

# **Colonial Park Homeowners' Association**

## ***Newsletter – Fall 2017***

### **<<Fall Homeowner Meeting – Plan to Attend>>**

The Board has scheduled its annual membership meeting on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at 7:00pm at the Elks Lodge (corner of Stevenson and Quarterfield roads). A presentation about the SCMaglev train, community updates, committee reports and review of the 2018 budget (with a small increase in the assessment) will be on the agenda.

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

The Architectural Control Committee and the Board are coordinating a compliance walk-through of our community in October to note homeowners' adherence to our Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions, as well as the Supplemental Rules, Standards and Guidelines.

Shutters in need of paint?	Landscaping weed-free?	Tree limbs blocking sidewalk?
Bushes/shrubs need trimmed?	Dead trees replaced?	Algae growing on home?
Mailbox post needs painted?	Fence in need of maintenance?	Sidewalks edged?

### **Connect with Colonial Park Homeowners on Facebook**

Katie Martin created a "Colonial Park Social Group" on Facebook. This closed group will help connect homeowners for Colonial Park events, play dates, last-minute walks, and friendly discussion. Join the group!

### **Fall Harvest Party – You're Invited!**

Join Colonial Park homeowners for a Fall potluck on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 4:00 – 7:00. RSVP to [mattandandrea2006@gmail.com](mailto:mattandandrea2006@gmail.com). There will be activities for kids, good conversation with adults, and great food for all! Please RSVP by October 15<sup>th</sup>. (*Homeowners delinquent on assessments may not participate.*)

### **BWI Airport Noise**

Have you noticed an increase in noise from airplane departures originating at BWI? If so, you are not the only one. Governor Hogan has asked the State Attorney General to file a lawsuit against the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for its poor implementation of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen). To file a noise complaint, visit [www.maacommunityrelations.com/content/anznoiseupdate/noiseform.php](http://www.maacommunityrelations.com/content/anznoiseupdate/noiseform.php). This data collection tool catalogs where noise is a concern to homeowners and helps build a case for changing flight patterns.

### **Superconducting Maglev Train Open House**

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to study the feasibility and potential impacts of a new high-speed rail system running between DC and Baltimore. As part of this study, they have scheduled public open house and information sessions:

- October 14, 10a – 1p at Bowie State University Student Center
- October 16, 5p – 8p at Arundel High School Cafeteria
- October 24, 5p – 8p at Laurel High School Cafeteria
- October 18 (Catholic Univ) and 25 (Digital Harbor High)

Additional details available at [www.bwmaglev.info](http://www.bwmaglev.info). We also expect updated maps and a narrowed list of proposed routes. Regardless, the Board is not supportive of this project and encourages your involvement. We will also have a presentation at the next Colonial Park HOA meeting.

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

Check out our website: [www.colonialpark-hoa.org](http://www.colonialpark-hoa.org). The Board created [BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com](mailto:BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com) as one way to improve communication between homeowners and 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. If you live at 1226 Colonial Park, 8205 West Hatton, 8206 West Hatton, 8209 West Hatton, 8503 Lexington and 8505 Lexington—we would love to include you.

## **Interested in Group Discounts to Save \$\$?**

20 homeowners pulled their purchasing power together and we were able to secure a discounted rate for power washing our homes. Do you have ideas for other opportunities to negotiate discounted rates for home services? Interested in coordinating? We would like to hear from you. Email [boardcolonialpark@hotmail.com](mailto:boardcolonialpark@hotmail.com).

## **Refunds**

We are reconciling our accounts. If you live at 1226 Colonial Park, 8206 West Hatton or 8214 West Hatton, please email us to arrange for a refund.

## **Planning an Exterior Change? Email your Application!**

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 can submit architectural changes via postal mail or scan (preferred) and send to [ACCcolonialpark@hotmail.com](mailto:ACCcolonialpark@hotmail.com).

## **Want to Become Involved? We need you!**

- **Open Space Planning Committee**  
We want to enhance the open spaces in our community as a way to increase the desirability of our community and increase home values. Help gather ideas and propose a plan/design to enhance our open spaces.
- **Architectural Control Committee Chair**  
Many thanks to Cindy for her leadership of the Architectural Control Committee! Unfortunately, she will be relocating and can no longer chair this committee. This committee reviews exterior change requests and conducts community walk-throughs. This is not time-intensive service, but it is an important one.
- **Community Events Committee**  
Want to help plan activities/socials (holiday cookie swap, Spring Fling, walking club, etc.) to strengthen our community bond? Then, this is the committee for you!

## **Trash and Recycling Container Storage**

All trash/recycling containers must be stored out of view at all times when not out for retrieval on trash pickup days. 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.

## **Dog Walking – Do Your Part & Fines**

Please let the Board know if you observe a dog owner not cleaning up after his pet. HOA rules and County Code permit fining, and we will begin levying \$25 fines if caught, as well as reporting to the County.

## **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).

## **Do You Want Lower 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).