



PCA Newsletter

The Plantations Community Association, Inc.



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PARK IMPROVEMENTS IN 2019

This past summer, the Club View Park tennis court renovations were completed, and the courts opened for use. The playing surface was repaved, a proper playing surface was applied, and the posts and nets were replaced. The near court was lined for both tennis and pickleball. The court fencing was restored to close off the courts, and a pedestrian gate with a coded lock was installed to provide both security and easy access. A second, larger gate was added to facilitate maintenance, avoiding the need to remove fence sections to allow access for larger equipment.

The court renovation resulted in damage to the park grassed areas, so those areas have been graded and reseeded.

At the same time, we corrected grading problems alongside the asphalt walking path where there had been some sharp drop-offs at the side of the path. We also installed a drain system to allow water to pass under the path, preventing water from flooding the north end of the courts. Trees near the walking path

(cont. from column 1)

were pruned to allow more sunlight and water to reach the newly seeded areas.

The late summer and early fall were quite dry, requiring the grading and seeding to occur late in the season, and in some places the grass did not become well established before the colder weather. Please ask all members of your family to avoid walking on the areas where the grass is thin.

The park and the tennis courts are a community resource, and maintaining them uses a lot of our community funds. Please ask all members of your family to respect these resources and to care for them. The tennis courts are to be used for tennis and pickleball only. Please do not force the gate open, or sit on the nets. Forcing the gate tends to shift it out of alignment, requiring maintenance; sitting on the net can damage the net and the cranking mechanism.

All PCA residents are welcome to use the tennis courts. Please register to use them by sending an e-mail containing your contact information, or call us. We ask all court users to register with us; please do not provide the gate code to anyone outside of your family.

PROPERTY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Please note that residents are required to file an application with the PCA's Architectural Control Committee (ACC) for projects that alter the exterior appearance of their property. You can find the application form at:

<https://plantations1.org/files%2Fforms>

2020 ASSESSMENT NEWS

Status of Annual Assessment: Invoices were mailed in late December, and the 2020 HOA assessment payment was due on January 31. The assessment amounts remain unchanged from 2019. Please support your community and send in your payment on time.

We still have some properties whose owners have not paid the assessment for prior years. We will continue to pursue payment from these owners, and this spring we will send the worst accounts to the PCA attorney for collections actions.

Payment Methods: There are several ways to pay your annual assessment.

- Mail us your check in the provided return envelope.
- Use the “bill pay” feature of your online banking account to send us your payment. Use the PCA address shown in this newsletter.
- The PCA website offers online payment of the annual assessment, in addition to purchasing a Re-Sale Package, park field rental, and newsletter ads. We offer payment buttons for the current year’s townhouse and detached-house assessments. Online payments incur a 2.9% processing fee, all of which goes to our payment processor. Starting February 01, the payment buttons for 2019 late payments include the 6% annual interest that the PCA charges.
- To pay online for past years or to pay the 2020 assessment in two to four payments, please contact the PCA. We can email you a link to a customized invoice, and that will allow you to select your payment amount. We also offer paper-based payment plans.
- To pay using more than four monthly payments, we will ask you to sign an extended payment plan. Payment plans can use either online payments or mailed checks. Contact the PCA to set up a plan.

HOA Meeting Dates



Meetings are held on the second Monday of every month in the staff lounge at Woodfield Elementary School (*except where noted) from 7:10 p.m. – 8:40 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

Monday Mar 9

*Monday Apr 13, Damascus Library – small meeting room

Monday May 11

[ADVERTISEMENT]

For Sale

The Treasury of Family Games by Jim Glenn & Carey Denton published by Reader’s Digest. **\$25.** Board, card, and party games for all ages; indoor and outdoor games. All with rules and strategies. Wonderful for family time.

The Best Movie Songs Ever for Easy Piano. 2nd Edition. **\$25.** Over 70 songs and themes.

Nordic Track Classic Pro/NTXC80181.

\$30. Excellent condition. Great for skiing and running training.

Dryride Burton White Ski Jacket. \$50. Totally warm and dry with multiple pockets and fur hood.

Office/School Supplies. \$15. Binders, pencils, tape, pens, rulers, etc. Mid-size box.

International Collectors Library Set. \$200. Classic literature (33 titles) in beautiful hardback covers. Excellent condition.

Call Maria - 240-429-5146



PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Every spring, the PCA requests that residents take a look at the appearance of their properties and make any necessary repairs, tend to yard maintenance, and remove improperly stored items from the property. Spring may seem a long way off, but as our next newsletter will be in May, we're printing this reminder to help residents plan their spring projects.

Examples of common maintenance problems are:

- Overgrown grass, bushes, or trees;
- Loose or missing shutters, siding, or siding trim;
- Gutters filled with vegetation or not properly attached to the house;
- Peeling paint on house trim parts;
- Rusty, damaged, or leaning mail boxes;
- Mold or dirt on siding;
- Damaged or leaning fences;
- Personal items stored in yard where they are visible from street (tools, auto parts, gardening supplies, etc.).
- Car ports cluttered with excessive storage.
- Vehicles/trailers/RVs in an obvious state of disrepair, or parked on grass.

Please understand that maintaining the appearance of the community is a primary responsibility of a homeowner's association. The PCA's purpose is not to be critical or punitive, but simply to encourage residents to complete needed maintenance, and to keep the community looking attractive and welcoming.

If you receive a maintenance violation letter, it will clearly describe the problem, explain what is required to clear the violation, and will provide a deadline. Please contact the PCA if you need more time to complete the project.

EARTH DAY IN OUR COMMUNITY

Earth Day was started in 1970 as a means for promoting public awareness of the need to protect the environment of the planet we live on. This year, there are many events in our area that you can attend or participate in. Here are a couple of examples:

- Many activities in Montgomery Parks:

<https://www.montgomeryparks.org/earth-month/>

- April 30: Organic Lawn Talk by MoCo's Sustainable Landscapes Manager; learn how to care for your lawn consistent with the new County laws:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/calendar.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D141743583>

- May 03: Training Session for adding non-grassed landscaped areas to your property:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/calendar.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D142081986>

We all can help to clean up our parks and common areas and the streets and sidewalks near our homes. Please send us other ideas for what we can do in our own neighborhood to support Earth Day. Sign up for and watch the PCA monthly emails for planned activities.

Advertise Here!

Your ad reaches 406 homes! Ads are very affordable. Place an ad and watch your business grow, or sell unneeded items around the house! For more information, send an e-mail to: info@plantations1.org. The PCA newsletter is published in February, May, August, and November.

Business Card (or same size ad) - \$ 5.00

Quarter Page - \$ 9.00

Half Page - \$16.00

Full Page - \$28.00

THE PCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice-President – Michael McMillen
Secretary – Debbie Diatz
Treasurer – David Keim

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Nicole A.
Tony Durso
JoAnne F.
Mary Ellen Gillard – ACC Chair
Manny Gomez

The Plantations Community Association, Inc.

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E-mail: info@plantations1.org

Website: <https://plantations1.org>

LOST PET RESOURCES



Visit one of the following:

- ❖ Facebook - Damascus MD Lost & Found Pets:
[facebook.com/DamascusLostAndFoundPets](https://www.facebook.com/DamascusLostAndFoundPets)
- ❖ Facebook - Montgomery County MD Lost Pets
<https://www.facebook.com/MCMDLostPets>
- ❖ If your pet is lost, try an alert service to help locate him or her:
www.findtoto.com/pet-alert-services



COMMUNITY NEWS & GROUPS

The PCA sends out occasional e-mail notices, to keep you informed and to announce volunteer opportunities. We never share your e-mail address. Please send your e-mail address to:

info@plantations1.org

Facebook Users: There is a group for **Plantations I and II**. It is not affiliated with the PCA but is a nice way for everyone to communicate and see what's going on in the neighborhood.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/108739809260974>

There are also two Damascus groups:

Damascus, MD Neighbors and Friends

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/799185880144769/>

Damascus, Maryland Town Center

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/334078076694824/>



JOIN US FOR THE 24TH ANNUAL

GAS & STEAM ENGINE SHOW



APRIL 4-5, 2020

**Agricultural History Farm Park
in Derwood**

**RAIN
-OR-
SHINE**

April 4 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

April 5 - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Gas engines & tractors | Free admission
Antique cars & trucks | Free parking
Live music (Saturday only)
Hay wagon rides | Kiddie tractor pull
Great food for sale | Prizes
Visit the chickens, pigs and goats
Old time sawmill demo
Visit the Granary Tool Museum.
Leashed pets welcome

Friends of

The Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc.

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