



The COUNTRY WALK QUARTERLY

The Newsletter of the Country Walk Cluster,
Reston, VA March '06

Your Neighborhood Newsletter

In this edition, we bring you—

- Quarterly Update
 - Annual Meeting News
 - State of the Cluster
- Other News
 - Update from RA
 - Spring Festivals

QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM EDITOR'S DESK

Hello, everyone! On January 26 we held our annual meeting including elections for three open positions. While we are happy to welcome Elizabeth Sherrod to the board, we are sad to see Melissa Utzinger resign from the board due to her other commitments. We thank her for all her contributions to the community and we wish her the very best and hope that she will continue to volunteer whatever time she can in future for the cluster. Read on for more news from the annual meeting including our ongoing efforts on replacing electric poles and updating covenants that are several years old.

Annual Meeting

We had three open positions on the board, because Melissa decided to resign from her position due to personal reasons, and Rhonda and Amelia's terms ended last year. Thankfully, Rhonda and Amelia decided to run for two of the open positions, and we had one walk-in candidate, Elizabeth Sherrod. For your convenience, in addition to in-person ballots, we accepted absentee ballots and Virginia Boerhinger, Cluster/Condo Outreach Coordinator from Reston Association, acted as our external election coordinator and validated those absentee ballots. We were happy to note that we received 20 valid ballots. Among them, Amelia received 20 votes, and Rhonda received 19 votes and Elizabeth received 9 votes. After the elections, the new board members met and decided to serve in the following roles: Srinivas (President), Amelia and Brad (Vice Presidents), Rhonda (Treasurer), and Elizabeth (Secretary).

STATE OF THE CLUSTER

During the board meeting, Srimi gave an overview of the state of the cluster. The following is a brief summary of our last year's activities and accomplishments:

Social <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held Easter egg hunt • Organized holiday contest • Held regular monthly meetings • Published quarterly newsletters 	Cluster Upkeep <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Painted cluster sign at the entrance • Painted fire lanes and cross walks • Replaced all the old mailbox stands • Facilitated arrangement of lawn mowing services for homeowners
Cluster Make-over Plans	
Cluster Landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired a landscape consultant • After a couple of cluster walkthroughs, plans are underway for additional landscaping work in 2006 • Identified and removed a dead tree 	Light Poles & Covenants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received approval from RA's DRB to replace wooden poles with composite poles • Working on updating cluster covenants starting with exterior light fixtures



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OTHER NEWS

- News from Reston Association (RA)
 - RA mailed Governing Documents Referendum Ballot to all Reston residents a few weeks ago. Please make sure you return it in time so that it is received before March 31, 2006. You can also vote online at <http://eballot3.votenet.com/reston> using your unique USERNAME and PASSWORD provided on the back of your ballot.
- Holiday Contest Update
 - Thank you to all the residents who made our neighborhood one of the prettiest clusters in Reston with your holiday decorations. It was difficult to pick two homes for special recognition, but the Board chose the following two as the winners of our Holiday contest: First Prize: 1660 Sierra Woods Dr; Second Prize: 1677 Sierra Woods Ct

Spring Festivals

April 6: Rama Navami (Sri Rama Navami) Celebration of the birth of Sri Rama; important festival of the Vaishnav sect of Hinduism.

April 9: Palm Sunday; Sunday prior to Easter; commemorates Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem

April 11: Mawlid an Nabi; Islamic commemoration of the birth of Prophet Muhammad.

April 12: Passover is an eight-day Jewish religious celebration symbolizing thanksgiving, spring renewal, and family and community solidarity.

April 13: Theravada Buddhist New Year; New Year for many Buddhists in South East Asia; festivities continue for three days.

April 14: Baisakhi; Sikh New Year festival; most important date on the Sikh calendar.

April 16: Easter Sunday is celebrated all over the world to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus. It also represents a time of rebirth, new beginnings, and the magic of spring.

April 21: Feast of Ridvan; Commemorates Baha'u'llah's declaration of his mission as God's messenger

May 5: Cinco de Mayo; A Mexican holiday in celebration of the Battle of Puebla won by Mexican peasants over French soldiers.

May 29: Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i holiday):

June 2-3: Shavuot; Two-day festival commemorating the revelation of the Ten Commandments to Moses and the giving of the Torah

June 4: Pentecost; Commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit to the disciples; observed on the Sunday 50 days after Easter.

Other Dates: Earth Day (April 22nd), Mother's Day (May 14th), Memorial Day (May 29th), and Father's Day (June 18th).

If you would like to share with your neighbors any special occasions that fall between July and September 2006, please email the details to srinivas_krovvidy@yahoo.com. We celebrate our cluster's diversity.

Country Walk Cluster Association Board of Directors for 2006:

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