

CAROLINE OAKS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

Securing Vehicles

As many of you know we recently had several instances of unlawful vehicle entry with one resulting in a stolen car. In all cases the vehicles were unlocked. Please keep your vehicles locked when unattended.

I have since contacted the Crime Prevention Unit at West Springfield Police Station and asked for stepped up patrols here in Caroline Oaks.

Many of us now have smart doorbells with video recording capability. If you are monitoring such feeds and detect illegal activity, please contact the West Springfield station (non-emergency number: 703-644-7377).

Trash Service

Over the past month we had a few missed or rescheduled trash pickups. The problem extends throughout the county. Our district supervisor recently addressed the matter in his January report pointing to the many problems facing trash haulers: the ongoing labor shortages (the "Great Resignation"), the shortage of CDL drivers, the current Omicron COVID surge, and the recent snowstorms. Our trash hauler, American Disposal, has performed well since we contracted with them several years ago. When a postponement is about to occur I receive a robocall out of their Phoenix headquarters. I pass that information along to the community in an email blast.

They chew and burrow: Sneaky little pests

Thanks to Walt Seiberling, William Kirk Lane resident and board member for providing the following advice:

As Caroline Oaks is backed by the woods, there are many little critters around. From foxes, squirrels, racoons, chipmunks, snakes, bats and even rats. Caroline Oaks has done a lot to keep the rats at bay with bait stations, but they all roam around the premises. Bird feeders assist in feeding a lot of these animals and its recommended you take these down. Unknown holes in the house allow for them to have free room and board in the homes. We recommend the community to take an hour and walk your premises to look for potential holes into the home. Bats have been noticed at the entry area of Peter Roy Court. Air vents are an entry point for bats and screens can keep them away. A lot of the entry points for these critters are found near water spigots or pipes coming into the home. If you find holes, then you might want to call a professional. Stuffing the hole with steel wool and caulk will stop them from chewing. Pipes can be covered up with Duct Seal after you fill the hole. Make sure you do not seal the critters in your home while taking care of the issue on your own! Known facts about these critters. Foxes can jump on and over fences, so watch the little ones. Little critters can climb and enter a

house for breeding. Bat guano causes severe breathing issues. Raccoons can fit through a 3-inch hole, and snakes love to follow them all for a meal. So do your part to ensure they stay in the woods and not in the community!

January Board of Directors Meeting

The next Board meeting is 27 January at 7 PM in the Pohick Library meeting room. Send me items you wish the Board to consider.