

Ivy Hill Homeowner's Association Newsletter

May 2014



IHHA President's Message - Ed Schwabe

Spring! It has finally arrived in all of its splendor and after the winter we have just experienced it is most welcome. The trees and flowers are blooming and some folks have even started tilling their gardens in preparation for planting. Spring is a wonderful time of year!

The real estate market in Ivy Hill has shown that it is healthy what with many homes that have gone on the market selling rather quickly. As the new owners move into our community please stop by and welcome them and advise one of our Board members so that we can discuss the Ivy Hill Homeowners group with them and invite them to join our organization.

Pets and stray dogs seem to be an ongoing issue in our community. We ask that you do not allow your pets to roam onto other people's property and should a neighbor approach you about your roaming pet kindly accept the request to contain your pet. In regard to stray pets, try to get a photo and send it to Lew Walton. He will send it out to everyone on our email list and try to find it a way back home. So far, Lew is batting 100% in getting strays back to their owners; even one to North Carolina!

IHHA Membership invoices have been sent to all Ivy Hill homeowners. I ask that everyone send them back promptly. It is \$35.00 well spent.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I would like to thank everyone for your past support. All of us are looking forward to serving you in 2014 and in the future!

Ivy Hill Ladies Association

If you are 1) a woman and you 2) live in Ivy Hill or surrounding neighborhoods, and 3) find yourself reading this homeowner's newsletter, then YOU'RE MISSING OUT if you're not also a member of the Ivy Hill Ladies' Association! What is IHLA? It's neighbors who are also friends; neighbors who like knowing those who live around them; neighbors who otherwise wouldn't have an opportunity to meet each other.

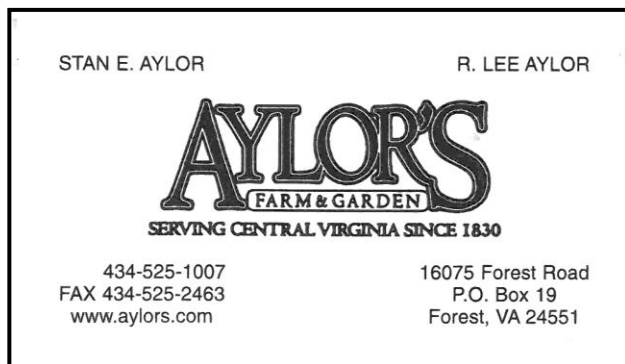
Each year, the IHLA sponsors or helps with several social events: a spring luncheon, a summer party, an election day coffee, Oktoberfest and a winter party. The modest dues (\$30) are used to put on these events. In addition, members of IHLA get together in smaller groups to enjoy hobbies, interests and outings together. Whether you are new in the area, or have lived here for years, think about getting to know other women in our neighborhood through IHLA. Those who already belong are eager to include you. To join, contact Margaret Deist at (534-9675) or margdeist@aol.com.

On April 9, our Spring Luncheon was held at Mountain View United Methodist Church. We enjoyed a salad bar lunch, then agreed on the leadership of the organization for the coming year. (Debbie Farrago, Lisa Rubilar and Bonnie Wishon will continue on the executive board; Margaret Deist will continue as treasurer; Carolyn Bosiger will continue as social chair.) We honored Ann Hite for being one of ten founding members of IHLA 37 years ago. How many other neighborhoods have a similar association that has been active for 37 years? Ann was among those who expressed hope that more newcomers will join the group. We also heard an update on the Ivy Lake Dam situation from guest Anne Klokow. Thanks, Anne!

Upcoming group activities include:

- *Bridge Club*: Summer bridge starts in May. Contact Jan Koch for more information (525-2935).
- *Lunch Bunch*: The group meets on the third Tuesday or Wednesday, alternating each month. Guess what they do! Eat out! Jan Koch is also the contact person for this group.
- *Knitting*: Carol Hinkle wore a scarf she'd made to our spring lunch. Good job, Carol! The group is open to anyone with an interest in knitting or crocheting, whether or not you currently know how. Many willing helpers are available. The group meets on Tuesday mornings. Contact Barb Walton for more information (525-0459).
- *Book Group*: Have you ever read a great book, and wished you could talk with someone else about it? The IHLA Book Group meets on the first Thursday of the month. Brenda Harvey is the contact person (525-8247). The group is reading *The Family Fang* for May and *The Goldfinch* for July. You don't have to have read the book to attend. Come enjoy the conversation!

Dues for IHLA are being collected now by Margaret Deist. If you're a member and haven't paid yet, please contact her.

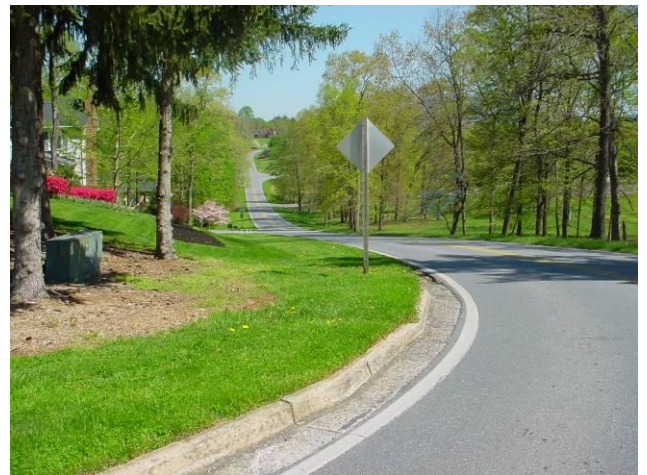


Ivy Hill History

Quail Ridge Drive was the first road constructed in the original residential section of Ivy Hill after the entranceway (Ivy Hill Drive). The upper photo to the right shows the early stages of the process. The curb has been installed at the corner at the top of Quail Ridge hill, the roadway has been graded down the hill and around the corner onto Hitching Post Lane, and the first course of crusher run has been laid in.

The lower photo shows the same view as it looks today. Quail Ridge Drive is of course much longer. However, even the original short section down the hill to Hitching Post has changed so much with the addition of the Ivy Place neighborhood to the left half way down the hill and Club Terrace to the right near the bottom of the hill. In the earlier photo the land was heavily wooded where both of those neighborhoods are now.

If you have interesting information about the history of this area, or old photographs that you would be willing to share with your neighbors, contact the editor Lew Walton at IvyHillForest@gmail.com. We would love to include them in a future Newsletter.



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New Neighbors

Please welcome the following new neighbors to Ivy Hill:

- Robert & Diane Austin - 113 Meadowgate Dr.
- Joe & Virginia Hanifl - 106 Deer Track Dr.
- Robert & Marilyn Luckhard - 203 Lake Ridge Dr.
- Tim & Kim Moreau - 1186 Cederberry Ln.
- Clifford & Mary Pavalonis - 324 Eastwind Dr.
- Rob & Heather Smith - 1134 Club Terr.

Pet Sitter

Are you traveling out of town this summer? Do you need a pet sitter? Call the sitter highly recommended by the four Walton dogs and two cats; vet tech Heather Staton, at 444-5443!

If you know of a new resident in Ivy Hill, or a house that has changed hands recently, please contact the IHHA at IvyHillForest@gmail.com so we can update our database.

Forest Farmer's Market

Outdoor Forest Farmer's Markets resumed on Saturday April 26th at the usual site behind the Forest Library. The turnout of both customers and vendors was unusually strong. Everyone appeared to be very glad that the long winter was over. In addition to the usual spring greens and early season garden produce, vendors were selling beef, chicken, bison and fresh fish; jams, jellies, preserves, pickles and cider; turned wooden bowls, knitted scarves; and handmade jewelry; assorted baked goods; homemade dog biscuits; and lots of healthy-looking bedding plants. The Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association also had a booth where you could get free gardening advice and sign up to receive their monthly Newsletter.



Farmer's Markets will be held every Saturday through early October beginning at 8:00 am.

Dog Tale

The dog shown in the photo hung around Ivy Hill for several weeks late last year. A number of us tried to catch him to no avail; he was too wary. The usual email alert was sent out and the very next day, "Bojangles" followed Phyllis Workman's dog Pepper into her house. She closed the door behind him and then after a while she was able to trap him in her bathroom and get his collar off. On his collar was the name and phone number of his owner. She called the owner, Todd Champion, and found out that Bojangles had run away from his home near Raleigh North Carolina almost ten months before! He'd evidently been "on the road" ever since. There was a winter storm in progress to our south that day. Because the dog was so skittish and would be a "flight risk" he was temporarily placed in the care of the Bedford Animal Shelter where they took good care of him. Two days later the weather cleared and Todd drove up to Bedford and retrieved him. Happy, happy, ending!!!



Please tag and microchip your pets.



2014 Board of Directors

All twelve candidates for the IHHA Board of Directors were elected unanimously in the February balloting. Five new members for 2014 include Bob Bomar, Beth Manns, Bruce Deist, Cereace Creasy, and Jennifer Duncan, all of whom are serving their first term in office. They have joined the seven existing members Ed Schwabe, Roger Lohn, Lew Walton, Bob Harvey, Rene Koch, Barb Walton, and Tom Haertel, all of whom were reelected for another term.

The new Board met formally for the first time on April 14th at the Forest Library. The entire current slate of officers was reelected for another term. So the 2014 IHHA President will be Ed Schwabe, the Vice President will be Roger Lohn, the Treasurer will be Bob Harvey, and the Secretary will be Lew Walton.

Ivy Lake Contact

To preserve the privacy of Ivy Hill residents, the IHHA has maintained a policy for many years of not sharing our mailing list with other organizations. In keeping with that policy, we recently declined a request for our mailing list from the communications committee of the lakeshore property owners group that is negotiating with Liberty University about the Ivy Lake dam situation. However, we recognize that some residents may want to be on the distribution list for any information that this committee may choose to distribute. If you are of such a mind, we suggest that you contact the committee's contact person Anne Klokow at 525-3414 or anneintl@verizon.net and request to be added to their distribution list.

2014 Dues

2014 IHHA dues invoices were mailed to all Ivy Hill addresses a few weeks ago. If we missed you somehow or you misplaced the invoice you can still join. Just fill out the form below and mail it with your check (payable to "IHHA") to Ivy Hill Homeowners Association, PO Box 353, Forest, VA 24551. Or save yourself some postage by hand delivering the same form and your check to any IHHA Officer or Board member. IHHA dues remain \$35/year.

Name(s)	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

Oktoberfest

Planning for this year's Oktoberfest is already underway. The date has been set for Saturday, October 11th (neither Virginia Tech or UVA play home games on that date) and the location will once again be the Ivy Hill pool pavilion. The starting and ending times will also be the same as last year; 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm respectively. Watch our website (ivyhill-forest.org) for additional details.

Previous Oktoberfest events have been free for all Ivy Hill residents; only guests from outside the neighborhood have been charged admission. However, the cost of staging the event keeps increasing every year. So the organizers are considering charging all non-members of the hosting organizations (the Ivy Hill Homeowners Association and the Ivy Hill Ladies Association) who attend this year. If you are thinking of participating in this fun event in October and have not yet joined one of these fine community organizations, maybe now would be a good time to do so!

Where Are the Bears?

The mother bear and her two cubs haven't been reported in the neighborhood so far this spring. They should have come out of hibernation by now. Hopefully, they have moved on.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries says black bears have a natural distrust of humans, are shy and avoid people, but they are attracted to food sources in residential areas. To help keep bears wild, DGIF recommends people learn all they can about black bears and to take these steps:

- Remove bird feeders when the winter is over.
- Store garbage in a shed or closed garage or a bear-proof container.
- Feed pets indoors or no more than they'll eat in a single feeding.
- Do not put meat scraps in a compost pile.
- Remove ripe fruit from trees and the surrounding grounds.
- Clean your grill often, burn off the grease and do not dump the drippings in your yard.
- Install electric fencing to protect beehives, dumpsters, gardens, compost piles and other food sources.
- Harass bears. Paintball guns are nonlethal and won't hurt a bear.

Talk to your neighbors so they too are aware of ways to prevent bears from causing problems.

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Ivy Lake Update

The following update was provided by Lisa Rubilar of the Ivy Hill Ladies Association and edited and approved by Anne Klokow. It summarizes the information that Anne Klokow of the lakeshore property owner's communication committee presented to the IHLA at their meeting last month. This article does not represent the position of the Ivy Hill Homeowners Association on this issue.

Anne began by saying that Ivy Hill and the surrounding neighborhoods were built on the prestige of Ivy Lake and the golf course. The loss of the lake would affect the value of all property in the area. In addition, many property owners have found themselves unable to sell due to this unresolved issue.

She then said that the lake issue began in February 2013, when LU was informed by the DCR that the Ivy Lake dam would have to be improved to meet safety requirements, or would have to be breached. LU wanted 85 lakefront homeowners to split the cost of dam renovation, which was estimated to be between \$2.5 and \$3 million. Homeowners thought this was unfair and unrealistic. One issue is that all homeowners in the area share in the benefits of the lake, not just a few dozen owners whose property directly abuts it. If the dam were breached, access would be altered to the neighborhoods beyond the dam. However DCR requirements to breach the dam are implemented, the resulting road would differ from the existing one over the dam. Access would be difficult during the construction/destruction process. In addition, flooding would resume downstream, which was a problem prior to the dam's being built.

Anne stated that media coverage hasn't provided accurate information about the lake issue. Homeowners have not felt well-treated by LU throughout this process. For instance, without warning, LU announced that it would begin lowering the lake. Anne said that it is not true that the DCR required this lowering of the lake. Homeowners feel that LU is now draining the lake in order to show them what it will be like if the dam is removed. The lake had been lowered 8½ to 9 feet by early April.

Anne reported that at a meeting with the Ivy Lake committee members in September last year, LU offered to pay \$1million toward the dam renovation (which is its new estimate of the cost), and is asking shoreline property owners to then assume responsibility for the dam and the lake's maintenance. LU wants to maintain a presence on the lake. There was a handshake on this idea, but LU was to provide a written proposal within a couple of days. When LU sent the proposal four months later, it was different in the particulars from what the homeowners felt they had agreed to, so the shorefront homeowners at a meeting turned it down. They felt that LU would continue to enjoy all of the benefits of the lake, with none of the costs or liability.



Anne said that most parties would like this issue to be resolved as soon as possible so that property owners don't continue to suffer. A few want to wait for proposed state legislation, which would change dam safety rules. However, from what Anne has seen, those rules would not affect Ivy Lake dam, and it would not be worth it to wait for another study that won't be completed until late 2015.

Anne's committee is working on making estimates of the real costs of assuming lake and dam ownership, in preparation for responding to LU's latest proposal. However, Anne said that LU is now reaching out only to homeowners who have not expressed a negative opinion on the lake transition.

Pay your 2014 IHHA dues now! Form on page 5.

E-Newsletters

If you would like to receive future Newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to IvyHillForest@gmail.com. A downloadable version of this Newsletter and other recent Newsletters can also be found on the Ivy Hill website (ivyhill-forest.org).



IHHA Board (2014)

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525-8946
Roger Lohn, Vice president
534-0604
Lew Walton, Secretary
525-0459
Bob Harvey, Treasurer
525-8247

Rene Koch	Barb Walton	Tom Haertel
Bob Bomar	Beth Manns	Bruce Deist
Cereace Creasy	Jennifer Duncan	

If you received this Newsletter via the US Mail, please check the mailing label for errors. Contact the IHHA at IvyHillForest@gmail.com with any corrections.

Ivy Hill Homeowners Association, Inc.
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Forest, VA 24551