



TOWN NEWSLETTER

3820 40TH AVE, COTTAGE CITY, MARYLAND 20722

(301) 779-2161

JULY/AUGUST 2014

TOWNHALL@COTTAGECITYMD.GOV

WWW.COTTAGECITYMD.GOV

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Chair, Police Dept.

Ward1comm@cottagecitymd.gov

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Ward2commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov

Melanie Jones, Ward 3

Vice Chair

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Sheila Butler, Ward 4

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COTTAGE CITY DAY

Saturday, August 9, 2014

12pm - 4pm

Come one, come all!

**Enjoy our annual town celebration with
food, beverages, entertainment, prizes,
and fellowship!**



**Happy 90th
Birthday to
Cottage City!**

{1924-2014}

COTTAGE CITY NEWS:

Schedule of Events:

Dumpster Day: Another dumpster day is scheduled on August 2nd and August 3rd between 8am – 2pm. Please come and join us.

Cottage City Community Yard Sale will also be held on August 2nd and August 3rd between 8am – 2pm. Bring your items to the parking lot at town hall. \$10 per table. Call the Clerk at the town hall to reserve a table. (301-779-2161)

Cottage City Day (Aug. 9): Come out and enjoy the festivities. There will be a water slide, skate mobile, moon bounce, face painting, cotton candy, arts and crafts, live music by Patrick DaBand and more. Food and refreshments including Rita's ice cream will be there. We guaranty fun for all ages. This is the perfect time to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Cottage City (1924-2014).

August 23 - August 24- Battle of Bladensburg Commemoration: The day starts with a dedication of the new monument at 11am followed by an 1812 era festival from 1-6pm. Re-enactments at 1:30 and 2:30pm; demonstrations, music, and family activities; Food truck rally, music & fireworks 5-9pm. 4601 Annapolis Rd, Bladensburg, MD 20710.



2014 Port Towns Day (September 27): Celebrate Port Towns day and honor the four towns. There will be healthy food, fun, and great music for all!

National Night Out: Our national night out will not be held in August due to a busy August schedule of other events. The Cottage City Police Department will host it on October 7. Keep your calendar posted to enjoy community policing, food, family and fun on that day.

Cottage City Community Garden:

Garden beds are available for rent for a nonrefundable annual fee of \$10. As part of the Healthy Eating and Active Living model, getting involved in a garden will encourage others in our community to make Cottage City a healthy community. The garden is located at the end of Cottage City Terrace Street. For further information, please contact Town Hall at 301-779-2161.

Cottage City Advisory Group: The advisory group meets to discuss citizens' needs and concerns about the community. Meeting times have been changed to the second Monday of every month. Absent further notice, their next meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:30pm

Grants and Project Management Updates:

- Town Hall lighting upgrades with more energy efficient lights and motion sensors are complete.
- The upgrades to the parking lot lights are still continuing.
- We are currently receiving proposals to repair or replace the Town Hall roof.
- The rain garden drainage problem has been repaired and will be tested with our next major rain.
- This month the doors on the Town Hall will be replaced with upgraded security features and will be ADA compliant per state mandates.
- This month the Commission will decide on the acquisition of energy efficient electric vehicles to be purchased through the MEA (Maryland Energy Administration) grant award.

Congratulations to those residents who were approved for home improvements through the MEA and DHCD grants. Funds are still available for qualified home owners. Contact Town Hall to inquire or to pick up an application or email Mr. Bagley at crbagley@cottagecitymd.gov.

HOME IMPROVEMENT WEATHERIZATION UPGRADES

The Town is looking for 20 residential units in need of weatherization upgrades such as HVAC systems, insulation and appliances. Upgrades can be at no cost for qualified residents. Please watch the Town website or cable channel for updated information. Contact town hall at 301-779-2161 or email at projectmanager@cottagecitymd.gov.



Are you interested in becoming a U.S. citizen? Staff from the Central American Resource Center will be on hand at the Cottage City Day celebration, Sat., Aug. 9 to share information about the process and answer your questions.

Are you a new Cottage City resident? Visit the information table at the Cottage City celebration and learn about upcoming events, committee meetings, city ordinances and nearby schools. You can also register to vote!

Banner City Award

At this year's MML Convention, Cottage City was awarded a first time Banner City Award. The Banner City Program is under the auspices of the Maryland Municipal League (MML). The Banner City program recognizes those towns who are active participants in MML programs and activities, and ensures that the voice of the town is heard on legislative matters relative to the town.

Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Resolution:

Cottage City adopted a resolution that we will play a role in creating a community where residents and municipal employees can make healthy decisions about nutrition and physical activity. Based on that commitment, Cottage City received the HEAL Award at the MML Convention (June 2014).

Sustainable Maryland Certification: Cottage City is in the process of being certified for the Sustainable Maryland Certification. It is a program which will consist of a "green team" to generate ideas and methods to promote health and wellness, to encourage better use of energy and to improve the environment.

SEEKING EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are developing a community email address database so that we can keep you informed electronically of what's going on in your town.

Please email us at:

townhall@cottagecitymd.gov or call us to give us your email address. Stay tuned and you will soon be able to provide it right on the website.

Colmar Manor Town Hall and Community Center. Our neighboring town across the street offers a full court gym, an indoor walking track, stationary bikes, a full schedule of exercise and wellness activities including aerobic and Zumba classes. The gym is open Monday-Friday, 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Volleyball is played on Tuesdays. Zumba classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays 7:15 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. To participate in any kind of activity, individuals must obtain an ID issued by Colmar Manor at a one-time charge of \$3.00 if you are not a Colmar Manor resident. The ID must be presented at all activities. Please visit the town website at www.colmarmanor.org or call at 301-277-4920 for additional information.

Battle of Bladensburg - Undaunted Tour

Festivities have been taking place around town such as the Undaunted Tours of Cottage City. The tours sparked great interest and have enlightened interested persons about Cottage City's rich history of events that have taken place in this area. People learned how the American soldiers were undaunted (fearless) in their effort to carry on even though the British soldiers had a better advantage and eventually won the war. Commission may charge a fee for additional tours if anyone is interested. Please call town hall if interested at 301-779-2161.

**From the Desk of Richard Cote
Ward 1, Commission Chair**

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who signed up for the walking tour of Cottage City with Dr. Ralph Eshelman. For those of you who are interested in a tour, please contact the Cottage City town hall and leave your name and contact information. We will let you know if additional tours will take place.

Don't forget to come to the Waterfront Park on August 23rd for the Battle of Bladensburg festivities. Please contact me to discuss any town issues or concerns, and remedies you may have. My phone number is 240-350-3525.

**From the Desk of Donna Hayes
Ward 2, Commissioner**

Thank you to all the citizens who contributed to a very successful dumpster day! We took three very full dumpsters of trash out of Cottage City, what a clean-up! We need to ask your help to do it again and a town yard sale on August 2 and 3, 2014 between 8am-2pm. . Please call the town hall to reserve a table at \$10.

Our public works department is also cleaning and trimming, street by street. Please come out and help for an hour or a full day. This big clean-up is a push for the Battle of Bladensburg 200th anniversary on August 22-24th. 5,000 British soldiers marched thru Cottage City on their way to burn the capital. Let's do our town proud and honor it with a new light and a clean plate. Let's get excited about Cottage City and show our pride that we are truly united in our diversity!

**From the Desk of Sheila Butler
Ward 4, Commissioner**

I would like to thank all residents for coming out to the War of 1812/Battle of Bladensburg tour. It was wonderful! It took place on Saturday, July 12, 2014 and Sunday, July 27, 2014. We had an overwhelming turnout! It was educational and really made me proud to be a citizen here in Cottage City.

**From the Desk of Patricia Gross
Commissioner -At-Large**

Banner City Program: I initiated the task of documenting the requirements of the Banner City Program which Cottage City has received for the first time ever! At this time, I would like to thank our Project Manager and Commissioner Cote in assisting me in this project. Come see our beautiful banner on the wall at Town Hall!!

Let's Talk Food: In May 2014, I along with another Cottage City resident, Aida Namukasa, attended a "Train the Trainer" Nutrition Education Program offered by ECO City Farms which qualified us to sponsor a workshop in which we will talk about nutrition and provide a healthy food cooking demonstration.

Green Team: Show your support in Cottage City's healthy initiative by joining the green team. A "green team" is a group of community members (residents, parishioners, business owners and elected officials) tasked to generate ideas and methods within the Cottage City community to incorporate the visions of the sustainable program. Get involved by growing vegetables in the community garden, eating healthy and/or attend the Let's Talk Food (a nutrition workshop) that is currently being formed. If you are interested in joining the green team, please call Town Hall at 301-779-2161.



Town Business

Motions Passed

The following motions were passed at the June and July Town Hall Meetings:

- Motion to appoint Commissioner Gross as the Secretary of the Town.
- Motion to accept the Minutes for May 2014 Town Hall meeting with the correction of SAPP Grant, State Aid for Police Protection will receive up to 160k.
- Motion to accept the financial statements for the May 2014.
- Motion to approve the office furniture of two desks, four file cabinets and a bookshelf not to exceed \$1900.
- Motion to approve Resolution 2014-3 Commitment to Community Wellness and Obesity Prevention.
- Motion to accept MOU for MEA Collaborative pending the approval of the town attorney.
- Motion to accept the Financial Statements for June 2014.
- Motion to approve the purchase one Radar for the Police Department in the amount of \$1500.00.
- Motion to approve the payment of the ATHA invoice for the signs in the amount of \$942.00.
- Motion to approve \$1,425.00 for dumpster day on August 2-3, 2014.

Notice of Tax Levy- FY2014

The Commissioners of the Town of Cottage City have levied taxes for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014, at the following rates:

- Real Estate Taxes - \$0.65 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- Personal Property Taxes- \$1.29 per \$100 of assessed valuation.



Town of Cottage City

Listed below are agenda items to be discussed at the August 5 work session and the August 13 Town Hall meeting.

WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

1. Nominations for Port Towns Day Award for a citizen and an employee.
2. Microphone set purchase for use of Commissioners at Town Hall meetings.
3. Cottage City's participation in the Battle of Bladensburg event
 - Amount the town will charge business vendors and citizens desiring to have a vendor table.
 - Other items to be discussed
4. Cottage's City Membership in the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA)
5. Street Sweeper to be shared with the other Port Towns.
6. Let's Talk Food Workshop at Cottage City sponsored by ECO City Farm.

(Please note that the Work Session and Town Hall meeting agendas are tentative agendas. The agendas are subject to changes after the distribution of this newsletter.)

TOWN HALL MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

1. Public Works Update
 - American Landscaping Proposal (tree trimming around town)
2. Grants/Project Update –Mr. Bagley
 - Corenic Structural Analysis (feasibility of a second story to the Town Hall building).
 - MEA Energy Grant
 - Sustainable Maryland Certification program – creation of a green team
 - Town Hall Building Roof Replacement
 - Atheras Network Proposal for IT services for the Town Hall.
3. Police Department Update
 - Police Tasers - Purchase of insurance and a warranty for five years.
4. Nominations for Port Towns Day Award for a citizen and an employee.
5. Microphone set purchase for use of Commissioners at Town Hall meetings.
6. Cottage City's participation in the Battle of Bladensburg event
 - Amount the town will charge business vendors and citizens desiring to have a vendor table.
 - Other items to be discussed.
7. Assessment of the CSX railroad
8. Cottage City's membership in the Maryland Planning Commissioners Association (MPCA)
9. Street Sweeper to be shared with the other Port Towns.
10. Let's Talk Food Workshop at Cottage City sponsored by ECO City Farm
11. Cottage City's 90th Birthday (1924-2014)
12. Commissioner's Reports
13. Cottage City Advisory Group
14. Citizen's Comments
15. Adjournment