

CAROLINE OAKS NEWSLETTER

July 2019

TRASH PICK UP FOR THIS THURS, JULY 4th MOVED TO SAT JULY 6th

It is likely American Disposal Services will be starting very early in the morning to complete these additional Saturday routes. Please be sure to have your trash outside no earlier than the evening of July 5 or very early July 6 to ensure pick up.

TRASH PICK UP ISSUES

As many of you may already be aware, there is an ongoing crisis in the Fairfax area regarding all trash pick up due to a lack of qualified truck drivers. We have been most fortunate that, although they are also affected, American Disposal Service continues to pick up our trash regularly. Please continue to have your trash placed out the night prior to pick up and arranged so their workers can quickly and easily complete their job. We will keep everyone informed of any delays as quickly as possible.

REGARDING DISCARDED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS...

Community Forklift is a nonprofit agency that offers free pick up of household items like kitchen cabinets, unused flooring, vintage furniture, and surplus building materials to assist low income families or for resale/rebuy programs in the DC, VA and MD areas. Please consider contacting them to dispose of usable materials that might otherwise be crowding landfills when the materials could be otherwise productively reused.

RECYCLING CONCERNS

Pat Herrity, our County Supervisor, sends out a monthly newsletter with County updates which recently highlighted glass recycling. In summary, we don't recycle glass. It goes to the landfill. The County is setting up purple bins to drop off glass recycling (currently at the I-66 landfill or Pat Herrity's West Springfield office) so the glass can be turned into sand or gravel for construction, paving and landscaping. If the glass cannot be properly recycled, then he recommends throwing glass in the regular (not recycled) trash as it contaminates other recyclables.

OTHER RECYCLABLE CONTAMINANTS

Other barriers to efficient recycling include plastic bags and film like bubble wrap. These clog the recycling machines causing increased labor, time and our tax money to repair. The best place for plastics and films is most grocery stores who have the most efficient process in place to turn plastics into composite decking. If you are not able to drop bags/film off at the grocery store, then please also place them in the regular (not recycled) trash.

Personally I would recommend subscribing to Pat Herrity's Herriot Report for continued information and updates about our County.

SPEEDING AND SAFETY

Please be aware children are out of school and often playing in our entry cul-de-sac, streets and sidewalks. As children, they are often distracted and not aware the cars entering and exiting our community. Resident cars have been spotted speeding into and out of Caroline Oaks while children are present over the past few weeks. It is EVERY driver's responsibility (and the law) to drive 15 mph, slow down or even stop if there is a possible danger to any person especially children. If anyone notes repeated abuses please jot down the vehicle's license plate and we can approach the concerned party in the hopes of preventing an injury or death. Regarding the children, parents should be appropriately monitoring and instructing their young ones. As for myself, most children step out of the way as quickly as possible. For the few who persist to stand in the street I roll down my window and advise them that cars have the right of way, etc. There have been no repeat behaviors from my experience. As they say, "it takes a village..."

ANNUAL ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

The Architectural Review Committee has completed it's Spring walk through. Follow up letters will be mailed in July and August. Though not cited, many properties were noted to have northern facing surfaces darkened with mold and mildew likely related to the wet winter-spring we experienced. The ARC recommends a fairly cheap and easily applied solution like "Wet & Forget" from Costco or similar stain removers ("Zep", "MMR", "Conchrobium", etc) at the Home Depot or Lowe's to treat such surfaces before they spread or deteriorate the underlying surfaces requiring expensive repair or replacement.

Many thanks to those who continue to submit their exterior home repair and upgrade requests to Jim (hutchisj@verizon.net) for review, comment and approval prior to purchasing or starting any new outside projects.

CEMENT DRIVEWAYS

After a few inquiries by residents and careful review of the Caroline Oak documents, it appears cement driveways ARE acceptable to anyone who is interested in converting macadam to cement.

RACCOONS

We have a new addition to the area. One or more raccoons. They eat just about anything. They can carry many diseases including rabies, worms and tetanus. They like to nest in attics. Please continue to securely cover garbages, consider removing bird feeders, and pick any home grown vegetables or fruits as quickly as possible to discourage their visits.

DOG WASTE

Dogwalkers/owners please be aware dog urine can discolor the lawns of private homeowners. Please ensure as much as possible that your pet urinates on the common areas (islands, green spaces or grass between street and sidewalk) to respect the efforts of those residents who have worked hard to keep their areas green. Thank you. Another thank you to those who continue to pick up their dog's waste on a regular basis. Given the number of dogs we have in the community, we are all grateful there is no lasting evidence of sights or smells in the area.

RAT UPDATE

PestNow continues their monthly service of our bait traps. To date they have needed to replace 2-22 bait pieces per month. They replaced 15 pieces at their last service on June 25.

LANDSCAPING UPDATE

Shennadoah is planning to trim trees in the community over the next few months. We will send out further information once it becomes available.

LIGHTING UPDATE

Our 2 downed poles on William Kirk Lane and Peter Roy Court are now up and running. In addition, Kolb Electric has replaced 2 burned out sensors in the William Kirk loop leaving only one malfunctioning sensor near 9410 awaiting replacement. Please notify Vernon (vrsmith@verizon.net) if you notice any malfunctioning lights.

DUES REMINDER

Caroline Oaks HOA quarterly dues should be submitted no later than July 30th to avoid late fees.

BOARD MEETING

The next Caroline Oaks Board meeting will be in August. We don't have a date as of today. Please email me or Vern (vrsmith@verizon.net) directly in August for more information if you are interested.



