

October 2008

# Bentana Woods West

**Cluster Managed by:**  
TWC Assn. Management

Jim Hendon  
Phone: 703-437-5800  
Fax: 703-471-6578  
Email: twcmanage@aol.com

**Reston Association:**  
Eddie McEver, Covenants Counselor  
Phone: 703-435-6527  
Fax: 703-435-6516  
Email: eddie@reston.org

**Board of Directors**

Martin Dapout, President  
529 Park Glen Court  
Phone: 703-435-8521  
Jane LeGros, Vice President  
504 Scandia Circle  
Phone: 703-787-8388  
Tom Bodine, Treasurer  
525 Scandia Circle  
Phone: 703-708-7176  
Open, Secretary

Phone:  
Fileen DuBose, Member  
510 Scandia Circle  
Phone: 703-464-1776  
John Brigham, Member  
533 Park Glen Court  
Phone: 703-787-8084  
Jonathan Krentel, Member  
528 Scandia Circle  
703-975-6791

**Newsletter Editor:**  
Jane LeGros

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**Annual Budget meeting to be held on Sunday 10/5.  
7:30p at 1542 Scandia Circle.**

All home owners should have received the proposed budget sent by TWC for the year beginning November 1. The HOA expenditures are almost completely service related; they cover labor (directly) and fuel (indirectly). These two items have risen dramatically in the last two years. Our predictions, along with our advisors and contractors, are reflected in the proposed budget. The violent storm that took us by surprise in June prevented us from

completing some of our projects. We normally plan our major landscaping and tree care sessions for Spring and Autumn but this year we only managed to re-plant the left entrance to Scandia, perform two days of tree care and some general maintenance. The storm essentially depleted the funds that would have been used for autumn projects. The good news is *we did not run into a deficit, dip into our reserve funds, or have to ask for a special*

*assessment.* We will begin the new fiscal year with a clean balance sheet, our reserves intact and an excess of projects to be completed. The Cluster Board encourages you to attend the meeting; we will explain the decreases and increases caused mainly by the inflationary environment and uncertain financial markets.

**Fall is here, and with it home projects**

This is the time of year when outside work is a common theme. *Before you make any changes, please be sure to check with the Board.* This includes changing any colors on the exterior of your home, adding a new fence, new lights, door or roofing – basically *any* changes to the outside of your house – please check with the Board or contact RA. Last fall a Board member wanted to install a new fence. She went on the Reston Association web page and downloaded the

Design Review Board Application Form and the information about Design Guidelines for fences. Though the process seemed lengthy it assured the job would meet code and not have to be re-done. There are documents requiring signatures of Board members and also neighbors (affected parties) to submit with your plans. It takes a couple weeks and attending 1-2 DRB meetings before approval is granted. But the moral of the story is that it is easier

and better to ask permission than to ask forgiveness. Nobody wants to do a project twice!

**LEAF PICK-UP SCHEDULE**

Time to rake your leaves in the front of your property to the curbs; no bagging needed. *Leaves in the rear of your property are not to be raked on to common or wooded areas but bagged and brought to the front for our trash company.*

**Dates: Oct. 27, Nov. 17 and Dec. 8.**

## Reston Events

For a complete listing of the free concerts and events in Reston this summer please log on to [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

### Storm Damage

At this writing the storm damage done in early June has been cleared. A.G. & E., our tree-care contractor, did an excellent job or removing debris while taking care to minimize the damage to cluster and homeowner property. We also report that the area behind Park Glen that was damaged by vehicles has been reseeded. Thank you for your patience during the clean-up.

**Parking is provided in designated spaces only. Cars cannot park along curbs which are a fire lane. Please ask your guests and service people to park in designated spaces only. There are two parking spaces provided for each household. If you are not able to park in your own court it means that someone has parked an additional vehicle where it does not belong.**

To counter this serious matter, the Cluster **will begin a towing policy soon**. Home owners will receive letters soon with the details.

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### Cluster Calendar -

The **October Board Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, October 7th at 1529 Park Glen Court.

**The BWWC Cluster Picnic** was a huge success! Big thanks to Anne Smyers who volunteered to organize the well-attended event.

**Committees are an immense part** of cluster life. We run on volunteer energy. Please attend a Board meeting and bring your ideas. Get involved. We live in a great place- we need your help to keep it this way!

## Free Stuff

Do you have anything you would like to give away? Are you looking for an item to buy? Submit your request and contact information; we will publish it in the next newsletter.

## A word about the newsletter

Last month there were two suggestions and we would like to increase the numbers. It's *your* newsletter. We are looking for suggestions, articles, any information that you would like to see in the BWWC Newsletter. Please email any suggestions to [janelegros@comcast.net](mailto:janelegros@comcast.net). If you have a special event in your household such as a birth, wedding, graduation, book published, etc. we will gladly mention it in our newsletter.

If you have any questions concerning our neighborhood, our Board, how we allocate the dues, or how we interact with the Reston Association please speak up. Our cluster needs you! Comments and editorials will be welcomed.

**Have you had work done recently and you loved the contractor? Send us the information for others! We hope to include a preferred contractors list on our website.. coming soon.**

### Notes:

*Board meetings are held the FIRST Tuesday of each month at a Board member's home. Please check the location and attend. It is the single best way to learn what's going on in YOUR cluster.*



Halloween is Friday, Oct. 31st!

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