



The Docket



Inside this Issue

Page

HOA Board Members	1
GABLES Community Calendar	1
Annual Meeting Notice	1
Call for New Board Members	1
IN THE SPOTLIGHT : Scott Smith	2
Website Update	2
Deer Alert !	2
Architecture & Landscape Update	3
New Bulk Trash Collection Program	4
Hurricane Photos	5 - 6

H.O.A. BOARD MEMBERS

President:	John Markus
Vice-President:	Bob Vanhoorebeck
Treasurer:	Mike Oehler
Secretary:	Chris Heinrich
Member-At-Large:	Brian Kelly

Community Calendar

(upcoming GABLES events)

▶ Autumn dumpster weekend

CANCELLED ! See Page 4

▶ Annual property inspections

October 1st - 15th

▶ Annual HOA Member meeting

Thursday December 1 6:30 pm

Location: Daniel's Restaurant

Light refreshments will be available.

OFFICIAL NOTICE :

ANNUAL H.O.A. MEMBER MEETING

The Gables' H.O.A. Annual Member Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1st, starting at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held at Daniel's Restaurant and Bar, just up the road on Route 1 (at 5854 Washington Boulevard), and light Refreshments will be served. (Restaurant parking is in the rear of the building.)

So far, the "docket" for this year's meeting includes:

- ◇ our annual financial report, including notification of an increase for the 2012 annual assessment
- ◇ review of new revisions to our community's "Architectural Guidelines"
- ◇ election of two new Board members for 3-year terms

If you wish to place something on the agenda for this meeting, please contact our Board Secretary Chris Heinrich at

chris.heinrich@verizon.net

before November 15th.

As always, the floor will be open for new items as time permits.

Pending Board Member Changes / Call for Candidates

The terms of two H.O.A. Board officers (President John Markus and Treasurer Mike Oehler) are due to expire at the end of 2011. Per our By-Laws, we will elect new Board members at our Annual H.O.A. Meeting in December, and the Board will then meet in January to agree among themselves on a new slate of officers. (If you want additional information, the details of this process and summaries of each officer's responsibilities can be found in the By-Laws document on our Gables website: www.thegablesinfo.com)

Please consider serving on our H.O.A. Board. The commitment of time and energy is small, and the benefits to our community can be HUGE. If you wish to participate on the Board, please submit a brief "statement of interest" and/or "profile" to publicize your candidacy in the next edition of The Docket. Submissions may be e-mailed before November 15th to MYINBOUND-THEGABLES@YAHOO.COM

As always, Board-member nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the Meeting, and self-nominations are welcome.

The Docket

"IN THE SPOTLIGHT"

describes the community activities of our GABLE residents.

Submissions for profile consideration may be sent to the GABLES Webmaster via our website.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

Scott Smith

Neighbor Scott Smith (6217Latchlift Court) is an Eagle Scout, and currently serves as the Scout Master for Troop 1111 of St. Augustine's Church in Elkridge.

Scott really enjoyed his scout experiences when he was a youth, so it was only natural that he would encourage scouting for his children. His son Cameron joined scouts as a cub scout in elementary school, and has earned the rank of Life Scout, which is the last step before Eagle Scout.

Scott has always been a very active "scout father". He has helped with pinewood derbies, taught survival wilderness skills, and joined in many camping trips. Back in 1978, as a teenager, Scott attended Philmont, a mountain-based scout ranch in New Mexico, and he is very excited to be returning next Summer (34 years later!) to lead a crew from his troop out to the camp.

A large portion of scouting involves service to the community, and Troop 1111 has actively supported many local projects, including enhancement projects at Patapsco State Park, and work for the Elkridge Food Pantry, where they both collect canned goods and help to pack up supplies and carry goods out to cars. The scouts maintain a focus on service to country as well, and place flags on gravesites at Meadowridge Cemetery for Memorial Day.

If you have a son that might be interested in joining scouting, call Scott to learn more about the scouting opportunities in our area. 410-379-5496.

Scout Troop 1111 will be doing some fundraising in the next few months to support their trip out to Philmont.

One of the efforts will include door to door sales in our neighborhood of fire extinguishers, first aid kits, and survival kits.... in perfect coordination with national annual Home Safety campaigns!

The troop will also be holding snow removal drives after snow storms, so be on the lookout for teens with shovels!

Upcoming Website Changes



The Gables' new, revised website is due to be launched by the end of this year.

Changes are being made to reduce our costs, and to include some new hyperlinks, and e-mail capabilities for Board and Committee members.

Notices and instructions for logging onto the revised site with a new, temporary password will be e-mailed directly to all Gables homeowners. Further information will also be published in a future edition of *The Docket*.

If you have any comments about the existing website or suggestions for the altered site, please contact the Website Committee Chair Gail Hoffer by e-mail at: ghoffer@juno.com

Stay Alert!

Maryland ranks in the top 16 states for deer-vehicle collisions. While the number of deer hits triples in November, now is the time to start being watchful.



- Deer are most active between 6-9pm
- Be extra careful in posted deer crossing areas. Those signs are there for a reason!
- Use hi-beams as much as possible to detect deer approaching the road-side.
- Don't rely on car-mounted deer whistles.
- Swerving to avoid hitting a deer could cause you to lose control of your vehicle or put you in the path of oncoming traffic. If a deer collision seems inevitable, slow down as much as possible.

What are the chances? A State Farm report released in late 2010 predicted that Maryland drivers have a 1 in 119 chance of colliding with a deer in the next 12 months.

The Docket

Updates from the Architecture and Landscape Committee

ARCHITECTURAL NEWS

Powerwashing

With many Gables homeowners interested in having their homes power-washed this Autumn to remove a build-up of dirt, dust, and mold from the exterior walls of their homes and decks, the Committee has coordinated with Dave Oehler for special pricing on community power-washing services.

If you call 443-413-7425 within the next few weeks, Mr. Oehler has agreed to charge a flat rate of \$375 for power-washing all exterior walls of standard Gables homes. Decks, sidewalks, driveways, outdoor furniture, etc. can also be power-washed at an added cost, to be negotiated directly between the individual homeowner and Mr. Oehler.

General Home Maintenance

We have found the following website to have very helpful tips for routine home maintenance: <http://realestate.msn.com/HomeAndGarden/index.aspx> There are links to recommended inspection checklists for specific months and seasons, with associated repair articles and videos.

Annual Property Inspections

Members of the Architecture Committee will be roaming the neighborhood from October 1st through October 15th to conduct our annual inspections.

* * * * *

COMMON-AREA LANDSCAPING NEWS

Storm Basin Renovations

The Howard County Dept. of Highways has agreed to add more stones to the storm-drain basin on Latchlift Court to improve drainage and aesthetics. Work should begin later this year.

Concrete Repairs

HoCo is repairing our community's concrete curb-and-gutter structures that have been damaged by snowplows. We have also submitted requests for repairs to some of the sidewalks in the neighborhood where crumbling and irregular section planes are creating trip hazards .

GABLES Sign Refurbishment

THE GABLES sign at the corner of Lawyers' Hill Road and Summer Home Terrace has been repaired by Atlantic Signworks. The cedarwood sign was re-painted, and a new, more durable PVC backing was installed. This refurbishment, together with a new, seasonal planting of flowers has helped to make the entryway to our community more inviting.

Lawn Improvements

Our landscaping company (Oak Tree Landscaping) will core aerate and overseed several sections of the common-property lawn areas this Autumn. This hasn't been done in years, and is sorely needed. Please help the grass get a strong growth-start by avoiding heavy foot traffic, and by promptly picking up pet waste.



The Docket

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DUMPSTERS CANCELLED

As we explained in our last issue (June 2011) of *The Docket*, Howard County has discontinued its program of offering dumpsters for periodic community clean-ups.

Based on this shift in Howard County policy, all future dumpster weekends for the *The Gables* are cancelled. Shown below is a re-print of the recent mailing from the Howard County Department of Public Works which summarizes its new program for curbside collections of bulk trash.

Curbside Bulk Item Collection

Bulk Plastic Items Collected now

Bulk plastic items such as playhouses & play sets, totes, sheds, lawn furniture and coolers can be recycled. Place these items at the curb on your regular recycling day (unlimited amounts, no need to schedule).

Bulk Trash Items Starting August 1, 2011

Pickup of bulk trash items **must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444 or visiting HowardCountyBulkPickup.org**. Bulk trash items (individual items which do not fit in trash cans) such as mattresses, box springs, chairs, sofas, dressers, and tables will be collected. Place these items at the curb on your regular trash day. A maximum of 4 bulk trash items will be collected per pickup. Items must be able to be lifted by two collection crew members (larger items will be tagged and left for the resident's disposal).

Bulk Metal Items Starting October 2011

Pickup of bulk metal items **must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444**. This includes metal file cabinets, appliances, lawn mowers, exercise equipment and swing sets. Please remove doors from refrigerators, and drain oil and gas from garden equipment.

NOTE: It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610).

Bulk trash and metal collection must be scheduled.

Place items at the curb by 6 am (no earlier than 6 pm the night before).

Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants.

Items Not Accepted

Ammunition	Dead animals	Medical waste
Asbestos	Drum containers/fuel & oil tanks	Mirrors/plate glass
Ashes	Explosives	Sawdust
Carpet	Firearms	Stumps and logs
Compressed gas tanks	Household hazardous waste	Tires
Computer monitors*	(poisons, acids, caustics)	TVs*
Construction & demolition debris	Liquids including paint, oil, etc.	

*Electronics should be recycled at the Alpha Ridge Landfill or through customer take-back programs.

Additional information about these Howard County programs may be obtained by visiting the website for the Bureau of Environmental Services at

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=815>

The Docket

Hurricane Irene took its toll on our community in August, with several homes suffering some property damage, and many homes without power across multiple periods of time.

Fortunately, none of the damage was severe, and no injuries were reported.



The storm basins on Latchlift Court and Summer Home Terrace effectively served their purpose.



The Landscape Committee arranged for quick removal of downed community-property trees. Four trees were taken down completely, and damaged branches were cut from several others.



The Docket



Neighbors "banded" together to prepare for the onslaught of wind and rain.

By the time the storm was over, fallen trees had caused most of the damage to properties in our neighborhood. Roofing repairs were also a common post-storm need.

