

PCA Newsletter



The Plantations Community Association, Inc.

Volume 19 - Issue 1

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These Icy Times



Montgomery County recommends winter salt best practices. Given our recent experience in December and January, refreshing our understanding of de-icers could be useful. First, shoveling is your first and most effective line of defense; shovel early and often before snow turns to ice.

Always read the instructions to apply your de-icer effectively and under what conditions. For example, when the pavement is less than 15 degrees, salt doesn't melt ice.

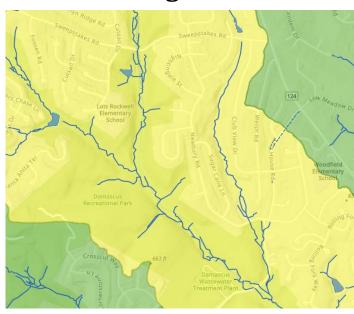
Use the minimum amount of de-icer necessary, spread it evenly, and remember that its purpose is to loosen ice to make shoveling easier. If your goal is to improve traction, then sand is an effective tool.

Keep your eye on the weather because the sun and temperature can do the work for you.

Clean up after your self: you can sweep and resuse any sand, salt, or undissolved de-icer to reuse and reduce the impact on our waterways.

Source: MoCo Department of Environmental Protection

Our Fair Magruder Branch



A reminder and motivation to use the minimum effective dosage of home and yard products that eventually runoff into our shared water: MoCo Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) scores the Magruder Branch as Fair (their 3rd tier rating between Good and Poor).

Source: MoCo DEP

Current PCA Board

Officers:

President – Rod Ibacache

VP - (vacant)

Secretary – Debbie Diatz Treasurer – David Keim

Board Members:

Nathan Booth Kathy Giles Mike Giles Chris Kiron Brandon Martin Joseph Melvin

The PCA, Inc. ~ P.O. Box 222, Damascus, MD 20872 ~ E-mail: info@plantations1.org ~ Website: https://plantations1.org

Get to Know Your HOA Covenants



PCA Covenants [Article V]: No building, fence, wall, or other structure, or exterior painting, shall be commenced, erected or maintained, upon the Properties, nor shall any exterior addition to or change or alteration therein be made until the plans and specifications showing the nature, kind, shape, height, materials, color, and location of the same have been submitted to and approved in writing... by the Baord of Directors, or by an architectural committee composed of three (3) or more representatives appointed by the Board. In the event said Board, or its designated committee, fails to approve or disapprove such design and location within thirty (30) days days after said plans and specifications have been submitted to it, approval will not be required and this Article will be deemed to have been fully complied with.

Bottom line: Please submit an Architectural Conrol Committee (ACC) Request Form before making external changes to your home or lot. Remember that the ACC Committee wants to approve of your improvements and repairs and must ensure that HOA rules and inform you of County permitting requirements.

Source: PCA Corporate Documents

For more information or to report a problem: PCA – info@plantations1.org

Montgomery County - 311

PCA Pet Profile



Meet Mu ("mew"), a 7 old domestic vear shorthair on Log House Rd. She enjoys sleeping on soft things and cannot resist a pair of legs with a blanket She on top. inexplicably enjoys saunas during the height of summer and quite explicably rabid for fried chicken.

Want to make your pet

neighborhood famous? We're offering pet profiles in future newsletters. Email us (info@plantations1.org) their name, age, sex and favorite activities or a short story and we'll make them locally famous!

'Tis the Season

While we should strive to keep the holiday season in our hearts all year, we don't necessarily need the decorations year round. Please start storing your exterior holiday decorations.

Annual Architectural Control Committee inspections are coming! As you plan exterior home improvements for the year, remember to submit an ACC Request form the <u>PCA</u> website.



We're always looking for community members who want to get involved from time to time, but might not necessarily be able to commit to a seat on the board. Please email your info to info@plantations1.org if you'd like to join the PCA Volunteer Corps, and we will reach out to you when opportunities for community service arise, such as newsletter delivery or neighborhood cleanup events. This is a great way to meet neighbors and invest in our awesome community!

PCA Animal Prohibitions



PCA Covenants [Article VIII, Section 8]: Prohibit all animals, livestock, and poultry from our properties, except that "dogs, cats, and other household pets may be kept" as long as they are not being kept for commercial purposes (for example, they cannot be bred for sale).

Montgomery County Code [Chapter 5 – Animal Control]: Chickens and roosters cannot be kept in an aviary (structure that confines/houses the chickens) within 100 feet of an adjacent dwelling.

For most or all PCA properties, this means the property is not large enough to accommodate chickens.

For more information or to report a problem: PCA – info@plantations1.org

Montgomery County - 311

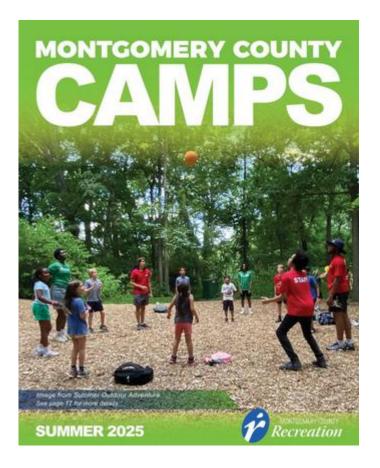
Animal Control – 301 279 8000

Community News & Groups

The PCA sends out occasional email notices, to keep you informed of upcoming meetings, announcements and occasional volunteer opportunities. We never share your email address. To be included, please send your email 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 to communicate and keep up with the goings on in the neighborhood.

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



MoCo Recreation 2025 Summer Guide

It's already time to start planning for the summer. Did you know the MoCo Recreation department produces seasonal guides of activities spanning every age group? The Summer 2025 guide is available at the link above and includes activities and camps for art, dance, music, sports, cooking, outdoor adventures, and more!

Any questions, contact

recreation.customerservice@montgomerycountymd.gov or call Recreation Customer Service at 240-777-6840.

Lost Pet Resources



- Damascus MD Lost & Found Pets:
 <u>Damascus, MD Lost & Found Pets</u>
 If you are not a member of this Facebook group you will need to message the group to get something posted.
- Montgomery County MD Lost Pets https://www.facebook.com/MCMDLostPets
- If your pet is lost, an alert service may be able to help: www.findtoto.com/pet-alert-services

Dog Walking Safety and Courtesy

While walking your dog, please keep in mind the following, which are **required by County law**:

- Dogs must be leashed anytime they are off your property.
- Dog owners must avoid "unwanted contact" between their dogs and people and other dogs.
- Dog walkers may allow their dogs to "do their business" in the area between the street and sidewalk, or a PCA common area, but the walker must immediately pick up remains. Please always carry, use and properly dispose of your dog's "business" bags.
- Dogs and cats 4+ months old require a current rabies vaccination and County license.

Club View Park

24110 Club View Drive, 20882

Do you all know we have a beautiful and well-equipped neighborhood park on Club View Drive? Our park has a huge open field perfect for soccer, football, tag, you name it. Prefer court sports? Well, the basketball and tennis courts have been recently renovated! A shady playground and well-maintained pavilion round out the package to make for a great picnic or birthday party, all just around the corner!

Protect the turf

To avoid damage to the playing field turf, avoid using the playing field when it is wet and soggy. All motorized vehicles are prohibited from driving on the grass.

Club View Park FAQs

Can residents use Club View Park Pavilion for an event? YES! The use of the park pavilion for activities like family gatherings is included in the HOA dues you pay! In order to accommodate everyone and avoid unwanted issues, a reservation request must be filed with the PCA (form available online). All requests will be confirmed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Can my team or athletic group pay to use the Club View Park playing field? YES! Group and team use of the playing field requires a \$20 fee for a two-hour period of use. This fee helps pay for the upkeep and

maintenance of our field and goals, so we can all continue to enjoy them.

Can residents use the tennis courts? YES! The courts are available to PCA residents and their guests. Just email the PCA for the gate code. To keep the courts in the best shape, we ask all residents to refrain from skateboarding, rollerblading/skating, and other non-racket-type sports that can damage the court surfaces.

Non-residents who live nearby can also use the courts for a small annual fee.

Free business card sized ads for young entrepreneurs

If your child would like to earn money doing work for neighbors, we will gladly publish their information. Contact the PCA if you would like to have their name and service listed here free of charge. Applies to residents 17 and younger.

Place Your Ad Here

Your very affordable ad reaches **406** homes! Place an ad, **watch your business grow**, or **sell unneeded items**, or **celebrate upcoming events!** For more information, e-mail: info@plantations1.org.

The PCA newsletter is published in February, May, August, and November.

Full Page \$68.00 - Half Page \$40.00 - Quarter Page \$22.00 - Business Card \$12.00

Recreation



Our MoCo community recreation centers have regular activities for adults and kids, including a walking club, pickleball, basketball, volleyball, and badminton. Here's the calendar for our closest center in Damascus.

Quinoa Oatmeal

A simple nutritious recipe easily adaptable to your tastes

Ingredients

- 4 cups water
- 0.5 cups quinoa
- 1 teaspoon oil (try unrefined coconut oil for flavor)
- 1 cup oats (try steel-cut for texture)
- Pinch of salt
- 0.5 cup milk (try almond milk for smoother and longer lasting)

Preparation

- 1. Heat water in kettle, microwave, or pot until near boiling. Rinse quinoa in strainer.
- 2. Heat oil over medium heat in saucepan. Add oats and stir until smelling toasty (about 2 minutes). Add quinoa and hot water, then bring to boil.
- 3. Turn down heat once boiling, then let simmer uncovered for 25-30 minutes until chewy but not hard.
- 4. Add almond milk and turn off heat.
- 5. Optional combinations for serving: granola, nuts, honey, maple syrup, dried berries, fresh berries.

Joke of the day:

Nature is so resourceful. It can make dew with just water.

Credit: Nature Conservancy

Book Bin



Supplies

- Cardboard box
- Construction paper
- Tape
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Optional: Clear packing tape

Adult supervision is recommended.

Steps

- 1. Find a box to use for your book bin. Tape down all the tabs. Tip: test the box in its future storage space.
- 2. Cover the end of the box with your construction paper. Start by covering the ends of the box with construction paper. Start by laying the paper over the end of the box and fold around the box marking where the fold lines should go with the pencil. Take the paper off and fold the paper. Now attach the paper to the box using tape. Wrap the paper around the top edge of the box so it lines some of the inside. Repeat for the opposite end of the box.
- 3. Cover the middle of the box. Use one long strip of paper to cover the middle of the box. Mark the inside width of the box using a pencil and then cut a strip of paper that width. Position your box in the middle of the strip of paper and wrap the paper up and around the two uncovered sides. Mark the places where the paper will need to be folded. Tape the piece of paper in place.
- 4. Optional step: cover the box with clear packing tape to protect it from wear.
- 5. Optional: Add a book label to the box if you want to use it for a specific collection of books. Tip: test which face you want to face outward in your storage space, then place the label.

Send us a message at info@plantations1.org, subject "Book Bin" and we will post your sightings in the next newsletter! Credit:

Crafting Cheerfully

Across

- Light wood
- Slender
- 10. Bog product
- 14. Unfriendly
- Opera highlight
- 16. Vocalist ____ Fitzgerald
- Sub finder
- 18. Woodworker
- 20. Free from germs
- 22. Harbor
- 23. House (Sp.)
- Talks wildly
- 26. Teeter-totter
- 30. Will
- Baseball great Hank _____
- 34. Mob scenes
- 35. Wicked
- **38**. Beam
- 39. Heavenly food
- 40. Confederate
- 41. Imitate
- 42. Supernatural
- 43. Incensed
- 44. Woody or Tim
- 45. Tom Brokaw, e.g.
- 46. Sniff
- 49. Nest contents
- 51. Least cluttered
- **54**. Tool
- Escapade
- 61. Desist
- 62. Marina sight
- 63. Wallet fillers
- 64. Fork features
- 65. Back talk
- 66. Cried
- 67. Ice pellets

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Down

- Game fish
 Very much (2 wds.)
 ____ wolf
 Fly
 Kenya native, e.g.
 Shoestrings
 Historic period
 Televises
- Neck region
 Mail friend (2 wds.)
 Singer _____ John
- **12**. Warn
- Small pies
- 19. English noblemen
- 21. Judge's field

- Foolish
- **26**. Epic
- Wyatt ____
- Albany's canal
- 29. Mama's boy
- 31. Whetstone
- 32. ____ moment's notice (2 wds.)
- 34. Exceptional
- 35. Uninspired
- Female singer
- Color changer
- 39. ____ Gibson of
- "Braveheart"
- 40. Joan of ____
- 42. Actress ____ Barkin
- Six-legged animals

- 44. Modifies
- FBI employee (abbr.)
- Ginger cookies
- Radio and newspapers, e.g.
- Roof edges
- Visitor
- Pack away
- 53. Ditty
- 55. Astronaut ___

Armstrong

- Rational
- Words of understanding (2 wds.)
- 58. "____ we forget"
- 60. Agt.

Credit: OnlineCrosswords.net

Solution at https://onlinecrosswords.net/8403