



# The Fernshire Crier

<http://www.FernshireFarms.org>

Volume 21 Issue 4

April 2009



## APRIL MEETINGS

Monday, April 27

Ridgeview Middle School

7:00 PM ACC Meeting  
7:30 PM Board Meeting

## 2009 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held and, per the Annotated Code of Maryland, those present or represented by proxy constituted a quorum for the purpose of electing officers.

The minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting and reports of officers and committees were approved. In the absence of candidates, Henny Van Gogh and Anil Srivastava were appointed to serve another term.

## ACC Agenda

- Discussion/Action: ACC Applications
- Inspection/Violation Notices

## Board Meeting Agenda

- Announcements/Minutes
- Community Open Forum
- Discussion/Action Items
- Report/Action: Vanguard Management Co.
- Discussion/Action: Fernshire Farms Website
- From the Board

## March Board Meeting Highlights

### Vanguard Management Report

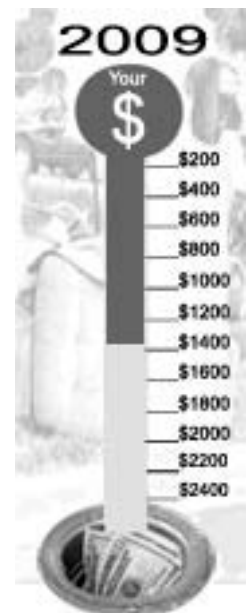
1. **DISCUSSION:** Status of various violations and repairs on fences, light posts, light fixtures, tree stump, window grids, etc., was discussed.
2. Also discussed fines for violations when one homeowner requested a waiver after he made repairs. **MOTION/ACTION:** Request for waiver of

fine was denied; however the homeowner may request, in writing, a payment plan.

3. **MOTION/ACTION:** Violation letters should offer homeowners a payment plan, if requested in writing.
4. **ACTION:** Hearings will be called for issues concerning unapproved light fixtures.
5. **ACTION:** Expenditure for mailbox sign holders were approved previously and supplier will be contacted.
6. **ACTION:** The Board approved a draft list of area responsibilities for a pilot program in which each member will take responsibility for a section of the community.
7. Website was discussed. Contractor has been hired to build and maintain the website; former webmaster has conveyed everything needed; Board will view old website and comment; Board would like to see list of frequently called numbers and links to sites; Anil would like to meet with the contractor.
8. Three proposals for the reserve study were received and discussion ensued. **MOTION PASSED** to accept the proposal from Mason & Mason at a cost of \$3,000.

### From the Board:

1. Gap at Polk Court between fence and shrubs is being used as a cut through. It was felt that it should be closed. Tri-County Fence will be contacted.
2. Suggestion that a policy for investments be developed with the hopes of getting a better return. Association's investment counselor will be invited to the April meeting.
3. Drafts of flyers regarding bulk trash and problems with trash were distributed to Board. It was also suggested the Board entertain proposals for bulk trash removal.





### Community Phone Book

County Police Non-emergency	301-279-8000
County Fire Non-emergency	240-777-0744
City Police Dept (non-emergency) police@gaitthersburgmd.gov RWagner@gaitthersburgmd.gov	301-258-6400
Gaithersburg Police Tip Line	301-330-4471
County Poison Center	202-625-3333
Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland (SOCEM) http://www.socem.info/	1-866-559-8017 (sign up for alerts)
Emergency Preparedness & ALERT	301-258-6310
City Neighborhood Services neighborhoods@gaitthersburgmd.gov	301-258-6340
City Crime Prevention	301-258-6400
County Landlord-Tenant Affairs	240-777-3609
City Animal Control lholland@gaitthersburgmd.gov (after hours)	301-258-6343 240-773-5900
City Public Works publicworks@gaitthersburgmd.gov	301-258-6370
City Code Enforcement Neighborhood Services	301-258-6340
County Housing Code Enforcement	240-777-3785
City Bulk Pickup	301-258-6370
County Environmental Protection	240-777-7770
MD Dept. of the Environment	410-631-3300
Weeds & Tall Grass on Private Property (County)	240-777-3785
Building Permits (County)	240-777-6210

### City Animal Control



The Animal Control staff is responsible for enforcing the animal control ordinance and promoting the humane treatment of all animals in an effort to maintain harmony in the environment between citizens, pets, and wildlife. Normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Additionally, Animal Control Officers are available to respond to emergency calls 24 hours a day. **To reach an Animal Control Officer after normal business hours, contact the MC Humane Society Emergency Line at 240-773-5900.**

### Correspondence

Send all correspondence and ACC applications to: Vanguard Management Associates, P.O. Box 39, Germantown MD 20875-0039  
Attn: Ms. Sandra Ewing. Her phone number is 301-540-8600 Ext. 3319. E-mail her at



[sandi@vanguardmgt.com](mailto:sandi@vanguardmgt.com). Only signed letters with name and contact telephone number will be discussed and addressed. ANONYMOUS letters will be discarded.

### For Police Service in the City of Gaithersburg

Call 911 for life threatening emergencies and 301-279-8000 for all other police requests. The officers of the Gaithersburg Police Department are dispatched through the Montgomery County Police communications center, same as County Police officers. If a City officer is not available, a County officer is dispatched. In some cases, both are dispatched.

### City Paint Giveaway Program

The purpose of this program is to assist homeowners with the costs associated with painting the exterior of their homes. The program is a reimbursement program whereby owners-occupants provide the labor and the City will rebate the cost of the materials such as paint, brushes, rollers, caulk, putty, and glazing compound. Contact Neighborhood Services at 301-258-6340.



### 3 Ways to Contact the Police

There are three ways to call the police when you see suspicious activity.

- 1. For best results, leave your name and number. You may ask for the officer to come see you or not.**
2. Reluctant. Ask that your information not be given the officer over the radio.
3. Anonymous. These calls have a lower priority because the officer has less to go on and they don't hold up in court.

## Board of Directors & Committees

No non-emergency calls after 9:00pm, please.

<b>PRESIDENT:</b> Larry Seeger (term expires 2011)	301 990-9413 1015 Bayridge Terrace
<b>VICE PRESIDENT:</b> Robin Confino (term expires 2010)	855 Flagler Drive
<b>TREASURER:</b> Anil Srivastava (term ends 2012)	240-246-0677 42 Beacon Hill Court
<b>SECRETARY</b> Carole Carter (term ends 2010)	301-977-4657 1003 Bayridge Terrace
<b>At-Large</b> Henny van Gogh (term expires 2012)	301-947-5317 5 Bayridge Court
<b>Welcome Committee:</b>	Chair: Ferrah Pourahmadi
<b>Landscape Committee:</b>	Chair: Cindy Nelson
<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Bev Weidmann

## Pet Owner Reminder

Pet owners are reminded that it is against the FFHOA Covenants and By-laws to let your dog or cat run loose and/or allow them to defecate on property other than your own (this includes common area property). Such action is also in violation of Gaithersburg City ordinances and subject to monetary fine. Please pick up after your pets and keep them leashed.



## Large Item Pickup

**The next large item pick up is Friday, May 1.** Please save your large items until then. Should you have any questions concerning what is considered a large item, contact Vanguard Management.

## Spring Has Sprung

Mainscapes has started mowing and mulching in the community, which is a reminder that we are responsible for mowing our own backyards. Be sure to keep toys and lawn care items put away so that they are not in the way of the mowing machines.



## Mystery Parking "Stickerer"

An unknown homeowner has been applying stickers to cars for parking violations, sometimes using duct tape and damaging cars. This can be considered vandalism and can be prosecuted. This is NOT condoned by the Board. Be aware that the official stickers from the Association are identifiable as such and are self-sticking.

## Spring is Here!



It's time for spring cleaning, both inside and outside the house. A community that is neat and clean is less apt to attract criminal activity. Pruned bushes and flowers, clear yards, and trash being put out on the correct days go a long way toward that goal. Plant some flowers.

## Summary from ACC Guidelines Chapter 2: Applications

- Except for exclusions listed in the ACC Guidelines, all plans for external alterations, additions, or improvements to private properties must be reviewed and approved in writing by the ACC.
- Applications must be on ACC approved forms which may be obtained from any Board member or from Vanguard Management. Applications must be in writing, accompanied by plat and samples, and signed and dated by applicant. **Three (3) signed applications are required.** Applications should be submitted to Vanguard.
- Applications must describe in detail the proposed alteration, including exact location, dimensions, color and materials to be used. Detailed drawings should be included or attached to the form. Multiple projects should be submitted on separate forms. Modifications to existing construction occupying ground space must include the plat showing lot lines and location of the project.
- Do not start making alterations until final approval has been received. If work is started prior to approval, the homeowner, at his/her own expense, may be required to restore to the original condition.
- The homeowner is responsible for obtaining any necessary permits by the City of Gaithersburg permits.

Help Keep it Green



## Recycling Summary Friday Pickups

Before throwing out items, please consider other ways to donate, reuse, or recycle them.

**Newspapers, Mixed Paper, Recyclable Cans, Glass Containers, and Plastic Containers** - Collected by the City's recycling contractor in City provided bins, placed at the curb on your recycling day.

To prevent paper products from blowing out of the recycling bin please be sure to place mixed paper in brown paper bags. Newspaper may also be placed in brown paper bags or tied with string or twine.

**Corrugated Cardboard** - Collected by the City's recycling contractor when cut or flattened into 2x3 foot pieces and placed underneath your bin or in **brown paper grocery bags** and placed at the curb on your recycling day.

**Brush and Branches** - Collected by the City's recycling contractor when tied in bundles or placed in **biodegradable brown paper bags** and placed at the curb on your recycling day.

**Grass Clippings and Other Yard Trimmings** - Collected by the City's recycling contractor when placed in **biodegradable brown paper bags** and set at the curb on your recycling day.

**Recycling Cans, Glass and Plastic Bottles** - Cans, glass and plastics (commingled materials) will be collected weekly when placed in City provided recycling bins and set out at the curb. If you move, please leave the bin for the next resident. If you need a replacement bin, call **301-258-6370**. Recyclable items include:

**CANS** - Any aluminum or steel food beverage cans.  
*Examples: soft drink, beer and juice cans; tuna, bean, and vegetable cans; pet food cans, etc..*

### DOs

Empty and rinse all cans.  
Labels and attached lids are okay.  
Push lids down into cans so they will not injure collectors.

### DON'Ts

NO cans other than food or beverage containers.  
NO automobile parts or household metal items, pots and pans, aluminum siding, furniture or propane tanks.  
DON'T completely remove can lids.  
DON'T crush cans.

**Aluminum** - Disposable aluminum foil products (*i.e., pie plates, foil, etc.*). Clean and wipe aluminum foil.

**Glass Jars/Bottles** - Any glass food or beverage jars or bottles; no lids. *Examples: soft drink, juice, beer and wine, spaghetti sauce, pickle, mayonnaise jars, etc..*

### DOs

Empty and rinse all containers.  
Discard all caps and lids.  
Attached labels are okay.

### DON'Ts

NO mirrors or window glass.  
NO broken glass.  
NO drinking glasses, cups, plates, cookware, pottery, ceramics, or crystal.  
NO light bulbs.  
NO caps or lids.



**PLASTICS** - We now accept the following materials:

**Narrow-neck plastic bottles that contained food, drink and household products:**

*examples: milk, juice, water, syrup, vegetable oil, salad dressing, cleaning, detergent and shampoo/conditioner bottles*

**Plastic food-grade tubs and lids:**

*examples: margarine/butter tubs, cottage cheese, yogurt, sour cream, mayonnaise, whipped topping, peanut butter and deli containers, and prescription bottles*

**Plastic pails/buckets.** *Examples: ice cream, detergent, pet food and kitty litter containers*

**Plastic flower pots & plastic beverage cups**

### **Not Acceptable:**

Any plastic bottle or container that held hazardous automotive or garden products. *Examples: motor oil, antifreeze and pesticides*  
Plastic wrap and bags  
Polystyrene and Styrofoam products