUN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Loudoun County Public Schools is accepting 2022-2023 Kindergarten (and new student) registrations. The student registration portal for the 2022-2023 school year is located at <https://www.lcps.org/Page/228770>. Choose the "Online Pre-Registration" link on the above webpage to start the registration process. Once the Pre-Registration has been submitted, with necessary documents uploaded, please contact your school Registrar at the number listed below to schedule a meeting. Please register soon as some Elementary Schools hold Kindergarten Orientation in June. Your school can be contacted for any questions.

- Belmont Station Elementary - (571) 252-2240, Cheryl Palmer (Cheryl.Palmer@lcps.org)
- Cedar Lane Elementary - (571) 252-2120, Jen Paskey (Jen.Paskey@lcps.org)
- Sanders Corner Elementary - (571) 252-2250, Jean Marie Logue (jeanmarie.logue@lcps.org)
- Trailside Middle School - (571) 252-2280, Yvonne Carolan (Yvonne.Carolan@lcps.org)
- Stone Bridge High School - (571) 252-2200, Lori Clairmont (lori.clairmont@lcps.org)

Not sure which Elementary School you are zoned for? Go to the LCPS Attendance Boundary E-Listing to find out or scan the QR code included.



ASHBURN VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE



May 2022 Newsletter

Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue - June 2022 Newsletter

Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue voted "Best Non-Profit 2022" by Ashburn Magazine

Thanks to all our neighbors and friends for your support.

Save the Dates:

July 10th - Pancake Breakfast - Purchase tickets at the door or online at: ashburnfirerescue.org/go/pancakes

Oct 5th - 5k - come and join us again for this family friendly event

Oct 9th - Open House - Come out with family and friends to see what we're up to.

Follow us at: ashburnfirerescue.org/events for details and updates on all our events.

Prospective Members Meeting Tues - June 28th - 7:00-9:00pm. Learn more about volunteering with AVFRD. Operations and Admin members needed. Many benefits. See our website for more information: ashburnfirerescue.org/go/volunteer/

AVFRD is always looking for student volunteers! We offer high school students (ages 14 and older) opportunities to earn college application community service credit by volunteering at our events. If interested please visit our website: <https://ashburnfirerescue.org/go/student-volunteers/> As new opportunities are available, you will be notified via email.

Founders Hall - Station 6, Ashburn Road - With modern amenities and simple rental terms, this is the right choice for your event - big or small. Accessible, friendly, and fun for you, family, friends and more! For more details go to: founders-hall.com or email: info@founders-hall.com

Ashburn Library June 2022

For details and all Loudoun County Library programs visit: library.loudoun.gov

Ashburn Library June 2022

Summer Book Sale

Saturday, June 25th 9-5pm (free entrance)

Sunday, June 26th 9-6pm (free entrance)

*Pre-Sale: Friday, June 24th 5-7pm

(\$15 entrance per person)

Donations accepted starting June 15th

Children's Programs

Pre-K Skill Builders continues every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Storytimes continue as is.

June 6 at 1 p.m. Homeschool Curriculum Swap

June 7 at 4 p.m. Rainbow Storytime

June 12-25 StoryWalk of Camp Rex by Molly Idle

June 18 1-4 p.m. Barnyard Petting Zoo

June 21 at 3 p.m. Pop-Up Party outside

June 23 at 3 p.m. Knot Just for Fun outside

June 27 at 7 p.m. Family Movie Night



June 28 at 3 p.m. Discovery and Exploration in Space with the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum

June 29 at 7 p.m. Bright Star Theatre presents Aesop's Fables

June 30 at 3 p.m. T-Rexplorers

June 30 at 3 p.m. T-Rexplorers

Adult Programs:

Saturday, June 11, 2 p.m. Live Music: Pianist Quentin Walston

Tuesday, June 21, 930-3 p.m. DMV Connect

Thursday, June 23, 7 p.m. Portrait Sketching Class

ESOL:

Mondays at 7 p.m. Loudoun Literacy Class (Beginner)

Tuesdays at 7 p.m. English Conversation Groups

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Loudoun Literacy Class (Intermediate)

Thursdays at 10 a.m. English Conversation Group

Teens:

Wednesday, June 8, 7 p.m. Rainbow Reads

Thursday, June 9, 6 p.m. DIY: Distressing Doodads

Monday, June 13, 4 p.m. Make & Take: Trail Mix

Thursday, June 16, 7 p.m., Ashburn Anime Club

Monday, June 27, 7 p.m., Make & Take: Book Nook

Thursday, June 30, 6:30 p.m., D&D Club



Ashburn Farm Association's Annual

ADULT SWIM NIGHT

**JUNE:
TUESDAY
7TH AND
THURSDAY
23RD**

**JULY:
THURSDAY
7TH AND
TUESDAY
19TH**

**AUGUST:
TUESDAY
2ND,
THURSDAY
11TH
& TUESDAY
23RD**



On the above dates, Windmill Pool will CLOSE at 7:00 pm to those under age 18. The pool will then be open to adults only until closing at 9:00 pm. Summerwood and Breezyhill pools will not be affected in any way.



Please contact the Association office at (703) 729-6680 or events@afhoa.net if you have any questions or have feedback on the event.



Ashburn Farm Odd Job Squad

Please consider the following young people for your odd job needs!

The Ashburn Farm Association makes no claim as to the qualifications of the below-mentioned persons.

Please be sure to update your contact information regularly. Thank you! [Odd Job Squad Form is NOW here](#)



Ashburn Senior Center

20880 Marblehead Drive – Ashburn, VA 20147

Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm – Saturday 8:00am-12:00pm

Summer is a busy time at the Ashburn Senior Center! We continue to offer our daily programming with activities like line dancing, pickleball, yoga, bingo, tai chi, euchre, mahjong and more. Also, we have several larger events planned that are listed below. We look forward to your visit!

- **Filipino Independence Day Celebration**- Friday, June 10th from 1:30-4:30 pm \$5/member, \$8/non-member
- **Juneteenth Celebration**- Thursday, June 16th from 10:00-11:30 am \$3/member, \$6/non-member
- **Father's Day Field Day**- Friday, June 17th from 11:00 am-1:00 pm
- **Ashburn Senior Center Anniversary Drop-in Open House**- Tuesday, June 21st from 1:30-3:30 pm
- **Ashburn Senior Center Anniversary & Monthly Birthday Bash**- Friday, June 24th from 11:30 am- 1:00 pm \$3/member, \$6/non-member
- **Patriotic Sing-Along & Ice Cream Social**- Wednesday, July 6th from 12:30-1:00 pm \$1/member, \$4/non-member
- **Flip Flop Luau**- Friday, August 26th from 6:00-8:00 pm \$10/member, \$13/non-member

For more information, please visit Ashburn Senior Center| Loudoun County, VA – Official Website or call 571-367-8340.

PRIVATE MATH TUTORING

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Lawn Care and Landscaping Services

Trust your lawn care or landscaping project to us. Current list of services can be found on ridge-infinity.com. Please email ryan.irvine@ridge-infinity.com or call/text 443.864.6061 for a free quote. We look forward to working with you!

ESTATE PLANNING: WILLS AND TRUST

Estate planning services, including a fee 30-minute consultation to discuss your needs. Everything from basic wills and power of attorney to more advanced living trust. Please visit www.hammelmanlaw.com or contact Melanie at melanie@hammelmanlaw.com or 571-403-1869. EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT FOR ASHBURN FARM RESIDENTS.

Interior Design Services

Ready to revitalize your home? Let us refine your space with your existing furnishings and give you a fresh look or update with new paint colors, artwork, accessories, window treatments, blinds, or furniture. We also stage homes for resale. Contact Ginger at GB Interiors 571-442-2773 or Kay at 703-850-3441.

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Babysitter Position

Seeking an energetic and fun after-school babysitter starting this fall for a Kindergartener and 3rd-grader. Qualified candidates would get kids off the bus at 2:30 and stay until 5:00pm, M-F. Can be flexible on days/times as needed. Parents work from home, just need help to provide afternoon snacks, homework time, and playtime. Contact 703-966-8940 or roxaneadler@gmail.com

Electrical Work by JD

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HOW TO PLACE CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads (limited to 40 words maximum) must be received with payment by the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. To take advantage of the discounted rates for Ashburn Farm residents, you must provide an address and daytime telephone number to accompany your ad.

MONTHLY RATES:

- Resident Rates • Monthly - \$20.00
- Personal Ads FREE
- Non-Resident Rates • Monthly - \$35.00

ADS:

Please email ads to: info@afhoa.net

FORM OF PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

Cash and checks are accepted as payment. Make checks payable to "Ashburn Farm Association." No cancellations after the 15th of each preceding month.

MAIL TO OR DROP OFF PAYMENTS AT:

Ashburn Farms Association, 21400 Windmill Drive, Ashburn, VA 20147

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Editor: Kristen at 703-729-6680 or info@afhoa.net

Please Note: Neither the Ashburn Farm Association, its Members, or the Board of Trustees recommends or endorses any advertiser. The Ashburn Farm Association reserves the right to decline any advertisement for any reason deemed appropriate. Submitted materials are the author's opinion and do not reflect the views of Ashburn Farm Association, its Members, or the Board of Trustees. For the sake of clarity or length, the Editor or General Manager may edit articles.



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