

# CEDAR GROVE PARK NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

OCTOBER, 2011

## Board Biz

During the third quarter of 2011, the Board decided to complete the installation of new landscaping in the common area along Blake Lane, with the goal of getting all new plantings in the ground this fall, rather than wait until spring. Other matters discussed included:

- Filling in the holes in the ground and landscaping the common area in front of #3128.
- Negotiating with our neighbor behind #3114-3118 about the encroachment of her trees on our properties.
- Bids for replacing the swale in the park area with an underground sewer.
- Pros and cons of installing an electrical outlet in our park's picnic/playground area. Cons won.
- Residents and visitors from neighboring developments violating Fairfax County's leash and pooper-scooper laws in the park area. Greater vigilance, more signs.
- Residents violating CGPA rules prohibiting the parking of vehicles anywhere but in designated parking spaces.
- Return of the cicada eaters.
- Forming and keeping standing committees of homeowners to help and advise the Board and the Grounds Manager.

You can read copies of Board meeting minutes at [www.neighborhoodlink.com/Cedar\\_Grove\\_Park/home](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Cedar_Grove_Park/home).

The next Board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, October 11**, at 7:30 p.m. at 3116 Cedar Grove Drive. All interested homeowners and residents are welcome to attend. □

## Nov. 18 Homeowners' Meeting

Do you want to have your say about important issues affecting our community and help select the members of the 2012 Board of Directors? Or just want to know how CGPA business is conducted? Then come to the CGPA Annual Homeowners Meeting on **Friday, November 18**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hawthorne Village Meeting Room, 9724 Kingsbridge Drive.

Homeowners will get a letter from CGPA's president before the meeting with an agenda and proxy form. So that we can count your vote even if you cannot attend, please sign the proxy and mail it back, or give it to a board member or other neighbor who is going to the meeting. Be sure to have someone else witness your signature and sign the proxy form. □

## Community People

Some people are community people, who care about and are involved in the affairs of their community, and others aren't. That's fine, our community can accommodate both; the problem is that some people do care and would like to be community people, but don't become involved because they're afraid if they merely dip their toes in the community volunteerism pond they'll be dragged under. Next thing, they're running the

place and drowning in the process.

It doesn't have to be like that! Cedar Grove Park needs community people of varying degrees. Sure, it needs Board members (see above notice) who commit to a considerable amount of involvement and make the big decisions, but it also needs semi-involved community people who only want to splash around a bit at the edge of the volunteerism pond. That's what committees are for.

In 2012, Cedar Grove Park will form (or reform) several standing committees that need semi-involved community people:

- **Architectural Review Committee.** Usually, members of this committee meet twice a year for a walk-around review of our homes' exteriors and yards, and then cite any homeowner whose property needs repairs or maintenance. (No experience in architecture or property maintenance is necessary; guidance will be provided.) The committee also responds to complaints received by the Board throughout the year about a neighbor's property. If the cited homeowner fails to correct the problem, the committee may

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## Save The Date

- **Tuesday, October 11: CGPA Board Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at 3116 Cedar Grove Drive.
- **Saturday, October 15: CGP Fall Cleanup**, 9:00 a.m. in front of #3120 Cedar Grove Drive. See *Fall Cleanup* on page 2.
- **Friday, November 18: CGPA Annual Homeowners' Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at Hawthorne Village Meeting Room, 9724 Kingsbridge Drive. See *Homeowners' Meeting*, next.
- **Tuesday, December 13: CGPA Board Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at 3116 Cedar Grove Drive.

recommend to the Board that the Association have the needed maintenance done and bill the homeowner for the cost. Occasionally, the committee will be asked to review a homeowner's request to change their property's exterior and recommend approval or denial by the Board.

- **Landscaping Committee.** This committee meets as needed throughout the year. Its members assist the Grounds Manager by researching, recommending, and monitoring improvements, changes, and additions to common-area landscaping.
- **Parking Lot and Sidewalks Committee.** This committee meets usually once or twice a year for a walk-around review of our parking lot and sidewalks, looking for cracks, holes, or unevenness. Reporting to the Board, the committee members research, recommend, and monitor any needed maintenance, repair, or replacement.
- **Social/Events Committee.** The members of this committee research, plan, and make recommendations to the Board for social gatherings and other events for the community, such as picnics in the park, community cleanups, and yard sales. Committee members are responsible for promoting the event (putting up signs, distributing flyers, etc.) and gathering and setting up the necessary equipment and supplies. The committee meets as needed, usually once or twice a year.

If you care about the work of any of these committees and would like to see it done brilliantly as only you can, please let a member of the Board know or sign up at the Annual Homeowners' Meeting on **November 18**. You **can** be a semi-involved community person! □

**"Nobody ever drowned in  
his own sweat."**

— Eppie Friedman (1918 – 2002)  
writing as Ann Landers

## Picking Up Pet Waste

(From *Conservation Currents*, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District)

Dog walkers are out in the morning before the workday begins and again in the evening. Most have something in common.



They carry a bag, usually a grocery bag or the long plastic sleeve in which newspapers are delivered. These conscientious pet owners take their waste-filled bags and put them in their household trash or flush the contents in the toilet.

What about the not-so-conscientious pet owners? The Center for Watershed Protection refers to them

as "bad dog walkers" and claims their numbers are 16 million in the United States.

Pet owners who violate the County's pooper scooper law may incur a fine up to \$250. Unfortunately, since 1999 not one summons was issued for such violations. That means the only deterrents to leaving pet waste on the ground may be our individual conscience and societal mores.

Pet waste left on the grass or in the woods makes its way to storm drains every time it rains. Storm drains lead to lakes or streams that ultimately lead to the Occoquan Reservoir and the Potomac Rivers, our drinking water supply. Pet waste may carry disease-causing organisms, which make water unsafe for swimming and more costly to treat for drinking.

Dog waste on the ground is ugly and messy. It pollutes our environment even if it is hidden in the bushes, under leaves or in the woods. **Please pick up after your pets. Our health may depend on it.** □

## Oct. 15 Fall Cleanup

On **Saturday, October 15**, please join your neighbors for the CGP Fall Cleanup. The purpose of this event is to remove trash and debris from our common areas.

- Coffee and donuts will be provided by the CGPA.
- Both adults and kids are welcome to participate.
- Trash bags will be provided.
- Protective gloves are suggested.
- No experience or heavy lifting is required!

Meet in front of #3120 beginning at 9 a.m. on October 15. (Rain date is Saturday, October 22.) Clean-up efforts will continue throughout the day, so you can still help even if you forget to set your alarm! □

### Notices

**Neighborhood Book Club Forming This Fall.** If interested, contact Regis Gottus at 703-855-3472, [rgottus@hotmail.com](mailto:rgottus@hotmail.com). □

**Email List.** To receive occasional emails about community news and events, **including reminders about our monthly board meetings**, send an email to [aclark1105@verizon.net](mailto:aclark1105@verizon.net), with the subject "Add Me to the CGP Email List."

**Trash Removal & Recycling.** Trash is collected every Tuesday and Friday, except holidays. Recycling is collected on Fridays only. You should place these items on the Cedar Grove Drive curb by 7 a.m.

**Special Trash Pick-ups.** If you discard large, bulky or heavy items, such as furniture, appliances, construction debris, or large quantities of brush, you must pay an **extra fee** for the pick-up. Call **McLean Trash Service** at 703-442-7387 to schedule a special pick-up and arrange payment.

*To contribute an article to the NewsLetter or post a free notice in this space, contact Judy Keene, 703-281-7695 ([judyk21@verizon.net](mailto:judyk21@verizon.net)).*

### Cedar Grove Park Association

P.O. Box 2541, Fairfax, VA 22031

[www.neighborhoodlink.com/Cedar\\_Grove\\_Park/home](http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Cedar_Grove_Park/home)

#### 2011 Board of Directors:

- ❖ **Regis Gottus, President:** 703-855-3472, [rgottus@hotmail.com](mailto:rgottus@hotmail.com)
- ❖ **Andrea Harvey, Vice President:** 703-938-8299, [dreaharvey@aol.com](mailto:dreaharvey@aol.com)
- ❖ **Anne Clark, Secretary:** 703-242-4280, [aclark1105@verizon.net](mailto:aclark1105@verizon.net)
- ❖ **Judy Keene, Treasurer/Newsletter & Website Editor:** 703-281-7695, [judyk21@verizon.net](mailto:judyk21@verizon.net)
- ❖ **Susan McElheny, Grounds Manager:** 703-255-2979, [smcelheny@verizon.net](mailto:smcelheny@verizon.net)