



The Spring Mills Bulletin

"A planned community . . . A great place to live!"

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Upcoming Local Events

April 16 – Reopening of the Belle Boyd House www.bchs.org

April 16 & 17 – West Virginia Book Fair at Olde Towne Martinsburg www.wvbooks.org

April 24 & 25 – Annual Shenandoah-Potomac Garden Council House & Garden Tour www.bchs.org

May 8 – Annual Heritage Day Celebration – Berkeley County Historical Society

May 29 & 30 – WV Wine and Arts Festival – Held on the Lawn of the historic Boydville Mansion in Martinsburg. www.wineandarts.com

June 8 - North Mountain Arts Festival, held at 201 N Mary Street in Historic Hedgesville behind the North Mountain Arts and Gift Shop. Juried craft show, with food and entertainment. This is the 3rd year for this event. Come and watch local artists demonstrate their art.

From the Desk of the President

The *Spring Mills Bulletin* is being revamped somewhat to be more interesting and informative. The ads accepted are not endorsed by the board, but represent businesses and banks in our trading area that we feel have the best interest of the community at heart. You can make your own decision.

We just came out of the worst winter in recent history. Around the development there will be repairs to roads as the weather warms up. The board chairman in charge of roads and grounds will see repairs are made based the most needed and set a schedule for the balance of the repairs to be done in a timely manner. This costs money, so we will be reviewing the cost as we put together our budget.

You can expect your annual dues statements sometime after April 15th, according to our new treasurer. Please pay the dues as soon as they are received, to take advantage of the discount allowed. Remember that it takes money to keep the development up to the standards we all have come to expect.

Thanks for your support.

Ed Flake
President

Letters to the Editor

Do you wish to voice your opinion or concern regarding the Spring Mills Community? We will be publishing articles here in the future. Please submit via e-mail to info@springmills.org (with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject line) or mail to Spring Mills Subdivision Unit Owners' Association, PO Box 421 Martinsburg, WV 25402.

Notice to Unit Owners of the Spring Mills Subdivision Election Meeting Results and Comments

Friends and Neighbors:

159 ballots were received out of 450 qualified Unit Owners (the remainder of Unit Owners not qualified by reason of dues default); a quorum was not achieved for a legitimate election.

A quorum of the voting members responding to the request for the 2010 election ballots not having been received, the Board of Directors exercised its authority under Article III, Section 7, of the bylaws for the Spring Mills Subdivision Unit Owners' Association, Inc. which reads in part:

"...a successor may be appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term... In the event of death, disability or resignation of a Director, a vacancy maybe declared by the Board and it may appoint a successor. Any Director appointed by the Board shall serve for the remainder of the term of the Director who vacated the position."

The continuing Board declares the three expired terms abandoned and exercises its duty to appoint Directors for the three, three-year terms: Bob Ayer, Scott Bowen, and Chuck Hydorn.

Notice: For those who attended the general meeting and/or submitted your ballot, stop reading now – the remainder of this article does not apply to you.

Three hundred of our four hundred and sixty-one members would not even take the time to check a form and return it in a pre-addressed, stamped envelope. Of the four hundred and sixty-one Units, fewer than 50 units were represented at the general meeting. Two people who were written in as possible candidates didn't bother at attend. This is a shameful statement on the community commitment to managing this community to maintain the value of the properties and the quality of life in The Spring Mills Subdivision!

Let me be as plain as I can in explaining the options: either the "dead wood" of this community comes to life, or when those who are carrying the water for this

community finally wear out and are no longer willing or able to serve – from age or infirmity – there will be no option under the covenants and restrictions but to hire a professional management company to take over Spring Mills Subdivision management.

Bottom line; you will see your dues more than double and the services reduced! That is it; that is the option?

Here is your chance to step up and make a contribution to your community. The Board has the following committees:

1. Architectural Control Committee – Bob Ayer
2. CCR Compliance – Bob Ayer
3. Financial & Accounting – Scott Bowen
4. Property (pool, common area, streets) – Chuck Hydorn
5. Beautification – Common Area – Angel Smith
6. Newsletter/Web page – Bill Richards
7. Community Relations (Neighborhood Watch, Block Captains, Etc...) J.R. Arnold

You can contact us through the Association Web site or by leaving a message on our telephone 304-274-3086.

You are negligent in your obligation to **YOUR** community! It is time to step up!

Sincerely,
Bob Ayer

Spring Mills Board of Directors for 2010

Ed Flake, President
Chuck Hydorn, Vice-President
Angela Cariddo, Secretary
Scott Bowen, Treasurer

Board Members at Large
Larry Kerschner – Development Electrician
Bill Richards – Newsletter and Web
J.R. Arnold – Neighborhood Watch, Signing, Budget Committee
Angel Smith – Community Development
Bob Ayer – Architectural Control Committee

Neighborhood Watch

J.R. Arnold

We have made it through the winter, or I should say I hope we have. This is a time of year when snow can still occur. Let us hope it does not. Bring on spring!

In front of the pool we now have a Message Box, which is available to any resident to post notes concerning Spring Mills activities. This was the idea of Angela Cariddo and approved by the Board of Directors. The Board decided to make the Message Box a tribute to Joseph Ayers. Joe was our newsletter editor before his death in 2009. I would like to tell you all the history of Joseph Ayers' life, but I could not do it justice in the short space I have. Joe's life would fill a book and make the most interesting reading we could every experience. We will tell more of Joe and his life in later newsletters.

I need to ask residents with ideas for neighborhood activities to forward their ideas to info@springmills.org. Some ideas have been: block parties, sports tournaments, and dinner at local restaurants for parties of 20 to 30 people, sort of a "get to know your neighbor" night. If you have any ideas let a board member know.

Swim and Tennis Club

Thinking ahead to summer? Information regarding the 2010 season will be available soon and posted in the Message Box and on the Spring Mills web site. There will also be a mailing once information is finalized.



North Berkeley Library at Spring Mills

Each Thursday at 10 a.m., the North Berkeley Library has preschool story time and crafts. No pre-registration is required. On May 8th there will be a special Dr. Seuss story time.

Family Movie Night is the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The April movie is HOODWINKED. Popcorn and drinks are served.

Spring Mills Readers book discussion group meets on the 4th Wednesday at 1 p.m. The book for April is *Kettle Bottom*. For May it will be *Dismal Mountain*, and for June the book is *The Last Lecture*. Copies of all books are available at the library.

A special book discussion will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 1st. The book is *Call of the Wild*. This is part of the "BIG READ" program held at all local libraries. Copies are available at the library.

On Saturday, April 17th there will be a "Beginning Genealogy Class" The class will cover the basics of genealogy and how to do research. This will be followed later in the spring by a class on "Online Genealogy Research."

Late in June, they will start their summer reading program. The theme will be MAKE A SPLASH and stories and activities will revolve around the use of water and the environment. This is for all children in preschool through age 12. Call for more details about this program.

The library hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 10 to 7; Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday 10 to 5; closed Sunday and Monday. Phone number is 304-274-3443.

Village People

We would like to recognize those in the Spring Mills Community for their achievements. Is there someone that will be graduating from High School, College, etc in the next few months? Did someone in the community just celebrate an anniversary or a special birthday? Please submit via e-mail to info@springmills.org or mail to Spring Mills Subdivision Unit Owners' Association, PO Box 421 Martinsburg, WV 25402

SAVE WATER NOW!

The high price of water and sewer were discussed at the general meeting and I want to make a few suggestions for our members.

I recently installed a dual-flush kit in each of my toilets and noticed a considerable water savings on the first water bill. Here are two options for around \$30 per unit. I installed the dual-flush kits and my daughter installed the one2flush kits in her older toilets.

<http://www.one2flush.com/>

<http://www.dualflushkit.com>



If you do not have access to the web, or the ability to remove and replace the toilet tank, Lowe's has a battery operated retro-unit for around \$90 that does not require tank removal. For two toilets, the payback time would be quite long.

Outside water usage

If you water your garden, wash your cars, or any other outside water use, you should have an "exception meter." These meters go on your hose and measure the water used outside the home. Each October you take the meter to the Water Department off Edwin Miller Blvd. in Martinsburg and get a credit on your sewer bill for water not returned to the sewer. Exception meters are available at plumbing supply outlets.

From the Treasurer

The Board of Directors are in the process of finalizing the 2010-2011 Budget. The Budget and the 2009-2010 Operating Expenditures will be mailed to you with the Annual Dues Statement on April 15. Please watch for this important information. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Scott Bowen
Treasurer

The smallest good deed is better than the grandest intention

Unpaid Dues 2009-2010 as of March 4, 2010

The following Unit Owners have ignored their dues obligation and apparently expect everyone else to pick up their part of the cost of running our community:

Nathan A Barnes	35 Dartmouth Lane
Robin L Bates	203 Morningside Dr.
Lisa Cook	48 Marietta Lane
Joseph Deeds	109 Morningside Dr
Retta Eckert	49 Radcliff Lane
Ruth A Grubb	21 Mercer Lane
Jocelyn & Una Horton	188 Harvard Ct.
Rhonda Nipper	31 Pembroke Lane
Jonathan & Shamika Page	241 Morningside Dr
Tara Sensenbaugh	65 Wisteria Ct
Shawn Stephens	115 Stanford Lane
John & Debora Stott	62 Finch Lane
Theresa Walden	211 Morningside Dr.

If you know of any of these people having moved out of the community, please call the information to the Association answering system for follow-up.

These are difficult times for everyone – The Association included. We need everyone to meet their obligations so that our vendors and service providers are paid for their services – promises and IOU's are not acceptable.

Bob Ayrer

Ten Ideas to Get Active

Kids

1. Take your dog out for a walk
2. Start up a playground kickball game
3. Join a sports team
4. Go to the park with a friend
5. Help you parents with yard work
6. Play tag with kids in the neighborhood
7. Ride your bike to a friends house
8. Walk with a friend
9. See how many jumping jacks you can do
10. Race a friend to the end of the block

Adults

1. Go for a walk in the neighborhood
2. Use a push mower to mow the lawn
3. Take the stairs instead of an elevator
4. Bike to work, to run errands, or visit friends
5. Clean out the garage or the attic
6. Walk with a friend
7. Volunteer to become a coach or referee
8. Sign up for a group exercise class
9. Join a softball league
10. Park at the farthest end of the lot

Words of Wisdom from the Guru of Car Sales

I will try to have a new thought with each newsletter. We all know that buying a vehicle can sometimes be a terrible event in our life. Yet if we live to 75 years of age this could happen 20 to 25 times. The one good thing you will be offered at purchase time is Gap Insurance. Buy it if you finance your car. Let me tell you why this is a good purchase. You buy your car at a special deal, no money down, the car cost \$25,000. When you leave the dealership your debt is \$25,000. You drive home, get up and start to work the next day quite proud of your new purchase and you have an accident. Now the bad news, your new vehicle is now used. This is sad but true and as a used vehicle it is now worth \$17,500 which is \$7,500 less than you owe. Who is responsible for the difference? YOU ARE, unless you have GAP Insurance. Think about it.

From the Editor

Bill Richards

It has been said, and truly so, you never get a second chance to make a first impression. And so, I share with you my first impression of my first year on the Spring Mills Association Board. It is a tremendous group. My first year was a very pleasant experience. Please understand that my whole life has been either as a member of a group or else as the leader of a group and I always served at the same time. Our board, and this community appears to have had about a normal number of adversities and incidents. Panic and hate were never the response. A calm, logical solution, firmly executed, always seemed to emerge. This somewhat surprised (and pleased and impressed) me.

I say all of this for perhaps two reasons: first, to encourage others to participate, and second, to pledge myself to labor at the task, newly assigned to me, as Editor of the Spring Mills Bulletin. To illustrate: there is a difference between a house and a home. Our "House" is in great order---well maintained, thanks to our Board and a core of dedicated individuals. I see as our challenge (and my challenge) to work to make it a "Home". Together we can do it! Together we will do it!

GREEN CLEANING

By Earlene Ayrer

Are you interested in cleaning in an environmentally friendly way? Would you like to leave a smaller footprint on our earth? Would you like to save a lot of money? If your answer to any of the above questions is "Yes", then consider green cleaning.

I have been green cleaning for better than forty years. It began in raising two asthmatic daughters who, among many other things, were chemically sensitive.

Following are a few suggestions for green cleaning your home along with some suggestions for cutting down on the use of paper products (paper towels, etc...). In the next issue of the Bulletin, I'll give you some recipes that you can use for cleaners without the addition of essential oils. However, in adding these oils, you will gain the benefits of their antibiotic, antifungal, antiviral, and antibacterial properties.

If you have questions or comments, send them to

info@springmills.org and I will be happy to respond.

SUGGESTED EQUIPMENT

Cleaning Cloths (commercial cotton terry shop rags are the best)

Plastic Squirt Bottle

Plastic Spray Bottles

Squeegee in every bathroom shower

White Vinegar

Borax

Murphy's Oil Soap

Pure Castile Soap (Dr. Bronner's – available at Martin's Health Food Section)

Essential Oils of your choice (a good starter would be Citrus – lemon, lime, or sweet orange or Tea Tree or Lavender)

Where to Buy Essential Oils

Pure essential oils can be purchased at health food stores, specialty shops, some Martin's Food Stores and on-line. I use the on-line method because of the convenience and favorable pricing. I use Florapathics.com because their product line is extensive and they also do not charge tax or shipping on essential oils.

Before you make any purchase, you should know there are differences between herbal oils. Make sure that you are buying a pure, undiluted essential oil and not one that has been diluted in a carrier oil. Aromatherapy oils are an example of diluted oils. They have been diluted with other oils to make them weaker for the purposes of massage and making perfumes, etc.

Your essential oils will come in either blue or brown glass bottles. If stored away from heat and direct light, some essential oils will retain their potency indefinitely. Citrus oils are an exception; they usually last for about one year. Oil bottles usually come with droppers already built into the cap. The built-in dropper is there for a reason; to help you measure out the oil easily and control the number of drops you use. Use only the amount called for in a recipe. The oils are highly concentrated, and adding more won't make a super strong formula; instead, it can increase the risk of skin irritation.

Stay tuned in June for "green cleaning" recipes!

The Spring Mills Bulletin
P.O. Box 421
Martinsburg, WV 25402
Return Service Requested

HATS OFF!

Do you know of a person or group that has gone above and beyond to help a fellow resident of the Spring Mills Community? We would like to recognize them. Please submit via e-mail to info@springmills.org or mail to Spring Mills Subdivision Unit Owners' Association, PO Box 421 Martinsburg, WV 25402.



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