

# **Colonial Park Homeowners' Association**

## ***Newsletter – Fall 2016***

### **!!Community Meeting – Save the Date!!**

The Board has scheduled a community meeting on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm at the Elks Lodge (corner of Stevenson and Quarterfield roads). Community updates and the 2017 budget will be on the agenda.

### **Community Compliance Walk-Through...Avoid Violations!**

The Covenants Committee anticipates it will conduct a walk-through of our community this fall, looking for homeowners' compliance with our Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, as well as the Supplemental Rules, Standards and Guidelines. *Do your trees along sidewalks have a 7' clearance to allow a pedestrian to walk underneath? Are your bushes and shrubbery trimmed? Is your landscaping weeded? Do you have a dead tree that needs to be replaced? Do your mailboxes or shutters need painting, or does your fence need repair or sealing? If so, let's spruce up prior to the walkthrough!*

### **Contact Information: Ours & Yours**

The Board created [BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com](mailto:BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com) as one way to improve communication between homeowners and the Board. Additionally—we need your email address! 73% of Colonial Park homeowners have an email address on file with the Board. This helps reduce the cost of contacting a homeowner—and we can get important announcements to you without the delay of postal mail. Please email us with your name and address...and we'll add you to the group list. Also, check out our website: [www.colonialpark-hoa.org](http://www.colonialpark-hoa.org).

### **Covenants Committee Leadership Change**

Many thanks to Sara for her leadership of the Covenants Committee! Unfortunately, a job relocation will open up this important position. If you have interest in being the chair of this committee (which reviews/approves exterior change requests), please email [BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com](mailto:BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com).

### **Want to Become Involved?**

- **Open Space Planning Committee**

The Board communicated its desire to begin planning on how we can further improve the open spaces in our community as a way to increase the desirability of our community and enhance home values. Survey responses are in—and we need a group of individuals to review them and provide recommendations. Have ideas/suggestions? Please send them!

- **Community Events Committee**

The Board is looking to revive the former Social Committee and is looking for a chair and members. We need your involvement to keep our community a wonderful place to live. Interested? Send us an email.

### **Storage of Trash and Recycling Containers**

All trash/recycling containers must be stored out of view at all times when not out for retrieval on trash pickup days. Homeowners are responsible to clean up all debris on their property (and area/street adjacent to property) left behind by a refuse truck. Trash cans and refuse may be placed curbside the evening before a trash pickup day and must be re-stored out of sight by 7:00am the day after the trash pickup day.

### **Architectural (Exterior) Change Requests – Electronic Submission Available!**

Planning an exterior change to your home or lot? Don't forget to submit an architectural change request! Most exterior changes require approval. If unsure, ask! There is no charge for submitting an application; however, an after-the-fact application may be assessed a \$50 fine, and, according to our Declaration, violations (and recurring violations) are subject to a \$25 fine/day/violation until resolved. Homeowners now have two means by which they can submit architectural changes – via postal mail, or scan (preferred method) and send to [ACCcolonialpark@hotmail.com](mailto:ACCcolonialpark@hotmail.com).

## **Speed Limit – Still 25 MPH!**

The Board has received several concerns regarding the speed at which vehicles are traveling through our Community, particularly along Colonial Park Drive. Children live and play in our Community. Keep them safe—obey the speed limit!

## **Exterior Light Fixtures**

Replacing your home's original exterior light fixtures? (HOA approval is required.) Let the Board know...other homeowners may be interested in your discarded (but in working condition) builder-installed light fixtures as a backup or replacement. Home Depot also carries fixtures that match those installed by the builder. Email the Board for more information if interested.

## **Grinder Pumps**

Many homes in our community have sewage grinder pumps installed in the front yard. The grinder pumps are an important part of the County's waste management system for homes whose sewage cannot enter the sewage lines by gravity alone. If the pump is malfunctioning, an alarm will sound. Wait 15 minutes to see if the system will self-correct; if the alarm light DOES NOT turn off, call the Department of Public Works 24-hour emergency dispatcher at 410.222.8400 to report the problem. This service is at no cost to homeowners. For more information, visit [www.aacounty.org/dpw/Utilities/grinderPumps.cfm](http://www.aacounty.org/dpw/Utilities/grinderPumps.cfm).

## **Renting / Leasing**

Several homes in Colonial Park are leased to non-owner occupants. The homeowner is required to incorporate specific language regarding your observation of our Community's documents into the lease. Additionally, a current copy of the lease must be on file with the Board of Directors or a violation notice will be issued.

## **Parking Courtesy Reminder**

Homeowners and their guests are reminded to be considerate of neighbors' driveways and right-of-ways when parking vehicles on our Community's streets:

- If you/your guests have multiple vehicles parked on both sides of the street, you are responsible to ensure there is sufficient room for vehicles to pass through.
- Mailboxes should not be blocked.
- Under no circumstances should a fire hydrant ever be blocked.
- Neighbors' driveways should not be blocked.
- Vehicles should never be parked on grassy areas.

Also, please ensure you keep sufficient space for school buses to pass—we do not want to lose the privilege of having bus stops inside our community!

## **Pet Walking – Do Your Part**

Dog owners are reminded to:

- Keep their dog on a leash (Anne Arundel County Law);
- Keep the dog on the sidewalk and off others' property;
- Use Community property when your dog must defecate (do not use private property) ; and,
- Immediately clean up and properly dispose of any and all solid waste deposited by your dog.

If a homeowner's dog is creating a nuisance, please notify the Board.

## **Guidelines for Fires in Anne Arundel County**

No fires are permitted on HOA open space. For guidelines as to what is permissible in Anne Arundel County, please visit <http://www.ahealth.org/programs/env-hlth/licenses-and-permits/open-burning-license-app>. Regardless of what is permitted, please be considerate of your neighbors, and be safe!

## **Do You Want Lower Your Electricity & Natural Gas Costs?**

Maryland is a deregulated utility state, and you have the option to contract with different suppliers for electricity and natural gas. Maryland updates the following websites each month, summarizing BGE's competitors' latest offerings: [www.opc.state.md.us/ConsumerCorner/RetailSuppliers.aspx](http://www.opc.state.md.us/ConsumerCorner/RetailSuppliers.aspx).