



The WREporter

The Voice of West River Estates
www.westriverestates.org

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Letter from the President

Vince Penkala

Hard to believe that just over 100 days ago we were up to our armpits in snow. Even my Michigan-born “take-anything” weather attitude began to falter at the end of the last big storm. How quickly seasons change and what “was” accelerates to a distant memory. That said, the forecast for the coming weeks puts us right back in step for muggy nights, aromatic honeysuckle and bat-size mosquitoes.



Since Springs' arrival, the WREHOA and our contractors have been busy power-washing fences, replenishing mulch beds (including the play-set), clearing clogged drainage areas, removing dead trees, adding plantings and more. There are also several projects in the works including an improved path connecting Lavender and Birch Courts, a pilot improvement project for court easements, and the installation of vehicle barriers at the entrance of paths and more.

In addition to annual care and maintenance, the HOA is making an effort to expand community outreach. Accordingly, I am pleased to announce a new partnership with the West/Rhode Riverkeeper organization (<http://www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org/>). Look for the enclosed article and upcoming events.

Looking forward 100 days, it's hard to imagine anything but warm weather and green leaves. Reality is that I'll be humming Don Henley's, “Boys of Summer”, which has always been my lyrical greeting to autumn. Time is fleeting my friends. Get outside and enjoy the walking paths, pier and more. Just be sure to avoid those hybrid mosquito-bats.

Community Reminders

- Please watch your speed
- Please do not use common areas for dumping yard refuse
- Please do not park on sidewalks

Water treatment and Termites!

- If you've not tested your water in the past year (or more), consider taking a sample in for analysis. At least two homes recently tested positive for bacteria which required bleach-treating the well.
- Same goes for termites. A resident attending the Spring General Meeting discussed his recent invasion. Better to test now than be surprised later!

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Landscaping Committee

Jack Mateosky



This spring we have been very focused on restoring our neighborhood to 'status-quo' so-to-speak, following the brutal winter we all endured. We lost many trees and shrubs and sustained a substantial amount of damage this winter, throughout the neighborhood.

With that said, we will most likely undertake fewer big initiatives this year, but we are following through on a couple:

- 1) Continuing the replacement of the street-lining cherry trees which have been damaged by vehicles and/or weather with Crape Myrtle and/or Crimson Maple trees, this will continue to be an on-going process as needed.
- 2) We are presently working with the county to obtain approval to improve the path between Lavender and Birch courts. There is an area which is chronically underwater on that path that we are looking to improve for foot and bike traffic year-round.

As members of our fine community, I encourage everyone to keep up the GREAT work that goes on to update and maintain the appearance of our homes, lawns and surrounding area. The neighborhood really does look good and we should ALL be proud of the cleanliness and overall appearance of our community.

As a gentle reminder, whenever possible, try and keep automobiles on your own driveway and off of the grass and sidewalks, and please remember to pick up after your pets and that occasional piece of trash that shows up.

WRE HOA holds regular monthly meetings as well as two group meetings per year. We regularly review requests by neighbors for new

projects to consider. We need everyone to participate in the process of keeping our neighborhood looking nice!!

As always, feel free to call me or better yet, email me at: jmateosk@ciena.com
Phone: 410.867.3226

Covenant Committee

Kelly Brantner

Welcome to summer and greetings from your covenants committee once more.

As always we could like to thank our neighbors for all of your help in keeping our neighborhood beautiful. We know that at times the rules set forth by the HOA seem extreme, but we assure you that it is for the benefits of all of our residents.

As many of you may have noticed, rather than mushrooms, this spring it is brick mailboxes that have been popping up all over our community. We would like to thank most of you for your timely request for HOA approval for any modification to your homes. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that whenever you do decide to make an alteration to the exterior of your home's structure, per the HOA guidelines please make sure to get prior approval. In most cases the HOA's architectural committee will approve most requests, and in the rare instance that a request is denied, we will give you an explanation as to the reason for the denial, and work with you to make modifications – as best we can while adhering to the covenants – of getting your request approved.

Everyone in our community also did a great job in the snow removal this winter during our record snowfall. Your efforts helped to keep our road navigable during a tough time as well as keeping our community the envy of all of Southern Maryland (Northern too, but we don't want everyone to get a big head). However all of that moisture brought an unwelcome addition back to our neighborhood – mold. Many of you have already brought out the power washers to clean

the mold off to your homes, but there are still a large numbers of homes out there that need to be cleaned off. We would like to remind you that this rule is in our covenants not only because it helps keep our community looking great, but also mold can pose health hazards for your family and neighbors. West River Estates has an agreement with Wash Rite on power washing offering a good deal to have your home cleaned. You can find a link to them in our community website, www.westriverestates.org.

Also, as the temperatures are rising, the gardening equipment has emerged. Amongst the gardening equipment, the hoses have returned. Please remember that our covenants require you to keep your hoses out of sight in the front of your homes. Unless stored in a container obstructing them from view, a hose stored – I reiterate only STORED – in front of your homes is not keeping in with the agreed covenants.

Finally, your covenants committee would like to remind you that now that the holidays are over, “yard art” is not permitted. That means no pink flamingos, garden gnomes, lawn jockeys, bird baths, or other decorative touches are allowed. Of course if you ever have a question as to what is permitted, please feel free to send us an e-mail and we would be happy to give you an up or down on whether or not it is an approved item. You can send your questions to westriverhoa@gmail.com.

Thank you all again for your cooperation and have a wonderful summer.

West River Estates Directory

By Mia Jones

Welcome to our new residents. If you would like to be included in our West River Estates Directory please email or complete the following form. We only include people that forward their information. Please send in all changes by July1.

West River Estates Directory

To be included in the directory, please submit the following information to Mia Jones at 641 Plantation Blvd. or Miabjones@aol.com.

Last Name: _____

Family Members' First Names: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Upcoming Event



WREHOA Golf Outing
Sunday, June 13th
10:00 am
South River Golf Club
\$68.00 cart included

Please R.S.V.P. to debpatrick@comcast.net by June 7th

From the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society

By Mavis Daly

GRAND OPENING OF RAIN GARDEN AND ECO TOUR AT SHADY SIDE MUSEUM SUNDAY, JUNE 13

The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society invites people interested in improving the quality of water flowing into the West River and Bay to attend the Grand Opening of its bio-retention project at the Captain Salem Avery Museum, 1418 E.W. Shady Side Road. Featured will be a newly installed rain garden near the Boat Shed, rain barrels, Riverkeeper information about lawn care, a new educational Eco-Tour of the Museum grounds, and a wealth of material in the Library. The event will take place Sunday, June 13, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Funding was secured from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for a storm water management project, and the Four Rivers Heritage Area for the printing of a brochure for a self-guided Heritage Eco Tour, and for rain gardens signs. Greenstreet Gardens is donating over 500 plants and shrubs. They will be planted by volunteers on Saturday, May 22, at 9 a.m. with a rain date of the following day.

The goal of the project is to divert as much water as possible away from the Bay and into the garden where it is filtered, cooled off, and slowed down. Guided by professional consultants, the Going Green Committee is overseeing the installations of the rain garden, which will be a peaceful oasis on the grounds of the Museum.

The Shady Side Rural Heritage Society has partnered with two Captain's Circle sponsors, BayVue Consulting, Inc., and Greenstreet Gardens in sponsoring its 2010 events.

HISTORY CAMP TO BE HELD AT SHADY SIDE MUSEUM JULY 26 TO 30

"Remembering When," an active exploration of early life in Annapolis and South County, is the subject of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society's Summer Camp. This hands-on history camp for children ages 8 to 13 will be held at the Captain Salem Avery Museum, 1418 E.W. Shady Side Road, July 26 to 30 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Among the adventures the camp explorers will discover are the Jefferson Patterson "trunk," a treasure trove of early Native American artifacts; whether money really did grow on trees or plants, revealing how tobacco was used as currency and grown in Anne Arundel County; what the Peggy Stewart was and who burned it; the wealthiest man in Annapolis during its "Golden Age," William Paca, will take the group on a tour of his home and even introduce the group to his cook. This is just a sampling of the educational, entertaining activities campers will have at this history camp.

Assuring the success of the camp is Georgia Ladd, the Director, who was recently named the Preserve America Gilder Lehrman Maryland History Teacher of the Year for 2009.

Registration is \$140 for members of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society, and \$150 for non-members. There is a \$10 discount for additional siblings. For more information and to register, visit the Museum's web site at www.shadysidemuseum.org, or call the office at 410 867 4486. Those interested are urged to register early because this is a very popular, day long, well planned and taught summer camp.

BayVue Consulting, Inc., and Greenstreet Gardens are members of the Captain's Circle, corporate sponsors of the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper

By Chris Trumbauer

RIVERKEEPER and Executive Director

West/Rhode Riverkeeper is a local, grass-roots organization dedicated to improving the health of our rivers. As a waterfront community, residents of West River Estates have a strong attachment to the natural environment around them. Although we all want what's best for the rivers, it's also clear that just by living here we can have an impact. That's why it's important to be good stewards of our local environment. Fortunately, there are some easy things we can all do to lessen our impact and improve our rivers' health.

In 2009, West/Rhode Riverkeeper launched our "Growing Green" sustainable lawncare program. Working with Dr. Frank Gouin, a University of Maryland professor and the *Bay Weekly's* Bay Gardener, and Matt Ciminelli, a landscape professional, we put together a simple method for maintaining a healthy lawn that is also healthy for the rivers.

The core of our program is our Growing Green Pledge. It contains ten common sense provisions that you and your lawncare professional can adopt. Keeping your grass tall (at least 3 ½ inches) will promote deep, strong roots and crowd out weeds. Maintaining a 6 foot buffer area around the water's edge will form a natural line of defense on the shoreline. Applying fertilizer only when needed will keep the nutrients in the soil, and prevent nutrient pollution from entering the rivers. These principles are proven methods for a beautiful, sustainable lawn.

The Growing Green program can be even more effective when combined with home stormwater management practices. Rain barrels, rain gardens, green roofs and other methods help rainwater soak back into the ground where it belongs, rather than enter our rivers as muddy runoff. West/Rhode Riverkeeper is a partner in the Rainscaping Campaign. The RainScaping Campaign promotes a comprehensive approach to easy-to-use solutions to clean up our streams, creeks, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay. RainScaping techniques effectively manage stormwater runoff at the source, while protecting natural resources and providing wildlife habitat.

West River Estates residents who would like to learn more about West/Rhode Riverkeeper can visit our website at www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org. You can also contact our office at 410-867-7171. We are looking forward to building a partnership with West River Estates to protect the West River.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper works to protect families and communities by stopping pollution.

We strive for healthy and safe rivers and streams.

We work together with communities to enforce environmental law, promote restoration, and advocate for better environmental policy.

