



**Town Newsletter**

3820 40<sup>th</sup> Ave, Cottage City, Maryland 20722  
(301) 779-2161 September 2014

[townhall@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:townhall@cottagecitymd.gov)

[www.cottagecitymd.gov](http://www.cottagecitymd.gov)

**COMMISSION**

**Richard Côté, Ward 1**  
Chair, Police Dept.

[Ward1comm@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:Ward1comm@cottagecitymd.gov)

**Patricia Gross, At-Large**  
Vice Chair, Admin. Liaison,  
Secretary

[atlargecomm@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:atlargecomm@cottagecitymd.gov)

**Donna Hayes, Ward 2**  
Public Works Liaison

[Ward2commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:Ward2commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov)

**Melanie Jones, Ward 3**  
[Ward3commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:Ward3commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov)

**Sheila Butler, Ward 4**  
Recreation Liaison

[Ward4commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:Ward4commissioner@cottagecitymd.gov)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Tina Pryce**  
Town Clerk/Treasurer  
[clerk@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:clerk@cottagecitymd.gov)

**Brittany Gabriel**  
Assistant Town Clerk  
[asstclerk@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:asstclerk@cottagecitymd.gov)

**Reginald Bagley**  
Project/Grant Manager  
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**Stanley Mosley**  
Grant Writer  
[projectmanager@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:projectmanager@cottagecitymd.gov)

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**Gregory Pinkney**  
[gpinkneydpw@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:gpinkneydpw@cottagecitymd.gov)  
**Anthony Silver**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Robert Patton**  
Chief of Police  
[chief1@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:chief1@cottagecitymd.gov)

## Saturday & Sunday September 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> 8am – 2pm

### Cottage City Community Yard Sale!

Free for Cottage City residents  
\$10 for non-Cottage City residents

Call the town hall to reserve your table located at the  
Town Hall parking lot.  
First come, first serve!



## DUMPSTER DAY!

Clean out your Basements, Backyards or Home  
Dumpsters are Located at the Town Hall Parking  
Lot. Free for Cottage City Residents only.



\*Seniors and those with a disability in need of assistance  
please call the Town Hall by Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and  
provide them with your information. (301)779-2161.

## **COTTAGE CITY NEWS:**

### **Cottage City-Invitation to Bid -**

The Town of Cottage City, Maryland has several vehicles for sale. Each item has a minimum bid amount as indicated:

Minimum Bid: \$5000.00-

- *One (1) 2004 Ford Crown Victoria Retired Police Car Minimum Bid: \$1000.00*
- *One (1) 2006 Ford Crown Victoria Retired Police Car Minimum Bid: \$1000.00*
- *Two (2) 2001 Chevrolet Lumina Retired Police Administrative Vehicle Minimum bid \$700.00*
- *One (1) 2007 Dodge Magnum Wagon Retired Police Vehicle*

All items are offered "AS-IS" with no warranty or other guarantee as to its condition. Bidders are advised to inspect items prior to submitting a bid. All sales are FINAL. Full payment is due within seven (7) calendar days from awarding of winning bid. Failure to pay will result in the item being re-listed or sold to the next highest bidder. The winning bidder must remove property within ten (10) calendar days from awarding of bid. Cottage City also retains the right to reject any and all bids and offers prior to payment.

Also for sale is a six burner gas industrial / commercial range. It is a Tri-Star model 6E and is unused still in its original container and is being sold as is (the manufacturer warranty has expired). The minimum bid is \$700 and must be removed immediately upon completion of sale. All bids should be submitted in a **sealed envelope to:** Town of Cottage City, 3820 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Cottage City, MD 20722, Attn: Tina Pryce. Bidding will close on August 29, 2014. Bids will be opened and selected on September 2, 2014 during the monthly Commission work session. Cottage City will accept the following forms of payment: cash, cashier's check, and certified funds. Upon full payment, Cottage City will

provide the registration and title for sold vehicles.

**Cottage City Advisory** – The advisory group meets to talk about priorities that they feel should be addressed by the group in the coming year to improve our community. They meet on the second Monday of every month. Their next meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:30pm.

### **HOME IMPROVEMENT WEATHERIZATION UPGRADES**

The Town is looking to identify 20 residential units in need of weatherization upgrades. These upgrades can be at no cost for qualified residents. The upgrades include HVAC systems, insulation and appliances. Interested residents should contact the Project Manager at the Town Hall (301) 779-2161 or via email at: [projectmanager@cottagecitymd.gov](mailto:projectmanager@cottagecitymd.gov). Please watch the Town website or cable channel for updated information.

**Rain Check Rebate Program** - Through the Rain Check Rebate Program, Prince George's County residents, businesses, and non-profits can apply for cash rebates by adopting storm water management practices that improve the quality of the County waters while beautifying our communities. Visit their website at [www.cbtrust.org/princegeorgesraincheck](http://www.cbtrust.org/princegeorgesraincheck) or call 410-974-2941, ext. 114.



## **Upcoming Events**

**Let's Talk Food Workshop (September 20)** - Plan to attend a free community nutrition workshop, Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00PM – 4:00 PM at Cottage City Town Hall. Learn how to read nutrition labels and how to make healthy lifestyle changes. (Flyer enclosed).

**Port Town Day Event (September 27)** The Port Towns (united communities of Bladensburg, Colmar Manor, Edmonston and Cottage City) work together towards a common goal focused on community revitalization, sustainability and building a sense of community. These towns get together to sponsor an annual Port Town Day event for the Port Towns community which is being held on September 27, 2014, noon to 7:00 p.m. Come out for a day of crafts, food demonstrations, entertainment, live bands and lots of fun. If you would like to volunteer your services, please call Town Hall at 301-779-2161. Students will receive community service credits.

**National Night Out (October 7):** Come to National Night Out with the Cottage City Police Department to enjoy community policing food, family and fun.

**Community Garden Fall Harvest (November 1)** - The Cottage City Community Garden's Annual Fall Harvest, Saturday, November 1, 2014, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. Reverend Gail Addison of ETHM and the Port Towns Youth Council will be assisting us with our final harvest and preparing the garden for winter. We request that all current community garden members attend and support this event. If you're not a current Cottage City community garden member but would like to volunteer to help out, please call Town Hall at 301-779-2161. We'd love to see you there! The Cottage City Community Garden is located at the end of Cottage Terrace (at Cottage Terrace and Bunker Hill Road).

## **Commissioner's Corner**

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

I want to welcome you all back from a wonderful summer vacation. Please be mindful that school is in session. Let's keep our children safe. Thank you.

**From the Desk of Commissioner Pat Gross  
At Large Commissioner, Vice Chair**

Dear Cottage City Residents,

Come out to your town hall meetings and work sessions to witness for yourselves how legislative decisions are made. Every effort is made to allow the input of citizens to be heard. Your input impacts on the decisions being made for the Town.

You the residents are at the top of the organizational chart, however, you have elected officials to carry on the business of the town. This current Commission is making new strides in the overall progress of Cottage City. In addition, the current Commission is managing its fiscal responsibilities with respect to the success of the Town.

Your presence at Town Hall meetings is welcomed. You will have an opportunity to voice your opinion about matters of interest to you. As you know, meetings must be run with certain rules to keep meetings organized and peaceful. We are striving for a positive outlook for you and our Town as a whole. Looking forward to seeing you at Town Hall meetings!

*It's a new day for Cottage City!*

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

Thank you again! There were three more dumpsters of trash taken out of Cottage City. Your support in this clean-up endeavor is outstanding. Let's do it again on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please take some extra time to maintain your backyard. Please come out and support each other.

Our public works is still cleaning the streets trimming trees. Come out when you see them and help if you can. If you need special attentions call us and let us know. Your home is your greatest investment so take care of it. Not only does Cottage City have codes, but remember that P.G. County also has property standards that are enforced.

The Commission has voted to remove and trim some dangerous old trees in town. You will be asked to move your cars. Help in making this a fast, smooth operation. After many years of neglect and bad decisions, this Commission is faced with some tough choices. We now must take care of our town home. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

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

Cottage City Day was great! A special thank you to Sybil Brown for the information she gave to Tina Pryce about the school supplies. It was the first time that I can remember the whole office staff coming out. (Chief Patton, Lt. Webb, Sgt. Miltenberger, Officer Martin, Officer Grasso, Dunia Santamaria, Gregory Pinkney, Anthony Silver, James Conyers, Tina Pryce, Brittany Gabriel, Reginald Bagley, Stan Mosley, and the entire Commission.) We all came together like family should, working together for the citizens of Cottage City, a prosperous day for all who attended!

Commissioner Hayes, our Police Clerk, Dunia Santamaria, and myself all arrived at the War of 1812 event on Saturday, August 23, 2014 at the

Bladensburg waterfront around 8:15am. Our public works employees Gregory Pinkney and Anthony Silver did a wonderful job setting up in the rain. It rained all day! Commissioner Hayes, Commissioner Gross, Reginald Bagley, and myself met at the dedication ceremony that Joanne Blake sculpted. The ceremony was wonderful and beautiful. After the ceremony we went back to the waterfront park where it rained and rained and we weathered the storm until about 5:30pm. I give a special shout out to our police clerk, Dunia Santamaria who stayed behind to watch our table with our valuables while we went to the ceremony. Great job! We all enjoyed working with you and a SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

\*All Commissioners are welcome to address the citizens each month in the newsletter. The Commissioners welcome any responses from residents. Their individual emails can be found on the front page of this newsletter.

**TOWN BUSINESS**

**Motions passed:**

- Motion to accept the minutes for the work session minutes on 8/5/2014 and the town hall meeting minutes on July 9, 2014.
- Motion to accept the July 2014 financial statements.
- Motion to purchas microphones for \$239.09.
- Motion to approve the American Landscaping Proposal for the tree trimming.
- Motion to approve the American Landscaping proposal of \$14,251.00 for the streets and highways trees.
- Motion to approve the american landscaping proposal of \$6,155.00 for the Town Hall trees.
- Motion to approve Brittany Gabriel for the Port Towns Day Employee Award.

### **Notice of Tax Levy- FY2014**

The Commissioners of the Town of Cottage City have levied taxes for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2014 and ending June 30, 2015, at the following rates:

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

**Listed below are agenda items to be discussed at the September 2 Work Session and the September 10 Town Hall meeting.**

#### WORK SESSION AGENDA ITEMS

- Nomination for Port Towns Day Award for a Cottage City citizen.
- Discussion about National Night Out.
- Discussion to determine a date for the annual Halloween party. (Note that the community garden fall harvest will be held on November 1, 2014, day after October 31, Halloween night.)
- Attendance of Commissioners and the Project Manager at the MML Fall Conference for 9/10/2014 to 9/14/2014 in Annapolis.
- Discussion for the purchase of a computer network system. After much research and discussion, the Commission finds that Aitheras is the most cost efficient system which will provide an up to date computer system for Cottage City. A cost analysis of the current telephone and internet services shows that the town pays between \$500 and \$600 monthly or more. Currently, the town's computers do not have proper connectivity for the transference of information. In addition the town does not have proper protection of the computers or enough data storage. In addition, the town currently does not have tech services in the event that the computers are faced with a virus or functional failure. The Aitheras system will cost \$438 monthly. Aitheras will provide an all-inclusive system that will have cloud storage, protection of data, phone services, departmental connectivity of information, and tech services. It was determined that the Town would experience a monthly cost savings of \$200 monthly compared to what we are currently incurring.
- Consideration of bids to be opened that were received on the police vehicles.
- An amount of \$25,000 was approved in the FY14 budget for windows and doors for the Town Hall building. Discussion of three bids that were received.

#### September 10, 2014 TOWN HALL MEETING

- Consideration should be made in getting a structural analysis on the town hall building to determine whether we should obtain a 25 year roof or a lifetime roof. If the analysis comes back stating that a second story can be done, future Commissions will have the knowledge that a second story can be put on the building. If a second story can be put on the building, it would be feasible to settle for a 25 year roof rather than a lifetime roof in case future Commissions would like to put a second story on the building. Repairing the roof is not an option because it would last for only a few years. Motion to obtain a structural analysis of the town hall building to determine whether a second story can be added at a possible later date in the amount of \$2,541.
- Cottage City has been awarded \$45,000 by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) to purchase two electric vehicles in which we foresee to use one for public works and the other one for code enforcement. After purchasing the vehicles a balance of approximately \$11K - \$14K would occur which could be used to go toward an electric charging station and/or a police vehicle purchase as long as that vehicle is a fuel efficient model. Motion to (1) purchase the two electric vehicles with the MEA grant money and (2) use the remaining balance toward the purchase of a police vehicle and/or an electric charging station.
- Motion to accept the Aitheras contract for a network computer system and telephone system costing \$15,000 and a \$438 monthly fee.

## Town of Cottage City September 2014 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <b>LABOR DAY TOWN HALL CLOSED</b>	2 <b>Work Session 6:30pm</b>	3	4	5	6 <b>Dumpster Day Yard Sale 8am-2pm</b>
7 <b>Dumpster Day Yard Sale 8am-2pm</b>	8 <b>Advisory Group Meeting 6:30pm</b>	9 Regular Trash Pick-Up	10 <b>Town Hall Meeting 7:00pm</b> Recycled Trash Pick-Up	11	12 Regular Trash Pick-Up	13
14	15	16 Regular Trash Pick-Up	17 Recycled Trash Pick-Up	18	19 Regular Trash Pick-Up	20 <b>Nutrition Workshop 2pm-4pm</b>
21	22	23 Regular Trash Pick-Up	24 Recycled Trash Pick-Up  <b>BULK Trash</b>	25	26 Regular Trash Pick-Up	27 <b>Port Towns Day 12pm- 7pm</b>
28	29	30 Regular Trash Pick-Up				

