

The West Side Quarterly

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition 2010



Volume 15 Issue 2

Clopper's Mill West Community Association, Germantown, Maryland

Message from our HOA President



Welcome from the Board of Directors to the Winter 2010. We just finished a very hot summer and we have started the winter with

below average temps for the month of December. Let us hope we hold off on record snows. Though all of us had power outages and issues way beyond normal this past year, let's hope this winter is not a repeat. Our meeting with Pepco did not give us the answers we wanted, and reports from the papers show just how bad Pepco service really is. I can only say to prepare the best you can.

Landscaping – We have done some new landscaping on Smokewood Drive and will be finishing the project in the Spring of 2011. We will also be working on the tot lot by enlarging it and making improvements.

Fun In The Sun Pool Party – This year the “Fun in the Sun”, pool party was on Saturday, June 26, 2010 and went very well.

Yard Sales – We had two yard sales this past year and both had poor turnouts. This coming year we will only have one yard sale in the late Spring. We will not have any sponsors next year and would like volunteers to help get the word out to try to make this successful. All ideas are welcome.

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 interested in volunteering.)

Swimming Pool – This past season went very well and the Marlins swim team has Kingsview joining them to help grow the club. The swim team will also be forming a group of volunteers to work on the swim team committee. (continued on page 3)

Winter Holiday Display Competition



This year the Association will continue the community tradition and send judges out around before the end of December to select the three

(3) top holiday displays in the community. Homeowners with the top three displays will receive \$50 gift certificates to Home Depot and bragging rights on having the best winter holiday displays, so get out there and start decorating. Good luck to everyone!



2011 Community Calendar



- 04.15.11 Spring Newsletter
- 05.14.11 Community Yard Sale (Sat.)
- 05.19.11 Bulk Pick Up (Thurs.)
- 07.04.11 “4th of July” Pool Party (Pool)
- 07.04.11 Family Picnic & Fireworks (Cedar Creek Park)
- 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

Christmas

New Year's

Martin Luther No Effect

Holiday Trash and Recycling Pick-Up

Trash

No Effect

No Effect

No Effect



Recycling

No Effect

No Effect

Next Day

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 schools 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	\$20
1/4 Page	\$25
1/5 Page	\$50
Full Page	\$65

Please contact Becky Escario
for ad submissions via:

Email: rescario@gmail.com or
Phone: (301) 528-6617

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)

The positions will be as follows: Committee Chair and Co-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and at least one rep from each community. If you are interested, contact Pat Karta of the swim team.

I am proud to say that our community still stays in great financial shape. We had to increase assessments to keep our finances in line with expenses and we are looking to trim more off the budget where possible. We have people in all areas working very hard to maintain a fine looking community, one to be proud of. I believe this reflects on all who live here. As a Board we 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.

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.

Please continue to use the community website at: www.cloppersmill.com as a neighborhood resource. All our contact information is out on the web page.

I hope you all have a safe winter and enjoy the holidays, and keep those suggestions coming in. Hope to see you at the Board meeting in March.

Al Speich, President

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



Landscaping Update: Eco-Friendly Landscaping Tips & Landscape Upgrades



As I reported in the last newsletter, I applied a corn gluten based fertilizer to my lawn last spring as an eco-friendly alternative for stopping germination of crab grass and other turf weeds. The result was decent. Crab grass was controlled but not eradicated from the lawn. So, if you want perfect turf, chemical options are for you. However, consider that the largest “crop” in the Chesapeake watershed is turf grass and, as a result, it is also the largest source of fertilizer pollution. So if you can deal with a less than perfect lawn, consider eco-friendly alternatives to help “Save the Bay.”

Remember, the timing of corn gluten application is key, so you need to purchase your fertilizer in January or February, so you are ready to apply at the first sign of warming Spring weather. Many of these products are not carried by local home improvements stores. A good web vendor that I have used (and found to be reasonably priced) is GardensAlive! (www.gardensalive.com).

As landscaping matures in and around homes, you may consider some “strategic” replacements. Some of the original plantings were simply not appropriate for the location and as they mature, they get too big and detract from the site. Several townhomes residents have replaced overgrown trees in the front with more appropriate alternatives. Please ensure that these types of changes are submitted for approval to the HOA. In a few cases, we were able to suggest more attractive and/or cost effective options for the resident to consider.

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 **town home sections** of the community are owned and operated by Clopper's Mill West Neighborhood Association.

Report town home 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.**

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

Christmas Tree Collection

The County will collect Christmas trees on your recycling day from Monday, December 27, 2010 through Friday, February 4, 2011. Please put your Christmas tree at the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

The trees are picked up by the yard trim recycling crews.

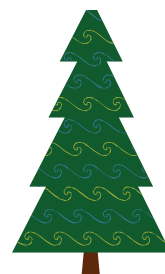
Christmas trees are given a new life after being composted or chipped for mulch, so keep the tree in a natural state.

- Please remove the stand and all decorations, including lights, ornaments, tinsel, and garland. Be sure there is no metal attached to the tree.
- Trees cannot be left at the curb in plastic bags.
- "Live" Christmas trees with root balls and artificial trees cannot be collected as part of this recycling program.

After February 4, 2011, you may still recycle your tree through our curbside yard trim collection. Please note that the tree must then be cut into smaller pieces.

Residents of apartments and condominiums should check with their property manager or representative for specific recycling instructions.

You can also recycle branches and needles at home by placing them under trees and shrubs as a temporary winter mulch -- or chop them up and add them to your compost pile!





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 (Clopers 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.

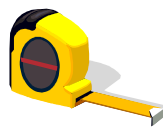
Penalty for Violation - \$100

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.



***Wishing You and Your Family a Happy New Year
from the Board of Directors and TMGA!***

**Clopper’s Mill West
Board Members & Committee Chairs**



President/Treasurer - Al Speich
(Single Family Director)

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
Email: n/a

Member-at-Large - Rob Petroff
(At Large Director & Pool Liaison)

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

Architectural Chair - Jack McLaurin

Email: jack@lessardgroup.com

Newsletter & Website Chair - Becky Escario

Phone: (301) 528-6617
Email: rescario@gmail.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@tmgainc.com