

Colonial Park Homeowners' Association

Newsletter – Fall 2019

>>Homeowner Meeting Notice: November 19th – Plan to Attend<<

The Board has scheduled its annual membership meeting for Tuesday, November 19th, at 6:30pm at Heritage Community Church (8146 Quarterfield Road, next to Phases I/II). Community updates and board election will be on the agenda. If you cannot attend, please send the proxy (to be mailed) so we can avoid a second meeting and additional mailing cost to notify homeowners. (*Homeowners delinquent on assessments may not participate.*)

Community Yard Sale – September 28th

Clean out your storage bins and closets and make some money doing it! Join the Community Events Committee's community yard sale on September 28th from 8am to 12pm. There is no sign up needed to participate. Simply place your sale items out on your driveway or front yard. For more information, please contact Rosa at cruz_ra@yahoo.com.

Dog Walking – P.U.P., Leash Requirements & Fine Notice

Pick Up Poo (PUP)—it's as simple as that. Pick it up or face a fine. Includes properly disposing of the bagged poo. Do NOT leave a bag sitting on the ground; please dispose of it in your home's trash. 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 levy fines if caught, as well as report to the County. Also, dogs are required to be leashed when not confined behind a fence.

Violation Resolution

Did you receive a violation notice from our management company after an inspection? Our HOA Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (Section 7.15) requires a homeowner to resolve the violation within 15 calendar days of the date of the violation letter. If you require additional time to resolve the violation, please ask our management company for a reasonable extension of time. If a homeowner believes an identified violation is not warranted, a homeowner may appeal (by email, at boardcolonialpark@hotmail.com) to the Board.

Late Fees for HOA Assessment Payments

A homeowner is assessed a late fee if the quarterly assessment is not paid by the end of the month in which it is due. Effective immediately, once the \$15 late fee is assessed by our management company, the fee will not be waived. The HOA is assessed a fee by our management company to collect late assessments prior to sending the account to our collections attorney. Colonial Park's late fee is needed to cover the expense of collecting a late payment. To help avoid late fees, set up an automatic payment or pay an annual (instead of quarterly) amount.

Planning an Exterior Change? You Likely Require HOA Approval

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.

Exterior Change Submission Process Change – Neighbor Signature Optional

The Board is working to refine our architectural change request process. A new application is under development and will be made available on our website. Until then, we no longer require an application to reflect adjacent homeowners' signatures; such signatures are optional. Rather, the Board will notify (via email, if on file with the HOA) adjacent neighbors that the Board has received a request for an exterior change. We hope this step in the application process will reduce the amount of time to complete an application.

Anne Arundel County Police Department Joins 'Neighbors' by Ring

Anne Arundel County Police Department has joined the Neighbors app by Ring to provide the public with real-time, local crime and safety information. This app is free and does not require that you use the Ring doorbell camera. Anyone can download the app to monitor neighborhood activity; share crime and safety-related videos, photos and text posts; and receive real-time safety alerts from neighbors and police. Text ANNEARUNDEL to 555888 or go to <https://download.ring.com/annearundel> from your iOS or Android smartphone to download.

Contractor Corner

We know how hard it is to find good contractors. A few homeowners have had recent positive experiences with several contractors and wanted to make their neighbors aware:

- Jim's Painting Company: James Brewer, 410-271-4105, jam5brew@hotmail.com
- Allpro Professional Painting & Construction Services: Wayne Beverly, 443-871-1108, wayne.beverly@yahoo.com
- Willie Home Improvement, LLC: 443-871-0956, wilfredocabrera09@hotmail.com
- ClearView Window and Door: Nick Nicholson, 410-668-1110, nick@getclearview.com
- Maryland Pro Wash: 443-752-1754, www.marylandprowash.com
- Brumwell's Heating & Air Conditioning: 410-360-0002, www.brumwellhvac.com
- Grass Barber of Maryland: Ted Giunta, grassbarberofmd@gmail.com

The HOA does not offer endorsement, or assume any liability for a homeowner's use, of these vendors.

Renting Your Home

Homeowners may lease their home but must keep a current copy on file with the HOA. A homeowner may only lease the entire home (for example, you cannot rent only the basement of your home). Also, our HOA documents prohibit more than one family occupying a home. If you have questions, please contact the Board.

Replacing Exterior Light Fixtures?

Replacing your home's original exterior light fixtures? HOA approval is required, and all exterior lights (affixed to the home and the post light) must match. Progress Lighting manufactures the Brass Guard Collection, which matches those installed by the builder. They are available at home improvement retailers (Home Depot, Lowe's, www.1stoplighting.com, etc.).

Trash and Recycling Containers: Keep Out of Sight

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

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.

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 and Lexington Drive. Children live and play in our Community. Keep them safe—obey the speed limit!

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 website each month, summarizing BGE's competitors' latest offerings: www.opc.state.md.us/ConsumerCorner/RetailSuppliers.aspx.

Want to Become Involved? We need you!

- **Board of Directors**

Serve as the President, Vice President, or Secretary/Treasurer on the Colonial Park HOA. No experience is necessary—only a desire to serve the community. The next election is scheduled in November 2019; applications are due by Friday, October 18th.

- **Architectural Control Committee**

This committee reviews exterior change requests and assists with community inspections. This is not a time-intensive service, but it is an important one. We need one to two more members to join.

- **Community Events Committee**

Want to help plan activities/socials (holiday cookie swap, Spring Fling, walking club, etc.) to strengthen our community bond? Rosa, Katie and Andrea are looking for you!

Email boardcolonialpark@hotmail.com with any questions or to obtain details on how to join.

Connect with Colonial Park Homeowners on Facebook

Join “**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.

Contact Information: Ours & Yours

The Board created BoardColonialPark@hotmail.com as one way to improve communication between homeowners and the Board. If you are not receiving communication from the HOA via email—we need your email address! 91% of Colonial Park homeowners have an email address on file with the Board. This helps reduce the cost of contacting homeowners—and we can get important announcements to you without the delay of postal mail. Also, check out our website for HOA information: www.colonialpark-hoa.org.