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# CARDEROCK SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWS

## **Process for ARC Exterior Modification Approval**

As was mentioned in the last CSCA newsletter, the CSCA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) needs to review all plans for exterior modifications to homes and properties in Carderock, whether these be additions to the residence, changes to exterior paint colors, or adding fences, retaining walls, or sheds and outbuildings, to ensure that these changes are in character with the architectural guidelines of the community. The ARC can be very helpful to homeowners as well in making cost-saving suggestions on what has worked in the past for other homeowners.

The process for seeking approval is very easy and straightforward. Prior to applying for permits to the County or actually undertaking any construction or other exterior modifications, the homeowner should complete the "Application for Property Modification" which appears at the end of this newsletter. The Application needs to be submitted, along with two sets of the plans for the modifications, to the ARC liaison to the Board, Margit Meissner, at 8323 Still Spring Court, or by providing copies directly to any of the three members of the ARC, Scott Wilets, Doug Soe-Lin or David Wahl.

Please note that the Application requires obtaining the signatures of the neighbors of the surrounding properties who should be made aware of the proposed modifications.

The ARC generally meets on the first Wednesday of each month, and in order for an application to be considered at a monthly meeting, it must be received by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. All meetings of the ARC are open to the community in general.

The homeowner, together with the builder, designer or architect, should plan on attending the ARC meeting to respond to questions and comments. As noted above, in many instances a dialog can be achieved regarding the plans that may help the homeowner achieve the desired goals with a minimum of delay.

The ARC will make every effort to contact the homeowner at or shortly after the meeting to let them know if plans are approved, denied or if further explanation or discussion is required. If the plans are denied, the homeowner may appeal the decision to the full CSCA Board, which generally meets on a monthly basis, on the third Monday of the month. In the vast majority of instances, the homeowner is able to achieve approval by the ARC and move forward with the exterior modifications without significant delay.

Many residents of Carderock Springs treasure the look and feel of our community and the

architectural sensibilities that were instilled by the developer when our community was first developed. Compliance with these procedures will help us maintain this quality of life. The goal of the ARC process is to guide homeowners seeking to modify their homes and properties in a collegial, transparent manner, and to benefit the larger community by application of a consistent set of architectural guidelines. Thanks to all for helping Carderock Springs retain its unique character.

For more information concerning the process, including links to copies of the complete architectural guidelines for the community and a pdf of the Application, please visit the Architectural Review tab of the CSCA website at <http://www.carderocksprings.net/article/3/architectural-review>

*Jack Orrick, Vice President*

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## **The Carder-Eco Column**

News from the Environmental Committee

Electric Lawn Mower: See last month's newsletter if you would like to try to see how you would like an electric lawn mower.

Carderock Springs Drive Erosion: I have no news re. the remedies they are planning...will wait and see what they do once they work on all of our neighborhood roads, including this entrance road. Then I will follow up should we not be satisfied or need additional work.

Bees, Butterflies and Pollination:

In recent years, the story of vanishing bees has become a common theme in news reports, but these reports focus on the disappearance of honey bees, a non-native species introduced to North America from Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. However, important native bees are also suffering, particularly our continent's nearly 50 native bumble bee species, with two on the brink of extinction. Bumble bees are necessary in our ecosystem not only for the reproduction of native wildflowers, but also in creating the seeds and fruits that feed wildlife, from birds to bears. They pollinate crops such as blueberries, cranberries and clover, and are used to produce greenhouse tomatoes. As pollinators disappear, the effect on the health and viability of crops and native plant communities can be disastrous.

The reasons behind this decline include habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change and the introduction of non-native bee diseases. For example, ground-nesting bumble bees are susceptible to lawn pesticides.

What can you do?

- Plant a diversity of native plants such as clovers, asters, bee balm, mints borage blueberries and rhododendron. Avoid pollenless cultivars and double-petaled varieties of ornamental flowers when you shop at nurseries. Try to provide blooming plants from early spring to fall, with at least three species in bloom each season.
- Avoid using insecticides and herbicides. See "recipes" below. Even so-called organic approved insecticides can harm pollinators. Even weedy, noninvasive wildflowers provide essential pollen and nectar for bees, as well as butterflies and hummingbirds.

- Foster a natural landscape by preserving some unmowed , brush areas and tolerate nests when you find them. Install bee houses or provide bundles of hollow plant stems for reproduction.

Garlic and Chili Insecticidal Spray

10-12 cloves garlic, 4-6 hot peppers (dried or fresh), 2 cups water, 1 T castile soap and optionally 10 drops cinnamon or eucalyptus oil

Place garlic, chili and water into blender and puree. Let sit for 2 or more hours. Pour through cheese cloth. Add soap and place into jar with a plastic lid. Spray plants late in the day

Easy bug deterrent: Mix black pepper and pre-sifted flour around your plants

Companion planting: try these!

- Plant lemon basil around tomatoes to deter white flies
- Plant rosemary, sage or lavender around slug infested plants, or spread crumbled egg shells, coffee grounds, or sandpaper at the base of plants...or get them drunk by placing a small amount of beer in a saucer in your garden, and they will drown.
- Plant basil, catnip, chives, dill, garlic or mint where your plants attract aphids. Drop old banana peels around your plants.
- For plants which have spent summers outside and are brought in with white flies or spider mites, mix 2 cups water, 1 capful of rubbing alcohol and two drops of natural dishwashing liquid such as Dr. Bronner's. Spray the tops and bottoms of leaves.

*Diane Karlik, CSCA environmental committee chair*

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## Classified

**Cabin John Dog Walking:** Midday walks to keep your pets happy and healthy. Many happy Cabin John and Carderock pet owners and their pets will happily give their recommendations. Call Carolyn at 240-204-2953.

**Looking to Rent:** Do you have more space in your home than you need? Empty nester or travel frequently and don't want to leave the house unattended? You could rent that extra space! Cabin John renter for many years is looking for private space with private bath. Impeccable references, including current landlord for the past three years. Quiet, dependable and considerate. Please email Carolyn at: cdcabinjohn@gmail.com or call (240) 204-2953

**Donations of Soccer Gear for Honduran Children:** My name is Alexander Oshinsky, I have lived in Carderock my entire life and have been a part of both the swim and dive teams and the tennis team over the years. I also worked at the club for many years doing everything from buildings and grounds to the front desk to the snack bar. For the past three years though I have gone to Honduras on a medical mission trip with the Virginia Medical Brigade. Over the course of a week the brigade helps approximately 3,000 people. Last year I got to play soccer with some of the children in one of the remote villages that we travel to. What I found was that not only did they not have an actual ball to play with but most of them didn't have shoes, needless to say the field they were playing on was not safe to be running around barefoot on. As a result I have taken it upon myself to collect used soccer gear (balls, cleats, shoes, shin guards, shirts, shorts, nets...) to bring down to Honduras with me when I go this year in

November. If you do not have gear that you want to donate but you want to get involved you can also provide a monetary donation that I will use to buy new gear to bring down. If you would like to donate gear or get involved you can send me an email at oshinsa@hotmail.com or reach me on my cell phone at 240-731-1686. Thank you.

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## Announcing Carderock's Little Free Library: 8212 Fenway Road

A Book House is in Carderock!

What's a Book House? It's like a bird house but for books.

Also known as a Little Free Library ( [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org) ),

Anyone can take a book and

Anyone can leave a book

When you are walking the dog, biking or driving by, you are welcome to stop and enjoy it. It's located by the street in the right front yard of 8212 Fenway Road, across from 8209's mail box.

Building community through books

Margie Orrick 8212 Fenway



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## Carderock Springs Board Members

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|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Phil Rider</i>                             | <i>President</i>         |
| <i>Jack Orrick</i>                            | <i>Vice President</i>    |
| <i>Donna Schwartz</i>                         | <i>Secretary</i>         |
| <i>Rob Gorman</i>                             | <i>Treasurer</i>         |
| <i>Barbara Ames</i>                           | <i>Membership</i>        |
| <i>Larry Ondrejko</i>                         | <i>Member-at-Large</i>   |
| <i>Anne Carlson</i>                           | <i>Member-at-Large</i>   |
| <i>Bill Moore</i>                             | <i>Member-at-Large</i>   |
| <i>Noëlle F. Lewis</i>                        | <i>Newsletter Editor</i> |
| <i>Doug Soe-Lin, Scott Wilets, David Wahl</i> |                          |
| <i>Architectural Review Committee</i>         |                          |

The Carderock Springs Citizens Association publishes *The Community News* at least six times each year. Residents of Carderock Springs and surrounding areas may join the Citizens Association for an annual due of \$50 for a membership year ending December 31, 2014. Dues and family information for the Carderock Springs telephone directory may be mailed to the Carderock Springs Citizens' Association at P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD 20818-0237. Our Association represents the Carderock Springs community and implements its land covenants.