

# Ivy Hill Homeowner's Association Newsletter

May 2015



## **IHHA President's Message - Ed Schwabe**

Thus far spring has been beautiful what with cool mornings and frequent rain showers to help our gardens and new plantings.

Congratulations to all of the 2015 graduates in the Ivy Hill communities and on your personal achievements over the past years. Our best wishes to all of you in your future endeavors.

This is the time of year when many folks are pushing carriages with their young children, jogging and walking their pets throughout our community. I urge all motorists to slow down when they encounter these folks and if possible pull over to the opposite side of the roadway.

Snakes! It has been reported that a copperhead snake was found under a boat stored near the dock and beach area of Ivy Lake. A word of caution should you go down in that area.

Oktoberfest is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Ivy Hill golf pavilion. As in previous years we have scheduled entertainment, great food and refreshments. So mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing you on the 10<sup>th</sup> for an enjoyable afternoon with family and friends.

As in springs past, I always ask this time of year "Are you a member of the IHHA"? If not, please complete the handy form on page 4 of this Newsletter, enclose your check for \$35.00, and mail both items to the address on the form. Your dues pay for many of the benefits that many take for granted in the community So sign up and send your check today! Thank you!

On behalf of the Board and myself I would like to thank you for all of your past support. We look forward to serving you in the future.

*Ed Schwabe, President IHHA*

## **Ivy Hill Ladies Association Update**

Our April meeting was attended by a small but productive group. Much discussion revolved around the history and the future of the group. At the meeting, it was decided to add a children's activity group. Susan Nicholas agreed to serve as chairperson of this group. If you have any ideas, call Susan at (434) 525-7376 or email at [bestservegirl@aol.com](mailto:bestservegirl@aol.com). More information will follow in regards to our first event. Thank you Susan!

We still need new officers for the upcoming year starting in October. Margaret Deist has agreed to stay on as treasurer, but we still need three other officers to serve. Please contact Margaret ([margdeist@aol.com](mailto:margdeist@aol.com)) if you are interested.

Speaking of volunteers, we need volunteers to organize our Summer Barbecue and our November Election Coffee. We also need people to host these events. Again, contact Margaret if you can help out.

Obviously, a constant theme seems to be the need for involvement. We will be holding a meeting in August to come up with a plan of action to keep the Ivy Hill Ladies Association alive and well. Hopefully, by then we will have some new officers for the next year. We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions contact Margaret Deist at (434) 534-9675, Debbie Farrago at (434) 525-0175, Lisa Rubilar at (434) 525-1941, or Bonnie Wishon at (434) 525-8145.

## **Ivy Hill History**

This aerial photo centered on the first hole of the golf course shows the growing Ivy Hill subdivision sometime in the late 1980s. Several of the Shaker Lane condos are just visible at the bottom right boundary of the image, while two of the "new" Fairwinds condos stand out in the sunlight to the northwest along Perrowville Road. Quail Ridge Drive can be seen snaking along the left side of the image and then winding off into the distance behind the open window of the light airplane.



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 at [IvyHillForest@gmail.com](mailto:IvyHillForest@gmail.com). We would love to include them in a future Newsletter.

## **New Neighbors**

Please welcome the following new neighbors to Ivy Hill:

- Kevin & Rachel Rawls 110 Hitching Post Lane
- Tiffany and Bryon Lyttle 117 Meadowgate Drive

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](mailto:IvyHillForest@gmail.com) so we can update our database.

## Strays, Hybrids & Other Feline Matters

We've had a number of questions this spring about stray cats, domestic-wild cat hybrids (like the Savannah who lives on Eastwind Drive), and pet cats wandering in Ivy Hill. The veterinarians at Ridgewood Animal Hospital in Forest kindly provided their thoughts on these concerns as follows:

"It is always preferred that domesticated cats be kept safely indoors. Keeping cats indoors helps to avoid health and safety risks such as automobiles, other animals and toxins. In addition to the risks posed to the cat itself, an outdoor cat can get into or cause trouble. As one might expect, cats do not confine themselves to their owner's property, and can be seen as a nuisance (ex. getting into flower beds or sandboxes) or even as threats (ex. going after song birds at a feeder, fighting with a neighboring cat).

Ridgewood Animal Hospital follows the vaccination guidelines set out by the American Association of Feline Practitioners. Please visit [www.catvets.com](http://www.catvets.com) for further information.

Always use caution if you chose to approach any cat or dog that you are unfamiliar with. If the animal appears to be in distress or acting strangely, contact the owner or Animal Control. Any animal that is in pain, cornered or scared is more likely to inflict injury as their "fight or flight" instinct kicks in.

With regard to hybrids (a cross between a domestic animal and a wild animal):

- Hybrid cats are legal in the state of Virginia, but specific laws vary in each locality.
- Prior to obtaining any hybrid animal (dog or cat), potential owners should check to ensure they are in compliance with any local ordinances.
- In our area, there are no ordinances or laws that require special handling or permits for Savannah cats. General laws (nuisance animal, vaccination) apply as with any other feline.

Contact Bedford Animal Control if you need any further information regarding the legal requirements of having cats or dogs at (540) 586-7827.

As always, the staff at Ridgewood Animal Hospital is more than happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the health and happiness of your own pet."

Dr. Jerry Lane & Dr. Kristen Miller (434) 525-2111



**Forest Farmers Market**  
**Spring Markets**  
Every Saturday morning  
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon  
April 25<sup>th</sup> thru October 31<sup>st</sup>  
Behind the Forest Library  
15583 Forest Road

Fresh Meats • Produce • Flowers  
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Like us on Facebook!  
For more information, contact  
[forestfarmersmarket221@gmail.com](mailto:forestfarmersmarket221@gmail.com)

**OPENING ON APRIL 25TH**

**VIRGINIA GROWN**



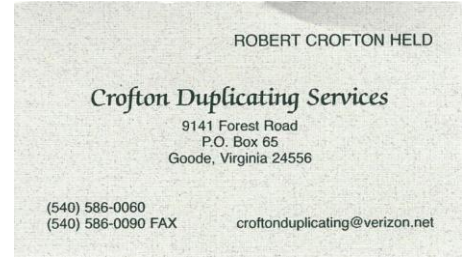
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Ads in the IHHA Newsletter are only \$25 per issue and reach more than 600 Ivy Hill households.  
Contact the Editor at [IvyHillForest@gmail.com](mailto:IvyHillForest@gmail.com)

**AAFP Position Statement on Hybrid Cats**

We followed up on the specific concerns about domestic-wild cat hybrids by visiting the [www.catvets.com](http://www.catvets.com) website mentioned in the article on page 3. This website includes the following position statement:



"The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) opposes the deliberate breeding of non-domestic cats to domestic cats with the purpose of producing exotic looking or novel hybrid cats. The AAFP recognizes that hybrid cats are gaining in popularity. Commonly seen hybrid cats include the cross between the domestic cat and the Serval called the Savannah, the cross between the domestic cat and the Asian Leopard Cat known as the Bengal, as well as Geoffroy's cat and Jungle Cat crosses."

The AAFP position statement then goes on to list the following public safety concerns with this practice:

- "There is a risk to the public when unlicensed individuals house non-domestic cats.
- There is a risk to veterinarians and their staff members unfamiliar with these hybrids and not appropriately trained to safely handle these cats. Veterinarians are encouraged to refer these cats to veterinary facilities more familiar with them.
- This risk may extend to hybrid offspring.
- Rabies vaccination of hybrid cats may not be valid in some jurisdictions."

*Lost a pet or found a stray animal? We can help. Contact [IvyHillForest@gmail.com](mailto:IvyHillForest@gmail.com) or any IHHA Board member to send out a community-wide email alert. We've had 100% success in reuniting lost pets with their owners since this service started. Provide a photo of the animal if possible.*

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**2015 Dues**

*Ivy Hill Homeowners Association dues are only \$35/year. If you are new to Ivy Hill or have not yet joined for 2015, please complete the form below, enclose it with your check payable to "IHHA" and mail it to Ivy Hill Homeowners Association, PO Box 353, Forest, VA 24551.*

Name(s)	
Address	
Phone	
E-mail	

## **Architectural Committee**

The Ivy Hill restrictions read in part "No building, fence, outside lighting, screen planting, or other improvement shall be erected, altered, or placed on any lot unless building plans, specifications, and site plans showing the location of such improvements have been submitted in advance in writing to and approved in writing by the Architectural Committee..." Most of the local neighborhoods in Ivy Hill also have similar restrictions. So, if you are planning a renovation, addition, or other substantial improvement to your property this year, be sure to run it by either your local homeowner's association or the Ivy Hill Architectural Committee first.

Copies of both the Ivy Hill restrictions and the local neighborhood restrictions can be found on the Ivy Hill Website ([ivyhill-forest.org](http://ivyhill-forest.org)) under the Groups tab. Contact Information for the various neighborhood homeowner's associations can be found under the Contacts tab.

The Chairman of the Ivy Hill Architectural Committee is Roger Lohn. You can contact him at (434) 534-0604 or [rogerlohn@mac.com](mailto:rogerlohn@mac.com). A complete list of the members of the Committee and their contact information can also be found under the Contacts tab on the Website.

An Architectural Committee Webpage is also being developed for the Website. It will include a link to a new form that you can use to submit your project to the Committee for approval. However, you don't need to wait for the Webpage to go live. If you are ready to seek approval for your project today. Contact Roger Lohn or any member of the Architectural Committee as soon as possible.

## **Fences in Ivy Hill**

One of the requests that is most frequently directed to the Ivy Hill Architectural Committee is a request to fence a portion of the homeowners property. The Architectural Committee will consider all such requests in light of both the letter of the Restrictions (see the Ivy Hill Website [ivyhill-forest.org](http://ivyhill-forest.org) for a copy of the Restrictions for your neighborhood) and the spirit of being a good neighbor. However, the following guidelines should be considered when you make your fencing request. They represent a distillation of how past Architectural Committees have interpreted the Restrictions over more than 40 years. Rulings that depart substantially from these guidelines are therefore unlikely.

- Boundary fences are not allowed in Ivy Hill.
- Fences should not be erected in the front yard of any Ivy Hill property (except small decorative fences around plantings).
- Pool fences, utility enclosures, and other "working" fences should be in the back yard and substantially set back from the lot boundaries.
- Fences should not be put up just to keep your dogs in the yard. Use an electronic fence (either the buried cable or broadcast type) for this purpose.
- Ideally, any fence should not be visible from the street or any neighbor's property (unless necessary to surround a pool or utility pad).
- If the fence is going to be visible from the neighbor's property, get their agreement (preferably in writing). No chicken wire or chain link fences.

The Architectural Committee will generally approve any fence that meets these guidelines but retains the right to disapprove specific designs that are not in keeping with the character of the neighborhood (like a fence made out of old tires).

## **E-Newsletters**

If you would like to receive future Newsletters electronically, send your e-mail address to [IvyHillForest@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://ivyhill-forest.org)).



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