



The Docket



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Upcoming Website Changes



The Gables' website
www.thegablesinfo.com
is undergoing some
renovations this summer.

The changes, which should be completed by early Autumn, are being made to reduce our costs, and to include some new hyperlink and e-mail capabilities for Board and Committee members.

The website address will remain the same. Notices and instructions for logging onto the site with a new, temporary password will be e-mailed directly to currently-registered users. 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, or if you would like to participate on the Website Committee, please Contact our Webmaster Brenda Schweiger at bkschweiger7@msn.com

H.O.A. BOARD MEMBERS

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

Contact information for all HOA Board Members is available on the Gables website:
www.thegablesinfo.com

Community Calendar

(upcoming GABLES events)

▶ Autumn dumpster weekend

CANCELLED ! See Page 3



SUMMERTIME FUN AT "ELKRIDGE DAYS"



Thanks to the leadership of GECA (The Greater Elkridge Community Association), local businesses and civic organizations are pooling their resources to sponsor "ELKRIDGE DAYS" festivities this summer, resurrecting a former community tradition in the Elkridge area.

This year's schedule includes

...A sunset concert at the large pavilion in Rockburn Park on Friday, August 19th

...A parade along Old Washington Boulevard (beginning at 9am) on Saturday, August 20th

...Carnival-type fun at Rockburn Park after the parade on Saturday, August 20th

More information, and forms for parade-group or carnival-vendor participation, can be found on the GECA website at www.geca-elkridge.org

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"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:

Doug Link

Doug Link (6210 Graftons View Court) is a current member of The Elkridge Youth Organization (EYO) Baseball Committee. Most recently, he finished serving two years on the Board of EYO as both Recreation Baseball Commissioner and Hurricane Travel Baseball Commissioner. Doug's family loves the game of baseball and the life lessons it teaches. He has coached each of his 3 boys in various capacities over the past 8 years with the support of his wife Kim.

"Our children are what keep us alive and remind us why we married our spouse and decided to raise a family. As coaches, we teach them the discipline of the game, the respect it demands and the teamwork it takes to succeed; for it is that discipline, respect and teamwork that will make them model citizens and parents in the future. This wonderful game of baseball creates our next generation. They learn that, no matter what, if you give it your best (whatever your best is), no one can ask for anything more."

The EYO baseball program fields roughly 800 players between the ages of 5 – 17 each calendar year. Games are played at both Rockburn Branch Park and various local public school fields. In the Fall of 2010, Doug, together with several members of the Board and Baseball Committee, began to work with County Executive Ken Ulman and multiple members of his staff to secure much needed improvements to the Rockburn Park baseball fields and facilities. Recent and future changes are intended to make the stadium field one of the best in Howard County, mirroring the home of the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

Over the Memorial Day weekend, Hurricane Travel Baseball (with Doug's oversight) hosted the **Stars and Strikes Baseball Tournament**. Over 100 teams of kids from PA, DE, NJ, and VA travelled to the competition. The Hurricanes took home the first place trophies in both the 8U and 13U age groups... YAY Elkridge!

Over the July 4th weekend, EYO sponsors the annual **Machine Pitch Cal Ripken Tournament**.

Proceeds from both tournaments are used to support operating costs and capital needs for the teams & fields.

The Elkridge Youth Organization is a 100% volunteer organization covering basketball, softball, baseball, tennis and soccer. There are several sports commissioner and officer openings coming open this Fall. Please consider volunteering. Feel free to contact Doug at 410-796-8421, or visit the Elkridge Youth Organization website: www.eyosports.org

Architecture & Landscape Committee Update

ARCHITECTURAL NEWS

Powerwashing

With many Gables homeowners interested in having their homes power-washed this Summer to remove a build-up of dirt, dust, mold, and general "crud" 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.

Downspout and Sump-Pump Drainage

During the annual property inspections last Autumn, the Committee noticed that a number of homeowners have resorted to using ground-level black plastic corrugated piping to prevent downspout and sump-pump discharges from seeping back into their houses.

While this "solution" can be effective at re-directing water away from the house's foundation, it is unsightly, poses a tripping hazard to anyone on the property, can become a home for unwanted critters (think frogs and snakes!), and will destroy any grass underneath it.

Some alternative suggestions for drainage control can be found at

<http://www.ndspro.com/images/stories/pdfs/drainage/principles-of-exterior-drainage-quick-review.pdf>

We have learned that Howard County prohibits cutting or drilling into the curb for the purpose of installing drain-pipe discharge outlets, so we are unfortunately "stuck" with needing to find on-property solutions to the poor drainage planning of our original architects and construction contractors.

LANDSCAPING NEWS

The Committee has contacted the Howard County Dept. of Highways to request some additional remediation to the standing-water problems in the storm-drain basin on Latchlift Court. We are awaiting their reviews and recommendations.

Also under exploration are options and costs for repairing THE GABLES sign at the corner of Lawyers' Hill Road and Summer Home Terrace.

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COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DUMPSTERS CANCELLED

Howard County is discontinuing its program of offering dumpsters for periodic community clean-ups. The letter below explains the pending changes. More info will be coming to residents in future County mailings, and will also be available on the HoCo website.

Based on this shift in Howard County policy, all future dumpster weekends for the *The Gables* are cancelled. Private dumpster rentals have been explored, but they tend to be costly, and very high fines are levied if the dumpsters are overweight or over-full, or if we have tried to dispose of prohibited materials. (All of these are problems we have encountered in the past when we used the HoCo dumpsters.)

So, for the present, we will simply work as individual homeowners within the parameters of the new program.



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 514 ■ Columbia Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6444

Evelyn E. Tomlin, P.E, Chief, Bureau of Environmental Services
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FAX 410-313-6490
TDD 410-313-2323

NOTICE TO: COMMUNITIES SCHEDULED FOR COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DUMPSTERS

FROM: MARK A. KREIS
CHIEF, COLLECTIONS DIVISION

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF DUMPSTERS/NEW CURBSIDE BULK COLLECTION STARTS

Howard County is discontinuing the Community Clean-up Program effective June 30, 2011. The County is starting a curbside bulk trash item collection beginning on or about August 1, 2011 and a curbside scrap metal collection program in September of 2011.

Curbside Bulk Item Collection is available for:

- 1) Large Metal Items
Pickup of large metal items must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444. This includes metal swing sets, file cabinets, appliances, lawn mowers, exercise equipment. Please remove doors from refrigerators, and drain oil and gas from lawn mowers.
NOTE: It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610).
- 2) Large Plastic Items
Large 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 (no need to schedule). Unlimited amounts will be accepted.
- 3) Large Trash Items
Large trash items (individual items which do not fit in trash cans) such as mattresses, box springs, non-metal sinks, chairs, sofas, dressers, and tables will be collected. Place these items at the curb on your regular trash day. Maximum of 4 large 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). To schedule a collection, call 410-313-6444 or visit [website].

Additional information on the bulk item collection will be available soon on the Howard County website and other media.

Problems occurred with the Community Clean-up Dumpsters such as dumpster overfilling, collection of the dumpsters and subsequent clean-up of the items left on the ground around the dumpsters. Also unacceptable items were placed in the dumpsters such as tires, paints, liquids, etc. causing special handling. Other items that could have been recycled or placed in with the regular trash were also placed in the dumpsters. The curbside bulk item collection program will eliminate these problems and will provide more service more often.

We apologize for any inconvenience if you have already scheduled the Community Clean-up dumpsters for the fall clean-up, but anything scheduled after July 1, 2011 is cancelled.