

# Ashcroft

May 2022

## What is This?

Welcome to the Ashcroft Neighborhood Newsletter! It is a revival of a neighborhood newsletter published in 2006 and 2007 when the Ashcroft Board recognized the need to communicate information, news, events and deadlines to the community.

Now, as Ashcroft continues to expand, the newsletter is being revived to update the community on important information, news, events and deadlines. The team members heading this effort are Kris Bean, Laura Hoffman and Ida Lee Wootten. The team hopes to publish newsletters at least twice a year – one in May before the pool season begins and one in January before the neighborhood’s annual meeting - or possibly quarterly when there is material.

This edition includes an update from the ANA Board President, an article on committees and community involvement and a number of smaller notices. And don’t miss the photos from the Easter Egg Hunt!

Want to be involved? The “Help Wanted” sign is out for anyone who wants to contribute. If you would like to highlight the accomplishments of a resident or family, note a particular event of wide interest, contribute photographs or offer suggestions and guidance, please contact us. Don’t want to write something, but have a good idea for an article? Send it along. [AshcroftNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:AshcroftNewsletter@gmail.com).

## Ashcroft Board of Directors

Bob Baumgartner - President  
Adam Croan - Vice-President  
Jonathan Gardner - Vice-President  
Ted Miller - Treasurer  
Lotta Lofgren - Secretary  
Rick Beyer - Director

[anaboard@ashcroftneighbor.com](mailto:anaboard@ashcroftneighbor.com)

## Ashcroft Pool Season Begins May 28!

The Ashcroft Pool will open on Saturday, May 28, and remain open through Labor Day Weekend. You will see a number of changes. For example, there will be a new pool management company, H2O Works, LLC, which is run by Kim Martin. Kim has had extensive experience running the pools at Glenmore, and has agreed to bring her experience, enthusiasm and lifeguards to Ashcroft. She has been actively involved in ensuring that the pool and pool area are ready for the summer.

The pool will be open during the daylight hours. However, lifeguards will only be present from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Memorial Day Weekend, and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday nights until Albemarle County Schools close. Once the Albemarle County Schools close, lifeguards will be present every day from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Swim at your own risk when using the pool when lifeguards are not present.

Additional new furniture has been purchased for the pool area, and baby changing tables have been installed in both bathrooms in the clubhouse. You will need an activated fob to access the pool area. If you have not re-activated your fob this year, contact Ryan at [ryan.miller@realpropertyinc.com](mailto:ryan.miller@realpropertyinc.com).

### Our New Pool Manager

Denise Bachman, Chair, Pool Committee

This year we have a new pool company owned and operated by Kim Martin. Many of you may know Kim. She taught second and third grades for about 30 years at our neighborhood school, Stone-Robinson Elementary. Kim also ran the pools at Glenmore for more than 15 years. We are thrilled to have Kim’s expertise and energy at the Ashcroft pool!

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## President's Corner

This is an exciting time in the life of Ashcroft. With the Phase 3 development about to begin -- which will add more than 75 new homes -- and the Board's obligation to address numerous maintenance items that were identified in the 2021 Reserve Study, the Board has not lacked for agenda items for each of its board meetings.

This year also marks a turning point as we try to leave COVID-19 in the rearview mirror. In April, the community had its first large social outing – the Easter Egg Hunt – that had over 60 little kids, and a bunch of adult kids, participating. The Social Committee and the new Ants & Fams Committee are planning other events, and the Pool Committee will hold the tail-wagging Doggy Swim Day in September.

The biggest news is that the Phase 3 development is about to begin. This has led to numerous discussions to address concerns about the trails, the Association amenities, and the feel of the community. No change is easy, but Rick Beyer is actively working with the neighborhood to ensure that our Ashcroft community will be improved by the development.

The Board is trying to maintain the momentum that was established by the past year's Board of Directors. The Board has been coordinating a number of improvements to facilities including:

- The WIFI in the clubhouse was finally repaired, which then allowed the Board to initiate the replacement of all the issued key fobs. To date, 94 of 117 families that were issued fobs have completed the replacement process.
- New fencing, which complies with Albemarle County regulations, has been installed around the pool.
- A lightning rod has been installed at the clubhouse to protect against another lightning strike frying the facility's electronics.
- A new pool management company will be on board for the 2022 swim season.
- Pool maintenance items are being addressed.
- Quotes are being obtained to resurface the tennis/pickleball court. The court will be lined for both tennis and pickleball.
- The community sign located on Lego will be repaired and replaced.
- The Playground Committee is coordinating the installation of a climbing wall, a spider's web and other improvements.
- The guardrails on Tremont Lane and Lego should be replaced within the next year.
- The Board is determining when the clubhouse roof needs to be replaced.

The Board has also approved several initiatives that include:

- A new Trails Committee, chaired by Jonathan Gardner, will work with Rick Beyer, the Board and volunteer residents to maintain, improve and expand the trail system.
- A new Ants & Fams Committee, chaired by Adam Croan, will hold family events at such outdoor amenities as the Ashcroft trails and fields to promote nature engagement.
- A new Ashcroft Community Engagement Committee, co-chaired by Adam Croan and Ida Lee Wootten, will promote coordination and communication among neighborhood committees.
- In response to a plea for help, Valerie Ruland-Schwartz has volunteered to use her professional experience to enhance Ashcroft's website and use of technology.
- The Architectural Review Committee is reviewing and revising ARC guidelines in response to changes in the committee and the pending Phase 3 development.
- A Bylaws Committee will review the changes that need to be made to the Bylaws, which have not been updated for more than 20 years.

If anyone wants to help with any of the above, please reach out to me at [rbbashcroft@gmail.com](mailto:rbbashcroft@gmail.com).

*Bob Baumgartner*

## **Ashcroft Committees: Making Connections, Neighborhood Enhancements**

Several committees in Ashcroft work on events and ways that neighbors can get together for fun and socialization and develop and improve neighborhood amenities. All members are volunteers.

### **Social Committee**

This group plans a number of events throughout the year such as a progressive dinner in spring, cocktail parties, 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations, Oktoberfest, pool parties, and Easter Egg Hunt.

Current Social Committee members include Kris Bean (chair), Lisa Huffman, Gay Goodwin, Cary Lapekas, Camille Anderson, Pam Timbie and Akanksha Meyer. Contact Kris at [krisbean49@yahoo.com](mailto:krisbean49@yahoo.com) if you would like to join the fun.

### **ANTs & Fams**

The Ashcroft Nature and Trails Engagement for Families Committee (ANTs & Fams) is a new effort that focuses on outdoor family events and promotes nature-reserve discovery at Ashcroft's trails, ponds and fields.

Chair Adam Croan explains his vision:

*"I see ANTs & Fams as sanctifying, celebrating and diversifying access to the Ashcroft Wilderness Experience. I also see the committee increasing neighbor awareness, utilization and personal impact of our cherished and threatened open spaces. As to what kinds of events we will host, think less stick-and-ball, more boots-birds-and-rods!"*

The first event on June 18 will feature a Kid-Naturalist Led Trail Walk 3-5 pm and Informal Happy Hour at Trail-End 5-7 pm.

On September 17, there will be a Family Progressive Pond and Field Party from 4 to 6 p.m.

ANTs & Fams needs volunteers interested in planning and executing family outdoor events and in surveying neighbors on preferences and priorities. Contact Adam at [adamcroan@rcorporation.org](mailto:adamcroan@rcorporation.org) or 707-327-6789

### **Trails Committee**

The Trails Committee is dedicated to maintaining, improving and expanding the trail system in Ashcroft's open spaces. The new committee will create a closer tie between the Board and the volunteers (Randy Huffman, Lee Shapiro and Tom Wolanski), who have worked tirelessly for years to create, upgrade and maintain trails in the neighborhood. Chaired by Board member Jonathan Gardner, the committee also includes Board member Adam Croan.

*"The committee was created to recognize that we will need careful attention to make sure that the shared spaces in our growing neighborhood remain accessible to all of us who live here,"* Jonathan noted. *"Our most immediate task is to monitor the progress of new construction in the neighborhood and make adjustments to the trails, if needed. In the future, we would like to solicit neighbors' opinions about trail needs, improve accessibility and enhance the walkability of our community.* Jonathan added, *"The committee would like to thank Rick Beyer for his contributions to trail upkeep as well as his commitment to the trails' future."*

### **Playground Committee**

The Playground Committee works to ensure, plan and promote a fun, engaging playground experience for children, their families, and caregivers.

Chaired by Board member Jonathan Gardner, the committee is currently engaged in a project to add climbing and jumping equipment to the open space near the swings and play structure. The committee, which includes members Elizabeth Darby, Jessica Little and Shannon Spaeder, is also pursuing providing new amenities for parents and caregivers.

*"We welcome volunteers to contribute ideas and helping hands to assist us in achieving our goals,"* Jonathan said.

Those interested in volunteering ideas or help on the committee can contact Jonathan by emailing [kemptonslim@gmail.com](mailto:kemptonslim@gmail.com) or texting 434-906-7856.

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## Pool Committee

The Pool Committee promotes and ensures a quality pool experience for Ashcroft residents. Chaired by Denise Bachman, the Pool Committee meets once a month, from May through September, to discuss what is going well at the pool and to seek solutions for improving residents' experiences.

Denise and committee members work closely with the pool manager and the Ashcroft Board to identify issues and concerns related to pool operations. They also make recommendations for enhancing the pool experience, such as by purchasing new furniture and umbrellas.

The committee organizes a popular annual Doggy Swim Day on the Tuesday following Memorial Day Weekend during which residents and their canine pals can enjoy the pool. This year's Doggy Swim Day will be held on September 6.

Maggie Moore currently serves on the Pool Committee with Denise. The Pool Committee welcomes new members. If interested, please email Denise Bachman at [dedleuva@gmail.com](mailto:dedleuva@gmail.com).

## Technology Committee

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Valarie ("Val") Ruland-Schwartz, an Ashcroft resident, has joined the Technology Committee as webmaster. Val brings to the webmaster position significant experience in marketing and web design through her work as owner and creative strategist of Blix Creative.

Val recently met with the Board of Directors and heard a variety of suggested enhancements to the Ashcroft website. She conducted a review of the website and presented the Board with a dozen proposed tasks to improve the site. The Board members have rank-ordered the tasks, and Val will begin work on the list shortly. Below is a sampling of the pending enhancements:

- Add a calendar of events
- Enhance the reservations system
- Establish an HOA document repository
- Email version of the newsletter
- Purge the website of aged materials
- Refresh the website with improved imagery

Ted Miller, chair of the Technology Committee, notes, "*We are very pleased to have Val onboard and appreciate her bringing her considerable talents to enhance the Ashcroft website.*"

## Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee welcomes new residents by delivering a beautiful floral arrangement created by neighbor Carolyn Adams, a directory of Ashcroft residents and a welcome letter. In addition, new residents are now being offered a personalized introduction and tour of the neighborhood amenities, with an explanation on how to gain a key fob.

If you are new and haven't yet received an arrangement, directory or personalized introduction to the amenities, please contact committee chair Ida Lee Wootten at [ildwootten@gmail.com](mailto:ildwootten@gmail.com).

### **Be on the lookout for more information about the following neighborhood events:**

June 18

Kid-Naturalist Led Trail Walk, 3-5 p.m.

Informal Happy Hour at Trail-End, 5-6 p.m.

September 6

Doggy Swim Day, Ashcroft Pool

September 17

Family Progressive Pond and Field Party, 4-6 p.m.

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Lotta Lofgren, chair of the Ashcroft Traffic Task Force, reports that there are still concerns about speeders along lower Lego, despite numerous traffic calming measures taken in recent years.

After a recent incident in which a sign was broken along the road, Albemarle County police were notified and asked to increase patrols in the neighborhood.

## **ARC: Preserving Ashcroft's Appeal – and Property Values**

Governed by the covenants and bylaws of the Ashcroft Homeowners Association, the Architectural Review Committee is a group of six resident volunteers who are charged with preserving the harmonious appearance of our neighborhood and preserving/enhancing property values.

Ashcroft homeowners are required to seek approval of many types of changes to the exterior of their properties – planned changes to both structures and grounds. ARC volunteers work with Ashcroft neighbors to make sure the proposed changes meet the guidelines described on the website at [ashcroftneighbor.com/resources](http://ashcroftneighbor.com/resources).

For example, here is ARC's "Reminder of the Month": Significant modifications to a homeowner's landscaping, especially if visible from the street, require an ARC application. Failure to get approval before starting a project that gets denied will require the homeowner to correct or remove the changes at their own expense. Again, before undertaking significant landscaping changes, check out the ARC guidelines at [ashcroftneighbor.com/resources](http://ashcroftneighbor.com/resources)

Persons considering changes can ask questions or submit an application by sending an email to [arc@ashcroftneighbor.com](mailto:arc@ashcroftneighbor.com)

ARC, chaired by Bill Snow, is currently looking for a new member to fill a recently vacated position. According to Bill, an ARC volunteer needs to be responsive to emails and usually spends, on average, one hour per week or less. As Bill notes,

*"ARC is a good way to get to know your neighbors and to help ensure our neighborhood continues to be the beautiful place it is."*

If you are interested in learning more about ARC or serving, please contact Bill at [snowmann3000@gmail.com](mailto:snowmann3000@gmail.com).

### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

Board meetings are held at the Ashcroft Clubhouse and via Zoom. The Zoom link is posted with meeting agendas on the Ashcroft website at [ashcroftneighbor.com/resources](http://ashcroftneighbor.com/resources).

Upcoming meeting date:  
June 21, 2022

## **A Key Fob – And You!**

As summer approaches, Ashcroft residents are reminded that they can use a key fob for accessing the pool, clubhouse, fitness room on the ground level of the clubhouse, and the tennis court.

### **New Fobs**

Each household can receive one key fob for free. To obtain a fob, residents can complete an Agreement for Using Key Fobs form and the Assumption of Risk form at [ashcroftneighbor.com/resources](http://ashcroftneighbor.com/resources).

After completing the forms, residents have two options:

1. They can drop the forms in the lock box on the column by the clubhouse front steps and email Ryan Miller, Ashcroft property manager, at [ryan.miller@realpropertyinc.com](mailto:ryan.miller@realpropertyinc.com) to let him know the forms are there.
2. They can email the completed forms to Ryan Miller at the above address.

After receiving the forms, Ryan will contact residents to make arrangements for delivering the fobs.

### **Reactivate Fobs**

If you still need to reactivate your key fob, insert it in an envelope that contains your name and address, and place the envelope in the lockbox (see above) and email Ryan Miller (see above).

### **Replacement Fobs**

If you have lost your key fob, complete the Key Fob Request form located at [ashcroftneighbor.com/resources](http://ashcroftneighbor.com/resources). You can either drop the form off in the lockbox (see above) or email it to Ryan Miller (see above).

## **Reservations – Please!**

With warm weather beckoning, don't forget you can reserve playing time on the tennis court. In addition, to build stamina and strength, you can reserve time in the fitness room on the ground level of the clubhouse.

And if you are interested in hosting an event, you can reserve the use of the clubhouse in two-, four- or twelve-hour blocks. Or you can choose to reserve it all day.

To reserve your use of any of these amenities, check out the Ashcroft website at [ashcroftneighbor.com/resources/ashcroft-facilities-reservations/](http://ashcroftneighbor.com/resources/ashcroft-facilities-reservations/). Enjoy!

## A Hopping Happening!

A fun time was had by all in attendance during the April 16th Easter Egg Hunt at the clubhouse. Many thanks to Kris Bean and the Social Committee for organizing the festive spring outing!

Kris extends grateful appreciation to everyone who contributed candy, plastic eggs and decorations for the event. Reflecting on the day, Kris said, *"Many thanks to all the helpers who hid the eggs and decorated for this annual event. Many thanks, too, to Camille Anderson, and the Easter Bunny, who made a special appearance and posed for photos! A special young helper named Emma was a champion egg distributor. 'I love to help'"* she told me, and it showed. We will remember you next year!"

Kris added, *"Thanks also to Camille's mother, Tess Verheyen, who made a remarkable and huge chocolate bunny, which was raffled off."*



A five-pound, two-foot tall (!) chocolate bunny was donated by Camille Anderson and her mother, Tess Verheyen.