



The Docket

<u>Inside this Issue</u>	Page
WELCOME to New Neighbors	1
Maryland 511 Website	1
BGE's <i>Smart Meter</i> Program	1
Architecture & Landscape Updates	2
Community Chimney-Cleaning	2
Community Sidewalk Repairs	2
Elkridge Assembly Rooms	3



Please extend a warm GABLES **WELCOME** to our new neighbors:

- H.O.A. BOARD MEMBERS**
- President:** Chris Heinrich
- Vice-President:** Brian Kelly
- Treasurer:** Laura Johnson
- Secretary:** Brenda Schweiger
- Member-At-Large:** Lance Johnson

Patrick Shea and Lisa Miles and family
5821 Judge Dobbin Court

Erik & Kelsey Gregg
6234 Latchlift Court

Mike & Christine Matney and family
6205 Graftons View Court

A current listing of all HOA Board members and all GALH Committees and members is available on the Gables website www.thegablesinfo.com. Navigate to: **Gables HOA/Board and Committees**. Contact information for all GALH groups can also be found on the website at the **Contact Us** tab.

MARYLAND "511" Travel Information

Maryland 511 is the state's official travel resource, providing travelers with reliable and current traffic information, as well as links to other transportation services.

In addition to general information about road and weather conditions, such as snow-clearing progress and road construction notices, the site contains up-to-the-minute traffic highlights and other public transportation transit advisories.

You can even customize the page to reflect your daily commute!

To "know before you go", visit www.md511.org

Community Calendar (& upcoming GABLES events)

Deadline to sign-up for chimney-cleaning group project
July 1st
Start-up of sidewalk repairs
Approx. End of August
(see articles on Page 2)

BGE BEGINS "SMART METER" INSTALLATION PROGRAM

In case you missed the notices that have been enclosed in your recent utility bills, BGE is converting all home and business gas and electric meters to "Smart Meters". Smart Meters are advanced digital devices that capture and store energy consumption data in much more detail than the current meters, and they can communicate electronically with BGE offices. **Howard County** installations are scheduled for the timeframe between **December 2012 and May 2013**. BGE will be telling us about the new features and capabilities of the meters and providing more details about the installation process in utility bill enclosures throughout the rest of this year.

For more information, check out the BGE website: <http://www.bge.com/learnshare/smartgrid>

Architecture & Landscape Committee Updates

Architecture News



GABLES Super-Discount on Chimney Cleaning and Inspection

As another group project in service of our community, the Architecture Committee has arranged for a “super” deal from **The Fireplace Doctor**.

For **only \$49**, a service technician will

- brush and vacuum-clean the inside of your chimney (damper and flue),
- inspect the inside and outside of the chimney for dangerous cracks, wear, or leaks, and
- leave you a quote for recommended repairs, which you can choose to pursue or not.

Basic chimney-cleaning services in this area normally cost \$120 or more, so this is a GREAT DEAL.

This is a limited-time, special offer from The Fireplace Doctor, and must be coordinated by The Gables.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this program, **please contact** the Architecture Comm. Chair

Gail Hoffer ghoffer@juno.com 410-379-5525 before July 1st

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION: Everyone knows that a chipped or cracked flue can lead to dangerous chimney fires. But water damage from leaks in the chimney cap, crown, or siding can be just as devastating. If you see rust stains along the outside top of your (brick or aluminum) chimney (at the cap or storm collar), or if you see black mold in your chimney brickwork, chances are high that you have a leak! Failure to repair the problem can lead to very costly structural damage to your flue or firebox, and even to the flooring foundation.

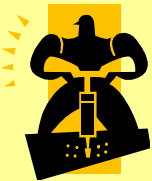
NOTE: This offer is extended merely as a courtesy and convenience to members of The GABLES community; it is neither a solicitation nor an endorsement by The GABLES Association, its Board, or its members. Homeowners are responsible for their individual business relationships with The Fireplace Doctor.

Landscape News

➤ **THANK YOU** to everyone in the community who has been helping to keep our pet-waste issues under control. We’ve seen many more dog owners “proudly” carrying their poop bags, and we all appreciate your efforts!

➤ The Landscape Committee is continuing to work with a tree-cutting service company to clear dead trees and branches from the common-area woods. More pruning and trimming work is scheduled for the later winter months in preparation for next Spring.

➤



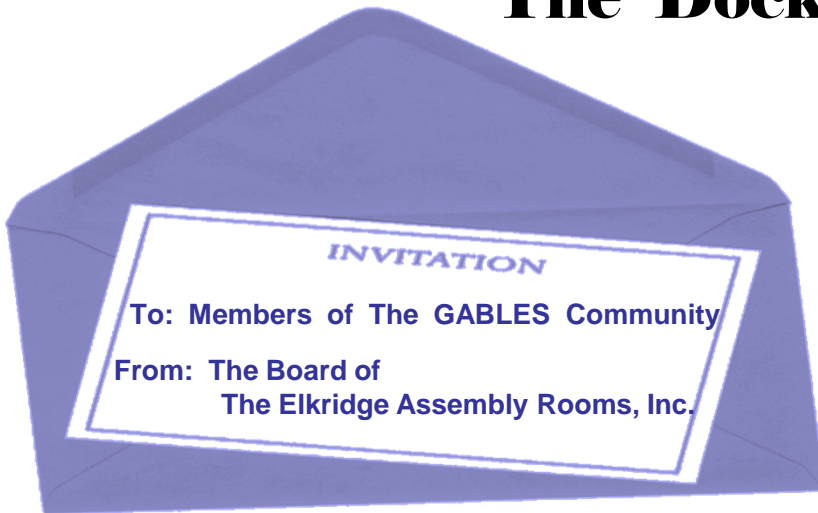
The Howard County Department of Public Works has agreed to replace many of the broken and tilted sections of sidewalk which pose tripping-hazards throughout our community. Repairs will likely commence in late August. Prior to the start of the work, County contractors will paint all repair-targeted areas with a large “X”.

If the sidewalk is in front of or alongside a home, a notecard will also be attached to the house’s front door to advise of the pending construction activity. The process of jack-hammering and removing the marked sidewalk sections and then filling them in with new concrete may take several weeks to complete, so your patience (and careful control of children and pets) during this process will be very much appreciated!



A huge GABLES “thank you” to Gail Hoffer, Architecture and Landscape Committee Chair, who has politely but persistently coordinated with various Howard County DPW officials over the course of the last three years to convince them to include this sidewalk-repair work in their annual project list. Having the County complete these necessary repairs will save our GABLES Association budget and individual homeowners more than \$ 5,000 !

The Docket



Greetings from the Historic Elkridge Assembly Hall

Our neighbors on Lawyers' Hill Road (some of whom reside on registered historic properties) have invited members of The GABLES Community to join their social group:
The Elkridge Assembly Rooms, Inc.

The group meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month in the Historic Assembly Room building on Lawyers' Hill Rd for group pot-luck dinners, socializing, and general community information-sharing. The Assembly Hall (located on the left-hand side of Lawyer's Hill Road about 0.3 miles after you turn right from Summer Home Terrace) has no heat and no restroom facilities, so the pot-luck dinners usually run only from April through October each year. Anyone who wants to attend is asked to bring a hot or cold dish sufficient to feed 6-8 people, along with your own place settings and beverages. Parking is available along Old Lawyers' Hill Road, or along the driveway of the Bonniewood property at 6117 Lawyers' Hill Rd.

Their **Annual Meeting will be held this year on June 18th**, in coordination with the monthly Pot-Luck dinner.

In addition to their monthly gatherings, the Association sponsors several larger, family-friendly events each year:

- ❖ In the Spring or early Summer, they conduct a group **Adopt-a-Road clean-up along Lawyers' Hill Road**. This year, members will meet on **June 30th at 8am at the Assembly Hall** to coordinate clean-up activity on Lawyers' Hill Road from Montgomery Rd to Levering Road. Generally, the project takes no more than an hour and a half. Coffee, pastries, and mimosas [YAY!] will be served at the Assembly Hall after the clean-up is completed.
- ❖ An annual **4th of July Event** is held at the Assembly Hall and on the property across the street. Festivities begin at 12 noon with a Pot Luck lunch (dishes are brought by individual members), with hot dogs, hamburgers, and beverages provided by the Association. Around 1:30pm, the gathering will move across the street for lawn games and children's games, including hay rides and chicken races. The party will conclude by mid-afternoon.
- ❖ Other events that have been hosted in past years include Wine Tastings in the Spring and an Oktoberfest celebration in the Fall.

Annual dues for membership in the Assembly Hall association are \$25 per individual, or \$50 per family. Dues are used to maintain the historic Assembly Hall, and to help fund some of the annual social events. Their fiscal year starts July 1st, so dues are generally collected at the 4th of July party or at the June or July Pot Luck meetings. Payment can be paid in cash or by a check written to "The Elkridge Assembly Rooms, Inc.", and may hand delivered as mentioned above or mailed to:

The Elkridge Assembly Rooms, Inc.
Attn: Wendy Ng, Treasurer
6090 Lawyers Hill Rd.
Elkridge, MD 21075

Anyone wishing further information about the association and its activities are invited to contact the current Board President:

Patrick Larkin via e-mail at patrickwljr@hotmail.com or by phone at **(410) 796 4483**