



The Branch

*Newsletter for Members of the
Cypress Improvement Association
P.O. Box 146, Severna Park, MD. 21146*

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
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Board members:	Jennifer Clasen	Ed Krause 410-647-3069	Doug Pringle dougprchips@aol.com 410-647-8914

EVENTS

General Meeting on Monday, September 13, 2004 at 7:00 pm

The new location for the general meetings is Corky's Hard Bean Café (in Park Plaza next to Jo-Ann Fabric & Crafts), 410-518-6077. Future meetings, on the first Monday of odd-numbered months, are scheduled for November 1, 2004; January 3, 2005; March 7, 2005; and May 2, 2005. If you are a member or considering membership for calendar year 2005, please join us. Questions? Call any board member.

Community Crab Feast on Sunday, September 19, 2004 at 2:00 pm

Review the flyer delivered with this newsletter for details. Paid reservations are accepted in advance only, and everyone is welcome! Use the tear-off portion to send in check to reserve your spot. Visit with your neighbors, and enjoy fine dining the Cypress Creek way! Contact: Doug Pringle, 410-647-8914.

Halloween Party Coming in October

Last year the kids had a great time. This year our planning committee will continue their special brand of magic. Stay tuned, and stay alert for news of this annual community event. Contact: Katie McCord, 410-544-4591.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Vandalism, Illegal Parking, and a Dead Duck

- On July 6, an alert resident who was driving to work spotted a tall young man with a pony tail vandalizing some cars. The vandal reacted by dropping his tools and running away. The resident immediately reported the incident to police. The next day, community members were notified by e-mail and asked for input.
- We need the same attitude and spirit of cooperation for our residents who see cars parked illegally in "No Parking" zones. When vehicles are parked illegally, fire and rescue services cannot get to the properties on the street – an emergency is not the time to realize how important the "No Parking" restrictions are to all of us!
- As incredible as this seems, it really happened – in our community! Somehow a duck was killed, its blood staining a bench at the community pier at the end of Cypress Creek Road. We don't know what happened,

*Deadline for submitting items for the next newsletter is September 30, 2004.
Submit news to the Secretary, Margaret Duggan, by e-mail, fax, or phone.*

but the result, the lifeless body of the dead duck, was left on the bench for children to see and for others to clean up. Everyone needs to keep in mind that our community is shared and enjoyed by all; Parties responsible and/or aware of the duck's demise should have cleaned it up.

- All community residents need to be vigilant about the safety and security of our neighborhoods.

Lane Changes During Road Work

Please note that the signs at the light at Cypress Creek Road now require that traffic leaving the community should turn left from the center lane and go straight or turn right from the right lane. This is a departure from the past, which allowed traffic in the center lane to either turn left or go straight and reserved the right lane for right turns only. When the county finishes work by painting the lines, the signs will revert to the previous instructions, and the right lane will be dedicated to right turns only. Until then, please use the right lane if you intend cross Ritchie Highway and stay on Cypress Creek Road after going through the traffic signal, and use the center lane for left turns only.

The board has been in touch with the county to restrict parking on Cypress Creek Road at the traffic light. The board's position is that the road is a thoroughfare; however, the county allows parking 75 feet from the intersection. Our Road Committee actively monitors streets that need attention from county work crews. Overgrowth of vegetation, sinking areas, and storm water run-off are some of the problems affecting our streets. Please report your observations of needed roads repairs to Ed Krause, 410-647-3069.

Frequency and Duration of Power Outages

On August 6, 2004 Ed Krause spoke with a BGE customer service investigator about this matter. After a review of outages in our area, the investigator decided to have someone patrol our feeder to determine if there existed areas where trees posed a future problem. BGE most recently trimmed the trees in November 2003. We'll continue to follow-up with BGE.

BOARD BULLETIN

Elections

The By-Laws require elections of new officers every two years. A new board member is also elected every year to replace the board member who has completed a three-year term. The President has appointed Blaine Weitzel to chair the nominating committee that will be responsible for selection of candidates. The By-laws also allow nominations from the floor and write-in candidates. Voting will take place at the general meeting on January 3, 2005. The elected officers will serve in calendar years 2005 and 2006; the new board member's term will include 2007. This is your chance to become involved. The association exists for the benefits of its members. If you are unable to serve on the board, please consider membership and participation at general meetings so that your voice is heard. Contact: Blaine Weitzel, 410-544-3432.

Pier Committee

We all know how the Amish build a barn. Well, that's how our waterfront community takes care of our pier at the end of Cypress Creek Road. The committee will be considering a ramp for kayaks. Also, the benches need to be restored. You don't even need a buggy, just put on your tennis shoes or flip flops, and walk to the pier – date and time to be announced at our general meeting September. Contact: Phil Gardner, 410-384-9208, or Ben Warren, 410-975-9765.