

**AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
FOREST RIDGE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**

Within the past few days there have been a number of comments posted on the Nextdoor web site pertaining to the Forest Ridge Homeowners Association (“Association” or “FRHOA”), located in Sterling, Virginia. A member of the Association (Mr. Raymond Burns) reacted to an anonymous correspondence he received that purported to contain an e-mail from the Association’s Board President (Bill Brindley) to other Board members regarding Mr. Burns. That e-mail was, in a word, bogus.

Nevertheless, as an illustration of the old saying about a lie getting around the world before the truth has chance to get its pants on, the bogus e-mail that was sent to Mr. Burns and his reactions thereto have generated quite a stir, both within and without the Association. But before there is any further rush to judgment, and before any other FRHOA member publishes any additional false and defamatory material on the Internet, all concerned should be aware of the following relevant history. The simple explanation is that the e-mail received in the U.S. Mail by Mr. Burns is fraudulent – bogus, inauthentic and absolutely untrue, as has been a multitude of other, similar letters received by various members of the Forest Ridge community. The FRHOA Board strongly suspects that all of these letters are related.

Various Board members (eight in all) who were serving and/or who are currently serving on the FRHOA Board have been the subjects of anonymous, unfounded and untrue allegations or accusations. As indicated below, some of the accusations actually resulted in governmental investigations, all of which were eventually closed as being without merit.

The following lists only some of the anonymous accusations leveled against Board members in the past. Other accusations are not listed here because of their sensitivity and out of consideration for the privacy concerns of the victims of the defamatory smears, and, simply, because the FRHOA Board chooses not to dignify the outrageous libels by including them here.

- Anonymous allegations sent to the employers of FRHOA directors and family members, alleging that the director/employee was inappropriate to customers;
- Anonymous allegations (by letter) to the significant other of Board members that the Board member was having an affair outside of the relationship;
- An anonymous letter to Loudoun County Child Protective Services alleging that a Board member was unfit to become a custodial parent to a child in need of a home (the letter displayed a fraudulent/forged signature of a previous Board member).

Additionally, during this past week three (3) serving Board members have been victimized by anonymous US mail, all of which contained libelous defamatory material intended to harm the reputation of those Board members. The Board President (Bill Brindley) was one of the three. Thus, the defamation campaign is continuing.

The defamatory letters are typically sent by US Mail, with the addressee's name typed and taped to the envelope with no return address indicated. Most of the letters display a Baltimore, MD postmark.

The Board has contacted the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department in the past about these incidents. We will do so again regarding this past week's flurry of new libelous and defamatory material. We are also working with the Association's attorney on this matter. The Board of Directors would appreciate it if any Forest Ridge member who receives such correspondence provides it to the Board, including the envelope in which the material was mailed.

We hope this clarifies the situation for the FRHOA membership. Again, the FRHOA Board asks all members who may receive these types of letters or communications to preserve them and to provide them to the Board of Directors. In the event that the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department (or perhaps even the FBI or the U.S. Postal Service's investigative division) opens an investigation into this matter, that evidence will be crucial.

The FRHOA Board of Directors will appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this regard. The next FRHOA Board meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:30 PM at the Loudoun Sheriff's Office, 46620 E Frederick Dr., Sterling, Va 20164. All FRHOA members are always invited to attend.

Bill Brindley, President
FRHOA Board of Directors