

South River Park Citizen's Association

News on the Creek

South River Park
Citizen's Association
2021 Board of
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Community Calendar

All events are at the community
clubhouse unless otherwise
noted

June 2, 2021

Community Meeting - 7:30

Book Club

May 26, 2021

Contact Diane Mairs
Dmairs11@yahoo.com

Matt Tippet, President SRPCA

Welcome Spring! That special spring green color is everywhere as leaves and flowers welcome back the season. There is a special sense of renewal this year I think as we are seeing progress in overcoming the corona virus. As I write, our county infection rate numbers have been reduced to below 5%, a welcome sign to all.



We miss you! I would like to encourage all of you to consider joining in the activities and fellowship of our community association. We do not meet often, a conscious community choice as we recognize that family lives are busy times. But we do enjoy short gatherings a few times a year. While attention to communitywide issues is the priority, these meetings and social events are enjoyable times for all. For those who would like to volunteer, we are always appreciative of your enthusiasm and desire. Opportunities are available to help with garden/lawn clean up, planning and participating in social events and or helping out with some simple administrative duties. If you have questions or maybe you are not quite sure of what you could do to help, please let me know – I will be happy to visit with you. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome!

Our next community meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 2 at 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse**. Our current plan is to meet outdoors, and be compliant with county and state guidelines. If weather drives us indoors, we will also maintain the guidelines. I hope to see some new faces at this gathering and also look forward to hearing more from each of you as how we can improve our community.

Our plans for the upcoming SRPC 100-year Birthday Celebration – **Centennial by the Creek** are progressing. There is a full report in this newsletter issue. There are a few items we need your help with now including contacting former community members so they may be invited to this event, collecting photos as well as information about your home's history. Committee Chair **Karen Tollestrup** can answer your questions and if you can help with any of the above information, contacts are provided in the newsletter update article.

Thank you all again for the keeping our spirits high during the last year by reaching out to neighbors who needed help, saying hello while out and about and proving once again that South River Park is a small and friendly community.

I have a few announcements to share –



Scholarship Award Application News – We have recently been alerted to the opportunity for students to apply for scholarship assistance through the office of Delegate Dana Jones. This annual legislative scholarship fund, provided through the Maryland Higher Education Commission, has allowed me to offer the Delegate Dana Jones Scholarship Award. The applications deadline is May 31, 2021. Details about this opportunity and contact information are provided at the end of this newsletter.



Police Community Relations Council (PCRC) – Southern District: South River Park Community has joined the Southern District Police Community Relations Council. The purpose of the PCRC is to promote the concept that citizens, communities, and the police have a common goal to maintain of law and order, reduce of crime, and protect the community. Our designated community representative is **Bill Cassidy**, Trustee, but anyone is welcome to attend these meetings, now held on Zoom, on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm.

Bill reported the April meeting included a special presentation by the Maryland State Police on protecting children against internet crimes. The Anne Arundel County Police Department is an affiliate of the Maryland Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC), which is comprised of police agencies from around the state. Its primary mission is to protect children from computer-facilitated sexual exploitation. The Task Force works cooperatively with law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to provide resources to combat these crimes. Additionally, the Task Force provides community awareness campaigns helping to prevent the spread of these crimes through education. A hotline for suspected abuse or concerns can be reached at 1-800-813-5678 or at www.cybertipline.com. More information on the PCRC including upcoming meeting information can be found at <https://www.aacounty.org/services-and-programs/police-community-relations-council> or by calling (410) 222-1967. Residents can also contact Bill at cass72242@yahoo.com to learn more.



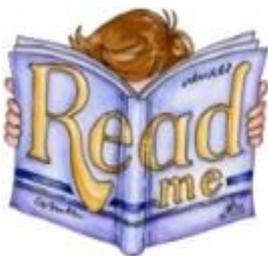
Shout Out of Thanks! Have you noticed the spruce up at the community garden in the triangle located at Park Road and Riverside Road? The landscaping has been refreshed with new plantings added. The Todd Pounds family deserves credit for taking it upon themselves to keep this area looking great. The work this year this family has provided to the community on these gardens is much appreciated! If you see Todd, Patti or their boys around, please give them a tip of your hat in appreciation for this volunteer upkeep!



Website Reminder - The community website is always open! Minutes from community meetings, water quality readings, past newsletters, forms to rent the clubhouse facility and a collage of community photos are all there for your review. Please visit the site at www.southernriverpark.org. Webmaster **Andrew Keppel**, welcomes your suggestions or comments. Please contact Andrew at agkeppel@gmail.com.



Clubhouse is available! Consider renting the community clubhouse and grounds! Tables and chairs are included in the rental fee and there is plenty of outdoor space, free parking and a catering kitchen. Members of the community can rent the clubhouse for \$150 and non-residents \$250. We adhere to whatever the COVID guidelines are but it is never too early to book your time for a gathering! Contact **Matt Tippet** at tippettmatt@gmail.com or 301-938-2530.



Upcoming SRPCA Book Club Meeting Dates and Reads – The Book Club is meeting as COVID guidelines allow. For the May 26 meeting, an outdoor discussion will be held to talk about “Good People” by Hannah Kent. *New Members always welcome!* Meetings are usually held once a month at 10 am. Gatherings include a lively discussion of the book as well as an enjoyable short get-together of neighbors for conversation. For more information, contact **Diane Mairs** at dmairs11@yahoo.com or call 410-956-5633.

News You Can Use!



Weekly Checks of Water Quality in Warehouse Creek to Begin: SRPCA once again plans to sign up for the weekly water quality checks performed by the **Arundel Rivers Federation**. Generally, the tests are conducted from Memorial Day through Labor Day during mid-week with results available by Friday evening. The community will post the readings on the website each week. The tests look for the presence of E coli (fecal) bacteria

in the water and per the county health departments advice, swimming and contact with the water should be avoided if results are above 104 cfu/100m. Sources of this bacteria include leakage from septic systems, duck or geese populations and pet waste. Last season this rarely occurred in Warehouse Creek. The Health Department also advises avoiding contact with all county stream waters for at least 48 hours following a rainstorm as many pollutants wash into the creeks from runoff following such storms. It is worth taking a look before considering a swim! COVID permitting, postings should begin on Memorial Day weekend.



The water is still cool! Although the sun is shining, the waters are still quite chilly. At this time, water temperatures are still in the 50’s – cold enough that hypothermia affects the ability to swim within 10-15 minutes. Even water as warm as 60 degrees can cause a common phenomenon known as cold water shock, causing the overturned paddler to make involuntarily gasps for air. Often that happens when the paddler is at least partially under water, and gulping water puts him or her on the path to drowning, the leading cause of paddling deaths. Warmer weather makes us want to get out on our kayak, paddle boards or water craft, but no one wants to have an accidental dip! Remember to dress for the

water temperature and not the air temperature, wear your PFD and go paddling with a buddy in these conditions. Call 911 for boating emergencies.



Updates on County News: The Anne Arundel County Executive is offering weekly updates on County news to citizens that opt to sign up for emails. Information is available related to COVID status, links to meetings and plans and other useful information. At this time, the county is updating its Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. This plan acts as a master plan for recreational programming, park acquisition, and facility development master plan for the overall county parks and recreation plan. These issues may be of special interest to those who are seeking sports fields and related facilities, pickleball courts or other passive and recreation areas, such as those used for walking, hiking and birdwatching. If you are interested in receiving these updates, sign up for the Executive's Constituent Services weekly newsletter at: <https://www.aacounty.org/departments/county-executive/constituent-services>.

The SRPCA Centennial Celebration Update

The Planning Committee has been forging ahead with plans for how to celebrate the 100th birthday of South River Park! A final decision will be made in June, but for now, *please pencil in **Saturday, September 11** as the tentative date.*

So far, we have plans for good food (local barbeque), music, a few interesting games, some souvenirs, and good company. This will be a family event so the Committee is working to provide something for all ages. Resident **Karen Tollestrup** continues to meet with her committee each month to keep us focused and organized. The Committee members to date include: Shannon Abrahams, Diane Mairs, Fran Jaques, Suzanne Jaques, Patti Pounds, Patti Smith, Matt Tippett, Tara McCullough and Missy Cassidy.

Even at this early date, the committee is seeking a bit of help from SRPCA members. If you have **older photos of earlier times here** – either of your house, family events or people – please contact Fran Jaques (milton261@verizon.net) or Suzanne Jaques (sbjaques@aol.com). Suzanne is also seeking information on **the history of homes** within our community including homes that may have preceded yours, when your house was built and any other historic information on the development of the lot. Patti Pounds and Missy Cassidy are attempting to develop a **contact list of former residents** so they too can join in the celebration. If you have suggestions or information on these friends, please contact Patti (ptpounds@yahoo.com) or Missy (missyc825@gmail.com).

To commemorate the event for future residents, the Committee will be compiling a **scrap book of the celebration**. Karen Tollestrup is taking the lead on this. The committee **desperately needs a volunteer photographer** to help capture the spirit of this event. If you or someone you know is willing to take on that role, please contact Karen at ssc.karen@gmail.com. As we get closer to the date, we will be asking for more helping hands. Even if you have not participated in any community events before, this is a great opportunity to get to know your neighbors and make new friends. Please contact Karen or any other member of the planning committee to talk about how you too can help make this a fun time.

Suzanne Jaques asks: "What is the history of your house?"



As part of the planning for the 100th birthday celebration, our neighbor **Suzanne Jaques** is hoping to put together a story board map showing the gradual development of the community over the past 100 years. She needs your help! She is hoping to collect information about when homes were built, who the previous owners were and any history you might have about the house. For example, her home was built in 1959 as a "kit house" by her parents, Fran and Milton Jaques. Her

family has lived there ever since She is also looking for any old photos of the property from years past. It would be interesting to see how the development of the community evolved through the past 10 decades since 1921!

Do you have any information about your home that could help her? Please contact Suzanne at sbjaques@aol.com This could prove to be a fun project!



In the Garden: Brood X Cicadas- Get the Facts!

The following information was provided by MD DNR and Bartlett Tree Experts

Much has been written about the soon to emerge 17-year cycle of cicadas (Brood X) – it sounds so foreboding! Yikes! But checking with some local experts has rendered some basic information we should probably be aware of. Brood X is one of the largest groups of periodical cicadas. For the last 17 years, Brood X cicada nymphs (juveniles) have been hanging out underground and feeding off of tree roots. Generally, these nymphs live about two feet under the surface and cause little harm to the trees. The nymphs go through five developmental stages known as instars, and the fifth instar is the one that makes its way to the surface once soil temperatures reach around 64 degrees Fahrenheit several inches down. After 17 years underground, these cicadas will emerge in late spring - around here, in May.



The next stage of the periodical cicada's life only lasts for a couple of weeks and has one sole mission: to reproduce. Males will begin singing their hearts out with a species-specific song while receptive females will respond. After mating, the female will find young twigs and will make a V-shaped slit in the bark to deposit her eggs. Each slit will contain around 20 eggs, and one female will lay up to 600 eggs total! Sometimes, the process of making the slits in the tree will cause the branches to break and/or die. This dieback usually isn't an issue with mature trees that aren't stressed.

After 6-10 weeks, the eggs will hatch and the first instar nymphs will fall on to the ground, burrowing in the soil to start the cycle all over again.

So, what does this mean for you? Here is guidance offered by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

1. **You're going to see lots of holes.** The emergence holes are round in appearance and will be about the diameter of a dime. Sometimes, they appear to be mud turrets. In addition, raccoons and other animals are going to make larger holes digging up the soil. Consider this free aeration and cicada removal.
2. **Local wildlife are going to gorge themselves! Really!** Box turtles, northern flickers, raccoons, wild turkeys, foxes, and more are all going to be digging up these soil "shrimp" to eat. A lot of wildlife are going to benefit from this smorgasbord. Some articles have mentioned that copperheads are going to increase due to this emergence, but it isn't something to be concerned about. The periodical cicada strategy is known as predator satiation where so many prey (in this case, cicadas) emerge at once that it overwhelms predators and allows for some prey to survive to reproduce.
3. **It's going to be noisy.** Spending 17 years in the ground and having a short aboveground life means these cicadas really have to work hard to accomplish their goal of breeding en masse. Males will serenade us from early morning to late evening.
4. **You might lose some tree limbs.** The adults feeding on the trees won't really cause damage, but the egg laying may be an issue for some tree limbs. Some limbs will wither and die. Some limbs will break and die. A small number of limbs may also experience secondary infections. In the short term, the damage may seem like a lot but in the long term, most trees will bounce back the following year.
5. **You can help with cicada science.** Got cicadas?! If so, report them with the free [Cicada Safari application](#). This free app will give scientists information about location, numbers and staging. You only take a photo!

How can you co-exist with our noisy neighbors?

1. **Let them do their thing.** Seriously, embrace this magical phenomenon! One of my earliest insect memories was capturing scores of periodical cicadas in a bucket in 1987. I was so thrilled at their gentle yet clumsy nature. I was AMAZED and an instant cicada fan from that point forward. While some folks have reported being “pinched” by their mouthparts, this is not a common occurrence and their mouthparts are not something designed to bite humans. Engage youth with resources like the educational materials from [Be a Friend to Cicadas](#).
2. **Wait them out.** If you have plans to plant new shrubs or trees this spring and summer, then you may want to wait until Brood X has finished their adult breeding cycle. Small plants like seedlings likely won't be affected, but it is always best to be careful.
3. **Protect some of your shrubs/trees.** If you have a special shrub or tree you don't want to see damaged or just want to keep something safe then consider using a very fine mesh cloth like cheesecloth to wrap your trees for a month or so. Mesh sizes larger than 2.5 cm were not effective and neither were insecticides in a study by Hogmire et al. (1990). When considering netting for plants, it is important to note that wildlife like birds, snakes, and skinks (lizards) can often get entangled in “bird netting”, sometimes with deadly results. Therefore, a fine mesh netting will reduce the number of accidental netting injuries or deaths while also protecting your plants.

Since feeding is not repeated year after year, damage is usually minimal, particularly when the tree or shrub is healthy. Egg-laying activity can be somewhat more problematic. Females cut slits into the twigs of trees and shrubs where they lay eggs. As a result, twig death can occur, but the largest impact is on the plant's appearance.

There are no preventative treatments to control a cicada infestation. After the cicadas have once again gone underground, you or your landscape experts could review trees or shrubs that have been damaged and recommend treatment as needed. This may include pruning to remove dead or dying branches, fertilization to aid in recovery or other treatments to help suppress insects that target and attack damaged plants.

This household has downloaded the Cicada Safari app so we can help scientists track where these guys are emerging. In the meantime, prepare for some loud cicada songs. The editor has been hearing of new cicada folk tunes being written (“Sick of Cicadas”) and for the very adventurous, perhaps some cicada cuisine (Food and Wine magazine – March 2021 issue, I kid you not) but I'm not so sure I'll be trying any of those recipes!

Special Report: Caring for Our Senior Trees

We are fortunate to live in South River Park, an established neighborhood with many beautiful “Senior Citizen” trees. These old guard friends provide obvious benefits of shade, wind breaks around our homes, reduce soil erosion and habitat for birds and other wildlife. Trees act as natural filters for the air and water by absorbing harmful carbon from the air. Mature trees provide greatest benefits because the greater the spread of the canopy and the size of the tree structure, the more “heft” a tree can provide in the carbon absorption process. Young trees are important too, but it will take many years before there is enough growth to be as efficient as the senior trees. (a good reason to plant young trees too!)

So here is news you can use – three simple things we can do to help our trees remain healthy and viable.

- Protect your trees from English ivy invasion. English ivy is not a native species and is very harmful to trees. As the vines climb the tree, they take away important nutrients and can stunt growth, even kill the host tree itself. You can help by chopping that ivy out at its roots (not the tree bark though). It can take several seasons of care to kill the persistent ivy vine, but your tree will thank you!

- Be careful how much mulch you allow to accumulate around the base of your trees. While a mulch ring around a tree looks nice and can help retain moisture and protect against erosion, too much mulch could suffocate the tree roots. If you must mulch around your trees, a good practice is to remove the old mulch before laying down a new fresh layer. The mulch should never touch the tree bark and be no deeper than three inches. As with all mulch, find a good source that is free of insects, fungus or mold.
- Finally, as summer goes by, we all tend to pay attention to our flowers and lawns as these shallow rooted plants show their thirst for water. All plants compete for water in the soil. Tree roots are deep and have access to ground water, but they too get thirsty in the driest part of the season. When things are parched, a good approach for trees is to use a soaker hose for a long slow drink.

These old friends beautify our neighborhood and provide tree “caretakers” like us with many benefits. Take time to respect their needs too. When there are opportunities to add new young trees to your property, do some research about trees that are native to Maryland and likely to survive. A good source of information is the University of Maryland Extension Service: <https://extension.umd.edu/resource/mulching-trees-and-shrubs>.

Look for more information in the next special report which will discuss tree planting and caring for new trees in our next newsletter. We will also be describing how the community has participated in the Tree Planting program affiliated with Anne Arundel County and the Watershed Stewards Academy.

*This short special report was written by **Missy Cassidy** with assistance from SRPC resident **Jess Shue**, Head Technician, Research Lab on Forest Ecology at Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.*



Note from the Newsletter Editor: Thank you for reading! The Editor is always looking for stories to share and welcomes useful community information! Please send your ideas for short articles or topics you would like to learn more about to me at missyc825@gmail.com.

The Following letter was received by SPRCA regarding the availability of Student Scholarship Funding. Note the Delegate Dana Jones' Scholarship Award application deadline is May 31, 2021, with a decision date of June 25, 2021.

Dear Student,

As a Delegate in the Maryland General Assembly, representing District 30A, not only do I have the honor of serving you but each year I have the ability to grant scholarships to students in my district pursuing a degree ([verify your district's legislators](#)). This annual legislative scholarship fund, provided through the Maryland Higher Education Commission, has allowed me to offer the **Delegate Dana Jones Scholarship Award**.

To be eligible for a Delegate Scholarship, a student must plan to or currently attend a Maryland college or university or a private career school. Private career schools must have the Maryland Higher Education Commission's approval to operate and be accredited by a national accrediting association approved by the US. Department of Education. Students who attend a nursing school are also eligible if the Commission has approved the curriculum. Part-time and full-time students may apply.

Scholarship funds may be used at an out-of-state school if your major is not available at a Maryland school; the Office of Student Financial Assistance must verify your case's uniqueness. More information can be found at this hyperlink: [Academic Common Market](#).

Below, you will find the scholarship application, including rules and instructions. Because the delegate awards scholarships based on need and on a case-by-case basis, prior to applying you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is available and can be submitted online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. A scholarship advisory board will review all applications and make recommendations to Delegate Jones about who to select and what amount to award. Once final decisions are made, all applicants will be notified via email.

The link to submit the form application online is here: [Delegate Dana Jones Scholarship Award](#)

The link to the PDF application is here: [Delegate Dana Jones Scholarship Award](#)

We applaud your dedication to your studies, as obtaining a degree is a mighty achievement. We wish you much success in your upcoming semester(s) and future endeavors. Please contact David at his cell at 317-264-9208 or david.danajones.office@gmail.com for any questions, comments, and/or concerns.

All the best,

Your Delegate, Dana Jones

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