

M A R C H 2 0 1 7

# CARDEROCK SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWS

## **CSCA Annual Meeting and Reception**

**Sunday, April 30, 6:30 – 8 pm, Carderock Swim and Tennis Club**

The annual meeting of the Carderock Springs Citizens Association will feature an update and discussion on the results of the recent Fenway Road Traffic Safety survey, a summary of the past year's activities and the election of officers and directors of the CSCA for the upcoming year. A brief reception, with beer, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages as well as nibbles, will precede the meeting starting at 6:30 pm.

The individuals who have been nominated to stand for election by the Board are the current officers and directors of the Association. These are:

President – Jack Orrick  
Vice President – Bill Moore  
Secretary – Stefan LoBuglio  
Treasurer – Rob Gorman  
At Large – Bill Draper  
At Large – Seth Hertlein  
At Large – Yvette Quintela  
At Large – Sindy Udell  
At Large – Julie Weber

Per the Bylaws of the CSCA, additional nominations may be made by any three or more members of the Association provided that they notify the President within one month of the meeting and the individual(s) so nominated have consented to serving. Any group of members of the Association seeking to nominate anyone for the election should email Jack at [cscapres@gmail.com](mailto:cscapres@gmail.com) by March 30.

*Jack Orrick, CSCA President.*

### **Carderock Springs Community Calendar**

All events are at the Club unless otherwise noted

**Day/Date**

Sunday, March 26, 5-7pm  
Sunday, April 30, 6:30-8pm

**Event**

**Carderock Wine Tasting and Cocktail Party** See Page 6  
**CSCA Annual Meeting and Reception**

# Beltway Noise Keeping You Up At Night?

For some of our neighbors, it is. If you have noticed an increase in traffic noise coming from the Beltway recently, there is a very good reason – the volume of traffic on the Beltway has increased steadily over the years. Last summer’s invasive plant removal by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) further increased noise levels as those plants had previously served to absorb some of the road noise. In response, the CSCA Board and some concerned residents formed an informal working group last fall to research the history of our community’s relationship with the Beltway, and any noise abatement options that may be available to us today. The working group presented its initial findings to the CSCA Board at its January meeting, a summary of which follows.

The history of Carderock Springs and the Beltway has always been intertwined. The Beltway opened in 1964; Carderock Springs was developed between 1962 and 1966. Since the Beltway’s opening, our community has made at least four attempts (in 1988, 2001, 2005-6, and 2015) to convince MDOT and Montgomery County to do something about the highway noise. Though none of those efforts were successful, the Board and concerned residents did convince MDOT to conduct a noise impact study in connection with an expansion of the Beltway in 2001. The 2001 Carderock Springs Noise Impact Study recorded traffic noise along Stone Trail, Comanche Court, Hamilton Spring and parts of Persimmon Tree Ln and Fenway above 60 decibels (dBA), and in some places as high as 80 dBA! According to the Federal Highway Administration and other research studies, noise at or above 66 dBA makes conversation difficult, interrupts concentration and increases heart rate." Other studies have shown a negative impact of noise at that level on cognition, attention, memory and problem solving in children, which is of particular concern due to Carderock Springs Elementary School’s proximity to the highway. Highway noise has also been shown to negatively affect the sale of homes, which affects property values throughout Carderock.

The result of the 2001 Noise Impact Study was a proposal to extend the existing Thornley Court sound barrier to Persimmon Tree Road, and to erect a sound barrier on the other side of the Beltway to protect South Carderock. Unfortunately, the 2001 sound barrier proposal did not materialize due to its projected cost exceeding the maximum allowed under the State Highway Administration’s (SHA) noise abatement policy in effect at that time. However, that policy has since changed such that Carderock would now be eligible for “Type I” noise abatement in connection with any Beltway expansion project. With no expansion projects imminent, “Type II” noise abatement is the only alternative. Type II projects have more stringent eligibility criteria and it is unclear whether Carderock would qualify. According to correspondence from the SHA, Carderock did not qualify for Type II Noise Abatement in the past because a “majority of Carderock homes preexisted the Beltway opening date.” Furthermore, Montgomery County would have to agree to fund 20% of the total engineering and construction cost of the Type II project before the State would approve funding.

The CSCA Beltway Noise Working Group is pursuing a number of avenues to become better informed on the options available to our community, including:

1. Seek Montgomery County’s position on noise abatement requests
2. Continue to research our potential eligibility for Type II noise abatement
3. Contact officials planning a future I-495 expansion and request a portion of their planning budget be allocated to refreshing the 2001 Carderock Springs Noise Impact Study to assess current conditions
4. Since noise increases during winter and following MDOT’s invasive plant removal, contact the MD EPA to request a plan for replanting the I-495 right-of-way, which would also reduce and filter pollutants coming from the highway
5. Explore the availability of County funds and programs to support Carderock residents’ efforts to plant evergreen tree belts on their property along the highway
6. Seek to partner with the Carderock Springs Elementary School and PTA to amplify our voice with local and state policymakers

Any Carderock resident interested in providing input, exploring this topic, or participating in any of the action items above is encouraged to contact Petra Jacobs [petraejacobs@gmail.com](mailto:petraejacobs@gmail.com) and Seth Hertlein [sethhertlein@gmail.com](mailto:sethhertlein@gmail.com).

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## **Don't Miss Out! Lower Your Water Charge On Property Tax Bill**

Rain gardens and conservation landscaping are eligible for the credit program.

Do you have a RainScape or stormwater management practice on your property? Such as Rain Gardens, Green Roofs, Conservation Landscaping, Permeable Pavement, Dry Wells, and more? If yes, then you may be eligible for up to 80% off your Water Quality Protection Charge in the form of a credit.

Apply after April 15, 2017. This yearly credit is good for 3 years. Click on the WQPC CHARGE on your online tax bill, and you can find out how you can reduce this water charge. Just complete the online application form. The county will compute your rebate after your supply dimensions, details, and photo of your rains cape.

If you need help or have questions about this credit, please email me. *Susan Eastman, Carderock Conservation Coalition, [Sueeastman@aol.com](mailto:Sueeastman@aol.com)*

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## **Classified**

**Cabin John Dog Walking:** Midday walks to keep your pets happy and healthy. Many happy Cabin John and Carderock pet owners and their pets will happily give their recommendations. Call Carolyn at 240-204-2953.

**Looking To Rent:** A Cabin John renter for many years, responsible, mature, is seeking to rent basement apartment/ in-law cottage/ or similar space. Excellent Cabin John and Carderock references, please call Carolyn (240) 204-2953.

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# BARRAGE OF LOUD AND LOW AIRPLANES OVER OUR NEIGHBORHOODS:

## Carder-Eco column

Changed flight paths out of DCA have resulted in hundreds of low-altitude, very loud airplanes flying directly over many Montgomery County neighborhoods daily from before 6:00 am until after midnight. These new aircraft “superhighways” directly over our communities were created without any warning and without evaluating the untenable human, environmental, and economic impacts (including on property values). If you’ve wondered what you can do about it, please consider joining the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition (MCQSC) that is working to insist that FAA restore peace and quiet to our communities. You can receive regular updates and action items by sending a request to [mcquietskiescoalition@gmail.com](mailto:mcquietskiescoalition@gmail.com). More information is on the website: <https://sites.google.com/site/208xxquietskies/>. You can also contact Diane Karlik: [dianekarlik@verizon.net](mailto:dianekarlik@verizon.net) or Petra Jacobs: [petraejacobs@gmail.com](mailto:petraejacobs@gmail.com) who attend the MCQSC meetings.

### **What is the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition?**

MC Quiet Skies Coalition (MCQSC) is a coalition of concerned citizens and community associations in Montgomery County, MD, who are living under newly formed flight paths that send hundreds of disruptively loud, low-altitude flights over our homes, schools, parks and businesses each day.

### **What is MCQSC’s mission?**

We are committed to working with residents, elected officials, the FAA and others to resolve the excessive levels of noise, air pollution, and health and safety risks imposed on our communities by the FAA’s flight paths and procedures at Reagan National Airport (DCA). How many people are affected? Approximately 7,500 homes and 20,000 people are in the neighborhoods represented by MCQSC.

### **What caused these problems? Did something change?**

Four major changes have led to the drastically increased air traffic, frequency, intensity and noise over Montgomery County residential areas:

1. **NextGen:** The FAA began implementing new nationwide flight procedures, collectively known as “NextGen,” that employ GPS/satellite-based technology. Unfortunately, these procedures concentrate all the airplane traffic, noise and pollution into narrow bands above specific neighborhoods that are forced to absorb all the environmental and human costs.
2. **Lower altitude arrivals:** As part of NextGen, airplanes descend sooner and at much lower altitudes than before. These “continuous descent” procedures impose much greater noise on underlying communities.
3. **Changes at DCA:** In December 2015, the FAA eliminated two arrival flight paths at Reagan National Airport (DCA) that were in use for decades, and replaced them with paths that route at least 30% more airplanes over Montgomery County neighborhoods. The FAA also created a new flight path that directs flights inland over Montgomery County neighborhoods instead of over the Potomac River.

4. **Hours of operation:** Airplane traffic at DCA has increased significantly in recent years, pushing departing and arriving flights into extremely early and late hours. Unfortunately, DCA has no quiet hour flight restrictions even though it is in the middle of a densely populated urban area. Large and loud “mainline” jets have become the unwelcome new alarm clocks and sleep disrupters for many residents.

These four changes add up to intolerable levels of unremitting noise for many Montgomery County residents.

### **Is it going to get worse over time?**

Unless residents in the affected areas respond clearly and forcefully, FAA plans to maintain the changed procedures and implement further changes that will actually worsen the situation.

### **What should concerned residents do?**

Residents need to get involved NOW before these changes become permanent.

1. Register complaints frequently to the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) at this quick and easy-to-use link: <https://complaints.bksv.com/dca>.
2. Share this fact sheet and the complaints link with your neighbors, friends, schools, businesses and others who may be impacted. Many people are distressed about the airplane noise but don't understand what happened, or know what they can do to help.
3. Contact your elected officials and express your dismay about the excessive and unremitting airplane noise. For current contact information on how to reach them, go to our MC Quiet Skies website <https://sites.google.com/site/208xxquietskies/downloads>
4. Join us! Request to join our Google Group to receive email updates, meeting announcements, and action items by emailing [mcquietskiescoalition@gmail.com](mailto:mcquietskiescoalition@gmail.com).

### **What is MCQSC doing to remedy this problem?**

MCQSC is participating in a number of efforts both locally and nationally.

1. MCQSC is supporting Montgomery County's representatives on the Reagan National Community Noise Working Group, established to involve the community in identifying aircraft noise solutions and recommendations.
2. MCQSC also is working with local, state and federal officials to represent the interests of Montgomery County residents, and to insist that the FAA implement reasonable noise mitigation solutions on our behalf.

### **Summary:**

- The FAA has created new aircraft superhighways over our communities.
- This was done without any warning, and without assessing the untenable human, environmental, and economic impacts of these changes.
- MCQSC is working through all means at our disposal to insist that the FAA restore peace and quiet to our communities.

**ALL RESIDENTS IN THE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES NEED TO ACT NOW  
BEFORE THESE CHANGES BECOME PERMANENT.**

**CELEBRATE SPRING  
BY COMING TO A  
CARDEROCK WINE TASTING  
AND COCKTAIL PARTY  
SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH**

**AT THE CLUB 5PM-7PM, (cost \$10 per person, informal attire)**

**-THERE WILL BE 12 DIFFERENT WINES TO TASTE (6 WHITE - 6 RED)**

**-CRAIG STOLTZ WILL DEMONSTRATE THE FINE ART OF COCKTAIL  
MAKING AND OFFER SAMPLES OF HIS FINISHED CREATIONS**

**-THERE WILL BE SOME EXCELLENT APPETIZERS TO NIBBLE ON**

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND SOME FUN TIME  
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS**

**PLEASE....RSVP to [p mrbthmd@yahoo.com](mailto:p mrbthmd@yahoo.com)  
no later than Thursday, March 23rd**

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**Carderock Springs Board Members**

<i>Jack Orrick</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Bill Moore</i>	<i>Vice President</i>
<i>Stefan LoBuglio</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Rob Gorman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Sindy Udell</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
<i>Bill Draper</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
<i>Seth Hertlein</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
<i>Yvette Quintela</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
<i>Julie Weber</i>	<i>Member-at-Large</i>
<i>Larry Ondrejko</i>	<i>Club Liaison</i>
<i>Noëlle F. Lewis</i>	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>
<i>Doug Soe-Lin, Scott Wilets, Katherine Stifel</i> <i>Architectural Review Committee</i>	

The Carderock Springs Citizens Association publishes The Community News at least six times each year. 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, 2017. 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.