

THE COVE

Spring 2020

Fort Washington Estates Civic Association

President's Corner

Hello Neighbors,

I truly hope all are being safe and adhering to the guidelines governing us during this Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic. Due to the virus, we have postponed all the events that were planned for the next few months. We will re-address the calendar once the statewide stay-at-home order has been lifted by the Governor. Because of these conditions, we are currently working on ways to hold our annual meeting which is scheduled for June 2020. The District VII Police Station Community room has been closed to public use due to COVID-19. We are examining the possibility of conducting a ZOOM or Microsoft Teams meeting. Be on the lookout for instructions, date, and time for the meeting.

Please take a minute to check on your neighbors and friends during this time. Continue to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water, wear a mask when out in public, and adhere to the established social distancing guidelines. We must work to keep each other safe and healthy.

Recently, we have had one member of the Board resign. Therefore, if there is anyone interested in serving on the Board, please contact me, James Hicks, at monsterm5@aol.com or 301-641-9755. For the Association to be successful in serving the needs of the community we must all take an active role. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement Temporarily Suspends Some Inspections (Reprinted from the April DPIE Newsletter)

Due to an increased effort to prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the following inspections will be temporarily suspended:

- Existing family/commercial day care, group home, and board and care facilities
- All existing residential/commercial interior renovations,

Current Board Members

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alterations, and/or additions associated with the project

During this time, contractors/owners/applicants may utilize APPROVED third-party inspections and provide certifications to complete all required inspections including U&O's. All building final inspections require a WSSC sign off before they will be authorized. For more information please visit DPIE's website: <https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1024/Permitting-Inspections-and-Enforcement>

Prince George's County Click 311

Have you ever wondered who to contact when you needed to have bulky trash removed from your property? Or, who to contact when your trash was not picked up, or that ginormous pothole ate your car? Well, County Click 311 is your one-stop shopping portal for all of the above and more. This website is a cornucopia of Prince George's County-related information. County news, events, meetings, and announcements are easily accessible and always current. The website also has a "Request a County Service" page where you can request/report anything from deceased animal removal, to street light outages, to vandalism. If you are into this type of thing, you can even request Waste Management Facilities tours! One of the areas that property owners have found extremely useful are the Code Enforcement pages. On these pages you can file a service request/complaint for property violations of the County Code (which you can also find on the website). Filing is pretty straight forward. You select the service type, i.e. Code Enforcement-Single Family Home, insert the address, add service information (single or multi-family unit), add the issue with the property (car parked in the yard, uncut lawn, trash in yard, etc.), add your contact information, provide any comments and/or pictures, then review and submit. Once submitted you will be given a Service Request Number that will allow you to track status. Within 30 days of the request initiation, a County Inspector

will investigate the property in question and if a violation is verified, issue the offending property occupant or owner a violation notice or citation. The notice/citation will give the owner/occupant a certain amount of time to correct the violation. If the owner/occupant does not correct the violation within the allotted time, the County may request a court order that directs the owner/occupant to correct the violation.

The County has a detailed list of what it considers property violations, some of which include:

- Exterior properties should be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary manner.
- Exterior properties should be free from weeds and grass in excess of 12 inches.
- Open storage of any household appliance, motor vehicle parts, building materials, furniture, dead trees, garbage, or similar items are prohibited.
- Not more than one motor vehicle that is wrecked, dismantled, inoperable or unlicensed is allowed on a property; and, the one vehicle that is allowed must be inside a closed garage.
- Piles of broken branches stacked on your lawn.

There are two ways to gain access to County Click 311 for service requests. Within the county dial 3-1-1. Outside the county dial 301-883-4748. Or, visit the website:

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1095/CountyClick-311>.

CAPTAINSCOVENEXTDOOR.COM

If you have not yet joined our online community bulletin board, please do! Those of us who participate in this online community find it very helpful in seeking and sharing information – helping to find lost pets – identifying recommended tradesmen or vendors – announcing local events – sharing neighborhood watch alerts about suspicious persons – and other issues that matter to all of us.

Unlike other online bulletin boards, Nexdoor.com is private to residents of Captains Cove. The greater the participation, the more we all benefit!

Committees Update

We are still asking for volunteers to chair and participate on the Association's six standing committees. Our Vice President, Lawrence Thrash, has volunteered to chair the Beautification Committee. The remaining five committees Government & Public Utilities, Communications, Welcoming, Membership, and Special Events Committees still need your help.

Beautification Committee is responsible for leading the community in enhancement of our neighborhoods. In the past, this committee has been responsible for selecting the FWECA Yard of the Month, and for leading clean-up drives and vegetation planting in communal areas. (*Sandra Stephon, chair*), Carolyn Stevens reported that the Committee is looking at ways to enhance the beauty of our neighborhood.

Government & Public Utilities Committee is the FWECA voice for interaction with Prince George's County representatives and utility companies (WSSC, PEPCO, etc). This committee keeps the community up to speed on upcoming projects that will affect us such as sewer and water main repairs, street paving, etc. This committee also serves as the community voice to address residents who are experiencing difficulties in meeting County Codes for the maintenance of their properties. As always, all of us are urged to assist neighbors who are having trouble maintaining their properties and to make them aware of County codes in this regard. The Codes are available at the Prince George's County County Click website https://library.municode.com/md/prince_george's_county/codes/code_of_ordinances

Communications Committee is responsible for publishing the FWECA Newsletter and

Membership Directory. Additionally, this committee is responsible getting the word out on short-notice events that affect our community.

Special Events Committee is responsible for over-seeing community activities such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Movie Night in the Park, community yard sales, Block Parties, etc.

Welcoming Committee is responsible for welcoming new families to the neighborhood. In the past, this committee was responsible for developing welcome folders for new homeowners and renters moving into our community.

Membership Committee is responsible for increasing/maintaining the number of households in our community that join FWECA.

Community Announcements

Little Free Library

As a reminder, last year the Board had a Little Free Library installed at the corner of Warburton Drive and Queens Lane. The library contains books and other reading materials donated by members of our community. With the Coronavirus keeping us all close to home, this unit can make for a good source of new reading material to entertain and occupy you while sheltering at home. Please take advantage of this community feature.

Captain's Cove Trivia

While most of the long-term residents know this, most of the newer residents might not. In 1958 portions of the movie "Houseboat" were filmed near the area that is now the Fort Washington Marina. Cary Grant plays a widower with three children and Sophia Loren is his bombshell nanny. The comedy

and drama ensue as they move onto a badly neglected houseboat right here in Captain's Cove. The movie was nominated for two Academy Awards.

Oh Deer!

By Lawrence Thrash

I have resided in Captains Cove for 25 years and have noticed an increase in deer issues as they relate to vehicle damage, personal safety, personal property and common area damage. The white-tailed deer population in our area is becoming more and more of a problem and nuisance. I must say they are beautiful creatures. However, white-tailed deer have become overly abundant in our neighborhood as well as Prince George's County hence, a need for non-lethal deer management techniques to be implemented. Non-lethal methods do not reduce or control deer population numbers, but can reduce deer damage to property, the risk of contracting Lyme disease, and forest degradation. Non-lethal methods include the use of taste and/or odor-based repellents, deer-resistant plants, scare techniques such as auditory or visual deterrents, fencing, and eliminating abnormal food sources (humans feeding the herds). Over the years I have tried many types of repellents to no avail but recently found a product called "Bobbex Deer Repellent" that has worked for me quite effectively.

A major point in deer management is to report incidents to county and/or state authorities. They maintain statistical data that supports the need for additional deer management techniques to be implemented. Deer-related incidents can be reported to:

- A) Maryland National Park and Planning Commission has deer management jurisdiction over the county parks. (contact number is 301-627-7755)

- B) Maryland Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction over all other areas within the county. (contact George Timko, 301-855-1748 or 301-478-2314)
- C) Contact the FWECA Beautification Committee Chair (Lawrence Thrash, 240-463-5318)

Both Maryland offices work in conjunction with the county animal control division.

Neighbors For Fort Washington Commercial Development

Join our neighborhood group that is dedicated to advocating for smart growth along the Indian Head Highway corridor from a holistic perspective. By that, we mean commercially developing this community through a practical approach keeping in mind space, environment, conservation, and residents. We are an action-oriented group. Email nfwd2020@gmail.com for more information and join one of our committees: Development and Zoning, Schools, Community Connectivity, or Building and Upkeep.

Sincerely,
David Owens (USNA Class of '94)
Head of Visionary Programming & Cinematic Inspiration
Visionary Media Productions
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Fort Washington Trivia

During the War of 1812, 4,000 veteran Redcoats landed on the Patuxent River, marched in a wide arc around Fort Washington—the only defensive fortification in the area until the Civil War—and burned the Capitol.

Three days later a squadron of 10 Royal Navy warships approached Fort Washington and began shelling it. The fort's commander, Captain Dyson, retreated with his small garrison of men and blew up the magazine, destroying the fort. Dyson received a court martial for his actions. After the war. Fort Washington was quickly rebuilt at the request of President Monroe.

Electronic and Web-based Notifications

As indicated in our last Newsletter, we continue to push forward on Electronic distribution of the newsletter and the use of Web-based notifications and updates regarding our community. We sent our first email message last month. We distributed the message to 133 email addresses. Out of the 133 messages sent, 117 were delivered and 63 messages registered open. In order to assist us in this effort there are two things we ask you to do: 1. Check your spam for a message from Hello@FWECA.ORG. This message is from the association. Please identify this message as non-spam. 2. Please take a minute and forward your contact email address to Hello@FWECA.ORG. This will help us ensure that we have your email address and you get the electronic message and notification sent out by the association. Thanks for your assistance.

FWECA email address is Hello@FWECA.ORG