



CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March 2011

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Citizens' Association*

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<i>Georgia Petsche</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Gunnar Tomasson</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Tom Hilton</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Barbara Ames</i>	<i>Membership</i>
<i>Jack Orrick</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
<i>Mary Lou Shannon</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
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	<i>Architectural Review Committee</i>

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, 2011. 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.

Citizens' Association Monthly Meetings

Next Meeting:

Monday, March 7, 2011 7:00

at the Club

**Come Celebrate the Cultural Diversity
in our Community**

Sunday, March 27

5:30 PM at the Club

**AN INTERNATIONAL POT LUCK
SUPPER
ADULTS NIGHT OUT WITHOUT THE
CHILDREN**

Please bring a dish to share that represents your National Heritage (including the USA)
Appetizer, Salad, Entree, or Dessert
Wine, Beer, and beverages provided

Save the Date!



**Sunday, April 17th
Carderock Springs
Citizens Association
SOCIAL NETWORKING PARTY 6:00 PM
and
2011 ANNUAL MEETING 7:00 PM
at the Club**

*(See Annual Meeting Notice/Slate of Officers
on page 2)*

CSCA Annual Meeting, April 17

6:00 PM Social Networking Party

7:00 PM Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting of the CSCA** will be held at the Club on Sunday, April 17th, at 7:00 PM. A **Social Networking Party** will be held prior to the Annual Meeting, starting at 6:00 PM. The meeting will include reports from the treasurer and the sub-committees, including a plan from the Safety Committee about how to slow down speeders on Fenway Rd. The association will also vote on a slate of officers for the 2011 board. Nominees are:

President: *Phil Rider*

Vice President: *Georgia Petsche*

Secretary: *Gunnar Tomasson*

Treasurer: *Bob Stocker*

Membership: *Barbara Ames*

At Large: *Mary Lou Shannon*

At Large: *Jack Orrick*

The Board hopes you will make every effort to attend this important meeting of our association.

Protecting your Property from Theft

The CSCA Safety Committee recently discussed the current problem of theft in our neighborhood. Of special concern has been the increase of car break-ins. In speaking with the county police, they believe the poor economy/unemployment is a major cause for the general increase in crime throughout our area. However, whatever the cause may be, it is clear that such thefts are on the increase in our county and neighborhood.

The following are some of the recommendations given by the police to better protect personal property from being stolen:

LOCK: Lock cars and houses when not literally in them. Always. This includes when leaving your car for a moment to do something like paying for gas, or leaving your house to work in the back yard. This may sound like its a bit too much, but police say that most thefts happen quickly, often

not lasting more than a few minutes. A thief is always looking for an open opportunity. By locking our cars and houses, we reduce that opportunity.

LIGHTS: One of the best deterrents for both car and house thefts is to install a motion sensor light that shines on the driveway. (It might also deter deer from eating our plants). It is also important to leave a couple of lights on in the house when away in the evening or, on a timer when away on vacation.

NOT AT HOME: Be sensitive to anything that might communicate to a thief that you are not home. This includes things like having newspapers/mail pile up, putting on face book that you are going on vacation (and other cyberspace communications), not having someone mow your lawn or shovel snow while you are away, a dark house at night, etc. The police state that thieves will often go through neighborhoods, looking for those houses that look like the owners are away. These houses are prime targets for theft.

VALUABLES: Even if you lock your car, bring in the house overnight any valuables, including purses, wallets, cell phones, GPS, etc. Police also suggest that hiding valuables, e.g., jewelry, is not very affective. It is much better to use a safe-deposit box or to lock things in a home safe. Other larger valuables, e.g., art work, antiques, etc., should be photographed for easy identification or marked with personal identification when possible.

REPORT: Obviously, if you have something stolen, report it to the police. They may not be able to do anything about it, but it's important the county know when thefts occur.

In terms of suspicious behavior, it is generally better to be safe than sorry. Call the non-emergency police number, 301-279-8000, to report.

What is "suspicious behavior?" Anything that seems out of the ordinary or out of place to you that makes you wonder why these folks are in our neighborhood. This is usually more of an

issue at night. For example (to use a recent chat concern), seeing someone you don't recognize walking around the neighborhood during the day might not raise much concern, but seeing a stranger in the late evening, exhibiting some strange behavior, might be reason to wonder what the person is up to.

Having said this, the Safety Committee is also concerned about not wanting to turn us all into a "paranoid" community. Ideally, it would be wonderful to live in a place where we don't have to worry about these things. Possibly the best way to approach this is to not worry/angst about being the target of theft, but to be pro-active and do those things that will protect us from being vulnerable in the first place.

If any of you have found other ideas that you think will discourage theft (i.e., lessen the opportunity), let us know. We'll print an update in the next newsletter.

On behalf of the Safety Committee, Phil Rider

Living in the Carderock Community

Living in a community means doing what is important to be a good neighbor. This can involve many different actions. One is keeping our property looking attractive. In fact, this effort is considered so important, it is defined and encouraged through our covenants and ARC guidelines.

After the last couple of storms, a lot of tree debris ended up in our yards, creating what was clearly a big mess. It took some time, but most neighbors did whatever they could to clean up their yards. This is greatly appreciated by us all; we all value a neighborhood that looks attractive.

The alternatives available to us to pick up and get rid of fallen trees and debris include:

— Hire a private landscaper who can clear the debris. If you don't have one, ask a neighbor for a recommendation or check the CSCA recommendation list on our website.

— If you do the pickup yourself, you can haul it away to the county refuse area (off Rt. 355 just southeast of Shady Grove Rd. in Rockville) or cut it up and bag for county pickup up on Tuesdays.

— It is unclear if the county is willing to pick up debris that is piled by the road. It seems that county trucks did come through our neighborhood this past week and picked up piles that were there. However, this may have been an exception to the county policy, so homeowners should not assume this is a way to get rid of debris.

— If you have a tree that you think may need to be cut down, please remember to contact our tree supervisor (Lisa Wilcox Deyo) for inspection and approval.

Again, we thank and appreciate all the efforts made by everyone to return our community to a pleasant-looking place to live. *CSCA Board*

The Carder-Eco Column

News from the Environmental Committee

Barbara Holtz, Diane Karlik, Tjaart Schillhorn Van Veen, and Mary Lou Shannon met to discuss the goals and activities of this new committee. The goal of the Environmental Committee is to promote and encourage awareness, inspire action, and sponsor activities within the Carderock Springs community in our role as "good stewards of the land" (part of the original Bennett vision). The committee hopes to achieve this through neighborhood events and dissemination of information through this newsletter and other means.

Be on the lookout for the monthly column and announcements of local activities. We are planning for a guest speaker this spring, and will organize a clean up of the entrance to Carderock. We also hope to organize a freecycle event. We thank Lisa Wilcox Deyo for her column last month emphasizing keeping our land both natural and healthy.

In the interim, you might consider registering for any of the free or low cost seminars, lectures

and workshops given at Brookside Gardens (first register at ParkPASS.org). These include Rain Garden design (\$10, March 11 or 12), Rain Barrel make one to take home (\$10, April 15 or 16), or Conservation Landscaping design (\$10, May 20 or 21). For both the Rain Garden and Conservation Landscaping, the program offers rebates for approved plans that you design. Other workshops and lectures run the gamut, including growing colorful edibles.

Our local recycled and reusable “Green Neighbors” bags are still available for a donation. This donation will make this new committee self sustaining, since all monies collected will go back to the CSCA whose donation originally helped sponsor the plastics initiative. Your support is appreciated.

2011 Annual CSCA Dues

Everyone in the neighborhood should have received a CSCA dues statement. Don't forget to enclose any updates to the directory with your dues check. Your timely payment makes it a lot easier to plan for future activities.

If you did not receive a statement, please send your \$50 dues checks to: Carderock Springs Citizens Association, P.O. Box 237, Cabin John, MD 20818. Make sure you include a return address along with a list of all family members, and any phone and email information you wish entered in the next directory.

Where do your \$50 annual dues go? Though not an exhaustive list, here are seven major areas that CSCA dues support:

1. Printing the neighborhood directory
2. Maintaining and lighting the neighborhood entry points and signs
3. CSCA website, newsletters, and other communications to keep residents informed
4. Support for worthy volunteer activities that directly benefit residents. A small portion of dues cover the cost of recognition awards for extraordinary volunteer work by our neighbors.
5. Insurance premiums to protect the Board and ARC members so they can serve without undue liability concerns
6. Emergent actuarial and legal fees including tax filings, advice to the board on pending decisions, as well as to defend against lawsuits over covenant enforcement and related matters. Although infrequent, suits can be very costly even when CSCA wins. Any remaining end-of-year funds help to build a reserve fund.
7. CSCA support for other civic organizations that enable cooperation in addressing problems affecting our area of the county. Included are organizations that represent us at County meetings and that help CSCA stay abreast of county-wide issues that may impact Carderock Springs, especially in the areas of zoning, highway planning, and redistricting issues.

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