



Carter's Cove Chronicle

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April 2008

www.carterscove.info

With Thanks From The **PRESIDENT**

I am sure most of you have noticed all the wonderful signs of spring in the community. The grass has turned green and the trees and flowers are in full bloom. As spring fever starts to sink and you start to think of improvements you might like to make to your home, remember to review the architectural guidelines and submit the necessary forms to make exterior changes. A few of our neighbors have already taken advantage of the new, modern paint colors selected by the board last year while another has built a deck with the new approved materials. The architectural application form as well as the guidelines can be found on the website: www.carterscove.info, under reference links.

New Property Manager

Everyone in the community should have received a letter in late March announcing the change in property management companies. After careful consideration, the board decided to leave Howard Property Management and has selected Tidewater Property Management, www.tidewaterproperty.com, to manage your community. Theresa Prochaska is our new property manager. She can be reached at 443-548-0191. Please join us at one of the board meetings and meet Theresa. By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received your billing statement. If you have not, please contact Theresa immediately.

The Fourth Annual Carters Cove Meet and Greet

The board has started making plans for the fourth annual Carter's Cove meet and greet. A tentative date of May 31st has been set, but the board cannot do this without the communities help. If we could have some assistance with anything from the sign in desk, to clean up, or monitoring the moon bounce for the children, the afternoon would run more

smoothly. We would hate to cancel an activity that tries to bring together the community for an afternoon, but the board cannot do this alone. Even one hour of your time would provide much needed help. Last year, the picnic was moved to the tot lot on Hidden Cove which provided a safe place for the kids to play and some much needed shade. Each year we think the event is improving, please help us to make it better. E-mail the board at: board@carterscove.info or contact Theresa at Tidewater Property Management's office.

STAY INFORMED ON COMMUNITY ISSUES JOIN ON THE CARTER'S COVE LISTSERV

Carters Cove has started a new email list to keep people informed within our community. Get the latest information on community activities, news, and information. There are two ways to join the list:

- 1) If you are a member of Yahoo log in and go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/carterscove> and click on "Join this group". Follow the instructions that appear on the screen.
- 2) Send an email to: carterscovesubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Make sure you include your real name and your house number in the e-mail so we can verify that you are really a member of the community and not someone joining to send out spam.

This list is open to all owners and renters of Carter's Cove houses and townhouses. If you are worried about large amounts of spam or advertisements, don't worry. Any subscribed members can send messages to the group but only certain board members will be allowed to send messages without moderator approval. A full list of information and rules pertaining to the list will be sent to you when you join the group. If you have any questions feel free to send an e-mail to carterscove-owner@yahoogroups.com

Have you made improvements to your home? Need too?

Remember the Carter's Cove Architectural Committee must approve all architectural improvements or changes, **EVEN IF YOU ARE SELLING YOUR HOME**. This includes house paint, decks, patios, and any other exterior changes. When you are ready to sell your home, you need to request a letter of compliance from our Homeowners Association. An inspection of your property will be done and a letter will be issued.

If you have completed any architectural changes and DID NOT go through the approval process, it is a good idea to do that now. You can find the forms on our website www.CartersCove.info. Of course, if you are contemplating any changes, it is much easier to get approval before you start. The Board thanks you for your cooperation.

Tired of the Baltimore Examiner?

To stop delivery of the Baltimore Examiner that has been littering our neighborhood, please call 410-878-6188 and ask them to stop delivering the paper.



Are you a TRASHY neighbor?

Last month we welcomed the new season... SPRING. As you begin to do your spring cleaning inside your home, don't neglect the outside as well. If you see trash around your parking space, in your yard and even around the mailbox HELP by picking it up.

Answer these four questions to decide if you are a **TRASHY** neighbor:

1. Do you place trashcans at the curb before 6:00 p.m. the night before scheduled pick up?

Place trashcans, in designated areas only, at the curb after 6:00 p.m. the night before scheduled pick up

2. Do you leave your trashcan at curb side until Saturday or later?

Trashcans must be brought back from the curb by 6:00 p.m. the day of pick up.

3. Do you leave your trash bags at curbside with out placing them in a trashcan?

In an effort to keep OUR neighborhood clean, keep the HOA dues low, YOUR trash MUST be placed in a trashcan.

4. Do you clean up to after your dog?

Please be kind to your neighbors and always remember to pick up after your dog, especially from the sidewalks where children play and people walk!

If you answered, **NO** to all of these questions **GOOD!** You are not a **TRASHY** neighbor. But if you know one, report them anonymously to Theresa Prochaska at Tidewater Property Management at 443-548-0191

Howard County Updates and Improves Recycling Programs

Now, on Tuesday nights, we can put our recyclables out all mixed together – no more sorting and bundling. Metal cans, plastic bottles, glass bottle and jars can be combined with mixed paper and cardboard. One bin or see-through bags are all you need!

This method of collection is convenient for us and efficient for the County recycling haulers. Waste Management Recycle America (WMRA) is under contract to Howard County for processing and marketing recyclables. In fact, the County government depends on income generated from recycling to help pay for needed infrastructure. WMRA operates a state-of-the-art recyclables processing center near Elkridge.

If you would like to obtain the blue curbside recycling bins, (18 gallons for \$5 and 25 gallons for \$10) go to the Alpha Ridge Landfill or to the Environmental Services Office at 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 514. You can also use a large Rubbermaid type container. Please remember to mark your address on your container; it is amazing how far the wind can carry these things.

Spring Cleaning

Spring has sprung and with it comes thought of making things new again – around the house and in the yard. Ideas to consider:

1. Consider donating used clothes to someone who might need them. The Salvation Army on Route 1 is close by and easy to access. They will come to your door (call 1-800-229-7156) and so will Purple Heart (410-712-0109).
2. The Howard County Library accepts donations of books, audio books, CDs, videos, and DVDs at any branch. The East Columbia Branch on

Cradlerock Way is our closest branch and could use our support.

3. Drop off your "treasurers" to the Alpha Ridge Landfill-Residents' Area. They accept clothes, old books, old electronics, and more. It is also a good place to look for an item you might be in need of (like parts or equipment you can fix up). Visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/recycling_area.htm for more information.
4. Hazardous wastes can be dropped off to the Alpha Ridge Landfill on Saturdays, April through November.
5. Alpha Ridge also accepts usable building materials, oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, scrap metal, tires, propane tanks, latex paint, and polyurethane foam.

The Land Fill is open Monday-Saturday from 8am-4pm. From Rt. 29 north, take I70 west to exit 83. Turn right onto Marriottsville Road. The Land Fill entrance is on the left. There are no fees for Howard County residents. Call 410-313-6419 if you have questions.

From April 1 through December 31, Howard County collects unlimited grass, leaves, and light brush. It must be bagged and set out with the other recycling on Tuesday evenings or before 6:00 am. These materials are composted and used in community gardens around the county.

Thank you Volunteers!

In April volunteers across our country are celebrated for the work they do to make our communities a better place to live. Take a moment and think about someone that volunteers their time to make this world a better place. Even little things make a difference to someone. *Pay it forward!* We hope many of you will consider ways you can volunteer this coming year. In fact here are a few opportunities:

Volunteers needed to assist with the quarterly newsletters. We need people to contribute articles. Contact the board at board@carterscove.info if you are interested.

Volunteers are needed to help with the annual meet and greet, which is tentatively scheduled for May 31st from noon until 4:00 p.m. at the Tot Lot.

DUMPSTER DAYS ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17TH

Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N), Howard County

Do you remember what you were doing on September 11, 2001? Did you feel ready for the power outages, the lack of water supply, and the electrical lines that were down in the middle of neighborhood streets as a result of Hurricane Isabel? Could you have been prepared, or ready, for these events despite the fact that they arrive unannounced?

Howard County is fortunate to have a Citizen Corps that organized a local Community Emergency Response Network (CERN). CERN has gathered a wealth of resources and has developed programs and services that we can all benefit from. Visit www.bepreparedbeready.org to see what we mean.

The N2N program offers "tips of the month" along with programs that perhaps we would like to hold in our community. The tip this month:

The most important thing that you can do in any emergency is to FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS. The emergency broadcast stations will give specific instructions on what residents should do to remain safe. Given that power outages are common during emergencies, be sure to have a portable radio with fresh batteries (or a crank radio) readily available.

A list of the emergency broadcast stations is listed in the Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Guide found inside the front of your 2008 Howard county Community Phone Book.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please check the message boards for the locations of the May and June HOA meetings. Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7PM usually at Panera Bread off of Dobbin Road.

Neighborly Notes

1. Decks and backyards are not your own personal junk yard. Tiny outdoor creatures (a.k.a. rodents) enjoy making themselves at home in your "storage." This can quickly become a public health violation and Howard County can fine you for this.

- 2. Grass in both your front and backyards need to remain below 4 inches in height. Tall grass is an invitation for snakes and other pest to make themselves at home in your yard.
- 3. If your neighbor is not keeping up with their curb appeal, please feel free to anonymously call the property manager.

Did you know?

- Did you know that if you are renting your home without a County permit, that you are breaking the law in Howard County? All rental homes **must** be registered and **must** have a permit.
- Did you know that all homes in Carter's Cove had a tree in their front yards when they were constructed? It is actually a violation of the covenants not to have a tree in your front yard.
- Did you know that trees reduce the cost of heating and cooling your home as well as protect your grass during the hot summer months?
- Interested in replanting a tree in your yard, please contact the property manager for a list of trees recommended for front yards (non-fruit bearing trees)

Did you know that when you sell your home it must be inspected by the property management company in order to receive a resale package?

Proposals to Amend the Bylaws

The board along with the property management company is currently drafting two proposed amendments to the community bylaws. Both are aimed at maintaining the community of Carter's Cove externally and internally. Most residents do not realize that our community is 20 years old this year. At this important milestone, important changes are needed to keep this community viable and marketable. Have you noticed that houses are sitting on the market longer and longer? It may not be the homeowners fault, but perhaps other near by homes have lost their curb appeal and is seen as eyesores by potential buyers. We are hoping these proposals help rejuvenate our community.

Proposal number 1: To create a penalty structure to enforce the architectural guidelines. After yearly inspection notices are issued as well as a series of letters, the property management company will issue a penalty until the situation is corrected.

Some residents ignore violation notices of gutter and siding problems, but these can become bigger problems for the structure and integrity of the home. Small fixes can prevent larger more expensive problems down the road.

Proposal number 2: To create a set number of rental properties in the community. This new proposal would stop our community from becoming all rental homes and keep it an owner maintained community. It is a fact that renters do not maintain homes the same way that owners do. It is not their monetary investment.

Please keep an eye out for more information about these bylaws. Your HOA board may be coming around door to door to speak with you about the importance of maintaining Carter's Cove.

Within the next few months, please take a walk or drive around the community and think about how to keep it in good standing. We think our community has a lot of potential, but we need your help to reach it.

Board Members

- President..... Erin Hromada
- Vice President..... Darren Hogan
- Treasurer..... vacant
- Secretary..... Kim Soltysiak
- Member at Large Donnell Miller
- Member at Large Irfan Qayyum
- Member at Large..... Tonya Taylor

This is your community newsletter and your comments and articles are welcomed. Send your material to this newsletter care of Tidewater Property Management or email the board at: <http://www.carterscove.info/site/ContactUs/tabid/171/Default.aspx>