

Echoes From the Hills

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Official Newsletter of the Country Club Hills Civic Association — Founded 1954

Volume II

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ECHOES FROM LARRY:

This newsletter is aimed at only three subjects: Membership in CCHCA, Painting numbers on the curb by the Boy Scouts, and once again Japanese Beetles. We had over 220 member households last year, we only have 160 thus far this year. Please join us, your neighbors. The Scouts spent a considerable amount of money on stencils and paint; and we helped them by advertising their service in this newsletter. Very few CCH residents bothered to sign up (I'm one of the forgetful culprits). The Scouts are using this as a fund raiser. We get addresses that are neat and easy to read. Please sign up by mailing in the form at the bottom of this page.

MEMBERSHIP:

If you have not joined our Civic Association by paying your \$5.00 to your block captain any of your neighbors listed below will be glad to come pick up your application or answer any questions you might have. Your dues pay for our Block Watch Program and the publication of the Newsletter and any money left over will go to the neighborhood - such as the Country Club Hills signs at each of the entrances on Lee Highway. Please call

Barbara Barnes	273-0529	3411 Brookwood
Susan Getler	273-3284	10002 Springlake Terrace
Phil Ferraro	691-1485	10110 Cornwall
Lois Marbert	273-5396	10110 Farmington Dr.

These are the area coordinators for CCH and they will be glad to help you.

BOY SCOUTS:

Fill out the form below and mail it with your check for \$5.00 to Raymond H. Greenfield, 3607 Heritage Lane, Fairfax, Virginia 22030. Make your check payable to Boy Scout Troop #882.

I would like Troop #882. to paint my house number at the curb.
Enclosed is a check for \$5.00.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS _____

JAPANESE BEETLES

Our May newsletter contained a very detailed description of the known facts regarding the Japanese Beetle and what we could do to get rid of the problem. I won't go into all that again --- it was four pages long. Many of you asked your association to do something about the Japanese Beetle problem. We tried to do so. We gave you the facts, got low cost estimates, arranged for a \$100 grant from the City, and asked for your support.

Specifically, our last newsletter asked you to bring beetle grubs to my house so they could be analyzed by the County Agricultural Service. If those grubs were evaluated as Japanese Beetles, ones that were not already infected with milky spore disease, then we were prepared to contract for milky spore treatment of CCH at \$32 per home. Only five families (Ott, Bellas, Keitt, Pacquette, and Skoglund) brought grub samples to my house. I wish to thank those families for their help and civic mindedness. The results of County analysis were that the first four samples were not Japanese Beetle grubs; but were of another species. Milky spore will only work on Japanese Beetles. Joyce and Len Skoglund brought in the only sample (one grub) which proved to be a Japanese Beetle grub and it was not infected with milky spore. By the way, it was over an inch long, thicker than a pencil, and pure white in late May.

Three families (Gerson, Jordan and one other I failed to record the name of), who have lived in CCH since its inception, called to tell me that they distinctly remember CCH being treated with milky spore over 20 years ago. At least two outside "experts" stated that milky spore does not completely disappear or lose its effectiveness over time, but is still in our yards awaiting an influx of new grubs to digest a spore, become infected and then further spread the disease naturally through our neighborhood.

The CCHCA Board concurred in my recommendation that we, as a civic association, do nothing about arranging for a community-wide treatment of milky spore. We cannot, in good conscience, recommend an expenditure of almost \$10,000 (\$32 for 300 yards) to treat a problem based on a sample of a solitary bug!!!

I'd like to quote from the last newsletter, "If no one brings any beetle grubs in the next three weeks, I'll assume we either: (1) don't have a problem, (2) don't want our yards treated, or (3) don't like digging for bugs in the dirt." Apparently, except for the four families named above, one or more of these suppositions is true.

The last newsletter explained how to treat a yard for Japanese Beetles if you still wish to do so on your own --- and contrary to popular belief, it is effective to treat only your own yard --- just not as effective as if all

neighbors were to do so at the same time. I personally strongly recommend against any use of beetle traps. Milky spore is the most effective solution, but it is a long term method effective only after several years. Spraying with chemicals (Ottanol, Malathion or Carbaryl for beetles or Diazinon, Chlorpyrifos or Trichlorfon for grubs) can be partially effective against either grubs or beetles, but only for a limited time. The advantages of chemicals are that they can be applied by you (thus are cheaper) and they kill other grubs and pests as well. Picking the beetles off the flowers by hand is also very effective --- and very time consuming!!

There are four commercial pest control organizations in the Washington area who will be happy to service your yard. I am displaying their names and telephone numbers below for your use. I know of no instances of poor past performance by any of these firms. I strongly recommend you read my last newsletter before using any service; and I recommend you shop around for the best price and service.

Michael Briese, Japanese Beetle Specialists, Silver Spring, MD, 301/585-4431.
This young man was kind enough to come to our last general meeting, brief us on the Japanese Beetle, and supply us with handouts.

Chris Hyde, Japanese Beetle Control, Leesburg, VA, 703/777-2510.
This very knowledgeable man has been in the business for 27 years.

Rick Ray, Servicemaster Lawn Care, McLean, VA, 689-4040.
This man is a friend of a resident of CCH.

Reuter Laboratories, Manassas Park, VA, 691-0035.

A member of the Pest Control Association, the largest Japanese Beetle firm in the area, a major manufacturer of milky spore, the firm that treated Mosby Woods last year and, on two occasions with their representatives on the telephone, the firm which demonstrated the least knowledge of the Japanese Beetle and its treatment.

Finally, some gratuitous advice: I strongly recommend that the owners of the 12 new homes on Spring Lake Terrace/SLT Court band together and do apply milky spore to their yards. Your yards have never had the treatment, are very susceptible, and may develop a problem. I can get money from the City of Fairfax to do the "green strip" along SLT if you want me to. I recommend the older homes opposite the new homes join in the treatment.

Those who have had their yard regraded or completely resurfaced with topsoil and sod should also have the milky spore treatment.

The remainder of you who are concerned, should have an annual chemical spray applied to your yard each year in mid-late June or, if the problem is really bad, also applied in September and March.

Update

Interest Rates are still lower than they have been in eight years. VA has received their additional funding Questions? Call - Barbara at 273-6904 or 273-0529

Homes for Sale in CCH:

3306 Springlake Terrace
3404 Country Hill Drive
3435 Brookwood Drive
Homes Sold in May and June
1707 Cornwall
9911 Farr Drive

LET'S ALL DRIVE WITH EXTRA CARE IN CCH. SCHOOL IS OUT AND CHILDREN ARE PLAYING IN THE STREETS. WATCH OUT FOR BICYCLES, JOGGERS, ETC. LET'S MAKE THIS A HAPPY AND SAFE SUMMER!

