Volunteers make Falconbridge a great community

Message from our NEW president •• John Noble

With my first President’s letter let me, on behalf of all of us on the board, thank the departing President of the Alliance, Nancy Laney, for her leadership and valuable service to Falconbridge. We will greatly miss her and Tim. We wish them the best in Arizona and can only envy the gifts of enrichment they will bring to their new community.

And now, to the business at hand, we need your help! All the services provided to the neighborhood by The Alliance are staffed by volunteers: Aging In Place, Alliance Newsletter, Inter City Council representation, Website development and maintenance, Exercise Classes, Falconbridge Directory, Traveling Pub, Social Activities, etc. The list of activities and projects that enrich Falconbridge is long, the list of volunteers is not long enough.

Examples of volunteers include Eston Campbell who has been volunteering his considerable landscape background by treating and mulching the entrances off Farrington and the corner signs. He could use some help. Rick Stephens has been putting out all the 1,800 dog bags purchased by The Alliance. Michelle Wolff and her committee greet new residents with neighborhood information and welcome them to Falconbridge. And there are so many more of your neighbors that are helping make this a progressively better place to live.

Harriet Crisp and the social committee need some young parent help with the planned kid activities like the Easter Egg Hunt.

Which brings to mind, we would like to see more young family participation in the Alliance. One of my goals is to emphasize the understanding that Falconbridge is a trans-generational community. We are looking for volunteers to help with the above activities.

Message continued on page 2
Alliance Board Changes and Openings

The nine-member board which manages the Falconbridge Alliance is staffed by residents who want to help improve life in Falconbridge and are willing to put some personal effort into that challenge. Board members normally serve a 3-year term but often switch positions as needed.

Unfortunately, a change was recently needed when President Nancy Laney took a new job in Tucson and had to leave beautiful green NC for the brown deserts of Arizona. We certainly miss her skilled guidance as head of the board. Fortunately, our esteemed Treasurer John Noble was willing to take over the presidency and was elected by the board during the March board meeting. John has been especially busy this year while managing the extensive reconstruction project in the clubhouse. See the related article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Jim Carroll has been elected to fill the empty position of Treasurer. Jim has lots of experience from his former tenure as Treasurer of the FCA.

But that still leaves the board with an empty seat. The board meets once each month, and each board member normally takes responsibility for some aspect of community operations. Those include architectural review, communications, social, Neighborhood Watch, and membership. Managing our information technology also requires someone to administer the website, email system, listserv, and membership database.

If you’d like to consider a position on the board, you’re welcome to talk with any current board members and to attend a board meeting to see what it’s like. You can also send an email to FalconbridgeAlliance@gmail.com to have someone contact you to discuss board membership. If you care about Falconbridge and its future, please consider joining the board.

— Jim Carroll

Directory of Residents Coming Soon

The annual Directory of Residents will be published in April and distributed free only to Alliance members. It lists all known residents of Falconbridge and indicates those who are members. If you haven’t joined yet for 2015, send an email to FalconbridgeAlliance@gmail.com and let us know that you want to join. That will get you a copy of the directory and your listing in it. Then fill out a membership form (available on the website FalconbridgeAlliance.org) and mail it with your check to the address on the form. Then you can relax and know that you have done your part to support your neighborhood.

— Jim Carroll

Message from the President

continued from page 1

for a balanced menu of services that address everyone’s interests and needs, whether it is beer and wine at the Pub or milk and cookies for the eventual children’s films showings at the new, improved clubhouse. And having a children’s playground in Falconbridge is part of that long-range vision.

The Alliance volunteers are helping make this a fabulous neighborhood, your neighborhood, and we need your help. You can also help by joining The Alliance.

Best regards,
John Noble
— Jim Carroll
● UPDATE: Alliance-Sponsored Social Events • News Updates

Crossing the Finish Line: Two Very Involved Voices Proclaim Success & Appreciation

After Some Hiccups, Bathrooms Are Ready!

This is truly a terrific neighborhood. Thanks to great cooperation between the FHA and the Alliance, the Clubhouse toilets have been renovated and are now ADA compliant and ready for use.

We were stopped briefly by termite damage at the front door requiring complete removal and replacement of the wall. The windows were reinstalled and two new doors added with required handicap thresholds and panic bars.

A new concrete entry pad was added to prevent any further termite damage and also comply with accessibility.

The entry door now has an electric dead bolt lock that allows the FHA to hand out codes and proximity cards to qualified people. That door must be kept open while the building is occupied.

Drinking Fountain Dilemma

The drinking fountains were an adventure with the city. The solution required a variance in the code as the wall is closer to the fountain than the NC plumbing code allows. Due to the fact that a high/low H/C water fountain is required for an assembly building of this size, and the assembly area being locked off during pool use, the fountain location next to the wall was the only option.

After the plumbing inspector disapproved the fountain location there was a lengthy meeting with the Chief Building Inspector, Chief Plumbing Inspector, and Assistant Director at Durham City Hall. It was decided reasonably that the “technical infeasibility” clause in the building code applied. It was absolutely the ONLY place it could go.

We thank Marese Casey, Jim Carroll, Darren Byerly, Paula Clarke, Ron Johnston, Conni Rivers, and Satyen Shah for all their help during the construction.

We also thank T&J Plumbing and their patience with the bumps in the road, Ted’s Electric with their efficient quality work, and Kevin Stedman of K-M Construction.

And to all the donors who made the project possible financially, they can be proud of the result.

— John Noble

Falconbridge Boards Made Upgrade Possible

More improvements under discussion

You’ve probably noticed the dumpster, porta-john and lots of trucks near the Clubhouse for the past 2 months. The project is now complete and we have beautiful new restrooms and foyer area in the Clubhouse. The rooms are now fully ADA compliant so the disabled and people in wheelchairs can access the facilities easily. The front door is equipped with an electronic lock to provide more flexibility and security for the planned expansion of Clubhouse activities.

The renovation was a joint effort of the FHA and the Falconbridge Alliance who split the $38,000 cost of the work. A Clubhouse committee including board members from both organizations made the design decisions and oversaw selection of contractors and suppliers. Alliance President John Noble acted as general contractor coordinating all phases of the work, getting permits and approvals from the city, locating vendors, and recommending solutions when problems arose. He was onsite throughout most of the work in February and March.

More Improvements Needed

Plans for additional improvements to the Clubhouse are being discussed. As always, finding funding for the work is the biggest challenge. Both the FHA and the Alliance have limited budgets, but both boards understand the importance of keeping our common facilities attractive and fully operational. Potential home buyers and current residents appreciate the value they add to our community.

Be sure to check out the Clubhouse improvements the next time you’re in the area.

— Jim Carroll
If you're currently working with a broker, this is not an attempt to solicit your business. Trust your experienced professionals to get the job done!

Call us for a free home consultation. The market is red hot, it’s a great time to sell!

Real Estate Specialists

Robbie Davis 919.402.1217
rdavis@fmrealty.com

Judy Ray 919.801.2481
judy@judyrayrealty.com

Need Help? Please Ask!

Falconbridge Village Friends provides practical, emotional, and spiritual support for people who need help with caregiving so individuals and families will not have to cope alone. Falconbridge Village Friends form teams of neighbors, family, and friends who work together to help with health-related needs—temporary or longer-term. These support teams do not replace professional services, but focus on the ways in which friends and family members can help someone get through a difficult time.

Aging in Place:

Falconbridge Friends

Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote
When April with its sweet-smelling showers
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote,
Has pierced the drought of March to the root,
And bathed every veyne in swich licour
And bathed every vein (of the plants) in such liquid
Of which vertu engendred is the flour...
By which power the flower is created…

DID YOU KNOW?

• Falconbridge is represented on the Inter Neighborhood Council of Durham by an Alliance Board Member and is open to interested guests. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday night of each month at the Golden Belt Complex. A range of issues that effect Durham citizens are discussed. If you are interested, please email Paula Clarke at paulaclarke@nc.rr.com.

• We have active teams of Falconbridge volunteers helping neighbors in need of assistance. We always welcome new volunteers. Interested? Email paulaclarke@nc.rr.com

• AND DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN GET A RIDE TO THE AIRPORT from friendly volunteers whose names are listed on the FalconbridgeAlliance.org website? Call or email the listed volunteers to determine their availability. A donation of $15.00 for a one-way trip and $25.00 for a round trip. Checks should be made to Falconbridge Village, Inc.

• City Hall This Week, a news program dedicated to informing residents about what’s going on inside Durham’s City Hall, airs daily at 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. on Durham Television Network (Time Warner Cable channel 8, 97-5 and AT&T U-verse channel 99) and on demand athttp://www.YouTube.com/CityofDurhamNC. For more information call (919) 560-4123, http://www.Facebook/CityofDurhamNC, or follow http://www.Twitter.com/CityofDurhamNC.

What does doing good work in Falconbridge mean for you?
Arrests made in recent car break-ins

We’ve had a series of car break-ins in nearby neighborhoods during the past few months. The problem may have been solved, at least in part. Durham Police Sgt. Keith Johnson of the Criminal Investigations Division reports that on the early morning of March 23, officers “responded to a suspicious person(s)/Suspicious activity call in the Trotter Ridge community. Upon arrival the officers encountered two suspects that met the description given by the caller. A brief foot chase ensued and the above listed suspect [Ladarriea King] was apprehended and later arrested on some outstanding warrants. Further investigation revealed that several cars had been entered and items were taken by the suspects. District Three investigators were able to link this suspect to fifteen Motor Vehicle B&Es in the Garrett Road/Trotter Ridge communities resulting in 54 charges. The listed suspect is currently in the Durham County Jail under a $175,000.00 bond.”

It’s important to note that in every instance, the cars were unlocked and parked outside overnight. In a case like this, it’s easy to protect yourself simply by removing valuables and any other items that may not strike you as worthy of a thief’s attention, and then locking the vehicle.

Suspicious activity

Also in March, police reported suspicious activity on Ridge Road. A resident noticed a Hispanic male driving extremely slowly in a silver 1995 Toyota Camry, license XSS 8061. When the resident attempted to get a look at the tag, the Camry sped up and skedaddled. Police were unsuccessful in locating the vehicle. In this case and any other involving similar activities, police strongly advise that people DO NOT ATTEMPT to approach or apprehend these individuals. Call 911 and leave it to the police. That’s their job.

A more sophisticated group of burglars was in the area earlier this year and are still at large. Three people have been working together using a police scanner or an internet connection with the scanner, and communicating with cell phones. They’re driving a dark gray Acura and a goldish/tan Lexus. They break in through back doors and take jewelry, TVs, and electronics. They tend to target homes with wooded back yards that are visually and audibly separated from other houses.

Slow down!

Finally, a couple of friendly reminders from Falconbridge resident Carrie Williamson and yours truly. Carrie has noticed several drivers speeding on Falconbridge Drive during the daytime when kids are outside enjoying the warm weather. The recently installed speed humps have certainly slowed traffic, but they can’t control everybody. I have noticed the same thing when I’m out walking. I have also noticed that in the early morning and late evening, many other pedestrians do not wear light colored clothes and become virtually invisible. It’s most problematic with the dog-walkers who, understandably, tend to wander from the curb when Bowser and Fido feel the need to test the limits of the leash. In the half-light, both human and canine tend to disappear. I try to make a point of driving slowly in the neighborhood, but sometimes I’m in a hurry or forgetful or distracted or just not paying as much attention as I should. So, please wear a light-colored shirt or jacket or, better still, some kind of reflecting material. And, when you’re behind the wheel, slow down.

Let’s be careful out there.

Your neighborhood watch coordinators.
Mike Mayo
Mikewmayo@gmail.com • 919-908-6984
Conni Rivers
riverstilbury@yahoo.com • 919-294-6703

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Available now on Amazon!
A Falconbridge Treasure!
Mr. Eston Campbell is a hidden gem of the Falconbridge community.

For more than a decade, **Eston Campbell** has provided – as a volunteer – expert landscape and other neighborhood services that are so dependable and well executed that we probably take them for granted. These include repairing and maintaining the 20+ wooden street signs and mailbox stations located throughout the neighborhood, not to mention planting, fertilizing, weeding, and mulching the Dunbrook and Ridgefield Drive entries from Farrington Road. Although the Falconbridge Alliance pays for materials and supplies, Eston’s labor comes at no cost to the community. “He’s saved us literally thousands of dollars over the years,” says Falconbridge Alliance President **John Noble**.

Eston and his wife, Jane, have also been actively involved in the annual holiday luminary campaign. Jane ran the entire program for several years, and Eston still drives the truck to haul the luminaries materials to Falconbridge every year. Eston has actively served on the Board of the Falconbridge Community Association and as a Neighborhood Watch block captain.

The Campbells came to the Durham-Chapel Hill area 17 years ago from Hamilton, Ohio, when Jane accepted a position with the new geriatric care unit at UNC Hospitals. Although “nominally retired,” Eston renewed his interest in landscape maintenance when they moved to Falconbridge. With degrees in both mechanical engineering and business administration, his work experience was remarkably diverse with stints in industrial production management, commercial landscaping, and more than 20 years as a high school teacher (physics, math, and computer-aided drafting) in Ohio.

What do Eston and Jane like most about Falconbridge? “That’s easy,” they say. “The sense of community; the way that neighbors know and appreciate each other; and the location.” Need we say more?

Thanks, Eston!

— Ed Holland

**ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMITTEE:** News for homeowners

**GARDENING TIPS •** Advice from Falconbridge’s “DOYEN OF DIRT”

**CHIPS FROM A CRACKED POT**

Spring flowering bulbs should get an application of either bone meal or super phosphate, while summer-flowering bulbs should be top dressed with a complete fertilizer as soon as shoots begin to emerge.

Cutworms can be defeated with the use of small paper cups with the bottoms cut out and set around each seedling like a collar; make sure the barrier is buried at least one inch in the ground. Check plants weekly for aphids. Watch for fire blight on new growth of apple, blackberry, hawthorn, cotoneaster, pear, pyracantha, and raspberry. It is best controlled by using clean pruners to cut the afflicted limbs off, then tossing them away (not into the compost). Keep the pruners clean by dipping them in a 10% Clorox solution after every cut.

Spring rains make weeding easy; get it done now!

If your warm-season lawn is looking a bit worn, now through July is a good time to renovate with Bermuda grass, centipede, and St. Augustine. The time to fertilize fescue is past.

We are fortunate in North Carolina to have hundreds of nurseries producing old standby plants and the exciting new plants coming from our research centers. Check out these plants: Carolina jessamine, an old favorite vine; ‘Miss Ruby’ Butterfly bush, a great new shrub developed at NCSU; ‘Pocomoke’ crape myrtle, a new crape myrtle will grow 20” tall and spread of 35”; ‘Oakleaf holly’, a chance seedling from another holly; ‘Mary Nell’ (which we have planted along Tottenham); and a tough-as-nails plant with gorgeous foliage and consistent flowering every year, Chinese fringetree. We also are fortunate to have a number of independent retail garden centers nearby: Logan’s and Fairview in Raleigh, Garden Supply in Cary, Garden Hut in Fuquay Varina, and Niche Gardens and Southern States in Carrboro. Patronize our local farmers markets, and keep ‘em growin’!

— Mary McClure
An Afternoon at the Bijou
with the Falconbridge Film Society
Join us for an offer you can’t refuse!

The Falconbridge Film Society will have its inaugural screening on Saturday, April 25, 10:30 AM at the Chelsea Theater (1129 Weaver Dairy Road in the Timberlyne Village shopping center). This is the brainchild of Larry Charny and Mike Mayo, who hope that it will become a regular feature on the neighborhood calendar. The idea is simple. We’re going to show great older movies on the big screen, as they were meant to be seen.

To begin this retro adventure we will screen the re-mastered, Blu-ray copy of *The Godfather* (1974) on the big screen. Revisit *The Godfather*, the film Stanley Kubrick rated one of the greatest films ever made.

There will be an introduction to the film, providing some interesting background material, such as:

- The actor Richard S. Castellano ad-libbed the line “Take the cannoli.”
- James Caan originally heard the phrase “bada-bing!” from his acquaintance, the real-life mobster Carmine Persico, and improvised its use in the film.
- The cat held by Marlon Brando in the opening scene was a stray the actor found while on the lot at Paramount, and was not originally called for in the script. So content was the cat that its purring muffled some of Brando’s dialogue, and, as a result, most of his lines had to be looped.
- Marlon Brando did not memorize most of his lines and read from cue cards during most of the film.
- Al Pacino’s maternal grandparents emigrated to America from Corleone, Sicily, just as Vito Corleone had.

Admission price: $10 (cheap) includes popcorn, a drink, a Warner Bros. cartoon, and an episode of Buck Rogers with Buster Crabb. (The only thing missing will be the theatre matron with her flashlight telling you to keep quiet.)

We hope you join us, and **we do need to know, by April 10, how many plan to join us** so that arrangements can be made for the rental of the theatre. So please contact Larry Charny at 914-260-4964 • thecharnygroup@gmail.com, or Mike Mayo 973-722-4772 • Mikemay1@verizon.net – and take that opportunity to let us know which films you would like to see going forward.

— Larry Charny
Meet Your New Neighbors

Bobbi Matchar and Paul Silverman have moved into 2 Lacrosse Place, the house on the corner of Knotty Pine with the lovely yard. They moved to our neighborhood from Chapel Hill and Durham. Bobbi is a social worker with Duke’s Alzheimer Family Support Program. Paul is a real estate broker with Weichert Realtors.

Both are wine and food enthusiasts. Walt is a serious bicyclist, enjoying 30-40-mile treks!

Rachel loves to bake and enjoys reading.

Rachel’s e-mail address is rde-grange@gmail.com. Their phone number is 919-789-1992.

Barbara D’zan-Terry is our new neighbor at 6506 Huntingridge Rd. She has moved here from only 5 miles away from the home in Chapel Hill that she shared many years with her husband, the late Dr. Bill C. Terry.

Her new home here has engaged her in many months of renovations but she is finally moved in, and enjoying both her new home and our fine community. She already participates in community clubs and activities such as the Traveling Pub, and both community Book Clubs. She is a member of the Alliance.

Barbara moved here with her two lovely 10 year old Schnoodles; Cha Cha and Peatie. She is a retired International Flight Attendant with American Airlines. She is originally from New Orleans, but lived many years in Atlanta, where she brought up her family and worked as a permanent substitute elementary school teacher at times when she was not flying. She has three adult children: a son Justin, and twin daughters Laurin and Nicole as well as 6 grandchildren. Her interests include: Genealogy, Daughters of the American Revolution, History, Literature, Reading, Gardening, Renovation, and Travel. E-mail: bdzan@juno.com, (h) 919-973-5886, (c) 919-260-3757.

Rachel and Walt DeGrange come to us from California, though they have moved around the country and traveled extensively while Walt served in the Navy. He has recently retired from the military and now works “out of home” as an Operations Research Analyst. Rachel is a Registered Nurse working at Rex Hospital in ICU, and at UNC in Cardiac.

They are working hard to renovate their new home at 6727 Falconbridge Road and hope to be fully in place here by May.

They are already members of the Falconbridge Alliance and look forward to participating in our many community clubs and events.

GET INVOLVED

The Falconbridge Alliance Board of Directors is looking for a fresh infusion of energy and ideas. If you’d like to contribute, please consider attending our Board meetings, which typically take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Clubhouse. Meetings are open to anyone and everyone – single-family and townhome residents alike. These monthly meetings are an excellent opportunity to become more involved in the workings of Falconbridge – and also an excellent opportunity to consider becoming a member of the Board of Directors. For more information, please feel free to contact Falconbridge Alliance President John Noble at jnoble43@nc.rr.com.

— Ed Holland

MAH JONGG welcomes new and experienced players. New players should contact Conni Rivers, who provides classes for newcomers. Experienced players are invited to join the games on Monday and Thursday at 1:30 in the Clubhouse or contact Paula at paulaclarke@nc.rr.com.

FALCONBRIDGE COFFEE KLATCH, now coordinated by Judy Holland, meets once or twice a month on Thursday morning, 9:30-11:00 a.m. It’s a great time to drink coffee and chat with neighbors. If you would like more information, please contact judyedholland@gmail.com or 919-489-9809.

SIGN UP FOR WATER AEROBICS

It is now time to sign up for water aerobics which begins at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 23rd, and continues for 10 weeks. The cost is $80.00 for 10 sessions. It is open to pool members with Dawn-to-Dusk privileges only. Send checks to Paula Clarke at 2111 Ridgefield Drive Chapel Hill 27517. Email paulaclarke@nc.rr.com for more information.

FALCONBRIDGE NEWS UPDATE

• Laurin and Nicole as well as 6 grandchildren.
• Ed Holland
Deborah Balsamo had the highest bid for an afternoon tea party for 7 donated by Rosemary Hutchinsen at the Falconbridge Gala. It was hosted at Rosemary’s home on February 28th. She was helped by Barb Carroll, who also baked some delicacies. The guests arrived at 3pm in appropriate outfits for an afternoon tea.

The menu started with pink champagne followed by sandwiches, scones with strawberry jam and cream, trifle, chocolate-coated strawberries and a variety of cakes with plenty of Silver Tea Pot tea, (2/3 black tea, 1/3 Earl Gray).

The guests heard about how afternoon tea started, that tea times have been part of the British Heritage since 1840 when Anna, Duchess of Bedford, started afternoon tea parties with her friends in the country house manner. This was to fill time between an early lunch and a late dinner. Sometimes dinner didn’t start till 9 pm. Anna used to get a “sinking feeling” in between lunch and dinner. Tea time was essentially a feminine, gossipy, genteel affair, where the upper class ladies would use their best silver, china, and linens.

The middle classes, the entrepreneur class, copied this idea of afternoon tea by opening tea rooms, which are still very popular today. In the early days, Lyons tea rooms had waitresses in black & white “pinnies” (pinafores). Barb wore one, but we don’t have a photograph of her.

High tea, which is often confused in the States with a large afternoon tea, is a hearty meal that the working classes would have when they came from the factory or their work. They would have a meal about 5 o’clock consisting of meat, potatoes or something as substantial, finishing off with a jam sandwich, scone or something sweet, and a cup of tea. It’s rather like a supper meal.

The afternoon tea on February 28th was a feminine meal with lots of good conversation, with new residents of Falconbridge as well as residents who had lived here some time...a blend of old and new friends.
WHY JOIN THE ALLIANCE?

With your Alliance Membership you can:

• Stay up to date on neighborhood news with our newsletter and Web site
• Share information with your neighbors via our listserv
• Look up a neighbor in our Falconbridge directory
• Meet your neighbors at our numerous social events
• Pursue your interests with a variety of sponsored social groups
• Participate in special members-only events
• Feel more secure knowing that Neighborhood Watch is on the lookout
• Be reassured that trained neighborhood volunteers can help your family with transportation, meals, and other services if you have a short-term health or other crisis

CLICK HERE TO JOIN TODAY

Single-family homes = $50/year, $75 (2 or more)
Town-homes = $20/year, $30 (2 or more)

2014-15 Falconbridge Alliance Board of Directors

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Mike Mayo, Vice President, Safety/Neighborhood Watch Chair • mikewmayo@gmail.com • 973-722-4772
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