

# Views from Avenel

Winter 2020

## News&Notes

### 2020 Assessments:

Assessment coupons for 2020 have been mailed by Comsource Management, Inc. (CMI) and should have been received by all residents. For those residents who pay by automatic debit, make sure to modify your disbursement amount to reflect the 2020 assessment.

Automatic debit is a convenient method of paying your monthly assessments. To enroll, or for other questions regarding your assessments or assessment coupons, please contact CMI directly at **301-924-7355**, or Tony Martella at [tmartella@comsource.com](mailto:tmartella@comsource.com).

### New Surveillance Phone Number:

Avenel Surveillance has a new cell phone number. The old phone number was 301-299-1518. The new phone number is **301-370-5484**. Please use the new number going forward, and remember to update your contacts.

**continued on** *next page*

## Financial Status (unaudited) As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### ASSETS

Cash .....	\$ 5,119,702
Accounts Receivables .....	\$ 54,056
Current Assets .....	\$ 32,455
Fixed Assets .....	\$ 1,217,381
TOTAL ASSETS .....	\$ 6,423,594

### LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities .....	\$ 317,541
Note Payable .....	\$ 664,553
TOTAL LIABILITIES .....	\$ 982,094

<b>MEMBERS EQUITY</b> .....	\$ 5,441,500
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\*Information provided by Comsource Management, Inc.

## From the Desk of Lucy Wilson, General Manager

### A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

The release of the new movie starring Tom Hanks, portraying the life of Fred Rogers, was a popular film to view with family over the holiday season. A feel-good movie that pays homage to Fred Rogers, who by all accounts, was a good-hearted, extraordinary man who

reminded us to be kind to each other, generous and happy. Can't we all appreciate that message, especially during this busy time of year?

A beautiful day in the neighborhood. It is reflective of our Avenel story as well.

Avenel has a distinctive and unique physical beauty that you'd be hard pressed to find in other communities located just miles from the District of Columbia. Acres of beautiful, lush green landscape. Walking trails that provide opportunities for dog walking, strolling, jogging and biking. The spectacular views and open spaces of the TPC, Equestrian Center and Avenel Park. Majestic stone pillars and white horse fencing that greet and welcome you home.

A diverse group of homeowners is lucky to call Avenel home. Many long-time original owners who have experienced the community as it gracefully matures are now neighbors with families who have more recently joined the community. Many have lived in multiple homes within the community, a testament to the lure of Avenel.

As we welcome a new year and set aside time to reflect on new and improved personal aspirations, consider making time to enjoy all that Avenel has to offer. Welcome a new neighbor. Participate in the village gatherings and various community events. Make new social connections at the pool. Serve on a committee. Start a book or walking club. We can all seize a bit of inspiration from Mr. Rogers: Be a good neighbor, and enjoy and appreciate all that Avenel has to offer. After all, it is a "Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood."



## 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 ..... Leslie Libby  
(301) 365-2026 ..... 9412 Wing Foot 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 Sandalfoot 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  
Site Operations Manager ..... Tom Ritter  
tom@liveatavenel.com  
Architectural Coordinator ..... Karen Tam  
karen@liveatavenel.com  
Community Manager ..... Colby Schlekeway  
colby@liveatavenel.com  
Office Manager ..... Jenna Hnath  
jenna@liveatavenel.com  
Administration ..... Nicole Koonge  
nicole@liveatavenel.com  
General Inquiries ..... customerservice@liveatavenel.com  
McFall & Berry Landscaping ..... Lisa Gabriel  
mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com  
ACA Surveillance Supervisor ..... Ed Caldwell  
(301) 370-5484 ..... ed@liveatavenel.com  
Financial Management (CMI) ..... Tony Martella  
(301) 924-7355 ..... tmartella@comsource.com

## Connect with Us Online

### Stay Connected:

Email notifications, [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com), and this printed newsletter are just a few ways to stay in touch with the community.

### Community Email List

The ACA regularly communicates information and alerts to the community via email. If you want to be included in our mailing list, contact the ACA office with your email information at **301-299-5916**, by email at [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com), or sign up on our website at [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com).

### Community Website

The community website, [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com) contains a wealth of useful information that you may not know about. View homes that are for sale/rent, download important forms and documents, and learn more about community services and amenities. Have you signed up for the Owner portion of the website? Join the 400+ residents who have already signed up. Go to [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com), click on **OWNERS** at the top right corner, and fill out the requested information to request access.



**Did you know that Avenel has a Facebook page?** Look us up **@AvenelMD** and hit the Like button for posts on upcoming community social events and activities, great photos and more. More of an Instagrammer? Follow us on Instagram **@avenelcommunity**. Don't use Facebook or Instagram? Check out our videos on YouTube - **AvenelCommunity**.



## Staff Email Addresses:

**ACA staff email addresses have changed.** If you've not already done so, please update your records and direct your messages to our new email addresses.

- Lucy Wilson, General Manager - [lucy@liveatavenel.com](mailto:lucy@liveatavenel.com)
- Colby Schlekeway, Community Manager - [colby@liveatavenel.com](mailto:colby@liveatavenel.com)
- Jenna Hnath, Office Manager - [jenna@liveatavenel.com](mailto:jenna@liveatavenel.com)
- Tom Ritter, Site Operations Manager - [tom@liveatavenel.com](mailto:tom@liveatavenel.com)
- Karen Tam, Architectural/Covenants Administrator - [karen@liveatavenel.com](mailto:karen@liveatavenel.com)
- Nicole Koonge, Office Administrator - [nicole@liveatavenel.com](mailto:nicole@liveatavenel.com)
- Ed Caldwell, Surveillance Supervisor - [ed@liveatavenel.com](mailto:ed@liveatavenel.com)
- Customer Service, General Inquiries - [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com)
- Lisa Gabriel, Customer Service Representative, McFall and Berry Landscaping - [mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com](mailto:mcfallandberry@liveatavenel.com)

Emails that are sent to our old [@avenel.net](mailto:@avenel.net) addresses will be automatically forwarded to the new accounts.

## Welcome, Nicole!

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our team, Nicole Koonge. Nicole joined the Association as the front desk administrator/receptionist in September 2019. Before joining Avenel, Nicole worked in a number of customer service oriented positions in the Bethesda area, including Pinstripes. The next time you interact with Nicole, please say hello and give her a warm welcome!

**continued on next page**

## Avenel's 2019 Pet Photo Contest Winners:

Congratulations to the winners of our 2019 Pet Photo Contest!

- Best Action Shot: Dobby and Harley
- Cutest Sleeper: Logan
- Best Costume/Outfit: Dobby and Logan tied for 1st place.
- Best Sports Fan: Prinnie

Pet Photo Contest winners won prizes from our contest sponsor Becky Pugh, of Bone Jour, and were also featured on Avenel's social media pages and in a community email.

Thank you to all who entered and shared photos of your pets, and to all of those that participated by voting for your favorites. A special thanks to Bone Jour for sponsoring our contest.

## Bulk Trash and Recycling Pick-up:

Potomac Disposal offers free bulk trash pick-up for large items and/or excessive amounts of trash, with few exceptions. Submit your request online at [www.potomacdisposal.com](http://www.potomacdisposal.com), or call Potomac Disposal at **301-294-9700** to arrange for a bulk pick-up. Requests should be submitted before Wednesday afternoon. Collections will generally be made on Thursday, the regular trash collection day.

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. Scrap metal collections must be scheduled in advance of the regular recycling collection day, Tuesday. Call Montgomery County at **240-777-0311** to schedule a bulk scrap metal pick-up, or submit a request online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/scrapmetal](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/scrapmetal).

Bulk items should be placed curbside by 7:00 a.m. on the date of the scheduled pick-up.

## Help your Neighbors Find a Reliable Contractor:

Can you commit to sharing at least one contractor recommendation this year?

Many of our residents review our community supported Contractor Recommendations Book to find a contractor or service provider as recommended by fellow residents. We need your help to keep the book up-to-date and replenish the list with the names of companies used in the past with satisfactory results.

If you have engaged the services of a contractor you would like to recommend to your fellow neighbors, please fill out a Contractor Recommendation form, so that we can add them to our list.

The Contractor Recommendation form is available at the ACA office, or on the Avenel website, [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com).

## Social Committee Volunteers Needed:

Volunteers are always needed to power the committees and activities of our community. It is gratifying to know that just a small commitment of your time can make a big difference to our community. In the words of actor and director Clint Eastwood, "What you put into life is what you get out of it." This is true for our community as well.

The Avenel Social Committee seeks to foster a greater sense of community through the planning and execution of various events throughout the year. These events include summer fun parties at the community pool and holiday parties like the Holiday Wine and Cheese Party and the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat, to name a few. Over the past few years, the Association has noticed an increase in attendance at these events. We would like this community engagement to continue to grow, but that can only be done with the help of more volunteers.

Any time commitment will help. If you are not prepared or able to be a full-time member of the Social Committee, volunteer to help for one or two events a year. The success of a community is based, in large part, on the involvement of its members. Please consider chipping in by taking an active role.

## Additional Volunteer Opportunities:

### 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 Crossing, Prescott and Willow Gate.

### Modifications Committee

There is currently an opening for a regular member and openings for alternate members. Volunteers with a background or knowledge of construction, architecture, engineering, design, landscaping or real estate are particularly needed.

### Standards Committee

There are currently openings for alternate members.

### Ad Hoc Landscape Committee

There are openings available for regular members.

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.

Thank you to every individual that has now, or in the past, volunteered to serve in one capacity or another on our various committees.





## Snow Removal Reminders:

The Association's general policy is that snow is removed by the combined efforts of Montgomery County and McFall and Berry when snowfall accumulation reaches two inches (2") or more. Should the snowfall accumulation be less than two inches, it is generally the Association's policy to treat any impassable or unsafe areas with ice melting products. Common area sidewalks are also cleared with ice melting products where deemed necessary. Montgomery County ordinance requires that residents clear sidewalks adjoining their own lots within twenty-four (24) hours of the end of precipitation.



In the event of snow, please assist us in keeping the Community safe by providing easy access to fire hydrants for emergency personnel. Please do not block, or park in front of a fire hydrant and keep the area clear and easily accessible. If there is a fire hydrant in the vicinity of your home, please lend a helping hand by shoveling out the area to assure that the fire department and emergency personnel can easily access the fire hydrant if needed.

In addition, please keep vehicles stored in driveways to avoid interference with snow plow efforts and so that snow plows can get through streets safely and effectively, particularly in narrow streets and cul-de-sacs.

In the event of inclement weather, the Association will communicate important information to residents via email. To sign up for the community email list, contact the ACA office at [customerservice@liveatavenel.com](mailto:customerservice@liveatavenel.com), call 301-299-5916, or visit our website at [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com).

## 2019 Annual Meeting Update:

Last year's Annual Homeowners Meeting took place on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at the TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm. It was a well-attended and informative meeting followed by hors d'oeuvres and a chance to mingle with fellow residents, as well as meet Captain Sean Gagen, 2nd District Commander. For those residents who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, DRAFT meeting minutes have been posted to the Avenel webpage at [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com).

The ACA also held elections for three vacant Board positions at the Annual Meeting. We are happy to welcome returning Board members Mr. Cliff Ehrlich of Prescott, Mr. Jeff Green of Eagle Ridge, and Ms. Jennifer Kitchen of Player's Gate. They join current Board members Mr. Tim Bender of Player's Gate and Ms. Maureen Scott of Player's Turning. Please join the ACA in congratulating our returning Board members and in thanking them for their continued commitment to Avenel.

## Did you Know?



Gold was discovered in Montgomery County during the Civil War. The first and most successful mine was the Maryland Mine, where operations began in 1867, and its remains are preserved today near the intersection of Falls Road and MacArthur Blvd. The mine operated through the 1940s and closed permanently in 1951. There were five additional nearby gold mines along Rock Run Stream.

## Avenel State of the Market 2019

### By Lori Leasure, Realtor, Washington Fine Properties

While the beginning of 2019 brought a level of uncertainty in the real estate market throughout the region, our market in Avenel picked up pace nicely toward the end of the year. Although most buyers believe the spring or summer are the best times to purchase, this real estate trend was turned on its head due to an overwhelmingly strong end of the year performance.

The bottleneck holding back sales at the end of 2018 and up until the fall of 2019 finally broke through, not just in Avenel but all over our region. At year's end, Avenel transferred a total of 48 units, with 22 of those sales occurring from September to the end of the year and more homes scheduled to close in Avenel in early 2020 that are currently under contract.

With the start-and-stop-and-start again rhythm of the market

over the past few years, buyers are finally seeing the values and coming to the settlement table. Units sold in 2019 versus the previous year in Avenel are only slightly off, with 55 units sold in 2018 versus 48 in 2019. Prices all over the area are adjusting, and our neighborhood is no exception. While our average sales price in 2018 was \$1,418,890, Avenel saw an average sales price in 2019 of \$1,600,152. However, one statistic that has lowered our average sales is the decrease in sales priced over \$1,800,000...in 2018, 12 units sold... versus 9 units selling in 2019.

The average sold price to list price is holding fairly steady from 2018 to 2019, 96.4% to 95.4% respectively. The total days on the market is also steady, with 2018 total days averaging 108 versus 2019 at 90 days. With excellent mortgage rates still available to buyers, I am encouraged by the close of the year activity in Avenel and look forward to a busy 2020!

Thank you • Advertisers!

The ACA would like to thank all of our generous sponsors currently advertising on Avenel's website. Not only do their advertisements provide a useful tool for our residents, the ads defer the cost of running our webpage.

Be sure to check out the “Patrons” page on [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com) to learn more about the products and services provided by:

Nancy Itteilag, Washington Fine Properties	Natelli Homes	BayForest
Main Street Homes	Alan Goldstein Architectural Photography	HRL Partners at Washington Fine Properties
Glo Home Services	Windward Exteriors	KidsCos

If you are interested in advertising your own company on Avenel's website, please contact Jenna Hnath at 301-299-5916 or via email at [jenna@liveatavenel.com](mailto:jenna@liveatavenel.com).

Architectural Review

Please remember that all exterior changes made to your home require prior approval.

Modifications Committee

The Modifications Committee reviews plans and specs for changes that homeowners wish to make to their homes and lots. They are guided in their efforts by the architectural guidelines.

The committee is comprised of residents who volunteer their time to review all modification applications submitted to the Association office. The committee takes its responsibility seriously to aid in maintaining the architectural standards that ultimately preserve Avenel's aesthetic appeal for the good of all homeowners.

The Application Process

Modification applications are due on the 1st Monday of the month; please plan your submittals accordingly, as applications submitted after the deadline will be reviewed the following month.

Prior to submitting an application, please check the guidelines for information relevant to the change you are proposing. Always refer to the “Application” section of the guidelines that details what your application should include and submit a COMPLETE application with supporting documentation. If an application is submitted that is not complete, then the review process may be delayed.

The Modifications Committee meets to review applications on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the ACA Office (Anthony M. Natelli Building). Applicants are welcome to attend the meetings to present their applications and answer

any questions that Committee members may have. If you plan to attend, please let us know prior to the meeting so that a time can be scheduled on the agenda.

As part of the review process, Avenel staff and Modifications Committee members will often make site visits to the applicant's property so they can see the home site and visualize first-hand the changes being proposed.

The review process generally takes thirty days from the time that the completed application and exhibits are submitted. Applicants will generally receive the written decision within 7 to 10 business days following the meeting, but we are always available by phone at 301-299-5916 for immediate information on whether an application was approved and if any conditions apply.

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For questions or assistance with the application process, please contact Karen Tam, Avenel's Architectural Coordinator @ 301-299-5916 (ext. 13) or [Karen@liveatavenel.com](mailto:Karen@liveatavenel.com)

For more information on the application process, or to download the Modification Application form, see examples of Modification Applications and review the Architectural Guidelines - please visit Avenel's website at [www.liveatavenel.com](http://www.liveatavenel.com) and sign in to the Owners portion of the website where this and so much more relevant information, including a complete list of Modification Applications that have been submitted for review is available.

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## Avenel Swim and Tennis News

The Avenel Community Pool opens Memorial Day Weekend on May 23, 2020. Last fall, the Association completed major renovations to the pool. A new white coat was applied, and the brick coping and waterline tiles were replaced. We look forward to residents enjoying the improvements during the upcoming pool season and encourage residents to come out this summer and take full advantage of this wonderful community amenity.

If you are unsure of how to take advantage of the community pool, here are few simple ways:

- Attend one of the community events held by the Social Committee or Swim and Tennis Advisory Committee. These events usually include free food and/or games and are a great way to meet your neighbors and make new friends, all while building a stronger sense of community.
- Enjoy a low-impact, full body workout by swimming laps. Swimming targets all areas, including core, arms, legs, glutes, and back. It also works on flexibility, balance, endurance, and muscle strengthening, thanks to water resistance.
- Do you have kids? Bring them to the pool for a day of fun in the sun or sign them up for the Avenel Alligators Swim Team. For the second year in a row, the Avenel Alligators won the CCSDA Division C Championship. This is a great way for your children to get to know and make friends with other children in the community.
- Enjoy some friendly competition and play a game of volleyball, cornhole, ping pong, or giant Connect Four.
- Come out and root for the Avenel Alligators during one of their home matches.
- Consider joining the Swim and Tennis Advisory Committee and help plan a fun event for the coming year
- Bring the family and cook some hamburgers and hot dogs on one of the propane grills in the picnic area.
- Kick back, relax, and enjoy a book. On a hot summer day come and escape the heat pool side on one of our lounge chairs under an umbrella.

As the pool season approaches, more information will be sent to residents via email, including information about pool passes, rentals, pool rules, and more. Information will also be posted to the Avenel website, [Liveatavenel.com](http://Liveatavenel.com).

## Avenel Tennis Spring 2020

**By Jim Harwood, USPTA Pro**

Last year was our most active tennis season yet. We sponsored an opening day tennis and pickleball event, open play tennis and pickleball on Sundays, and other events at no cost to members. I also had an active clinic, drill sessions, and private lessons scheduled throughout the year.

This year, we are building on last year's success and momentum. We will be scheduling an opening day event in early April. Kids clinics,

including 6 and under red ball, 8 and under orange ball, and 10 and under green ball lessons are tentatively scheduled to start in the evenings during the week of March 16, 2020. We will also be running intermediate clinics during the day on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and advanced clinics on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:00 p.m. Open Play Sundays at 4:00 p.m. and other events will be announced in the future.

If there are specific requests for additional types of clinics or events that may be of interest to residents, please let me know. I can generally accommodate requests for special events, such as spring break tennis for juniors or group cardio classes.

For more information on how to participate, please contact me at **(770) 337-3610**.

## Avenel Alligators Swim Team

**By Kim Reed, Swim Team Parent Volunteer**

Like most of our Avenel neighbors, the Avenel Alligators Swim Team and our Mini-Gators pre-team are dreaming of warmer weather and trying to keep in shape during this off-season. After winning our second consecutive division championship in late July, we are preparing to give our best efforts to win a third!

In the run up to the 2020 season, we hope that last year's sponsors will continue to support the team.

Additional sponsorships are available at levels starting at \$500. Sponsors will receive benefits such as their name and logo on a banner at swim meets and on items like t-shirts, listing on a poster in the clubhouse entrance, and prominent recognition in the Avenel

Living Magazine and Avenel newsletter (depending on the sponsorship level). Last year's Platinum Sponsor was Nancy Itteilag of Washington Fine Properties, and other sponsors included National Capital Bank of Washington, Shulman Rogers Law Firm, and McFall & Berry. We are especially interested in food and beverage sponsors this year but welcome everyone.

We invite all Avenel residents between ages 5 and 18 (as of 6/1/2020) who can swim the length of the pool to join our team. We practice in the late afternoons and early evenings from Memorial Day through the CCSDA Championships in late July. Our team shares several summer social events and are very close to one another. We depend on our parents to actively volunteer for the team.

Kids who are beginners are welcome to join our "pre-team," which provides daily swim lessons and a "Lollipop Meet." Children must be able to listen to and follow instructions to join pre-team.

Team and pre-team applications will be available in April. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kim Reed at [kimzbish@yahoo.com](mailto:kimzbish@yahoo.com) or **202-427-9030**.



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



### **Tips for Deterring Deer and other Wildlife**

As many of you have unfortunately experienced, deer can quickly decimate your ornamental trees, shrubs and flowers. The most successful strategy to protect your plants from the deer is to keep them guessing by using a variety of deterrent methods interchangeably.

#### **Some of the methods for deterring deer include:**

- 1) Maintain your landscape – eliminate densely planted areas to make them less appealing as hiding places.
- 2) Install a motion-activated sprinkler.
- 3) Let your dog spend plenty of time in the yard.
- 4) Plant deer repelling plants with strong aromas. Some examples are lavender, catmint, garlic or chives.
- 5) Use plants and shrubs as texture-based repellents. Shrubs like Russian olive, Boxwood and Oleander are unappealing to deer because they are prickly and unpleasant to chew.
- 6) Install deer fencing at least 8 feet tall. Please review the fencing guidelines prior to installing any type of deer fencing.
- 7) Apply proven deer repellent products – granular and liquid forms.
- 8) Install plant netting. Plant netting can be permitted with the appropriate approvals.
- 9) Put up wind chimes.

Some of the other destructive wildlife species in the community include squirrels, racoons and the occasional groundhog. Many of the same strategies are used to deter these pests, including eliminating their hiding places, removing food sources such as human trash, pet food and bird seed, scaring them, and excluding them with barriers.

Keep in mind that these ideas are only deterrents and that if the animals are hungry enough, they will likely eat anything they can find. And unfortunately, what their palate finds objectionable one year can become a favorite in subsequent years. It is certainly a challenge for our landscape to successfully co-exist with Avenel's wildlife. Employing a variety of deterrents can help.



# Airplane Noise Update

## By Janelle Wright

*Avenel resident Janelle Wright serves on the Reagan National Airport Community Noise Working Group and is a co-leader of the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition.*



There's good news on the horizon regarding aircraft noise over Avenel and other Montgomery County communities. After four years of working with the FAA, Montgomery County representatives secured a regional agreement to move westbound departures from communities in Bethesda and Potomac to non-residential areas adjacent to the Potomac River.

In 2015, the FAA redesigned Washington's airspace and transitioned to satellite-based navigation. In order to accommodate the use of satellite-based technology, new

procedures were designed and flight paths were consolidated. All of the arrivals and all of the departures were shifted and concentrated over Montgomery County communities.

Montgomery County representatives to the Community Noise Working Group are pleased that **beginning in July 2020, westerly departures will be moving south to non-residential areas adjacent to the Potomac River.** This change will provide considerable relief to Avenel and surrounding communities. **About 40% of the total flights that Avenel currently experiences will move to non-residential areas.** This change helps a large number of people in Montgomery County, it is consistent with the decades-old practice of keeping flights over the river for noise abatement, and it results in a better regional sharing of noise.

Work is also underway to address the arrivals (called approaches) that impact the area. There are significant complaints about approaches because they fly at low altitudes above homes - about 3,000 ft. The goal is to lessen the frequency of approaching flights over any one community, but sustained community support is needed for this work.

Avenel residents are gratified by the support of the Avenel Community Association Board of Directors. However, there's a concern that residents in Avenel and other Montgomery County communities have grown weary of the issue. Residents who feel impacted by the flights over Avenel are urged to continue filing complaints with the airport authority (<https://viewpoint.bksv.com/dca3>). Residents are also encouraged to attend meetings and sign up for alerts from the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition at [MoCoQuietSkies.org](https://www.mocoquiet skies.org).

Avenel residents and our neighbors need a better balance between aviation priorities and community impacts. Quiet Skies leaders need the support of community members to keep up the fight.

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**Contact us: 301-977-3964**

[info@potomacremodeling.net](mailto:info@potomacremodeling.net)

[www.potomacremodeling.net](http://www.potomacremodeling.net)

Avenel References | MHIC # 91637



# Volunteer Spotlight

*John & Diane Murphy*

Our Volunteer Spotlight series honors the amazing volunteers who donate their time and expertise to maintaining Avenel as a premier community and a wonderful place to live. We encourage all Avenel residents to connect with our volunteers and thank them for their hard work. In this issue, we are pleased to recognize John and Diane Murphy, who volunteer on the Modifications Committee and Standards Committee, respectively.

## ***When did you move to Avenel?***

Fall of 2001

## ***Who lives in your household?***

John, Diane and our Havanese, Javier

## ***What drew you to Avenel?***

So many things: the distinct style of the community, with lush green and floral spaces, walking paths throughout, the well-maintained appearance of homes and landscaping and the sense that each of the neighborhoods is its own community within a larger community. Avenel is a community for all stages, ages and lifestyles. We are in our third Avenel home and enjoy wonderful friendships with our neighbors from each of the three communities here in which we have lived.

## ***Why do you volunteer?***

We both have a desire to be engaged in our community. We appreciate the fact that our Board and the HOA management team have a lot to do in overseeing a 900-home community that is now 30 years old, and volunteering enables us to provide homeowners' perspective as Avenel evolves. There is a delicate balance between adherence to the HOA guidelines we all signed up for when we made our home purchases in Avenel, and the need to consider appropriate changes to those standards when warranted. Being involved on committees enables us to have a voice on those issues - as homeowners who have a real stake in the outcome.

## ***What do you think you gain as a committee member?***

We have gotten to know so many more homeowners through our committee involvement and enjoyed a shared sense purpose in helping to maintain the community that has been home to us for nearly 20 years. We've also had fun along the way - made new friendships and gained a greater appreciation for the term "community".



## Welcome to Avenel

The Avenel Community Association would like to welcome the following new residents who recently joined our Community.

### **CHARTWELL:**

- The Ierubino Family
- The Nawabi and Ghasimi Family
- The Rosen Family

### **EAGLE RIDGE:**

- The Szamosszegi Family
- The Yao Family

### **PLAYER'S CROSSING:**

- The Froehlich Family
- The Garr Family
- The Hartley Family
- The Lee Family
- The Winzer Family

### **PLAYER'S GATE:**

- The Bender Family
- The Bersoff-Matcha Family
- The Depetris Family
- The Gwinn and Nguyen Family
- The Men Family
- The Miller Family
- The Singer Family

### **PLAYER'S TURNING:**

- The Mahon Family
- The Rau Family

### **PLEASANT GATE:**

- The George and Edson Family
- The Hunt and Parker Family
- The Slattery Family

### **PRESCOTT:**

- The Brumbaugh Family
- The Engelmann Family
- The Flanders and Snyder Family
- The Ke and Zhang Family
- The Lubin and Ellis Family
- The Nachnani Family
- The Pavlick and Hallinan Family
- The Rizzo and Wan Family
- The Ziemski Family

### **RAPLEY PRESERVE:**

- The An Family
- The Fruewirth Family
- The West Family

### **SAUNDERS GATE:**

- The Grewal Family

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

### Make the Right Call

The primary duty of the surveillance staff is to conduct continuous and random patrols of the villages. Providing a visible presence in the community serves as a deterrent to criminal activities. Surveillance staff act as the “eyes and ears” of the community, making notifications to the police, fire department, public utilities, etc., when necessary.

In some cases residents will be the first observer of an event or situation that requires a prompt emergency response. Knowing the correct number to call for assistance aids in reducing response time.

The following information provided by the Montgomery County Police and Fire/Rescue Services will help residents make the right call by using **9-1-1 only for emergencies, 301-279-8000 only to report non-emergencies, and 3-1-1 for general Montgomery County government information**. Having a better understanding of when to call each of these three numbers will help ensure that your specific need is most effectively met.

After making this call, residents are encouraged to contact the surveillance staff at **301-370-5484**.

### When to Call 9-1-1:

Use 9-1-1 only to report emergencies to the police and fire/rescue departments. Some examples include: life threatening situations, fights, weapons, personal injury vehicle collisions, sex assaults in progress or just occurred, an immediate fear for your personal safety or the safety of others, serious crimes in progress (robbery, burglary, assault), any type of fire, and any serious medical problem that requires an ambulance or other immediate medical response.

### What You Should Do When You Call 9-1-1:

When calling 9-1-1 remain calm and speak clearly. Be prepared to answer where, what, when, who, and how. Let the call taker ask the questions. Stay on the phone if it is safe to do so, or until the call taker advises you to hang up. If your call is not answered immediately, stay on the line. Do not hang up and call back. Be prepared to answer the call taker's questions such as location, nature of emergency, nature of any injuries, etc. Follow any instructions the call taker gives you.

If you inadvertently dial 9-1-1, do not hang up. Stay on the phone and advise the call taker that you mistakenly dialed 9-1-1 and that you do not have an emergency.

### When to Call the Police Non-Emergency Number 301-279-8000:

The non-emergency number is used to report less serious crimes such as noise complaints, parking violations, property damage collisions where there is no personal injury, animal complaints, door to door solicitors, and suspicious persons, vehicles, and situations. This number is also used when you are the victim of a crime that is not in progress.

### When to Call 3-1-1:

The MC311 Center is used to answer non-emergency information about county government programs and services such as recycling information, road and pothole repair requests, tax bills, health and human services information, and weather emergency questions. You can reach MC311 by calling **311** in the county or **240-777-0311**, from anywhere, Monday – Friday, 7am-7pm.

### 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 **Faramarz Bairamijamal**, who patrols our community each Saturday and Sunday from 8am until 5pm.

Faramarz has been a valued member of our team for the past five months.

Faramarz is fluent in Farsi, German, and English.

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

If you need assistance from Avenel Surveillance, please contact us at **301-370-5484**.

## AVENEL PROFILES

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**AGE:** Timeless

**SCHOOLS:**

Georgetown University: BS Foreign Service

Wharton Graduate: MBA

**REAL ESTATE CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

MD- Record Sale in MC 2018: 7013 Natelli Woods \$5,625,000

DC- Record Sale in DC 2015: 3107 Fessenden House \$18,000,000

VA- Record Sale in VA 2010: 2540 Zulla Road \$12,550,000

**FAVORITE MOVIES:**

Chinatown & The Thomas Crown Affair

**FAVORITE DRINK:** Arnold Palmer

**HOBBIES:** Golfing, Swimming, Tennis

**QUOTE:** "There is no substitute for hard work!"

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# 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 meeting dates for 2020 are scheduled as follows: February 19th, May 20th, August 26th and November 18th.
- ✧ **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 Tuesday, January 21st.

*\*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.*

