



The West Side



Community Newsletter

Spring/Summer Edition 2011



Volume 16 Issue 1

Clopper's Mill West Community Association, Germantown, Maryland



Message from our HOA President

Welcome from the Board of Directors to the Spring of 2011. We just finished a very cold winter, and we did not have much snow but extreme cold with higher heating bills. Through all of this we had power outages and issues way beyond normal. As the spring comes upon us I would like to note some things happening for this year.

Landscaping – In addition to the new landscaping and plantings, the community got a fresh look in the townhomes when we had our landscaper add a park like setting to the center island inside the parking area. We will be adding benches and expanding the tot lot in the townhome area.

Fun In The Sun Pool Party – This year the “Fun In The Sun” pool party is scheduled for Monday July 4, 2011 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., moon bounce, tunes by Bulles DJ’s, open grill, cold beverages, pool games by RSV Pools, Inc.

Family Picnic and Fireworks – July 4, 2011 at Cedar Creek Park. This is a "bring your own food and drink" event with music and games ending with watching the fireworks display from the park. A postcard with timing and details will be sent out closer to the event.

Social Activities for Kids - The Association is looking for a few people to volunteer to plan up to two social activities for young children within the community such as the annual Halloween parade or a visit to a local pumpkin patch in the fall. (Contact Ravi Parkhie @ 301-948-6666 if you are interested in volunteering.)

Swimming Pool – Good luck to the Clopper’s Mill Marlins for the 2011 season. We will also be posting hours of operation in many places (including the web page), because the hours will change for July and August. Please check for updates. (Cont. page 3)

Best Neighborhood Yard Contest!

Get Ready CMW Gardeners!

On Saturday, June 25, 2011, the Association will tour the community and award 3 of the Best Looking Yards with gift certificates to Home Depot.



This is part of an effort to encourage landscaping care and beautification in our community.

Awardees will be listed on www.cloppersmill.com.

2011 Community Calendar



- 05.02.11 Spring Newsletter
- 05.14.11 Community Yard Sale (Sat.)
- 05.19.11 Bulk Pick Up (Thurs.)
- 06.25.11 Best Neighborhood Yard Contest
- 07.04.11 “4th of July” Pool Party (Pool)
- 07.04.11 Family Picnic & Fireworks (Cedar Creek Park)
- 09.17.11 Fall Flu Clinic (clubhouse)
- 12.15.11 Winter Newsletter

Changes to the community calendar and additional details regarding the events will be listed on the community website www.cloppersmillwest.com



Holiday Trash and Recycling Pick-Up



<u>Holiday WEEK</u>	<u>Trash</u>	<u>Recycling</u>
Memorial Day	No Effect	<i>Next Day</i>
4 th of July	No Effect	<i>Next Day</i>
Labor Day	No Effect	<i>Next Day</i>
Thanksgiving	No Effect	<i>Next Day</i>

MVSA Lacrosse

For nearly 20 years, the Montgomery Village Sports Association Lacrosse Program has been successfully sending its male and female alumnae to both local high school and college lacrosse programs.

If you'd like to learn to play the fastest growing sport in the US, register at: www.MVSA.org

LACROSSE PLAYERS:

Build and maintain endurance and stamina for all your sports.

Soccer, basketball and football strategies translate easily onto the lacrosse field.

Learn to play the fastest game on two feet, before you get to high school!

www.leaguelineup.com/mvsalax

Contact Skip Vogel (MVSA Lacrosse Commissioner) 301-461-8948 Email: Boys Lacrosse questions: mvsalax2011@aol.com

Girls Lacrosse questions: reschae@us.ibm.com

Washington Sports Club,

(Germantown, behind the Outback!)

"Join Now or think salad for the Holidays"

**SPECIAL: FREE 3-DAY TRAIL
Wednesday's --- Free Day!!!!**

AS LOW AS 19.95 A MONTH, TONS OF EQUIPMENT, CERTIFIED TRAINERS, ENERGIZING CLASSES SUCH AS "ZUMBA"... AND FLEXIBLE MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS.....

Hope to see you there...

Thank You,
Rebecca Crewe
301-428-3488

Planning a Party?

The Community Clubhouse

is a perfect venue

and is available for rent

to all community residents in good standing

with the Association.

Please contact Keenan Anderson at

TMGA at (301) 948 -6666

Advertisement Rates

Business Card	\$25
1/4 Page	\$25
1/5 Page	\$50
Full Page	\$100

Please contact Ravi Parkhie
for ad submissions via:

Email: rparkhie@tmgainc.com or
Phone: (301) 948-6666 x 134

Thank you for supporting the community!

Keep it Clean!



Please remember to pick up all trash
after using the recreation courts.

Thanks!

Police the Area Around Your Home!

It only takes a few minutes and minimal effort, for each of us to pick up the litter near our homes.

(Cont. from ... HOA President – Page 1)

Please note that Marlins Registration will start May 2, 2011. The Marlins are happy to announce that young swimmers from neighboring Kings View Village will be joining the team this year.

Community Yard Sale-- This year the Association is only holding a spring yard sale. It will be held on May 14, 2011 with a corresponding bulk pick-up on May 19, 2011.

Ansel Terrace Tot Lot Equipment – The Association previously expanded and updated the tot lot and equipment at Molasses Run Drive. This year the Association is undertaking the expansion of the Ansel Terrace tot lot. When funding permits, current equipment will be replaced and new equipment will be added. If you have ideas or suggestions on the type of equipment and for what age group, we want to hear from you. Please email your ideas to the Association at cmwhoa@gmail.com.

Basketball Court – Non Resident Usage – For those of you who are on the CMW community list serve, you are no doubt aware of the many opinions regarding this issue. The Association will be discussing the matter at the May 10, 2011 open Board meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. Feel free to attend. If you cannot attend the upcoming meeting, then feel free to email your brief statement on the issue to cmwhoa@gmail.com. Note that the Association IS currently working with the Montgomery County Police Department on the matter. Thanks.

The Board will continue to work hard to maintain the community and do our best to keep the value of our homes the highest they can be. With everyone's help, we should stay on track.

If you have any suggestions or issues you would like to discuss, please contact me at (301) 515-0074 or e-mail me at alan.speich@ncr.com. All our contact information is out on the web page. I hope you all have a safe spring and summer, and keep those suggestions coming in. Hope to see you at a Board meeting soon and have a wonderful spring.

Please continue to use the community website at www.cloppersmill.com as a neighborhood resource.

Al Speich, President



Community Yard Sale & Bulk Pick-Up

Join us on **SATURDAY, May 14TH, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** for the **SPRING 2011 COMMUNITY YARD SALE** sponsored by **Andrew Tzamaras of Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc.**

To sign up, email Andrew at andrewt@lnf.com or call (301) 452-1180.

The Yard Sale will be advertised in the *Gazette Newspapers* so be prepared for a lot of people to stop by. Please drive slowly as residents will be walking about. You can place your items out for sale either on your driveway or in your front yard. The Clopper's Mill West yard sale will be advertised in the local *Gazette Newspaper*, so we expect many people to stop by!

This event is a great excuse to purge your homes. Sought-after yard sale items include toys, baby items, books & movies, collectables, furniture, kitchen wares and such!

Consider donating unwanted items after the yard sale to the following charities:

Salvation Army 1-800-95-TRUCK (87825)
Goodwill 202-715-2633
Purple Heart www.purpleheartpickup.org

Other items, not sold or donated, can be disposed of on Community Bulk Pick-Up Day, Thursday, May 19th.

To dispose of bulk items, place them curbside in front of your home **BEFORE 9:00 a.m.** to get picked up. The following items **will not be collected**, as they are considered hazardous waste:

- Car Batteries, Car Tires
- Appliances and Any Metal Items (Call 240-777-6410 to schedule free pickup)
- Insecticides, lawn debris
- Flammable Items, Paint, Paint Thinners, Kerosene, Gasoline
- Construction Debris
- Used Oil, Brake Fluid, Antifreeze



Also, you can personally arrange to take items to the Shady Grove Transfer Station located on Route 355, just south of Shady Grove Road.

Landscaping Update: Accolades to an Environmental Leader



I want to give a hearty shout-out and thank you to Clopper's Mill West resident, Steve Hughes.

For several years running, Steve has organized our community to participate in the Annual Chesapeake Bay Watershed Clean-up Day, which involves thousands of volunteers who comb the region for trash and debris in watershed areas, ensuring that it won't wash into the bay. Steve's company, Clark Construction, donated the resources for the clean-up.

This year Steve had the CMW crew consisting of over 50 volunteers, many of them junior high students, focus on wildlife and wooded areas around our neighborhood. And, if that is not good enough, I saw Steve taking a walk the other day with his kids; he had a trash bag in one hand and picker in the other. He was collecting litter as he walked through the community!

It really goes to show you how much just one person can do to beautify our community. Please follow Steve's lead and collect debris that may be around your home, especially in the street. Newspapers and recyclables that escape the bins can create an eyesore for the community. Just a little effort makes a big difference.

Please email me at ajoseph@asbury.org if you have questions or recommendations regarding CMW landscaping.

Andrew Joseph, Landscaping Chair

**2011
Year
of the
Rabbit**



**Happy
New
Year!**

Reporting Repairs & Outages to Pole Lights



County Pole Lights - The street lights within the **single family sections** of the community are owned and operated by **Montgomery County**. Each pole light should have a **pole light # marked on it**.

When calling in, reference the **county pole light #** shown on the pole **and the street name**. Why?...The same pole numbers are used on different streets throughout Montgomery County.

If the county light pole **does not have a number** on it then reference **the nearest house address and street name**.

You can report County street lights that are damaged, cycling or out in **any** of the following ways:

- You may call the management office at 301-948-6666. Ask for the assistant for Clopper's Mill West.
- You may report them directly to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation by calling 240-777-6000.
- You may also visit the County website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov and click on Online Services and then click on Streetlight Outage*.

Association Pole Lights - The street lights within the **townhome sections** of the community are owned and operated by Clopper's Mill West Neighborhood Association.

Report townhome section pole lights that are damaged, cycling or out as follows:

- **You may call the management office at 301-948-6666. Ask for the assistant for Clopper's Mill West.**

Newsletter Correction

In the Winter 2010 Edition of the community newsletter it should have been noted in the message to the community that Andy Pagano of Long and Foster sponsored the Fun in the Sun pool party.

We apologize for the oversight.

Thank you Andy!

OOPS!



On-Line Assessment Payment Program Now Available!

Clopper's Mill West can accept assessment payments online. If you are interested in paying your monthly assessments electronically, please follow the following instructions:

1. Before you begin, you will need the following information:
 - The name of your Association (Clopper's Mill West)
 - Your 10 digit account number with the Association (can be found on your payment coupons)
 - Either your checkbook or credit card
 - 5 minutes of your time!
2. Log into www.smartstreet.com.
3. Click the **blue box** in the upper left hand side of the screen marked **Online Payments**.
4. **You may either** set up a onetime payment or recurring payments of your assessments.

Click Option 1: Pay by Credit Card

(Note there is a \$9.95 fee to pay by credit card and that they take MasterCard, Discover, or American Express only),

Click Option 2: To Pay by E-Check

Click Option 3: To Set Up Recurring Payments. Please note that for recurring payments you must first register for a username and password. This option must be renewed each year.

If you have **trouble making your payments** contact TMGA to make alternate payment arrangements **before late fees, charges and legal fees add up.**



Montgomery County Pet Laws

At Large: Any dog or cat is at large if it is outside the owner's premises and not leashed. The HOA common areas are not the owner's premises.

Penalty for Violation: \$100 for first offense, \$500 for each subsequent violation.

Animal Defecation: Montgomery County Code, Sec.5-203(a) (2): An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate ... if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method approved by the Director (Animal Services Division, Department of Police). Feces may be picked up in a plastic bag. If this bag is placed inside another plastic bag, it may be put out for disposal in your normal household trash.

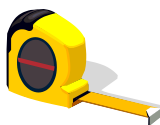
Penalty for Violation - \$100

Animal Noise: (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203(a) (6): An owner must not allow an animal to cause noise that is loud enough and persistent enough to disturb another person's quiet enjoyment.

Penalty for Violation - \$100

For further information, or to report an animal bite or a violation of animal control laws, call the Animal Services Division at **240-773-5960** and for after-hours emergencies **240-773-5900**.

Planning an Exterior Change?



Remember, any changes to the exterior of your home need to be approved **in advance** by the Architectural Control Committee. This includes changes to the color of your home, siding or window replacement, and major landscaping projects. For your convenience, an Architectural Change Request Form can be downloaded from the website at www.cloppersmill.com or by calling TMGA at (301) 948-6666.



Thinking of Selling Your Home?

If you are planning to sell your home, please remember that you are responsible for providing the purchaser with a copy of the legal documents for the Association. This "resale package" can be purchased from the management office by calling 301-948-6666 x 134.

Clopper's Mill West Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of every other month from March through November (plus the month of August) at the **Clopper's Mill West Clubhouse** located at 13665 Ansel Terrace, Germantown, Maryland 20874.

If you plan to attend a meeting, please contact TMGA to confirm the date and time of the meeting. Meetings are sometimes required to be rescheduled or cancelled due to a lack of quorum or participation.



The Association's Annual Meeting is scheduled for August of each year in keeping with the Association governing documents. This is the one official meeting of the entire membership of the community. Every meeting is a chance to get involved, meet your neighbors, and learn about what is going on in the entire community. This meeting is generally used to elect Association members to the Board of Directors and to conduct Association business brought forward by homeowners at the meeting. Annual Meeting notices are required by law to be mailed to the homeowners of the Association prior to the meeting date.

2011 Meeting Schedule

The 2011 meeting schedule is as follows:

March 08	August 09 - Annual
May 10	September 13
July 12	November 08

Again, please contact TMGA at (301) 948-6666 on the day of the scheduled meeting to confirm the meeting time and location. Meeting dates and locations are subject to change without notification due to lack of quorum or scheduling conflicts.



**Read this issue of the
newsletter and previous
issues of The West Side
on-line at
www.cloppersmill.com**

Clopper's Mill West Board Members & Committee Chairs



President/Treasurer - Al Speich

(Single Family Director & Website)

Phone: (301) 515-0074
Email: alan.speich@ncr.com

Vice President - Tony Thompson

(At Large Director)

Phone: (301) 515-6426
Email: TTHom10727@verizon.net

Secretary - Cindy Faville

(Condominium Director & Security Chair)

Phone: (301) 916-7803
Email: cynder7@yahoo.com

Member-at-Large - Michael Teitelbaum

(Townhome Director & Community Affairs Chair)

Phone: (301) 972-1096

Member-at-Large - Rob Petroff

(At Large Director & Pool Liaison)

Phone: (301) 686-1411
Email: stephrob99@msn.com

Architectural Chair - Jack McLaurin

Email: jack.mclaurin.aia@gmail.com

Newsletter – Ravi Parkhie

Phone: (301) 948-6666 x 134
Email: rparkhie@tmginc.com

Landscaping Chair - Andy Joseph

Phone: (301) 515-6313
Email: AJoseph@asbury.org

Property Manager - Ravi Parkhie

(The Management Group Associates)

Phone: (301) 948-6666 x 134
Email: rparkhie@tmginc.com

Treasurer's Report

As we start another year, I am happy to report that our finances are, as always in good shape. Most of our reserves are where they should be, snow reserves are being recovered. We had the reserve study updated for the year 2010. You will find the study on the website. Because of the changes in the study and a short fall in the snow budget, we had to increase fees for 2011. The issue will be the new budget for 2012.

I hope that we will not have a lot of snow at the end of the year so we can fully restore our snow reserves. The amount of snow we have had in the past years has increased, therefore the Board needs to build the snow reserves up again and make sure we do not have to do a special assessment.

We, as a Board, are trying to hold the line this year so no increase will come for 2012. A copy of the 2011 budget is on the website.

Please forward any questions or concerns to a Board member or the Management Group.

Have a wonderful spring.

Al Speich, Treasurer

Newspaper Delivery

Newspapers are not permitted to accumulate on driveways and walkways in front of your home. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to collect and properly recycle unwanted newspapers.



If you wish to have delivery stopped for either the Washington Examiner or Gazette Newspapers, please contact them directly via email as follows:

Washington Examiner contactus@examiner.com
 Gazette Newspapers LTaib@gazette.net



Security & Safety Tips

Theft and Burglary protection

Don't leave vehicles running to avoid theft – this is not only a violation of the State of Maryland Transportation Code, but most stolen vehicles are often used to commit a crime. They also cause the vehicle owner's inconvenience or a crime victim.

- Install good quality locks on all exterior doors.
- Never leave a house key under a mat, in a mailbox, under a flower pot, etc.
- Keep garage door closed and locked.
- Report anything, even potentially suspicious activity to police (301-279-8000).
- Invest in and use a home surveillance system.
- Beware of couriers and delivery persons by asking for ID.

Disposing of boxes after holidays:

- Remove information about the make, model, and serial number of the item from the box and save this information for your records.
- Flatten and bundle the cardboard

While shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in well-lit spaces, lock doors, and hide shopping bags/gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Be careful with purses and wallets, and do not overburden yourself with packages.

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I'll get the job done.

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Call Andrew
 Your Real Estate
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Call me today for free in home consultation.

