

# Views from Avenel

Summer 2019

## News & Notes

### Bill 52-14 Update:

Over the course of the last several years, the Association has kept residents abreast of Montgomery County Council Bill 52-14, which in summary, bans the use of many pesticides routinely utilized on turf and other landscape. Many residents followed the “Pesticide Bill” with interest, as its implementation will have a direct impact on what products may or may not be used on personal property. Subsequent to the passage of the legislation, interested stakeholders appealed the decision to the Montgomery County Circuit Court, arguing in part that the bill was preempted by existing state law. In August 2017, the Montgomery County Circuit Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs and overturned the decision of the County Council. Montgomery County appealed the decision to the Court of Special Appeals for Maryland. In May 2019, the Court of Special Appeals overturned the decision of the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

It is our understanding that interested stakeholders/plaintiffs will be petitioning Maryland’s highest court, the Court of Appeals, to undertake

a review of the decision of the Court of Special Appeals. Absent a review by the Court of Appeals, the county ban is in effect, although many details remain unclear. Association common property and residents’ private property will be subject to the limitations imposed by the bill, and alternative organic products, which are generally less effective and more expensive than conventional products, will be the county approved alternative available for use. We will keep you posted as we learn more.

### Landscape Survey 2018-2019:

The annual Landscape Survey will hit your inbox in July and will be re-sent for four consecutive weeks.

Residents are asked to rate services received on their property from our landscape contractor and are also provided the opportunity to add additional comments. The annual survey is a valuable tool, as it provides management

an opportunity to evaluate comments, identify areas in need of improvement, and work with the contractor to concentrate efforts on the areas where we are falling short. The survey results are equally important in that the results, along with changes to the annual CPI, are utilized to calculate the following year’s landscape contract price.

The Landscape Survey will be sent electronically four times during the month of July and it only takes 5 minutes to complete. Your feedback is very important, and we ask that you please take a few moments to complete the survey. In the event you would prefer to receive a hard copy of the survey, please contact the ACA office and one will be provided to you.

### Join our Community Email List:

The ACA regularly communicates information and alerts to the community via email. If you are not receiving our emails, please be sure to check your “spam” folder. If you wish to be included in our mailing list, or wish to add additional email addresses, please contact the ACA offices with your email information at (301) 299-5916 or by email at [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com).

## Financial Status (unaudited) As of May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

### ASSETS

Cash . . . . .	\$ 5,074,666
Accounts Receivables . . . . .	\$ 73,759
Current Assets. . . . .	\$ 26,816
Fixed Assets . . . . .	\$ 1,217,381
TOTAL ASSETS . . . . .	\$ 6,392,622

### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities . . . . .	\$ 310,973
Note Payable . . . . .	\$ 673,591
TOTAL LIABILITIES . . . . .	\$ 984,564

MEMBERS EQUITY . . . . .	\$ 5,408,058
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## Views From Avenel

Avenel Community Association, Inc.  
9501 Beman Woods Way  
Potomac, MD 20854  
Tel: (301) 299-5916 • Fax: (301) 299-7169  
[www.LiveAtAvenel.com](http://www.LiveAtAvenel.com)

### Board of Directors

President .....Cliff Ehrlich  
Vice President/Secretary ..... Jennifer Kitchen  
Vice President/Treasurer..... Maureen Scott  
Vice President .....Tim Bender  
Vice President ..... Jeff Green

### Homeowners Advisory Committee (HAC)

Abbey Terrace ..... Chris Cathcart  
(301) 602-2964 ..... 8913 Abbey Terrace  
Chartwell ..... Mark Spivak  
(202) 445-3993 ..... 10035 Avenel Farm Drive  
Eagle Ridge ..... Kathleen Pettitt  
(301) 469-7454 ..... 7105 Natelli Woods Lane  
Oaklyn Woods ..... Neeraj Kak  
(301) 365-3850 ..... 9876 Avenel Farm Drive  
Player's Crossing .....Marsha Schuman  
(301) 299-9598 ..... 8326 Turnberry Court  
Player's Gate ..... Nita Kramer  
(301) 767-0284 ..... 6 Potomac School Court  
Player's Turning ..... Janelle Wright  
(301) 610-2095 ..... 9752 Avenel Farm Drive  
Pleasant Gate ..... Eveyln Robles  
(301) 343-4476 ..... 9735 Pleasant Gate Lane  
Prescott ..... Nancy Itteilag  
(202) 905-7762 ..... 7911 Sandalford Drive  
Rapley Preserve ..... Amy Michaels  
(301) 365-5665 ..... 8519 Rapley Preserve Circle  
Saunders Gate ..... TBD  
The Gates ..... Barbara Bloomfield  
(301) 365-0079 ..... 9209 Town Gate Lane  
Willow Gate..... Lori Leasure  
(301) 765-8318 ..... 9134 Willow Gate Lane

## ACA OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
(301) 299-5916

General Manager ..... Lucy Wilson  
..... [lucy@liveatavenel.com](mailto:lucy@liveatavenel.com)  
Site Operations Manager..... Tom Ritter  
..... [tom@liveatavenel.com](mailto:tom@liveatavenel.com)  
Architectural Coordinator ..... Karen Tam  
..... [karen@liveatavenel.com](mailto:karen@liveatavenel.com)  
Community Manager ..... Colby Schlekeway  
..... [colby@liveatavenel.com](mailto:colby@liveatavenel.com)  
Office Manager ..... Jenna Hnath  
..... [jenna@liveatavenel.com](mailto:jenna@liveatavenel.com)  
Administration ..... Jemima Estupinan  
..... [jestupinan@avenel.net](mailto:jestupinan@avenel.net)  
General Inquiries ... [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com)  
McFall & Berry Landscaping ..... Lisa Gabriel  
..... [mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com](mailto:mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com)  
ACA Surveillance Supervisor ..... Ed Caldwell  
(301) 299-1518 ..... [ed@liveatavenel.com](mailto:ed@liveatavenel.com)  
Financial Management (CMI) ..... Tony Martella  
(301) 924-7355 ..... [tmartella@comsource.com](mailto:tmartella@comsource.com)

## Connect with Us Online

### LiveAtAvenel.com

Have you requested access to the Owner section of the website? Join the 300+ residents who have already created an account by clicking on the register link, then follow the prompts to request approval. Here are some of the benefits of having an account:

- Keep up to date on community news & events
- Access important forms and documents, such as the Pool Pass Registration form, Modification Application form and ACA Architectural Guidelines
- Review examples of Modification Applications
- Learn about community amenities and services
- View stunning photos of our Community and the surrounding area

## SOCIAL MEDIA

### Avenel is on social media!

Our social media pages are used to promote upcoming ACA social events and activities, build a greater sense of community, and sometimes to share a cool picture of our beautiful community.

Search for us on:  Facebook: @AvenelMD  
 Instagram: @avenelcommunity  
 YouTube: Avenel community

The ACA Social Media Policy is available on the Avenel website, LiveAtAvenel.com.

## Contractor Referrals Needed:

Most residents are familiar with Avenel's "Contractor Recommendation Book." The book contains a list of contractors in different trades and businesses who have been referred by other Avenel homeowners.

Have you had good luck with a contractor? If so, please provide a reference. We need your help to keep the book up-to-date and replenish the list with the names of companies used in the past three years with satisfactory results.

The contractor recommendation form is available on the Documents page of our website at LiveAtAvenel.com or contact the Association to receive a copy. Completed forms can be emailed to [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com) or delivered to the ACA office.

Please take a few minutes to think about this and complete a contractor recommendation form to let your neighbors know about companies you have dealt with successfully. You can give a referral for a handyman, muntin manufacturer, design consultant, renovation contractor, architectural firm, landscaping designer, painter, pool contractor, plumber, electrician or anything in between! These references will be added to the book.

The Contractor Recommendation Book can be accessed by residents from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the ACA office, 9501 Beman Woods Way, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

We believe that our homeowners truly appreciate having this service and thank you for sharing your positive experiences.

## 2019 Manna Food Drive:

Manna Food Center feeds about 3,500 families in Montgomery County each month. Half of the people they serve are children.

The ACA would like to extend a thank you to all of our residents who generously donated the much needed food items and helped to make our 2019 food drive for Manna Food Center a success!

## ACA Committee Volunteers:

THE ACA NEEDS YOU! ACA committees are the backbone and fabric of our Association. They are made up of resident volunteers who are appointed and approved by the Board to serve



on each of the various committees. The Association is always looking for fresh ideas and perspectives on the issues facing our Community. Joining a committee is a great way to give back to Avenel, while volunteering your expertise and insight.

**Modifications Committee:** There are currently openings for a regular member and alternate members.

**Standards Committee:** There are currently openings for alternate members.

**Homeowners Advisory Committee (HAC):** Currently, there is an opening on the HAC for the village of Saunders Gate and upcoming openings for the villages of Player's Gate and Chartwell. If you are a resident of one of those villages and have an interest in serving, please contact the ACA office for more information.

**Swim and Tennis Advisory Committee:** There are openings for regular members.

**Ad Hoc Landscape Committee:** Openings are available for regular members.

**Ad Hoc Social Committee:** The Social Committee welcomes all levels of involvement.

If you would like to serve on any of the ACA's committees in some capacity, please contact our offices at your convenience. We would love to have a pool of Community-minded individuals to be able to draw from to fill various positions as time goes by. Residents with experience in construction, design and architecture are particularly of value to the Modifications Committee.

Once again, to every individual that has now, or in the past, volunteered to serve in one capacity or another on our various committees, we sincerely thank you for your time and effort. Please join us in taking a moment to thank your neighbors who graciously volunteer on behalf of Avenel.

## Pool Rentals:

Members are welcome to reserve the Community Room or Picnic Area for a private party or event during the pool season. For more information, please refer to the rental applications on the "Pool & Tennis" section of the Avenel webpage at [www.LiveAtAvenel.com](http://www.LiveAtAvenel.com).

## Tennis & Pickleball Open Play:



Tennis and Pickleball Open Play will be scheduled for Sundays at 4:00 p.m. at the Avenel Swim and Tennis Courts. Bring your friends and neighbors, or come solo to play

a game of pickleball or tennis with other like-minded residents. Jim Harwood, USPTA Pro, will be available to provide instruction. There will be a limited number of pickleball racquets and balls available for use by residents.

## Summer Tennis Programs

Jim Harwood, USPTA Pro, is planning a number of potential tennis programs at the Avenel courts for both kids and adults. If you are interested in learning more about programs or lessons, please contact Jim at (770) 337-3610, or by email at [wood101s@yahoo.com](mailto:wood101s@yahoo.com).

## Thank you to our Swim Team Sponsors!

The Avenel Alligators would like to give a big shout out to our wonderful sponsors for the 2019 Season.

### Our platinum-level sponsor returning for a third season:

Nancy Shahin Itteilag  
Licensed Broker in MD, DC, VA  
Washington Fine Properties  
Email – [itteilag@gmail.com](mailto:itteilag@gmail.com)  
Mobile - 202-905-7762 Office - 202-944-5000



### Welcome to our gold-level sponsor:

James M. Didden  
The National Capital Bank of Washington  
Phone - 202-546-8000, ext. 6115

### Welcome our new sponsors:

Kimberly Reed  
Shulman Rogers  
Email – [kimzbish@yahoo.com](mailto:kimzbish@yahoo.com)  
Phone – 202-427-9030

McFall and Berry Landscape Management  
Email – [mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com](mailto:mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com)  
Phone – 301-299-5916, ext. 17

## Friendly Reminders – Summer 2019:

- 1. Street Parking** – Please be mindful of keeping the streets and roadways accessible and free of congestion by parking your vehicles in the driveway or garages whenever possible – garage doors should be maintained in the closed position when not actually entering or exiting the garage.
- 2. Short-term Rentals** – The Association reminds its residents that short-term rentals or rentals of any portion of the home except the entire home are prohibited. If your home is rented, please be sure that an updated lease and current tenant information is provided to the Association office and that the Association has current contact information for the owner.
- 3. Contractor Signs** – The Association asks homeowners to remind their contractors of our no signage policy and ask that they do not display advertising signs while working in the community.
- 4. Modifications Reminder** – Residents are reminded that all exterior modifications to your home or lot requires application and approval of the Modifications Committee before commencement of any work begins.
- 5. Yard Sales** – Yard sales with items placed in the yard are not permitted, however indoor estate sales are allowed with proper monitoring of vehicle parking (directional signs leading to the sale are only permitted outside the community).



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6. **Solicitors** – We would like to remind our residents that to the extend permissible by law, soliciting is not permitted in Avenel. In the event that you are approached by door to door solicitors, do not engage the solicitor and contact our surveillance staff at 301-299-1518, or the ACA office during regular business hours at 301-299-5916.
7. **Watch your Speed** – Please remember to be mindful of your speed as you drive through the community to ensure the safety of children and fellow residents.
8. **Spring Cleaning** – This is a perfect time of year to inspect the exterior surfaces of your home, including roof shingles, walls and mailboxes to determine if there is an accumulation of mildew, mold, rust or staining to the exterior brick, stone, concrete or stucco surfaces that requires professional cleaning. Many of our residents have the exterior surfaces of their home cleaned regularly once or twice a year. Check out Avenel's Contractor Recommendation book for the names of companies that have provided power washing services in the community.

## 4 Reasons Not to Feed Wildlife:

The Association has received numerous complaints from residents about their neighbors feeding the deer and other wildlife. Feeding wild animals, whether on purpose or not, can do more harm than good. Please consider the following reasons not to feed wildlife offered by The Humane Society and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources:



1. **"People" food isn't good for animals.** Human foods aren't nutritious enough for animals and may cause serious health problems. Though wildlife may accept handouts from people, they will likely not get the balanced diet they need for good health.
2. **Animals that are fed by humans often lose their natural fear of people.** Feeding can make large, potentially dangerous animals become too comfortable in residential or recreational areas. Once animals learn they can panhandle for food, they can become a nuisance – or even worse, a safety risk.
3. **Feeding wildlife from or near vehicles is dangerous to animals, people and property.** Animals can be hit by moving vehicles or might try to enter vehicles in search of food.
4. **Wild animals who depend on people for food can cause injuries or spread disease.** When wild animals gather for food handouts, it can cause overcrowding and competition. These unnatural conditions increase the chances of fighting and injury among animals. It can also increase the spread of diseases, some of which may be transmitted to people and pets.

For more information, please contact the Maryland Department of Natural Resources at 410-260-8540 or visit their website at [dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/](http://dnr.maryland.gov/Wildlife/).

## Trash & Recycling Collection:

### Trash collection days are Mondays/Thursdays

### Recycling collection day is Tuesday

Trash/recycling containers should be placed out on trash/recycling pick-up days only and should be stored inside the premises out of view at all other times.

Containers should not be left in the driveway or anywhere outside the property such as behind posts, pillars, porticos, or balustrades. Enclosures intended to conceal trash/recycling containers are not permitted.

### Trash - Potomac Disposal

Trash collection days are Monday/Thursdays.

Trash should be placed in secured bags inside lidded trash bins and placed outside the garage door or curbside before 7:00 a.m. on your regularly scheduled pick-up day.

### Recyclables - Montgomery County

Recycling collection day is Tuesday.

Recyclables are to be placed in the blue bins and/or wheeled cart provided by the county and placed at the curb by 7:00 a.m. Lightweight or loose recycle items should be contained well inside the container so they do not blow out of the containers on windy days. Do not use yard trim bags for your recyclable paper. When recycling collection crews see yard trim bags at the curb, they will assume that they contain leaves, grass, or brush, and will not collect them.

Cardboard boxes do not need to be cut to size, tied, or flattened for collection. Simply set your boxes out next to your blue bin for collection.

For more information, please visit the Montgomery County recycling website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/programs/>.

### Bulk Pick-up

Potomac Disposal offers free bulk pick-up, with few exceptions. Contact Potomac Disposal at 301-294-9700 to arrange for a bulk pick-up, or submit your request online at [www.potomacdisposalonline.com](http://www.potomacdisposalonline.com).

Residents can request a free scrap metal pick up by the county to dispose of large items 51% metal or more, such as microwaves, refrigerators, grills, etc. Call Montgomery County at 240-777-0311 to schedule a bulk scrap metal pick-up.

Bulk items should be placed outside on the date of the scheduled pickup.

If you have questions or in the event your trash was not picked up, please contact Potomac Disposal at 301-294-9700.

If you have questions or in the event your recyclables were not picked up, please call Montgomery County at 240- 777-0311.

If you have any questions regarding proper disposal procedures, please contact the ACA office at 301- 299-5916.

## Thank you • Advertisers!

The ACA would like to thank all of our advertisers currently advertising on Avenel's website, in our Views from Avenel newsletter and in the upcoming edition of our phone directory. Please help us by supporting our advertisers.

**Be sure to have a look at the wonderful color ads in our directory; and check out the "Patrons" section at LiveAtAvenel.com to learn more about the products and services offered.**

Natelli Homes	Bay Forest at Bethany Beach	Main Street Homes
Alan Goldstein Architectural Photography	HRL Partners at WFP	Windward Exteriors
Glo Home Services	Nancy Shahin Itteilag	The Banner Team
The Heller Coley Reed Team	Tuckers Air Conditioning, Heating & Plumbing	Certified, Inc.
Stuart Kitchens	J. Hahn & Co.	McFall and Berry Landscape Management
BOWA	The Burr Group	Potomac Remodeling

**If you are interested in advertising your own company on Avenel's web site or in the Avenel newsletter, please call the ACA offices at 301-299-5916, or email [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com), for more information.**

## Airplane Noise Update:

The Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition is still hard at work on behalf of the residents of Avenel and the approximately 20,000 other Montgomery County residents impacted by noise and air pollution from Reagan National Airport.

### Current initiatives include:

- Representing Montgomery County on the DCA Community Noise Working Group. Avenel's own Janelle Wright is an alternate member and attends every meeting.
- Participating in the County process to hire an airspace expert who will design alternative approach and departure procedures.
- Monitoring Maryland v. FAA. Maryland claims the FAA violated the National Environmental Policy Act when the agency made approach changes in 2015. The FAA claims Maryland's petition is untimely (filed too late). Final briefs were filed in May. A ruling is expected before the end of 2019.
- Engaging staff for Senators Van Hollen and Cardin about appropriations for procedure design that would mitigate noise impacts for communities.



**What can you do?** Check out [www.mocoquietskies.org](http://www.mocoquietskies.org) to find out about upcoming meetings and how to donate to support their work. Also, continue to file complaints with the airport authority here: <https://viewpoint.bksv.com/dca3>. We can have as many as 400 flights a day over Avenel. It takes less than 5 minutes to file 1 complaint. Log a complaint and encourage your neighbors to log one, too.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Janelle Wright

Janelle moved to the Avenel community in the fall of 2014 with husband, Jay, her two teenaged children and her parents, JoEllen and Ken Lorenz. Janelle was drawn to Avenel by the convenient location and finding the perfect house to accommodate multi-generational living.

Janelle's parents, JoEllen and Ken, love their screened porch and golf course views. Her husband and daughter enjoy walking and running in Player's Turning and her son likes riding his bike to the Avenel Swim and Tennis Facilities. Janelle enjoys meeting all her neighbors and making new friends in the community.

Soon after moving to Avenel, Janelle volunteered for the Homeowners Advisory Committee (HAC) as the representative for Player's Turning. She volunteers on the HAC because, "I think it's important to communicate areas of concern, but also to communicate what's working well such as the outstanding job the ACA did during the TPC National golf tournament." As Janelle helps to facilitate communication between her neighbors and the Association, she hopes that her neighbors feel that they can come to her with both complaints and compliments.

In addition to her involvement on the HAC, in the fall of 2016, Janelle volunteered to represent Avenel on the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition (MCQSC). She is now one of the coalition leaders. She got involved because constant airplane noise impacts her personally. Janelle believes the manner in which the FAA has concentrated all approaches and all departures over certain neighborhoods in Montgomery County is unconscionable. Like many of our residents, she thinks there needs to be a better balance.

During her time serving on the HAC, Janelle has gained an understanding of county-wide issues such as the pesticide bill and the pending appeal. She would "absolutely recommend residents



serve on the HAC. It's a terrific way to get involved in our magnificent community." We agree!

Make sure to say "hi" the next time you see Janelle around the neighborhood.

If you would like to serve on any of the ACA's committees, please contact the ACA office for more information.

## What's Bugging You?

### From the desk of McFall and Berry Landscape Management

In keeping with McFall and Berry's green and eco-sensitive practices, we will be releasing praying mantis and ladybugs in your landscapes this spring at no cost to the community. These insects will be released in common areas only.



These beneficial insects will naturally help to control aphids, white flies, beetles, mosquitos, mites and other insects.

This process will help to reduce the need for additional pesticides in many situations used to control these pests. Ladybugs feed on aphids and other soft bodied insects that feed on plants. The ladybug feeds on these pests as the adult ladybug and as the larva. One ladybug can eat as many as 50 aphids a day.

The praying mantis will eat leaf-eating pests like beetles and grasshoppers.

This release of beneficial insects will integrate well into our current IPM practices and help us continue to apply less chemical while maintaining a healthy, environmentally friendly ecosystem.

Remember that McFall and Berry's goal is to actively build and maintain a healthy and thriving landscape in your community.

## You Asked, We Answered...

### Landscape Service Scheduling

The scheduling of mulching, pruning and leaf removal services is rotated within their allotted time periods each year so that no village is always first or always last to receive service.

### Landscape Enhancements

Management is currently evaluating, prioritizing and planning landscape enhancement projects for the fall. Areas being evaluated include landscape easements, village entrances, street circles, and islands and common areas. The decision process is based on the need to replace a declining landscape, equitable distribution of enhancements across the villages within the community and budget constraints.

### Work Order Requests

Routine work orders are generally completed within 5-7 business days, weather permitting. If a routine service is scheduled for your village within 1-2 weeks of your request, your work order will generally be scheduled to be performed at that time.

Routine and non-routine requests for lawn maintenance may be called in to the Association Office or Landscape Contractor where a work order will be prepared and scheduled.

ACA office:

301-299-5916; customerservice@liveatavenel.com

Lisa Gabriel, McFall and Berry Customer Service:

301-299-5916; mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com.

### Summary of Landscape Services

Are you familiar with the scope of the landscape contract as it pertains to your specific lot? The Summary of Lot Maintenance Contract provides a summary of the services that are included in the landscape contract, and those that are not. Visit the Landscape page at [www.LiveAtAvenel.com](http://www.LiveAtAvenel.com) for a copy of the summary, or contact the ACA office at customerservice@liveatavenel.com.

## The Effect of Too Much Rain on Your Landscape

### From the desk of Tom Ritter, Site Operations Manager

Plants and lawns clearly need water to survive but too much rainfall can have a negative effect on your landscape. The lingering effects from the record amount of rainfall in 2018 are still emerging as we begin the 2019 growing season. Beginning last summer and continuing into this spring, I have observed dozens of once healthy and robust plants yellow and die very quickly.

Plant roots require oxygen to survive. When there is too much water in the soil the roots literally suffocate and die. As stated by Stanton Gill in his article, "2018 Rain Come Back to Haunt in 2019," the result of this is that ornamental plants yellow, drop leaves and can ultimately die (University of Maryland Extension TPM/IPM Weekly Report). The heavy clay soils in the community are slow to dry out and are contributing to the problem. Consideration should be given to amending the soil surrounding replacement plants, which will allow the soil to dry more quickly. Mounding or raising of the soil before installing replacement plants will also aid in their survival when the next period of excessive rainfall arrives. There is no way to prevent or fix overly saturated soil other than to wait for conditions to dry and then replace the plants and seed dead areas of your lawn. Excessive amounts of rain and high humidity also provide perfect conditions for a variety of fungal and bacterial diseases which further weaken plants that are already stressed by compromised root systems.

For those of you who have irrigation systems, turning off the system during, and for a period of time after heavy rainfall will aid in allowing the soil to dry and allow oxygen to re-enter the root zones of your plants.

## Boxwood Blight

### By Rob Brown, McFall and Berry Landscape Management

Boxwood blight was confirmed for the first time in North America in October 2011. Since the first U.S. detection, boxwood blight has been reported in more than 20 states, including Maryland.

Boxwood blight is a fungal disease caused by *Calonectria pseudonaviculata*. This fungus spreads easily via sticky spores that are moved from infected plants by irrigation, rainfall, contaminated tools and transport vehicles, fallen infected leaf debris, and through

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the nursery trade. It has become a serious threat to nursery production and to boxwoods in the landscape.

### Symptoms and Signs

Boxwood blight causes leaf spots and blotches, rapid defoliation, and the eventual death of boxwood plants. A key symptom that differentiates boxwood blight from other boxwood diseases is that narrow black streaks (cankers) develop on the green stems.

### Disease Management

The best way to manage boxwood blight is to avoid introducing the disease into the landscape.

There are several best management practices that have been developed to help prevent introducing the boxwood blight fungus:

- Purchase boxwood plants from reputable nurseries that participate in a boxwood blight compliance agreement.
- Do not shear boxwoods when they are wet to reduce the chance of spreading disease.
- Clean and disinfect shearing tools used on an infected plant before moving to a new area.
- Collect and remove debris from pruning or shearing operations that involve infected plants.
- Avoid introducing new boxwood plants to landscapes that already have large, historically- important boxwoods.
- Severely affected boxwoods should be removed immediately.

Once the disease is detected, sanitation is critical for management. It is important to remove and bag any diseased plants and fallen leaves and dispose of them in municipal waste or bury them.

Do not compost infected plants or plant debris. The fungus that causes this disease can persist in the soil for five years or more, which means any replacement boxwood planted in the same site is likely to become infected.

Fungicides can be effective at protecting plants from boxwood blight infection, but **do not cure** plants with the disease. The goal of successful chemical applications is to prevent disease. Fungicide applications should be made when the pathogen is most active, during warm, wet periods. Fungicides will need to be applied every 7 to 14 days to protect susceptible boxwood.

An accurate diagnosis is very important in managing this disease. If you suspect boxwood blight, contact McFall and Berry at 301-299-5916 to schedule a property inspection.

## The Importance of Burying Cable and Internet Lines

### From the desk of Colby Schlekeway, Community Manager

Every year, the ACA receives calls from residents about cable and internet lines that have been cut by contractors/landscapers performing routine work throughout the community. After receiving many of these calls and investigating the various causes, the typical factor seems to be improperly buried cables. I was told by one Verizon technician that cables should be buried at a minimum of 3 – 4 inches under the surface. In almost all cases of cut cable and internet lines, the cables were found to be buried only 1 – 2 inches deep.

Many times, you will find lines buried along the edges of flower beds

to make them easier to bury. This practice can often lead to cut wires and an inconvenient temporary loss of service for residents. Flower beds get edged several times per year and are typically a hot spot for digging. If cables need to cross the surface of a flower bed, alternatives are available to encase the cables at spots where edging occurs.

So, as a homeowner, what can you do to help prevent this issue? If your cables have been buried and you have not had any issues, then you can probably leave your cables as is. If you are having cable and internet installed and the contractors need to bury new lines, or your old lines have been cut, make sure the new cables are buried at a minimum of 3 – 4 inches while taking special care if the lines cross flower beds or other areas where edging takes place.

## Storm Water Management, Root Competition, and the Available Nutrients in the Soils

**By Bob Rieck, McFall and Berry Landscape Management**  
*Licensed Tree Expert, Certified Professional Horticulturist, Certified IPM Ornamental/Turf, Certified CBLP, Certified in Green Solutions for Erosion Control Systems*

What do these three items have in common? First, let's discuss the storm water concern. Communities are designed with a storm water management plan to aid in moving heavy flows of rain water throughout the neighborhood and off to Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in our urbanized areas, and those additionally designated by The Maryland Department of the Environment. Let me put this into a simpler statement. During new home construction, homes are graded to allow water to run away from the home. If you have a swale running through your yard, then this is part of one those systems. Maintaining the integrity of these swales allows for the proper flow of the storm water. You should not modify the swales without the proper permits to do so.

Landscape designs should be designed to be part of the water management system. Overgrown landscape material and the root systems of large trees may negatively impact the functionality of the swales. Surrounding topography and hardscapes can also impact drainage on plant material and trees. Over time the root systems of these will suffer, particularly those in low lying areas. Root Rot is a condition found when there is poor drainage around the plant material. Phytophthora is the most common and will develop in many ornamental trees and shrubs. One of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) which will reduce this concern is to choose the correct plant for the location. Some plant material will do fine with their feet wet. Others want a moist but well drained environment. And others prefer a dry and sunny location. Designing for the long-term success of your property's plant material will save you heartache down the road.

Now let's talk about root competition and the available nutrients in the soils. The soils in our Avenel community area are a silty-loam-clay. Clay is the dominant factor here. There's a minimal layer of topsoil, only about 4 to 5 inches deep. Clay is highly impervious, and storm water sits in low areas after a storm passes and in the topsoil layer for long periods of time. Clay is also very low in nutrients and oxygen. The roots from

**continued on next page**

trees and plants stay in the topsoil layer and will die-off when, and if, they move into the clay layers. The root competition in this upper topsoil layer adds to the drainage issues in our community because they move along the top and change the grades designed to move our storm water out to the storm sewer systems.

### How do we address these issues?

In many cases linear French drains can be set up in an arrow, feather-like form in the lawns to aid in the drying of the lawn areas and also aid in moving storm water to the proper drain system. The removal of trees and other plant material which have outgrown their space and the use

of smaller replacements can help. Dry creek runs and small boulders can also assist in redirecting the flow of water. The use of trees which aid in drying the ground water, such as River Birch trees, as well as conservation gardens, rain gardens, and the use of native plant material can also help. Other options are available, including soil adjustments for a long-term approach.

Storm water management, root competition and the available nutrients in the soils have one factor in common: the soil. All three affect each other. Good Best Management Practices will not only help keep our Chesapeake Bay healthy, but our investments in our landscapes healthy, too..

## From the desk of Ed Caldwell *Surveillance Supervisor*

Conducting random, high visibility vehicular patrol of the villages is the primary duty of the surveillance staff. Approximately 43,000 patrol miles are driven annually throughout the community.

While Avenel is fortunate in that it remains a relatively safe community, we are not exempt from periodic incidents. Recent burglary and theft events reported to the police in the Bethesda/Potomac areas, including some occurring in Avenel, has prompted a review of our surveillance patrol operations.

As a result, the surveillance staff will periodically suspend use of the flashing amber roof lights during our routine shifts, particularly while conducting patrols during the late evening and early morning hours. This decision was made after consulting with the police department, who believe this procedural change may increase the likelihood of surveillance staff observing and reporting suspicious persons. Residents should expect that during these hours the surveillance patrol vehicle may be less visible, however, be assured that the patrol guard is surveilling the community.

Our plan is to continue this practice for a period of time as we evaluate its effectiveness. Any comments or suggestions regarding this policy are welcome and may be forwarded to me at [ed@liveatavenel.com](mailto:ed@liveatavenel.com).

Surveillance staff continue to notice packages on front porches and in mailboxes late at night. The Association recommends that, before retiring for the evening, packages be brought inside. Please consider asking neighbors to retrieve packages if you plan on being out of town.

With home security concerns of residents always being paramount, I would like to pass on the following tips provided by the Montgomery County Police.

### Safety Tips and Theft Prevention

Follow these safety tips to help make your homes and vehicles less likely to be targeted for burglary and theft:

- Always lock your vehicle and arm all vehicle alarms where available. Keep any valuables and/or money out of sight.
- Keep your house locked at all times. Keep valuables out of sight of first floor windows.
- Install good quality deadbolt locks on all exterior doors and any doors from attached garages and consistently use those locks.
- Always lock the house door from your garage and keep garage doors closed.
- If you have an alarm system for your home, use it!
- Even at this time of year when it is particularly pleasant to leave windows open, all first floor windows should be locked.
- Keep door areas well-lit.
- Never leave a house key under the mat, in the mailbox, or above your door.
- Trim back bushes and shrubs near windows and doors that could provide a hiding place for someone looking to make illegal entry.
- Call the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000 to report any suspicious activity. Never be afraid that you are bothering police; let officers decide whether someone or something poses a danger. For all emergencies, dial 9-1-1. After you've contacted the police, please contact Avenel surveillance staff at 301-299-1518.

### Are you curious about who's behind the wheel of the surveillance vehicle patrolling your village?



As a continuing feature of my newsletter column, I periodically introduce to the Avenel community, members of our surveillance staff.

In this issue I am pleased to introduce Rodney Williams, who patrols our community each Monday through Thursday from 1:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., and each Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m.

Rodney has been a valued member of our team for the past eight years. Born into an Air Force military family, Rodney moved frequently, living in Missouri, Texas, North Carolina, and Louisiana.

After enlisting and serving in the Army infantry, Rodney relocated to the Washington DC area, working in the private security field until finding full time employment with Avenel. Rodney enjoys football (he's a Dallas Cowboy fan), basketball, cooking, building models, and listening to music (R&B and country).

Please extend a friendly appreciatory wave to Rodney when you see the surveillance patrol vehicle passing through your village during his shifts.



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Avenel References | MHIC # 91637

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## Welcome to Avenel

The Avenel Community  
Association would like

to welcome the following new residents who recently  
joined our Community.

#### CHARTWELL:

- The Zhang and Wu Family

#### EAGLE RIDGE:

- The Berg Family
- The Suarez-Anzorena Family

#### PLAYER'S CROSSING:

- The Diaz-Rosillo Family
- The Fried Family
- The Trambley Family

#### PLAYER'S GATE:

- The Zito Family

#### PRESCOTT:

- The Fajgenbaum Family
- The Fricke and Shimoji Family
- The Kong and Yang Family
- The Zhukovsky Family

#### RAPLEY PRESERVE:

- The Alassar Family
- The McGregor Family

#### SAUNDERS GATE:

- The Rasoulia Family
- The Gates:
- The Sarmadi Family

# Views from Avenel

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## Upcoming Meetings\* / ACA Events:

- ✧ **The Modifications Committee** – The Modifications Committee meets on the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00pm in the A.M. Natelli Center. Submissions to the Modifications Committee are due by 12:00pm on the 1st Monday of every month.
- ✧ **The Standards Committee** – The Standards Committee generally meets on the 1st Tuesday of every month on an as needed basis at 6:00pm in the A.M. Natelli Center.
- ✧ **The Homeowners Advisory Committee** – The HAC generally meets once per quarter at 6:00pm in the A.M. Natelli Center. The remaining meets for 2019 are scheduled as follows: August 28th & November 20th.
- ✧ **The Board of Directors** – The Board of Directors generally meets on the 3rd or 4th Tuesday, every other month, at 8:30am in the A.M. Natelli Center. The next Board meeting is scheduled for July 16th.
- ✧ **Fourth of July Bike Parade** – July 4th at 10:00am @ Avenel Pool parking lot.
- ✧ **Sunday Funday** – July 21st @ Avenel Pool.
- ✧ **\*\*2019 Annual Homeowners Meeting** – November 12th at 7:00pm @ TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm. More details to follow soon!

*\*Please note that meeting/event dates and times are subject to change. Be sure to check [www.LiveAtAvenel.com](http://www.LiveAtAvenel.com), or the ACA Bulletin Board, for current meeting dates/times, updates, & important Community alerts, or call the ACA offices at your convenience.*