



The Anneslie Times

Summer 2011

The President's Corner



SUMMER EVENTS:

- Crab Feast 7/30
- Jazz Concert 8/20
- Picnic 9/17

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newsletter@anneslie.org

Editor :

Julie Kromkowski

Even though it's only June 1st as I write this, we seem to have once again skipped right through Spring and into another hot Summer. Nice to know our tree-lined streets provide some shade, the nearby community pools beckon, and our backyards and patios await summer nights and cook-outs. It's that great time of year when Anneslie is lush and green.

We recently held our always-successful Spring Yard Sale and Dumpster Day, allowing us to once again see the floors of our basements, garages, and sheds. We're giving the frequent participants of the annual Diane Schatz Memorial Home & Garden Tour a break this year, with the plan to make it a bi-annual event. We're excited to add this year our "Jazz Under the Stars at Villa Anneslie" event, which we'd like to alternate years with the Home & Garden Tour. The Summer schedule will also include the Crab Feast (thanks to Kristin Morrow for heading this up for us) and the Summer Picnic in mid-September. Details on all of these events are included in this issue.

There has been a great response to this year's

Annual Dues Notice. We encourage all Anneslie residents to become an active part of the Anneslie Community Association by returning yours today. We've also heard from many residents volunteering to help with various committees, events, and the COP program. Keep it up!

Proceeds from last year's Home & Garden Tour have been earmarked for additional banners and have allowed our Garden Committee to enhance the street plantings on York Road. Thanks to Board Member Kate Fiering and neighbor Beth Miller and the Committee for the great job mulching and planting perennials in the beds. Now if we could only keep the DOGS out of them, all would be good.

Thanks to Board Member Mark Lewandowski for his efforts to get Anneslie on the National Register of Historic Places. This time-consuming process has been underway for some

(continued on p. 2)

President's Corner (cont. from p. 1)

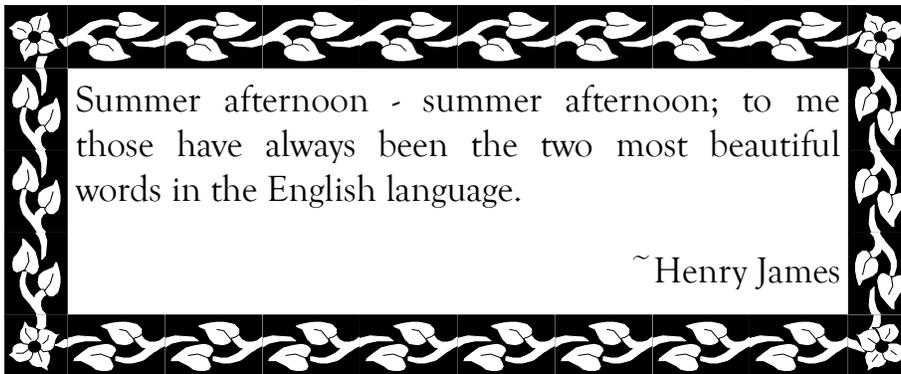
time, but the application was reviewed at the end of May, and we should be hearing shortly about our success. Owning a home within this type of historic district does not, in any way, hinder a homeowner's rights, but could help them qualify for federal tax credits. As long as any proposed exterior renovations or additions are performed within certain guidelines, a value of up to 20% of the costs can be included as a credit. More to come, as the process continues.

The Anneslie Community Association recently joined the Associations of Stoneleigh and Idlewylde to provide some "seed money" to the "Stoneleigh United" group for yard signs, to bring awareness to needs to fund the addition to Stoneleigh Elementary, as well as proper planning for over-crowding remedies at all of the York Road corridor schools. This issue does not just impact residents with school-aged children, but the value of all of our homes.

It is with much regret that we announce the resignation of Vice-President Wayne Schmidt from the Board of Governors. Wayne and his family will be relocating to England for a three-year job commitment, beginning this summer. Wayne has been a great asset to the Board and the community for many years and his devotion to Anneslie will be missed by all. We wish the Schmidts all the best as they begin their adventure across the pond. Board member Elena Varapatis-Baker has graciously agreed to advance to the position of Vice-President. Thanks, Elena!

In closing, please keep up the good work, keep communication open, let us know how we can help you, and how you can help us. Thanks!

Scott A. McGovern, AIA
President
Anneslie Community Association



Looking for Old Photos/About the Times

Do you have old photos of life in Anneslie? If you don't mind lending them to us, we can scan the photos and publish them in a future issue of the Times and/or on the webpage. We are looking for anything more than 25 years old, so if you have any photos more than 25 years old, please contact a board member, or Editor Julie Kromkowski at newsletter@anneslie.org. Thanks!

Please patronize the businesses that advertise in this newsletter if you can. They help support our community!

Phil Maher
FATA Inc.

(410) 578-3600 Work
pmaher@fataonline.com

FATA, Inc.
3701 Malden Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21211
www.fataonline.com

To place an ad,
contact FATA at:



Neighborly Pets

Anneslie is home to many adorable and handsome pets, and owners who treat them like family. Thank you to our considerate and loving pet owners for their efforts!

Unfortunately we have some pet owners whose pets exhibit behavior that unnerves and even frightens neighbors. The complaints we receive from neighbors (many of whom are pet owners themselves) fall into the following categories:

- **Some owners don't remove dog waste in the appropriate bags.** It's appalling to watch a dog poop and the owner just walk away, but also hard to watch as a dog pees all over one's petunias. Please, think before you leave anything in your neighbor's garden.
- **Some owners just let the dog bark.** With the windows open, it becomes obvious that some dogs are allowed to bark repeatedly (some around the clock). You may be used to it, but your neighbors never will be. Please, train your dog to bark at the appropriate time.

- **Some dogs run free.** No matter how loving or gentle your dog is, this is never ok in the public areas of Anneslie, and it is against county law. So please, leash your dog at all times.
- **Some yards are not escape-proof.** One neighbor came across three dogs out of their yards on a single afternoon. One was already dehydrated and in distress. Please, make sure your pet cannot get out of your yard while you are away.

Anneslie Community Association
Board of Governors



A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.
~James Dent

Neighborly Yards

As you greet the neighbors, walk your pet or just gaze out the window and complain about the heat, keep a look out for branches and plants in your yard that overhang or creep onto the street or sidewalk. It's time to wrestle that foliage back into a polite shape so you don't threaten anyone's hairstyle or eyesight. And don't forget to look up—those refreshing but violent summer storms can leave behind broken branches or even serious damage.

Pruning, if done correctly, is GOOD for your trees!

About lawn mowing—it's good for the lawn and the environment to let the grass grow a bit longer and leave the clippings on the lawn afterward. That's "a bit longer". You are responsible for keeping your lawn and weeds mowed, newspapers picked up and sidewalks clear.

PRESIDENT	Scott McGovern, president@anneslie.org, (410) 377-7948
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TREASURER	Rick Kiegel, treasurer@anneslie.org, (410) 372-0258

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Anneslie Times-Julie Kromkowski	(410) 377-4254	newsletter@anneslie.org

BLOCK CAPTAINS

Anneslie Road

533 Helen Kennedy	(410) 377-0608
623 Claudine Jones	(410) 377-9422
700 Maria Brown	(410) 377-7875

Overbrook Road

501 Kelly Shay/Jim Pannebecker	(410) 377-8424
634 Kathleen/Don Anuzis	(410) 377-9527
730 Michele/Christopher Howe	(410) 296-5388

Dunkirk Road

501 Jean/Michael Smith	(410) 372-0519
632 Tom Aberle	(410) 377-9268
723 Gail Vernick	(410) 377-2541

Regester Avenue

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

Murdock Road

526 Chris/Mark Hartstein	(410) 372-0528
627 Linda Vigilante	(410) 377-9795
707 Jen Hudak	(410) 868-6100

Windwood Road

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

DUMPSTER DAY 2011



Anneslie Community Association

presents

Jazz Under the Stars at Villa Anneslie

featuring Cold Spring Jazz Quartet

Saturday, August 20, 2011

529 Dunkirk Road

8:00 – 10:00 pm

Gates Open @ 7:00 pm

Bring your own food, beverages and picnic blanket

(Rain Date: Saturday, August 27, 2011)

Ticket Information

Ticket sales begin on July 1st

150 tickets are available
first come, first serve

\$15.00 per ticket
(6 ticket limit per household)
This is an adult only event

**Proceeds to benefit the Anneslie
Gardening Committee**



To purchase tickets, complete the form below and return it to the mailbox at 505 Murdock Road with a check payable to: Anneslie Community Association. Questions? Call Kate Feiring @ 410-598-2005 or Wendy Mundis @ 410-377-0797. Tickets will be delivered upon receipt of payment via email (when provided) or by mail.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Member of Anneslie Listserve? _____

No. of Tickets: \$15 / ticket x _____ tickets (max 6) = \$ _____ Check enclosed

ANNESLIE CRAB FEAST 2011



When: Saturday, July 30 at 6:00 PM -- Rain or Shine

Where: 700 Block of Murdock Road

Cost: \$50 for Crab Pickers or \$20 for Land Lovers before 7/23.

Cost will increase to \$55 for crabs and \$25 for land thereafter.

This **adults-only** party will include all the crabs, Andy Nelson's BBQ, beer, wine, and soda you can consume. We ask that everyone who attends please bring either a side dish (odd number houses) or a dessert (even number houses).

As always volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up.

Checks should be made out to the Anneslie Community Association and dropped off at 711 Murdock by July 23. Please call Kristin Morrow @ 410-433-1849 with questions.

Please return this portion to 708 Murdock with your check)

Name:

Willing to Help with Set-Up:

Address:

Phone Number:

Mark Your Calendar...

ANNESLIE ANNUAL PICNIC!

Saturday
September 17th
3-7 PM



WHAT TO BRING

- Odd-numbered houses: a dessert.
- Even-numbered houses: a side dish.
- Your own "grillables" if you would like to use the propane grill at the event.

Pit beef, pulled pork, condiments, sandwich rolls, utensils, paper goods, and beverages (water, soda, beer and juice boxes) provided by the Anneslie Community Association.

HIGHLIGHTS

- PIT BEEF & PULLED PORK SANDWICHES (new this year!)
Compliments of the Anneslie Community Association.
- Local band THE MUDROCKS performing live!
- MOON BOUNCE and DOUBLE SHOT BASKETBALL!
- FACE PAINTING and BALLOON ANIMALS!

600 Block of Overbrook Road



Volunteers are still needed for help with set-up, clean-up and staffing the pit beef/pulled pork table.
If you would like to volunteer, please email Dana Dalton at ddalton@loyola.edu
or Rebecca Klein at rebeccaklein@msn.com.

All events sponsored by the Anneslie Community Association are for the benefit of all dues-paying members of the Association. If dues have not been paid for the current year, they may be paid at the event. Thank you!

Rain Date: September 18th

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Would you like to make a difference in our community?

If you would like to volunteer, please send an email message to contactCOP@verizon.net.

Our Citizens On Patrol coordinator will contact you and add you to the schedule.



VOLUNTEER FOR CITIZENS ON PATROL!

This is a great way to get involved with a worthwhile community initiative having a **very minimal time commitment.**

Volunteers are asked to participate in one 1.5 hour shift approximately every 7 weeks.

These shifts take place on Friday and Saturday nights.

There is an early shift (9:30 PM—11 PM) and a late shift (11 PM—12:30 AM).

Request the shift you prefer.

If you prefer a daytime, weekday shift, let us know.

Volunteer with your spouse or another neighbor/friend! What a nice way to help the community and spend some time together!



News from BG&E

This content has been provided as a public service from BGE.

Create a Summer Storm Safety Plan

Summer is fast approaching — and the hot, humid summer weather can often produce an ideal environment for storms. BGE encourages its customers to review important storm safety information and create a plan in preparation.

- For the latest weather forecast, call Weatherline at 410.662.9225.
- If your power goes out, call BGE at 1.877.778.2222.
- Stay away from all downed power lines. Call BGE immediately at 410.685.0123 if you see any downed wires. If a wire falls across your vehicle while you are inside, do not get out until emergency help arrives and it is safe to exit.
- Have a family emergency plan in case you need to leave your home. Be sure to make arrangements for any members with special needs (including the elderly and infants).
- Keep a Storm Safety Kit handy and well-stocked. Make sure it includes the following:
 - Working flashlights (avoid using candles for light)
 - Battery-operated clock radio
 - Fresh batteries
 - A supply of non-perishable foods (canned fruits, canned meats and drinking water)
 - Utensils and a manual can opener
 - First-aid kit
 - Corded telephone
 - Fully charged cell phone

Stay Cool For Summer and Save On Energy Costs

Before the summer heat hits, schedule a tune-up for your air conditioning system. BGE's Diagnostic Tune-up Program goes the extra mile to make necessary adjustments to your cooling system, bringing it to like new operating conditions. Plus, you will receive a \$75 rebate. Find out if your contractor participates in the program by visiting BGESmartEnergy.com and click on Heating and Cooling.

If your central air conditioning system is more than 12 years old, you may want to consider replacing your equipment with a new ENERGY STAR® qualified model. You can cut your cooling costs by 30 percent and qualify for a rebate up to \$400 on qualified energy-efficient air conditioners and heat pumps. Check out the other rebates available on heating and cooling services, totaling up to \$1,150 in rebates, on BGESmartEnergy.com.

Did You Know? You Can Choose Your Own Energy Supplier

As your energy delivery company, BGE encourages you to shop and compare energy supplier rates. Whether you choose a new supplier or not, BGE will continue to deliver your gas and electricity, maintain the gas and power lines, restore your power after an outage, and provide emergency service.

To furnish you with more energy information directly from licensed gas and electricity suppliers, BGE provides them with a customer list that will only include account names, account addresses and billing addresses.



We're on it.SM

How to Make a Successful Construction Investment

- The article that follows contains advice from a local businessperson—

What Major Risks Do Homeowners Face When Making a Home Remodeling Decision?

From a recent Certified Contractors Network (CCN) newsletter—“homeowners have a lot of fear when they are faced with making a home improvement decision. They worry about whether or not they are making the right choice when it comes to contractors...” The standard checking of license, insurance and manufacturer’s certification are critical pieces of information to verify, but do not assure a good job unless supported by internal systems and processes that guarantee consistency. Homeowners need to collect more information.

Industry Statistics

According to the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators (NACAA) and the Consumer Federation of America (CFA), home improvement contracting is the top complaint category reported by state and local consumer protection agencies. A recent *Qualified Remodeler* magazine survey found that **48%** of respondents across North America **would NOT hire** their contractor again.

Why Do So Many Homeowners End Up Dissatisfied?

The home improvement industry is essentially unregulated. This means training, installation and monitoring are the responsibility of the company, and there are no mandatory apprenticeships or testing programs. Have you ever seen an ad that reads, “fully licensed and insured”? The Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC) requires a contractor be licensed, but the requirements are minimal and in most cases not adequate. In Maryland it does not take much to get an MHIC license—pay a \$325 fee, take an open book test and have \$50,000 liability insurance. That’s what “fully licensed and insured” means! As a consumer, you have to be careful that you do your due diligence and check everyone out... **you don’t want to end up a victim of a contractor’s scam.**

Manufacturer’s certification should be current, but it does not eliminate the homeowner’s risk of the contractor having poor workmanship or completely skipping large components of the job. Companies promote certification as a marketing tool, but actual customer proposals and installations are not inspected by the manufacturer to ensure their standards are met.

The Certified Contractors Network (CCN), an independent organization committed to improving the professionalism in the industry and educating homeowners, says **“Studies clearly show that most dissatisfaction involves the low-bid contractor”**. Unprofessional contractors can pass the licensing and certification prerequisite noted above, but still hide things or lie by omission to put a low bid on the table. Here are some of the ways how:

- not educating the homeowner about the proper job and potential extra costs
- low quality materials
- important parts of the job are partially or completely omitted on the proposal
- not installing what is listed on the proposal
- misrepresentation of manufacturer's material warranty
- unrealistic contractor workmanship warranty
- inadequately trained and underinsured installers (confirm sub-contractors liability and workers compensation coverage in writing)
- poor property protection and job site clean-up

- inadequate job site safety and supervision
- inadequate review process in place to ensure consistent quality
- doing cash jobs; no records = no workmanship warranty and no material warranty

Other Things Homeowners Should Know

- The internet is a good source of information, but homeowners have to be wary of posted reviews. Some 'independent' sites allow contractors to write their own reviews. Look at more than one site.
- Different Estimators from the same company may quote completely different specifications and prices for similar projects. There may be a large gap in the workmanship, supervision and end results from the same company due to lack of systems and training.
- Some companies put their signs everywhere to make themselves look like they work in the neighborhood, without actually doing work at those locations.
- Home Remodeling/construction is a very high employee turnover industry, so ask about the company's installation and safety training process.
- Many companies sub-contract the work to crews with little experience.
- If things go wrong, the homeowner has essentially no recourse. The homeowner may win in court, but the company likely has no assets.

The majority of our business is prematurely replacing or repairing other contractors' poor quality installations. To see visual proof of what happens when corners are cut, visit our photo gallery for Poor Workmanship and **Jobs Gone Bad**.

What Should a Homeowner Do to Reduce the Risk?

Buying a home improvement project is an intangible service that results in a finished product. **The only way to guarantee a good contractor experience and the right job are proven systems and processes applied on every project.** Go beyond the normal research and ask the contractor what processes they have in place to **ensure consistent**:

- scheduling of appointments
- estimator training for quoting procedures, job specifications and pricing
- quality brand name materials
- installer training for workmanship and installation methods
- insurance coverage
- job site safety, supervision and clean up
- work in progress monitoring and finished job review process
- warranty coverage
- maintenance service

Professional contractors will have all of these components to ensure a consistent outcome on every job.

Homeowners never regret getting the job done right.

To receive a complimentary copy of Certified Contractors Network (CCN) brochure "**How to Make a Successful Construction Investment**"; an independent, step by step decision making process, call Fick Bros Roofing & Exterior Remodeling Company at 410-864-2353 or send an email to info@fickbros.com.

Jeffrey P. Fick

Fick Bros Roofing & Exterior Remodeling Co., www.fickbros.com