

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 3

CARDEROCK SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWS

Cell Tower Meeting with State Highway Administration on September 17

Representatives of the State Highway Administration, AT&T and Verizon were present on September 17 at a public meeting held at the Carderock Club to discuss plans to build a 180 foot communications tower adjacent to the Beltway southwest of the intersection of Persimmon Tree Road and Eggert Drive early next year. The tower would provide the state agencies with better coverage of the areas near the Potomac River for first responders and public safety, would have room for up to three cellular telephone providers to mount antennae, and would allow SHA to better monitor traffic along the Beltway and the American Legion Bridge.

About 50 residents of Carderock and surrounding communities attended the meeting which lasted approximately 2 hours. There was animated, and at times, adversarial comments directed at the presenters surrounding the questions of whether alternative sites had been considered for the tower, the potential impacts of the electromagnetic fields emitted from the tower on the surrounding homes and Carderock Springs Elementary School (which is located about 1000 feet from the planned tower site), and the direction in relation to the school of the microwave transmissions that would allow the State to send communications from the tower back to other towers located in Rockville and elsewhere. The presenters were not entirely clear, or consistent on many of these questions. At the end of the presentation, one of the SHA representatives promised to provide more answers on these questions, but to date no follow-on information has been provided.

SHA clarified that there is an error in the description of the Local Impacts which appears on the blue flyer mailed to residents prior to the hearing. Instead of contractors using Persimmon Tree Lane and Eggert Drive to access the site, they would use Persimmon Tree Road (coming from Bradley Boulevard, then south to Eggert on Persimmon Tree Rd.) They do not intend to use Persimmon Tree Lane or other roads in Carderock Springs for construction purposes.

SHA has extended the comment period on the communications tower construction project for an additional 15 days (running from September 17, the date of the meeting) for any residents to express comments, raise issues or otherwise express support or opposition to the construction of the tower. The comments should be sent to Nelson Smith, Statewide Utility Engineer, SHA Office of Construction, 7450 Traffic Drive, Hanover, MD 21076, e-mail: nsmith@sha.state.md.us and Victor Grafton, District Utility Engineer, District 3, 9300 Kenilworth Avenue, Greenbelt, MD 20770 e-mail: vgrafton@sha.state.md.us

Jack Orrick

October Senior Program

Preventing Falls: Strategies to Maintain Your Mobility and Independence

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 from 10:00-12 noon

Carderock Springs Clubhouse

Guest Speaker: Shawn Brennan, Senior Health Promotion, Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services.

Each year, *one in every three adults age 65 and older falls*. Many falls will compromise their mobility and independence.

RSVP to maryloushannon@verizon.net. If you need a ride, or can drive someone, let me know by email or 301-365-0472.

Save the Date: November 20th, 10:00-12 noon (every third Wednesday)

Program: Exercises to Improve Strength and Balance

To help Carderock seniors maintain vitality as they age by connecting with neighbors, serving as volunteers, and expanding one's mind.

Vandalism, Theft, or other Crimes in Carderock

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER.....If you have any vandalism, theft, or other crime committed against you and/or your property, PLEASE report it to the police immediately. The more people report such incidents, the more local police are willing to patrol a neighborhood. To report, either call **301-279-8000** and report in person, or report online at the Police website at **www.mymcpnews.com**. There will be a box on the front page for online reporting. Thanks.

CSCA Directory Update

As you may know, the CSCA Directory is published every other year. The Board is aware that there are many new families and changes in information that occur in the "off" year. So, a directory update is being prepared to include contact information on all new residents and changes in information that appears in the current directory. If you have any information you want updated, please contact Barbara Ames or Bob Stocker ASAP.

Budget Wish List

The CSCA Board will be considering the new budget for 2014 at its next two meetings. All committees have been asked to submit a list of projects for the coming year and a budget needed to fund them. The Board would also like to hear from members of the community what you would like to see happen in Carderock Springs. In other words, what might be your "wish list"? Already, one person has suggested that we

do something to improve the condition of some of our roads. Board member Barbara Ames has volunteered to take this on. So....what other ideas do you have? Please feel free to contact any of the Board members to let them know.

CSCA Tree Removal Guidelines Adopted

In September, the CSCA Board adopted revised guidelines to assist the community in gauging how and when the community covenants require prior approval of the Board appointed tree person when a tree is to be removed from a Carderock property. These guidelines were informed by the responses received in the community survey conducted last spring. We hope that these guidelines set forth below will help those living in our community to act as good neighbors and consider the impacts to the community as well as those of the individual.

Before You Remove Any Trees . . .



Before you get that chain saw out, take the time to talk to a licensed arborist who works for a reputable tree company in Maryland. It is the law in Maryland that all tree work must be done by a licensed arborist.

In most cases, tree removal is acceptable in Carderock Springs; however the covenants recorded by the developer of Carderock Springs for all Carderock homes require approval of the designated tree removal contact person from the Carderock Springs Citizens Association prior to the removal of any mature hardwood tree that is not dead or diseased and that is over 12" in diameter (measured at chest level). A *hardwood* tree is a broadleaved tree that loses its leaves in autumn, such as the oak, beech, or maple.

At present, Lisa Wilcox Deyo, a landscape architect who lives and works in Carderock Springs, is the designated tree removal contact. Please note that it is not her role or responsibility to conduct assessments on prospective tree removal or provide consultation or advice

on which trees on individual properties should be kept or removed. Again, please consult with a licensed arborist before you contact her at CSCAtree@gmail.com.

No prior approval is required in the event that a tree is damaged by a storm to the extent that it is likely to cause imminent damage to person or property. However, if the tree is well-rooted, and it is possible to remove only the damaged limbs, this is the preferred course of action.

As noted, no prior approval is needed for the removal a *softwood* tree, which is an evergreen tree such as pine or cedar, or a tree that is dead or diseased. Generally, a tree is *dead* when it has lost the ability to bear leaves. A *diseased* tree is one which 50% or more of the tree exhibits obvious sign of disease or which a licensed arborist determines cannot be saved. Please consult with a licensed arborist to confirm that a tree is diseased or dead before removing it.

Lisa will consider your request in light of the results of the recent tree survey in which

residents expressed that the following factors that should be taken into account when making a removal decision:

1. Safety and the prevention of damage to persons or property
2. Screening or privacy
3. Tree canopy conservation
4. Lawn and garden preservation

Once Lisa has met with you and gives approval, you can post a sign displaying this approval as shown above in your yard. It makes a positive statement that you respect the community covenants as well as your neighbors.

Lastly, please remember that cutting down trees affects the look and feel of the neighborhood for all homeowners—not just the person on whose lot they grow. Many residents feel strongly about tree preservation. It is most important to talk with the neighbors whose property has views of any trees you wish to remove. The courtesy you show will come back to you in the future.

Help

The work of the Carderock Springs Citizens Association, the Swim and Tennis Club, and many other events during the year in our community happen only because people are willing to volunteer their time and talent. As we begin a new school year, (which always seems to me to be more of a "new year" than January 1st), I would ask you to consider giving some of your time to the neighborhood in the coming months. A few suggestions....help with one of our board committees (neighborhood beautification, new comers, environmental concerns, architectural review and support, keeping up our directory, event planning) - volunteer to work on a one-time event like the up-coming fall festival and Unicef drive - spend an hour or two picking up trash on your street. I could go on, but I think you get the picture. There are many things to do and many different ways to make a commitment. If you would like to help, please don't wait to be asked. Just call me (301-469-0231) or email (pmrbthmd@yahoo.com) and let me know what you would like to do. Even new ways to serve will be appreciated. Thanks. Phil Rider

Property Clean Up

At its last monthly meeting, the CSCA Board discussed a concern that was raised by one of our neighbors - what can be done about properties that are "eyesores"? This can be a result of such things as grass not being mowed, an accumulation of "stuff" in the yard or driveway, paint peeling off the house, vines overtaking trees, etc. The feeling expressed was that just one such property can make a whole neighborhood less attractive. This is especially a concern when one family is trying to sell their home.

The Board felt it did not want to take the role of policing individual properties. However, we would like to ask each property owner to please be considerate of the appearance of your yard and house and to realize that how we take care of our own property does affect the way a neighborhood as a whole appears, especially to

prospective buyers. The Board also is aware that upkeep such as painting one's house may be a financial burden for some. This was another reason the Board felt it could not police properties but to only encourage individual owners to do what can be done to keep up one's yard and house.

Thanks for your consideration. Phil Rider

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.

Handyman: Jose Louis will help with any and all chores in and around the house and garden, including painting, drywall, carpeting and indoor repairs, carpeting and flooring, as well as grass mowing, yard clean up; deck and patio power washing and staining; fence, pathway or platform construction; and any other kind of heavy work, on a reasonable hourly basis. Contact Carderock neighbor Ray at 301-469-0192.

Newcomers to our Neighborhood

It's been a very busy summer for moving companies. Six new families renting and three additional purchasers have now moved in to our community.

James and Cindy Stolp and their boys Jack and Mike moved to 8304 Fenway Road. They can be reached on cstolp@modedesigncenter.com or 214-642-8049.

Just up the street Lynette Nguyen and Jim Crombie moved into 8208 Fenway Road just as Katie Thornton and Mike Delorenzo and their boys Ryan and Finn moved out. Katie and Mike purchased 7507 Hamilton Spring Road from Telly and Paul Encarnacion who retired to Brunswick, Maryland.

The Nguyen/Crombie family, and their boys Alex (14), Benen (12) and Ian (9), can be reached by email on ltrnguyen@gmail.com or 301-365-1852.

Kim Ninassi and her children Aldo (13) and six year old twins Stefano and Georgina are now on Glenmore Spring Way. You can reach them by email to Kimninassi@yahoo.com.

Eckert Richter, Kao Osawa and their boys Andy (5) and Freddy (3) have settled into 5 Park Overlook Court. Eckert, known 20 years ago as Ecky, spent many summers with his family at the Carderock Swim Club.

Further enriching our international neighborhood are the Onukis at 7025 Barkwater Court. Takao and his wife Yayoi, along with their son Tomoaki (16) and daughter Emi (9), can be reached at 841on@mail.goo.ne.jp or 301-320-0875.

Michael Dinces and Sarah Bennett moved into 7506 Hamilton Spring Road, bringing with them son Owen (5) and daughter Lia (3). They are available on 917-864-2301 or by email to michaeldinces@gmail.com.

A fourth house in that small area of Hamilton Spring Road turned over this summer. Longtime residents Susan Burkhalter and Curtis Shively moved from 7504 Hamilton Spring Road to 2600 Silverdale Drive, Silver Spring (301-942-4079); Liane Asta Lohde and Qays Hamad purchased their home, and soon will move in with Anisa (5) and Lana (1) once the renovations are completed. You can contact them now on kice@gmx.net

Mary Lou Shannon, Welcome Chair

The Carder-Eco Column

New Plastics Recycling Program

Residents can now drop off a variety of newly added household items for recycling at the County's Solid Waste Processing Facility and Transfer Station under the latest expansion of the County's nationally-recognized recycling program. Note that the items below cannot simply be placed in the blue bins for pick-up.

Included among the many bulk rigid plastic items that can now be recycled are laundry baskets; dish drainers, toys; lawn furniture; waste baskets; clothes hangers; tote boxes; crates; large buckets; pet carriers and garbage cans. All items dropped off for recycling should be empty, rinsed, if necessary, and free of loose dirt, soil, etc.

Among the items that cannot be recycled with either rigid plastics or commingled materials are garden hoses; vinyl fencing/siding; motor oil containers; plastics containing or contaminated by chemicals or hazardous substances; and pesticide/herbicide containers.

For a complete list of both acceptable and unacceptable items, as well as a downloadable flyer with the hours of operations at the Transfer Station, visit the Division of Solid Waste Services' website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

From time to time, I will publicize on the CS-chat the date(s) I would, as a service to neighbors, collect such items, and also the other types of recycling (E cycling, textiles, hazardous, and miscellaneous metals), for delivery to the Transfer Station. You can also notify me personally at dianekarlik@verizon.net and I will put you on a list to be notified. I will most likely do this again late October/early November.

In addition, before sending the items you may have that are in good condition, you might want to offer them to neighbors via the CS-chat, or via BCC freecycle (need to sign up), or, if household goods, to me for delivery to A Wider Circle at roughly the same time as above.

More about plastics:

About 40 billion pieces of plastic utensils are thrown away each year in the United States. Consider purchasing reusable bamboo utensils or dedicate a metal set from your kitchen for use during picnics or office/school lunches.

It would take a million years for a Styrofoam cooler to decompose. Instead of using this type, consider purchasing a re-usable one. One should be able to take advantage of end-of-season sales at this time of year.

Thirteen plastic bottles are recycled and used to fabricate a child's sports jersey and matching shorts. Look for such fabrics/clothing for the whole family.

Energy Savings:

The Sierra Club finds that the most advantageous changes a family can make toward lowering energy usage are using smart power strips, adding insulation, plugging leaks, doing an energy audit, installing low flow water devices, and taking advantage of county and state rebates by installing newer Energy Star appliances.

Diane Karlik, Environmental Committee

Spring Into Fall” Event a Great Success

The “Swing Into Fall” event, sponsored by the CSCA, was held at the Club on September 21.



