



# The Anneslie Times

Fall 2015

## The President's Corner



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Hello Anneslie. I hope that you all had a great summer and enjoyed time outdoors, ideally chatting it up with your neighbors on the sidewalk. Fortunately, the heat wasn't unbearable. We can be a bit appreciative of some heat related to the new asphalt recently laid on our streets. The Board has been pushing the County to repave ever since we received new curbs many years ago. It's finally arrive with what I hope was a fairly minor inconvenience. The "No Parking" signs placed by the contractor were originally a bit premature, but they appear to have done a better job at informing us as the actual work on our streets got closer.

Unfortunately, not all good things come without a bit of pain. Several trees have been damaged by the paving crews and may not survive. We hope for the best. These trees generally lie in the area between the sidewalk and curb. This ground is owned by the County and so are the trees. If the tree near your home was damaged, please call the County to express your disappointment and seek its assistance in saving or removing it.

I, for one, like to trees in this area, but the County no longer allows them if the width is less than eight feet, unless other protections are installed. Speaking of damaged trees, a tree on Holly Lane between Regester and Murdock was damaged a couple of months ago by a large panel truck. The truck was believed to be shortcutting through the neighborhood. Thank you to all neighbors who helped to save this and other damaged trees.

Other roadwork includes the installation of a crosswalk along Regester Avenue near Edgewood Road and Copeleigh Road. Thanks go out to Colby Stiles and Beth Wilkerson at 707 Regester Avenue who eagerly agreed to lose a couple of parking spaces for the installation of an island that narrows the roadway and more clearly identifies the new crosswalk. We are glad that the work was completed in time for the first day of school.

For those of you who haven't noticed, the Anneslie Community sign has returned. After several months of fabrication of the new sign to replace the one destroyed by some overly  
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# Anneslie Community Association

(rev. 5/15)

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Rick Kiegel	(410) 372-0258
<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Scott McGovern	(410) 377-7948
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Julie Kromkowski	(410) 377-4254
<b>TREASURER</b>	Robert Fisher	(410) 206-4810

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Julia Calkins	(410) 372-0258
Rob Hardesty	(410) 377-2074
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Mark Lewandowski	(410) 377-2206
Pedro Sales	(410) 609-4177
Kate Fiering - Communications	(410) 598-2005
Kris Strong - Communications	(410) 377-6047
Lisa Bergstrom - Anneslie Times	(410) 370-3453

Block Captain Liaison - Rachel Rock Palermo

## BLOCK CAPTAINS

### Anneslie Road

533	Helen Kennedy	(410) 377-0608
629	Andy/Emma Dalton	(410) 377-6089
700	Maria Brown	(410) 377-7875

### Dunkirk Road

501	Jean/Michael Smith	(410) 372-0519
621	Kristin/Tom Fan	
723	Gail Vernick & 703 Jesse Kaplin	(410) 377-2541

### Murdock Road

527	Karen Buch	(410) 377-3080
607	Donna Schultz	(410) 377-4432
707	Jen Hudak	(410) 868-6100

### Overbrook Road

525	Amy/Fred Kline	(410) 377-6392
625	Melanie Pyne	(410) 853-7509
730	Michele/Christopher Howe	(410) 296-5388

### Regester Avenue

531	Ellen/Jim Sheridan	410) 377-3066
611	Sue McGovern	(410) 377-7948
713	Wendy Faraone	(410) 377-0296

### Windwood Road

518	Mary Carol/Bob Venanzi	(410) 377-4918
608	Stephanie Dieter	(410) 377-5168

# Block News

Rachel Rock Palermo is the Block Captain Liaison. Contact your Block Captain or Rachel at [rachel@rachelrockphotography.com](mailto:rachel@rachelrockphotography.com) with block news.

## 500 Overbrook

We welcome the Baran Family to 517 Overbrook! Julia, 11, Max, 9, and sweet dog, Brody, as well as parents, Ali and Jeff, moved here in July from Phoenix, MD and are excited to be in our neighborhood.

## 500 Windwood

We welcome Matt Penater and Ashley Wagner, who moved to 522 Windwood Road in July.

## 500 Murdock

Karen and Chris Stark moved to 521 Murdock in June from Rodgers Forge. They have three sons: Will is starting kindergarten at Stoneleigh, Thomas is a senior at THS, and Sam is a student at CCBC.

Charlie Knott of 517 Murdock will start MICA as a freshman this fall.

The Tomasetti family just returned from a 6 week visit to family in a coastal Italian town. Welcome back!

700 Murdock - We are looking forward to meeting the new additions to our block in the upcoming weeks.

## 500 Anneslie

Congratulations to Sam Kiegel, son of Rick Kiegel and Julie Calkins (519 Anneslie). Sam graduated from Towson High in May, 2015 and is going to study film this fall at Towson University.

## 700 Anneslie

Sadly, a longtime neighbor, Donald D'Ambrogi of 733 Anneslie, passed away last month. Kathy Dickinson wrote this tribute to Don D'Ambrogi:

Longtime Anneslie resident Don D'Ambrogi died of cancer at his home on July 15. Don was married to Mary for 52 years. She was "the love of his life." They raised four children in their home at 733 Anneslie Road: Trey, Lisa, Mark and Maria. They had seven grandchildren who called Don "Sir," because according to Don, "his kids never gave him the respect he deserved," so he wanted it from his grandkids! Don and Mary were fixtures of the neighborhood: holding family gatherings at Stoneleigh Lanes, supervising neighborhood home improvements projects and taking long walks - although Don was never able to keep up with Mary because he would need to stop to talk to everyone. He was the kindest, sweetest man, a true "neighbor" in the old-fashioned sense of the word.

He had the brightest smile and the most wonderful sparkling eyes. Don never met a stranger and once he knew you, he remembered everything about you: your kids' names, where you worked, where you went to school. He was very special. As a memorial, Don asked us all to be kind and pay it forward. He will be missed.

## 500 Regester

We welcome Kelly and Justin Parker, their two young sons and their good dog. They moved here from Raleigh, NC and live at 503 Regester.

## 600 Regester

Ryan and Samia Gatgens' son, Samuel, celebrated his first birthday on July 9th. He lives at 621 Regester along with his 3-year-old brother, Joaquin.

## 700 Dunkirk

A warm welcome to Liesl Blumenthal and her children, who moved from Owings Mills two months ago to 727 Dunkirk. Coby, age 13, attends Gilman School and Emma, 11 years old, attends Roland Park Country Day School. Liesl is really enjoying the neighborhood and we are so excited to have her and her lovely children on our block!

## 707 Dunkirk

We welcome Lindsay Grant and Rex Foster and their two children, Vera, age 5 and Rowen, age 3. Lindsay works at Hopkins in Public Health and Rex works for Catholic Charities. They moved from Baltimore City. We are so happy to have them as neighbors!

Jenny Powers and her husband Bob Powers of 726 Dunkirk, which has been in Jenny's family since 1955, are working hard on their ever-changing garden (and LOVE being grandparents). Jenny's children, the Kiliszewski kids (now adults) who grew up at 726 Dunkirk, have been busy: Jeremy married Emily Etlinger four years ago and they now have two children, Charlie (age 2) and Kate (2 months). They live Gallatin, a town near Nashville, TN. Jacob married Katie Wolf on May 9 of this year. After their honeymoon in Paris, they settled down in a townhome in Loch Raven Village. Jessica is an office manager for a landscaping office in Knoxville, TN.

## The President's Corner

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energetic Loyola University students, we can again enjoy the recognition that our community deserves. While we hope the sign will be there for years to come, we now face a different problem. The owner of the property where the sign was installed has sadly passed away and the property is now up for sale. The Board is working to obtain an easement from the heir but may have to rely on the kindness of the future owner.

Lastly, the Board hosted a cornhole tournament in June. Ten teams vied for first and second place trophies along with a few gifts from area business. The winner's names and photographs from the event can be found on

page 6. We hope to continue this event next year and gain greater participation from all residents. See the 2015 Events Calendar below for upcoming events.

Rick Kiegel

President, Anneslie Community Association

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Neighbors are reminded to pull in their trash cans and recycling so that they are out of sight of the street. Thank you!

Unwanted books? You can leave them at 505 Murdock for donation to **The Maryland Book Bank**. See [www.marylandbookbank.org](http://www.marylandbookbank.org) for more information.

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# Welcome Back to School!

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The staff at Dumbarton Middle School is ready and looking forward to welcoming students back to school on August 24, 2015. Our building is looking fantastic due to the hard work of Paul Soman, our acting Building Operations Supervisor and his staff. They have worked hard all summer to make the building shine for us! We are also excited to be a BCPS Lighthouse School this year. That means that our staff will be in the forefront of transforming teaching and learning resulting in a stronger emphasis on critical thinking any analytical skills. We will be providing more personalized learning to our increasingly diverse student population at a time when they will ultimately need to be globally

competitive. Middle school is also a time of many transitions. DMS offers many clubs and after-school opportunities for students to build social skills and explore their personal areas of interest. Our PTA also sponsors monthly social activities for students on Friday evenings. We look forward to a super 2015-2016 school year!

Sue Harris, Principal

*Pictured, left to right: Assistant Principal 8th – Liz Heil; Assistant Principal 7th – Jenn Burch; Principal – Sue Harris; Acting-Building Operations Supervisor– Paul Soman; Assistant Principal 6th– Cheryl Scott*

# Upcoming Events

Get out your calendar and circle the date! **Anneslie's Annual Picnic** will be held on Saturday, September 19, from 4-7 PM, on the 600 block of Overbrook Road. This year's event will include food, drinks, music and a variety of activities for all ages.

The main dish and drinks will be provided by the Community Association. Attendees will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert, and we will need volunteers for setup and cleanup. Contact [secretary@anneslie.org](mailto:secretary@anneslie.org).



The rain date will be Sunday, September 20 in the same location.

Events like the Picnic are supported by dues. If you haven't paid yours yet, there will be a table set up at the event for your convenience!



The **Annual Halloween Parade** will be Saturday, October 31, beginning around 6 p.m. On the 700 block of Dunkirk. It will include dinner, entertainment, and of course, a parade! More details to come on Facebook and [anneslie.org](http://anneslie.org). Dues-paying members whose email addresses we have will receive information by email.

The **Annual Community Association Meeting** will be November 18, 2015. More details to come on Facebook and [anneslie.org](http://anneslie.org). Dues-paying members whose email addresses we have will receive information by email.

**A big thank you to Dot Perry of Gordon's Florist for maintaining the beautiful potted plants on York Road between Dunkirk and Murdock!**

## 2015 Events Calendar

(dates may change as the year progresses)

New Neighbor Party	March 28th
Bowling Night	April 18 <sup>th</sup>
Yard Sale	April 25 <sup>th</sup>
Dumpster Day	May 2nd
Cornhole Tournament	June 13th
Movie Night	August 22nd
<b>Anneslie Picnic</b>	<b>September 19th (rain date September 20th)</b>
<b>Halloween Parade</b>	<b>October 31st</b>
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>November 18th</b>
<b>Santa's Visit</b>	<b>December 14th</b>
<b>Holiday Decoration Judging</b>	<b>December 16th</b>

# Neighborhood Events Recap



and Robert and his partner, Jonathan Boxwell, coming in second. Trophies for first and second place were provided by the Board. First place took home growlers and gift certificates from Pinehurst Liquors and runners up received certificates from Wells Liquors. Thanks to the participants and volunteers, especially Rob Hardesty, who built the official Anneslie cornhole boards. This is sure to be an annual event, so sign up next year to crown a new champion.

Mark Lewandowski, Board Member

90 neighbors voted on the movie for this year's Family Movie Night., held August 22, 2015 on Holly

The inaugural Anneslie cornhole tournament was a big success. Ten teams battled for the Anneslie Cup and bragging rights at the corners of Dunkirk and Maplewood. Each team played four games in their bracket and the top two teams in each bracket moved forward to the elimination round. Local realtor and participant Nate Young provided much needed water on



a very hot June day. The Community Association provided sodas and a d u l t beverages, and Anneslie president Rick Kiegel graciously c o o k e d hamburgers and hot dogs for the contestants.

The final pitted Board members Robert Fisher and Mark Lewandowski against each other, with Mark and his partner, Mike Kohler, being crowned champions,



Lane between Dunkirk & Anneslie Road. The 1982 classic Steven Spielberg film, *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial*, won and made for an exciting evening. It was shown following an ice cream social, for which local dentist Jesse Ritter provided the ice cream. The Community Association provided popcorn and lemonade.

Photos courtesy of Robert Fisher and Dana Dalton

# *Anneslie “Flooded” with News*

Sorry for the pun, but after the extensive summer flooding in our streets, yards, and basements, we need some relief. It's no secret that Anneslie's 93-year old storm drain system has been seriously taxed over the last few months. After the extensive June flooding, I sent a lengthy email and video of our flooded yard and Regester Avenue to the Director of DPW and copied Councilman David Marks, who assured me that the flooding issues that Stoneleigh, Anneslie, and Overbrook (the neighborhood between Wiltondale and the Country Club of Maryland) is a known issue and a top priority.

That email follows:

David - Hoping this finds you well today. I'm taking a little time to “formalize” our latest community concerns regarding flooding and storm drain deficiencies. There's been a lot of Facebook chatter about it, but I wanted to format some thoughts that you could send up the chain. The frequency and severity of flooding throughout Anneslie has gotten much worse this summer. Granted, it's been a VERY rainy summer, but the conditions seem to be much more rampant at even a mild rain event. We've seen yards, basements, garages, and vehicles flooded several times and the culprit appears to be the inadequate storm drain system that is supposed to drain the County roads. It appears that the streets are relying on discharging runoff to the “private” underground network of small pipes that drain our yards, as designed in the 1920's, and the volume of water is simply too great.

I've attached a simple sketch of but one area that I'm personally familiar with, as I live at 611 Regester Avenue, near the intersection of Wardman Road and Regester. It's apparent that many of the roads in Stoneleigh drain downhill directly to Wardman, which is acting as a collector and taking ALL of the runoff (there are no storm drain inlets in these feeding side streets nor in Wardman), and then dumping at the intersection of Wardman and Regester. Existing here are several inlet locations, that all empty into the same pipe, which runs somewhere between neighboring homes and enters

a pipe that runs parallel to Regester, behind our homes. It should also be noted that the pipes beneath the Wardman / Regester intersection are now compromised, causing a large sinkhole which has been covered by steel plates.

This pipe system and series of inlets is incapable of handling this water and it floods the streets and our yards regularly. My yard has had over a foot of water in it several times this year alone. A video of the June 27<sup>th</sup> storm is attached as well. As this water over-runs the system, it in turn floods adjacent yards and streets throughout Anneslie. And this same thing happens at similar locations on other streets. Mine is but one example.

As you recall, Mr. Sheldon Epstein came to our Annual Meeting last November to discuss such issues and basically told us that we are on our own. He was not very helpful and seemed incapable of grasping the severity of these issues for us. We refuse to accept that this flooding is our issue alone to deal with. It's fine to say that the system of underground pipes that run beneath our properties (not in any public easements) is our responsibility as it drain our yards. BUT, it is not OK then to rely on this same over-burdened system to also drain the PUBLIC street network. To my knowledge, there are no public storm sewer mains in Regester Avenue, or in any of our streets. The inlets from all the roads enter the system on our properties. I believe the County should perform a THOROUGH study of the drainage patterns, existing pipe and inlet network, and then design an adequate system to address the runoff from the PUBLIC ROADS. The system that exists in our properties is fine to handle the drainage of our private yards, but cannot continue to serve as a defacto public storm sewer system, which should likely be located in those very roads and the existing County right-of-way.

Again, thanks for your continued responsiveness to our needs and concerns.

Following that email, I received assurances from

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## **Anneslie Flooded with News**

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Councilman Marks that our concerns would be forwarded to DPW, but I received no response directly from them. David and I talked further as he noted that the greater flooding issues (affecting all three communities) were definitely on the radar of County officials, but that there was no known timetable for action.

Several additional storms followed, culminating in the one on August 24, which again flooded several locations throughout Anneslie and Stoneleigh. The myriad comments, photos, and videos posted on the Anneslie Facebook page served as testament to the severity and expanse of the problem. Again, Councilman Marks and Steve Lafferty (our State Delegate, who happens to live in Stoneleigh) pressed the County for some response. The following email was sent by Mr. Steve Walsh, PE, Chief of the Bureau of Engineering and Construction for Baltimore County, to both of them, and David copied me:

Delegate Lafferty and Councilman Marks,

The area that we are focusing on is bounded by York Road, Stoneleigh Road, Wardman Road and Murdock Road. (the Kingston/ Avondale intersection is within this area)

Our Utilities forces are locating and inspecting via cctv (and cleaning where necessary) this unmapped, unknown, currently on private property circa 1925 drainage system. This part of the investigation will provide us information about the system features (inlets, manholes and pipes) locations and condition. Engineering will then do the appropriate engineering analysis (hydrology analysis and hydraulic analysis) of the existing system and come up with project options and costs based on current storm drain design criteria.

Our folks are working diligently on this issue. Our target is still the end of September, but since we are performing this study using inhouse forces, and our same folks are tasked with looking at drainage issues (and for Utilities sewer issues) countywide, and the rains seem to keep coming, the completion date depends if we get another onslaught of drainage issues from additional rains. We would rather make sure we produce a complete investigation, than an incomplete one.

We have not identified any smoking guns yet, but will keep everyone apprised as we move forward.

Our initial thoughts have been stated before when dealing with drainage problems in other old areas. With current drainage design criteria, occasional surcharging of the systems is expected during intense storms with the safe conveyance of water in the road. This old subdivision was not “designed” for drainage and we are left with those consequences.

Thanks

Steve

The system to which is refers is specifically within the “study area,” but is similar to what also exists throughout Anneslie, built in the early 1920’s by the original developer. I was asked how the proposed “study area” compared with the map of Anneslie and our “hot-spot” areas of concern. I responded with an overlay of the maps and an identification of many areas outside the proposed “study area” and suggested that it be expanded to address the locations “downstream” of the proposed boundaries. While the development of this study is exactly what I had requested in my June email, we eagerly await the results and a proposal for action by the County.

To further in our effort to thoroughly educate the County on the extent of the flooding concerns, **President Rick Kiegel will be sending a survey out to all Anneslie residents via our Constant Contact eBlast system. If we have your email address, as a dues-paying member of the Association, you will receive this survey in the coming weeks.** Please consider joining the Association, for all of the good existing reasons, but also so that your voice can be added to our collective plea for action on this important issue.

Scott A. McGovern, AIA

Vice-President

Anneslie Community Association

# *Ben Starkey's Storm Drain Stenciling Eagle Scout Project*

When it rains in Baltimore, storm water carries trash, yard waste and other pollutants from our streets into the storm drains and directly to our local streams, the Baltimore harbor and Chesapeake Bay. Our storm drains are the mouths to our waterways!

This was Ben Starkey's motivation for his Eagle Scout Project. Ben, a 17 year old Boy Scout from Brown Memorial-Woodbrook Presbyterian Church's Troop 729, decided that he wanted to do something to educate his neighbors in the Baltimore County communities of Anneslie and Stoneleigh to be mindful of not allowing trash, yard waste and other pollutants to be washed into our storm drains. In a project sponsored by Blue Water Baltimore and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Ben organized a project to stencil storm drains in Anneslie and Stoneleigh with "Don't Dump - Chesapeake Bay Drainage."

In April, Ben attended a storm drain stenciling workshop given by his project sponsor, Blue Water Baltimore, to learn about how to organize a stenciling project. With stencils provided by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and traffic cones, reflective vests and safety glasses provided by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, Ben led a group of over 30 volunteer Scouts, parents and family, including many who live in Anneslie and Stoneleigh, to stencil over 120 storm drains and hand out educational flyers in



these two neighborhoods. Ben hopes that this will help raise public awareness about how pollution can start in our own yards and neighborhoods and what everyone can do to prevent it. Ben thanks all the folks in his crews for their good work and the neighbors in Stoneleigh and Anneslie for their encouragement.

As Ben reminded neighbors in his flyer:

You can help keep our streets and streams clean...

- Keep storm drains and your streets clear of leaves and trash
- Keep a lid on your trashcan so trash doesn't blow into the street.
- Pick up trash before it enters the storm drain.



- Call 311 to report dumping, flooding and sewer overflows.
- Plant trees and gardens to absorb stormwater.
- Spread the word to your friends and neighbors!

For more information on storm drain pollution, storm drain stenciling and keeping our waterways clean, visit the websites for Blue Water Baltimore ([www.bluewaterbaltimore.org](http://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org)) and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources ([www.dnr2.maryland.gov/education/Pages/stormdrain.aspx](http://www.dnr2.maryland.gov/education/Pages/stormdrain.aspx)).

Chuck Starkey



# Green News



## New Trees

As we have done since the spring of 2009, Anneslie will partner this fall with Blue Water Baltimore to plant native canopy trees in the neighborhood. This planting will focus on yard trees that are planted 8 feet or more from the sidewalk in front yards, or in side or back yards.

Requirements and limitations for a yard tree:

1. Own the house at the requested location and have a 20' by 10' planting area or wider.
2. Ensure the trees survival to maturity by watering weekly between May and October for the first two years
3. Limit 2 trees per yard.
4. Call Miss Utility a week before the planting (you will be notified before the date).

The cost for yard trees is \$75 and includes tree planting, mulch, tree stakes, ties and slow release watering bag. Trees will be approximately 1-1.5" caliper and 6-8 feet tall.

To order go to: <https://www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/yard-tree-order-form/>

## Existing Trees

Part of the character of our neighborhood comes from the old growth canopy trees and beautiful understory trees. Here are some steps we can take to preserve our existing trees:

1. New neighbors – keep the trees! Please nurture the trees that are in your yard when you arrive. Some of the shade trees were planted by volunteers and through efforts of the community association for the benefit of the entire neighborhood and the larger environmental benefits they provide such as cooler homes, cleaner air and better water quality.

2. Replace any tree that is lost. If a tree must come down, then replace it quickly with a healthy, young canopy shade tree. The new tree will need decades to grow big, so the best time to plant is right away!

3. Remove mulch that touches the bark. Mulch and dirt hold moisture against the tree bark, and the results will be much like holding damp mulch and dirt against our own skin for months. The bark is different from tree

roots, and will eventually break down in moisture, darkness, and lack of airflow. Bacteria, mold and insects will crawl in. The tree's crown will die back, and eventually the entire tree will sicken and die. Keep mulch no more than 2 inches deep and away from the bark. The tree's roots need to get oxygen. That is why most tree roots are only 12 to 18 inches deep. Deep mulch deprives the soil of oxygen, so the roots may grow up into the mulch in search of air. Unlike soil, mulch is unstable and so those roots cannot provide good anchoring for the tree.

4. Remove ivy from trees. English ivy is an invasive plant that kills trees, provides habitat for mosquitoes and rats, smothers native, habitat producing plants and damages structures. The ivy vine roots penetrate the bark allowing moisture and insects to invade. If vines are allowed to climb the tree they will shade the tree to the point of death. They also add so much weight to the tree that branches can break off or the entire tree can topple. To remove ivy from your trees:

- Using a lopper or small pruning saw, carefully cut through all the vines on the tree at shoulder height (or lower if necessary, try to keep at least 12 inches between cuts)

- Then cut through all the vines at the base of the tree. Do not cut into the tree bark!

- Pull away as many of the pieces as you can without damaging the tree bark.

- Paint/treat the remaining cut ends of the vines with a concentrated herbicide like Round-Up. Eventually the vines in the tree will die and fall off. This technique also works for other vines that attack trees.

## Fall Tree Pruning

Anneslie and Stoneleigh volunteers will partner to prune street trees and yard trees planted by the community association in November. If you would like to help out call or e-mail Beth Miller!

Beth Miller  
[bethbonemiller@gmail.com](mailto:bethbonemiller@gmail.com)  
410-377-4369

# Update on Drumcastle Center

Readers of the Winter 2015 *Anneslie Times* will recall the lengthy explanation of the issue surrounding the Kingdom Worship Center (KWC) property and the parking at Drumcastle Center. Although there has been no additional information regarding KWC's efforts to find a buyer or to expand, there have been some developments pertaining to the parking issues at Drumcastle Center.

The *Towson Times* reported on August 5, 2015:

Baltimore County plans to replace its Drumcastle Government Center garage with a larger one and expand the nearby St. Pius X Church lot for use by Drumcastle employees while the new garage is built.

The existing 273-space garage at the Drumcastle center, 6401 York Road, would be replaced by a 500-space garage at the same location, according to County Councilman David Marks.

"The parking there is a huge issue," Marks said in an email. "Cars spill out into the neighborhood, particularly on Windwood Road."

About one third of the 900 people who work at the center, which includes county Health Department and Social Services offices, would be relocated during construction, county spokeswoman Ellen Kobler said.

No cost estimates on demolition or construction have been done yet, and won't be for an estimated six to nine months, Kobler said. She said County Council approval of the garage replacement project is not needed.

Marks said work to design the proposed garage is expected to begin shortly.

"I'm interested in the specific design of the garage and I want to share the proposal with the community, but think we need to move forward with the process," he said.

The council on Aug. 3 was expected to approve a related parking agreement between the county administration and St. Pius X Roman Catholic Congregation, Inc. and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore, to use 33 existing parking spaces at St. Pius, plus 14 new spaces the

county would create and pave as temporary spaces until the new garage is built. The church is located at 6428 York Road, across the street from the Drumcastle Center.

The three-year contract, renewable for two years, calls for the county to pay St. Pius \$30,000 a year for the right to have county employees park there, Marks said. Compensation would total \$154,236 for the entire five-year term, according to contract details that Marks provided.

Any required maintenance, repair, reconstruction, or resurfacing beyond normal wear and tear would be performed by the church and paid for by the county, according to the terms of the contract. The church can ask the county to provide snow removal and salting if the county's snow removal contractor can't, and the church can ask the county to remove the 14 parking spaces when the new garage opens, the contract states.

Church officials declined to comment.

The ACA Board of Governors supports this new proposal, as the temporary relocation of staff and services off-site, and the leased spaces at SPX, should significantly reduce the anticipated overflow parking onto Anneslie streets during the project. Additionally, the final project should mitigate the overflow parking as a long-term condition.

As Councilman Marks indicated, the actual design of the garage is something in which the Board of Governors will take further interest. Although it is expected that the larger facility will only minimally impact a few of the residents along Windwood whose properties directly abut the garage site (as they do now), close attention to the overall height of the structure, lighting, and overall aesthetics should be provided. Also, the demolition and construction schedule and procedures will be communicated with those residents, along with protocols for complaints of noise, dust, and disturbance.

Scott A. McGovern, AIA  
Vice-President  
Anneslie Community Association

## Back to Our Roots

The lawn – that expanse (or patch) of mown grass most of us have in front of or behind our houses – is a hallmark of suburban neighborhoods like ours. But it does not occur naturally, and it requires constant maintenance. While this upkeep is good for the lawn mower industry and industrious high school students in search of income, it's not good for everyone. "I hate to mow," said Anneslie resident Karen James (604 Anneslie), who has converted most of her yard to a garden. Karen recalled "going to a native plant seminar years ago," where the speaker "said, 'today I killed the

lawn also provided an arena for leisure pursuits such as golf and bowling.

The lawn came to North America with the European immigrants, but the colder climate here was less hospitable than that of moist, mild Europe. Nonetheless, the lawn persevered, reaching the suburbs in the late 1800's. Frederick Law Olmsted, who planned New York City's Central Park, many of Baltimore's parks, such as Druid Hill Park, and local neighborhoods like Roland Park, planned suburban neighborhoods where each property included a home

and a lawn. The advent of the lawnmower, commonplace by the late 1800's, complemented this trend.

For years, suburban dwellers have embraced their lawns, mowing, edging, weeding, fertilizing, and spraying pesticides and herbicides. But, we now bowl indoors and some people, like Karen, are taking a step back and reassessing the role of the yard. Before the lawn, the typical American yard sported packed earth,



last part of my yard,' and everyone applauded," and Karen thought, "I can do that."

Lawns date back to Europe in the middle ages where uncut grasslands surrounding castles prevented unwanted visitors from sneaking up unannounced. Around the same time, the original law mowers (sheep and cattle) introduced the "mown" lawn when they grazed in the village commons. The wealthy brought the grass lawn home in the 1600's, hiring help to trim the grass by scythe and to weed it. The time and expense involved made the lawn a status symbol. The

flowers, herbs and vegetables. Karen's yard now has flowers, herbs and native plants.

Not all of the transition since she purchased her grass-covered property 28 years ago has been an effort to eliminate the grass. "I got into plants and I just needed space," she explained. She began with flowers. About ten years ago, facing chemotherapy for breast cancer, Karen threw a "bulb party." She asked her friends to bring bulbs to plant in the yard. She told herself, "I can get through chemo if I know I have flowers in the ground." It worked.

From there she moved to herbs. “People used to just put herbs on their floors because life really stunk,” she said. Now Karen looks for native plants and plants that attract bees. One of her favorite sources is the Baltimore Herb Festival, where herbs and native plants are sold. She also breaks up her existing plants and moves them around. Some “volunteers” move themselves.

Her beautiful yard is a testament to the theory that trial and error can work. “I’ve made a lot of mistakes,” she said, often by choosing plants that are overly invasive. And, one time she “meant to transplant bee balm, but got thistle instead.” Often she leave it “up to chance, seeing how plants respond to the soil.” The end result is a delightful mixture of plants, blue bottles that “are supposed to keep the evil spirits away,” and “spare parts,” like old rotors that Karen has turned into lawn sculpture. The steep terrace down to the sidewalk also boats broken plates, which hold the dirt in place and add intrigue. Karen called it “schadenfreude,” pleasure that comes from someone else’s misery, as the no-longer functional dishes that neighbors gave her when they could no longer use them now ornament her lawn.



Is it easier without grass? Not really. “It takes a lot of maintenance,” according to Karen. “The things I do are supposed to be low maintenance,” she said, but she admitted, “then I’ll add something to it.” Plus, she doesn’t always take the easy route. “I stopped using Round Up

altogether,” she said. “I read that you can use a blow torch for little weed seedlings. It’s not time efficient, but it’s a lot of fun.” (Kids, don’t try this at home.)

Despite the wealth of plant knowledge she has amassed over the years, Karen offered only one piece of advice. “The best advice I got is if you can’t keep your house clean, then don’t start a garden.” Karen claims her house isn’t clean, but as she said this, I sat in her clean and tidy living room. And, as the photographs show, her garden is flourishing.

Lisa Bergstrom, Editor

## Road Improvements

I was not home for most of the repaving, so I asked my son Zachary, age 2.5, to report on the event:

So the rollers came, a little roller and a big roller. There was a dump truck. It dumped asphalt into the paver. [The paver] drove. Asphalt came down the chute on it.



One of the rollers had lights and the little roller had a light going round and round. I liked watching the machines.

They dug up the road and put pavement on it. It was bumpy. Now it’s smooth.

A new road turns into an old road when you drive.

Also pictured is the new crosswalk on Regester Avenue near Copeleigh Road and Edgewood Road.



Lisa Bergstrom, with Zachary Bergstrom

# CUB SCOUT PACK 352

## Back to Scouts! (and School).....

Wow, time flies! Stoneleigh Cub Scouts are entering their **75th** year of scouting. We have a jam-packed year of fun planned - drive in movie camping, service projects in the community, hikes and bike rides for starters. If your family is interested in attending a meeting feel free to stop by **Stoneleigh Elementary School Sept 17th at 7:00PM** (Always the third Thursday of the month).



Packs 352 & 787 teamed up for a Flag Day ceremony at SES in June. We had a great picnic at Lake Roland Park (formerly REL Park).



The boys from 352 enjoyed a busy summer of fishing, archery hiking, canoeing!

## Let's get started.....

Looking forward to meeting new friends and sharing new adventures!

**Fun.**                      **Service** to the community.                      **Connection** to Scouts.

## CUB SCOUT PACK 352 UPCOMING EVENTS

**First Pack Meeting**  
@SES  
Sept 17th 7:00PM

**Benji's Drive-in  
Camp Out**  
Sept 12th

If you are interested please contact us by e-mail, or ask a neighbor who has a boy in the pack.

Do you have a son entering 1st through 5th grade?

**SIGN UP FOR  
FUN!**

NEED MORE INFO?  
email  
[cubpack352@gmail.com](mailto:cubpack352@gmail.com)

CHECK US OUT AT  
FACEBOOK  
"Stoneleigh Pack 352"

TO BENEFIT THE ASSISTANCE  
CENTER OF TOWSON CHURCHES

# ANNESLIE MONTHLY FOOD DRIVE

## DROP OFF SITES:

607 OVERBROOK RD

627 ANNESLIE RD

625 DUNKIRK RD

708 MURDOCK RD

Each site will be labeled with  
a Monthly Food Drive sign  
on the front lawn.

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Please contact  
Gina Young with  
any questions  
about the food  
drive.

[perroneyoung@gmail.com](mailto:perroneyoung@gmail.com)

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Anneslie neighbors are joining together to help the materially poor of our community by participating in a monthly food drive. Donated food items will be distributed through the Assistance Center of Towson Churches ([www.actconline.info](http://www.actconline.info)). The ACTC began in 1985, and today, 48 churches participate in the outreach effort. The ACTC serves people in 18 zip codes throughout Baltimore County and City.

If you would like to participate, simply drop off non-perishable food items to any one of the drop off sites listed to the left during the **LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH, Thursday through Monday**. Items may be left in the container found on the front porch of the drop off site. Thank you in advance for selflessly serving those in need.



*Examples of items needed: baby food, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned goods such as soup, vegetables, fruit, tuna, and pork and beans, pasta noodles and sauce, macaroni & cheese, toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, lotion, razors, etc.*

Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace.

*A soul generated by love.  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*