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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

IRF Owners Association President George Hall's Quarterly Message...

Dear Owners,

Spring/Summer is approaching us fast and that means alterations and those completions of the honey-do list.

The Board of Directors has asked me to bring to your attention that many of you are still placing yourselves in serious financial situations by not applying to the ARB before doing any alterations to your Lot to determine if the alterations are approved items. Or when you apply and are denied, and you continue to place your alterations in the wrong location. Your documents require that you apply first and wait for the written response from the ARB, before beginning the installation of your alteration, such as: fences, storage sheds, pools, playground equipment, landscaping, patios, decks, solar panels or lights, etc.



An alteration is considered to be "anything that changes the exterior look of your home or lot (front, side and backyards) from the date of your purchase." Failure to do so is considered a violation. If you are



The city seal atop Mount Trashmore in Virginia Beach

Summer's in the Air

We are already halfway through 2006 and temperatures here in Hampton Roads are skyrocketing just like the gas prices. Here are a few ideas regarding what to do with the kids during the week or the whole family on the weekends:

- No museum is livelier than **the Virginia Aquarium**. Not only Virginia's top aquarium, but one of the top aquariums in the country, the museum offers such a convincing glimpse into the world of water that you'll forget you don't have fins.

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replacing flowers or brushes you don't need to apply for an exterior alteration.

The Board along with the assistance of the ARB has been addressing the many alteration violations that are in existence in the Association. The Board does have recourses if the Owners do not apply first. After following the due process standards (bring owners in for a hearing), we have the right to charge a daily amount of ten (\$10.00) dollars for a total of \$900.00 if the Owner does not bring their Lot into compliance according to the guidelines outlined in your documents. The Board can also charge the Owner a one-time charge of \$50.00.

The Board has already placed these charges on several owners. Keep in mind that these charges can be placed on your homes in the form of a Memorandum of Lien, if it becomes necessary. In those instances, court costs, filing fees, etc. may become your responsibility to pay also.

When you see someone doing an alteration, don't assume that it has been applied for and approved. You need to apply for your own alterations to determine if what you are doing is an approved item that meets the Association's guidelines. City guidelines also apply.

This is the final notice that the Board is extending to the owners in reference to bringing your Lots into compliance. When we all purchased our home in the Association, we agreed to abide by the governing documents that were presented to us prior to the purchasing of our homes. If you have not applied for an alteration on your Lot, you need to do so now. This does not necessarily mean that you will be approved. Your alterations must meet the standards and guidelines of your documents and of the ARB. In the very near future the ARB, after proper notifications, will be inspecting Lots. George Hall, President

For current ARB forms, visit www.indianriverhoa.org

Yard Care Myths

Gardening and lawn care have long been a compost heap of myths, nearly all of them questionable, if not downright erroneous. Here are a few to watch out for:

"Lawn mower manufacturers create five height settings on lawn mowers so that I can opt for the lowest setting and ignore the other four the entire rest of my life."

Seriously, that's what must be going through the heads of homeowners who commit the number-one mistake in lawn care: mowing one's lawn too short. I have a guy down the road from me with an enormous lawn that he cuts with a rider set so low the grass blade is cut to around half an inch. I'm surprised he hasn't taken the tires off his tractor and tried running it on the hubs to get an even closer shave.

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Yard Care Myths (Cont. From P.2)

Mow your lawn using the middle setting— "C" on my Toro. Cut, your grass should be around 2.5 to 3 inches long. "A" cuts it to just under an inch. When repeatedly cut that short, grass doesn't develop a deep, healthy root system, so you need to water it more. The grass blades also don't shade the ground; the sun beats down and evaporates the moisture and fries the roots. Now you need to water even more and fertilize three or four times to keep it green. Your lawn becomes more susceptible to pests and fungal diseases, and is the first in the neighborhood to brown out and go dormant in mid-summer, unless you irrigate every two days.

Want another key benefit? Consider that you should only remove 1/3 of the grass blade when you mow. Cut any more and it stresses the plant. Well, if my neighbor is cutting his lawn to one inch, he has to cut it when it grows to an inch and a half, his status as Lawn God Of His lawn will grow that half than two days during tive. So he gets to mow three times a week.

Me, I consider mowing the equivalent of cleaning the grow to 4 or 5 inches and I mow less than once a

In the fall, after the grass that's when the low, "A" The last few times you your lawn as short as possible and disease problems and spring thaw.



if he hopes to maintain Western Deephaven. an inch in just more times grass is most ac-his lawn two and even

lawn the gardening toilet. I let my lawn cut it to just over three. week.

is finished growing, setting comes into play. mow in the fall, mow sible so there's less rot caused by snow cover

"Hostas are a shade plant, and don't tolerate sun"

Not quite correct. Some hostas need some direct sunlight in order to look their best. In deep shade, just about any hosta will grow smaller leaves, develop more slowly, and lack zip. Most like a little direct sunlight during the day to look their best.

This is especially true of those with yellow or gold leaves, which need, and easily tolerate, upwards to three hours of direct sun to develop rich color. I have one, Oreo Margarita 'William Shatner,' that didn't look at all attractive until I moved it a spot offering two hours of morning sun. (OK, so I remember the real name of this one, the magnificent H. montana 'Aureomarginata'.)

True, the blues don't like direct sun, and will bleach out. The all-green varieties like their sunlight dappled, or straight up for a few hours. But those with variegated leaves incorporating yellow, gold, cream or white definitely need some direct sun or you'll be disappointed.

"If I water my trees and shrubs heavily starting this fall, it will help them survive winter, even though I've pretty much neglected them all summer long"

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Yard Care Myths (Cont. From P.3)

Ah, if only this myth was true. Making up for season-long neglect by watering your trees and shrubs in the fall (because you've heard that they should enter the winter season well-watered) is akin to finding God in a fox-hole. Results are not at all assured.

Yes, trees and shrubs (and by trees, I mean ornamentals, young trees, and trees planted this year or last) should go to bed wet, to protect them from winter burn and overall stress. But if they haven't been receiving regular moisture during the growing season, fall watering won't have much impact.

Oh, it'll be better than nothing, but best is to water regularly all season long. That's what it takes for trees and shrubs to develop a lengthy, healthy root system in just a couple years, so they can seek and store adequate moisture for winter.

"Organic fertilizers are better for the environment, and safer to use than chemical fertilizers, particularly on vegetables."

I barely know where to start. High school chemistry remains a distant, vague blur to me, as does all of high school, for that matter, but for some reason I do remember Mr. Karls, my chemistry teacher, pleading with us to get it through our thick skulls that "nitrogen is nitrogen is nitrogen."

And so it is. Organic fertilizers ("organic" meaning they are derived from materials produced or occurring in nature) contain, separately or in combination, the three macronutrients vital to plant growth: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). And these three are everywhere; N, P, and K were all over the planet well before man arrived, and still exist in every nook, cranny and cow pasture.

by The Lazy Homeowner

Summer (from page 1)

You can explore Virginia's marine environment and visit a world unknown to most. In 800,000 gallons of aquariums, Virginia's coastal identity is more than well-represented. Outside of the tanks, 10 acres of marsh life call this museum home. With over 300 exhibits, a nature trail, an aviary, and the IMAX Theater (which shows current, first-run Hollywood releases as well as the typically amazing made-for-IMAX films) consider spending at least a full day.

The Norfolk Zoo is a must. A home to more than 300 animals, Virginia Zoological Parks provides a fine educational experience for each of its visitors.

Along the Lafayette River, you can get up close and personal with lions, tigers, monkeys, elephants, birds, and reptiles. The animals' environment is as close as possible to their natural habitats, and the viewing public can come here to observe both the thriving and endangered species that call the zoo home.

When you need a break from walking around in the heat, stop in for a snack at "The Beastro," or at the African Village Restaurant, which serves a variety of drinks and sandwiches.

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Summer (from Page 4)

Rising 60 ft. over I-264 in Virginia Beach, stands **Mount Trashmore**. The park is 165 acres. The mountain was created by compacting layers of solid waste and clean soil. The park is open from 7:30am to sunset and facilities include four large and many small picnic shelters, playground areas, a basketball court, four volleyball areas, parking, a walking trail, vending machines, and restrooms.

The park features two lakes, Lake Windsor located along South Blvd, is brackish water fed by Thalia Creek. Fishing is allowed. Lake Trashmore located along Edwin Dr, is freshwater and is stocked with fish. No private boats are allowed on this lake, but fishing is allowed.

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Board Update:

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Vice President: Sharolyn Rancour (vicepresident@indianriverfarmshoa.org)
Secretary: Sun-Siret Medina (secretary@indianriverfarmshoa.org)
Treasurer: Chris Stevens (treasurer@indianriverfarmshoa.org)
Member At Large: Vacant

The Association holds a Board Meeting the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30PM.

At each Board Meeting there is a "HomeOwners Forum" beginning at 7:00PM. At this time all home-owners have the opportunity to address the Board. Starting in September, the meetings will once-again be held at Glenwood Elementary School (2213 Round Hill Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464). July and August's meetings will be held at the UPA offices (525 S. Independence Blvd.).

A map to Glenwood Elem. is available online at
http://www.indianriverfarmshoa.org/board_meetings.htm

CALENDAR

July 2006

July 11th - Board meeting/Homeowners Forum
UPA Offices, 525 S. Independence Blvd. 6:30/7:00PM

August 2006

August 8th - Board meeting/Homeowners Forum
UPA Offices, 525 S. Independence Blvd. 6:30/7:00PM
August 22nd - "Get Acquainted Dinner"
Golden Corral, Kempsville Road

September 2006

September 9th - "NFL Day" 2-5PM, Common Area
September 12th - Board meeting/Homeowners Forum
Glenwood Elementary 6:30/7:00PM

Committee Members Needed

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