



# CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July 2011

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Citizens' Association*

<i>Phil Rider</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Georgia Petsche</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Gunnar Tomasson</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Bob Stocker</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>
<i>Noëlle F. Lewis</i>	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>
<i>Doug Soe-Lin, Scott Wilets</i>	
<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.

## Next Meeting of the Board, Monday, July 18, at 6:30 at the Club **Pot Luck** July/August Meetings Combined

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The Board would like to invite the community to a POT LUCK BOARD MEETING on Monday evening, July 18, at 6:30 PM. Please bring a main dish or salad to share with others. Ice cream dessert and drinks provided. The meeting will begin when supper is over. The meeting will include an updated report from the Safety Committee.

Please note, there will be no August meeting. The first fall CSCA meeting will be Tuesday, September 20, at 7 PM (all subsequent meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of each month).

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## CSCA Information Available on the Worldwide WEB

Did you know you can access important information about the CSCA on its website at [www.carderocksprings.net](http://www.carderocksprings.net)?

Information includes the board's monthly minutes; minutes of other meetings, such as the public forum on bump outs; the ARC guidelines; ways to contact the Board and ARC members; important up-coming events—to mention only a few. It is hoped that community members will use the website to keep informed about important issues and events happening in Carderock Springs.

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## Safety Committee Update

The Safety Committee wants to thank all those community members who attended the public forum in May and voiced their questions and concerns. It is also grateful to the two county engineers, Tracy and Fred, for taking the time to spend part of an evening with us, and to Gunnar for taking such excellent and detailed notes of the meeting.

Committee members have read the minutes and all e-mails sent to the members via the CS-chat or sent personally. The committee has met to discuss the issues raised and possible alternative solutions to deal the concerns of speed and safety on Fenway Rd. The committee

will meet with the engineers at the end of June to discuss possible alternatives.

The committee has made two clear decisions: (1) It will make every effort to communicate its work and future proposal(s) to the community, mainly via the newsletter (such as in this issue) and the website (with the assumption that every household receives a newsletter and almost everyone has access to the CSCA website); and (2) once a proposal has been offered, the committee will rely on the CSCA Board to determine how to best solicit community opinion/consensus.

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## The Carder-Eco Column

News from the Environmental Committee

**Organic Lawn Care:** If you were unable to attend any of Paul Tukey's presentations/films on organic lawn care, check out the website [safelawns.org](http://safelawns.org) or ask to borrow his book, available from [DianeKarlik@verizon.net](mailto:DianeKarlik@verizon.net). In the meantime, several recommendations in transitioning to more organic turf care include:

- Obtain a soil test
- Grow the right type of grass (the most common ones used, Kentucky bluegrass and Bermuda grass require the most fertilizer and water)
- Water deeply and infrequently so roots grow more deeply
- Encourage the organisms in your soil...they need nurturing, not killing
- Leave grass clippings behind, these provide half of your lawn's nutritional needs
- Mow no lower than 2½ inches (or higher in summer)
- Avoid synthetics- they can kill, burn, and poison the Chesapeake
- Add compost and compost tea, especially as you transition (available at American Plant)

**Dirty Dozen:** The dozen fruits and vegetables that, when not grown organically, have high levels of chemical residue. One should consider buying the organic form of these dozen fruits and vegetables to avoid the harmful chemicals. The NEW list of the dirty dozen has put apples at the top of the list, followed by celery, strawberries, peaches, spinach, imported nectarines, imported

grapes, sweet bell peppers, potatoes, domestic blueberries, lettuce, and kale/collards.

**Starlings:** If, like me, you have been bothered by starlings, those big black birds who chase away the smaller and more beautiful ones from your feeders and birdbaths, consider this. They are one of the most effective bird enemies of terrestrial insect pests in this county. In the summer, a starling carries more than 100 loads of destructive insects per day to its offspring, including Japanese beetles, caterpillars, and cutworms. Thus, do you prefer starlings or insecticides/pesticides. Just something to keep in mind.

**Do YOU have a question?** If you have any questions relating to trash, recycling, ecology, environment, etc., contact Diane Karlik [DianeKarlik@verizon.net](mailto:DianeKarlik@verizon.net). If you would like to participate in a discussion group to share ecological ideas, or think as a family you would like to do this, please contact Diane. The Environmental Committee would consider organizing a forum from time to time in our efforts to 'green' our environment and make it healthier and less toxic for all of us and for generations to come.

**Timeline of decomposition:** FYI some trivia, which is not trivial!

Disposable diapers – 450 years  
Milk carton – 5 years  
Aluminum can – 350 years  
Tin can – 50 years  
Styrofoam – 80 years  
Plastic bottle – 350 years  
Newspaper – 6 weeks  
Cardboard box – 2 months