



## President's Message



It is August and the Mosby Woods Community Association normally takes a break so we can have a little extra time for vacations and for our families. This year is different, so we are publishing this special edition of the Tattler and distributing it to all homes in Mosby Woods. We are doing this to bring you information about activities that are in progress with our special advisory group, Community Forward.

In the summer of 1963, the Mosby Woods Community Association was founded on three key goals:

- To Promote a sense of Community in our neighborhood
- To Enhance and protect the welfare of the community through cooperative action of the residents
- To Maintain and enhance the status and condition of the neighborhood by interacting with local government

With these goals in mind, the MWCA board approved the establishment of the **Community Forward** Advisory Team in recognition of the national struggle over place names and public images. In addition, the City of Fairfax government will be considering many changes over the coming months, including the City Seal, existing markers and monuments, neighborhood names, and street names.

The purpose of the Community Forward Advisory Team is to solicit the feedback of all residents of Mosby Woods regarding our neighborhood place names, how they are perceived in the community, and whether residents believe any of them should be changed. Community Forward is a non-advocacy group that seeks to provide opportunities for all residents to participate and provide their views. Community Forward will collect those viewpoints and prepare a report that describes all the feedback received.

The Community Association does not have the authority to make changes

to street names in Mosby Woods. That power lies with the City Council.

I encourage everyone to participate in the Community Forward process, to express your ideas, to carefully listen to the ideas of your neighbors, and to make room in your minds for the fact that we are stronger over the long-haul together than we would be apart. I will measure the success of the Community Forward project not on how much or how little change occurs, but on how unified we remain as a community.

Our community spirit brings us together in spite of our differences, it has given our association the resilience to last nearly 60 years, it gathers us for parades and ice cream socials, it strengthens us in challenging situations, and it makes our neighborhood a great place to live.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts as we engage in this process.

— **Bob Reinsel, President**  
*Mosby Woods Community Association*

## What is Community Forward?

The Community Forward advisory team is a group of volunteers commissioned by the Mosby Woods Community Association. It is currently composed of 27 community residents who have expressed an interest in helping us reach out to every home in the neighborhood. The group will focus on four primary subject areas:

**Community Outreach:** This team will develop a process so that every voice that wants to be heard in the process can be. They will consider ways to collect input from MWCA members and

non-members. They will also research answers to questions that are received from the community. Some things this team may coordinate are:

- Hosting conversations and asking for opinions.
- Listening to residents' ideas and concerns.
- Sharing themes about what we hear.
- Developing a report that reflects community perspectives and positions.

**Communication:** Will design communications that are timely and relevant and distribute them to the community via email, newsletters, social media, or other appropriate platforms.

**Context:** To research and provide information for our neighbors to consider during our conversations. Several subject areas may be presented including: history of the neighborhood, understanding John Mosby, understanding our place in the present day, and what the future may look like.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** To engage people and organizations outside of Mosby Woods who have an interest or are impacted by our efforts, or who from whom we will need information to be successful.

To learn more about volunteering please reach out to: [CFMosbyWoods@gmail.com](mailto:CFMosbyWoods@gmail.com)

## Questions from the Neighborhood:

Recently many of you have reached out to the Community Association with questions about what could happen if the City decides to rename one or more of our neighborhood streets. The Community Forward team has looked into these questions and found some answers that may help us as we engage in our community outreach. If you have other questions that you would like to ask, please email them to: [CFMosbyWoods@gmail.com](mailto:CFMosbyWoods@gmail.com). Part of the Community Forward Mission is to research questions that we receive and to respond to the entire community with answers that will inform us as we talk through the issues.

**Q: *Can the Mosby Woods Community Association actually change a street name?***

MWCA does not own our roads and does not control the names of our neighborhood streets. Our roads are owned by the City of Fairfax and street name changes would be made by an action of the City Council.

**Q: *If my street name changed, would I need to manually inform every one of my contacts of my new address (credit card company, banks, relatives, Amazon, church directory, etc.)?***

If the City decides to rename a street (as they did with Fairfax Blvd, for example) they would notify the US Postal Service (USPS). USPS would update its address database for all of the homes and businesses on that street. The USPS process for this is well established and used frequently. Mail sent to the old address would be

automatically sent to the new address for 18 months. Customers would not need to submit any forms to USPS and would incur no financial charges for the change.

Residents would need to inform their personal contacts of the change during the USPS 18 month transition period.

City utilities would be informed by the City directly and the change would be automatic and at no charge. Personal utilities such as internet and cell phone providers would need to be updated by individual residents, similar to any other notification of address change.

**Q: *Would I need to retile my home? What would that cost?***

According to the City of Fairfax Attorney, no title change would immediately be required and there would be no associated cost. A title change to reflect the new street name would be handled in the normal course of business when a home is sold or retitled for some other reason, such as being put into a trust. Land records are not actually tied to street addresses, they are tied to the tax map parcel number, which does not change.

**Q: *How would any changes be reflected on services like Google Maps and Waze?***

Google Maps, Waze, Uber, Mapquest/TomTom, and other similar services all welcome comments and corrections to the place names listed on their services, pages, and apps. A correction would be submitted as soon as the official name change is approved. (Note: After the installation of new street signs, Google Maps and Waze updated “Rebel Run” to “Lion Run” within one week.)

**Q: *How would I update my driver’s license or vehicle registration? Could that be done online instead of waiting in line at the DMV? And what would it cost?***

According to the Virginia DMV website ([dmv.virginia.gov](http://dmv.virginia.gov)), if you are a current Virginia resident, you can update your Virginia address online, in person, via phone, or via mail with a straightforward “Virginia address change request” at no cost. If you would like a replacement driver’s license (not required) there is a \$32 fee. The only information required to make this change is a) your current driver’s license number, and b) your birthday.

DMV address changes are automatically and immediately reflected in Fairfax voter rolls as well.

Vehicle registrations can be updated online at no charge. Updates would need to be completed within 30 days of a change of address. The information required to make this change is a) your title number, and b) your vehicle identification number (VIN). If you have any additional questions about the above, contact the DMV directly at (804) 497-7100 weekdays 8a-5p or Saturdays 8a-noon.

**Q: *If my street name changes how would emergency services find my house?***

The City of Fairfax would coordinate with the regional 9-1-1 emergency services prior to any change to make sure proposed changes are acceptable and do not duplicate other road names within the service area. All offices impacted by the name change (fire, police, EMS, etc.) would be informed seamlessly when changes occur in the system.

## Community Forward Strategy & Facilitation Leaders

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