

There's a Tiger in Town

Mosquitoes, gnats, horseflies--there are plenty of summertime pests, even in our well-kept, tree-shaded neighborhood. We didn't need another, but we got one.

The Asian Tiger Mosquito came to the US in 1985 or so, probably transported in old tires. By 1997 it was a problem in the Washington area. So far concerns about the Asian Tiger's ability to spread new diseases--or more efficiently spread old ones--are unproven, but the bugs are a problem. One bit me in broad daylight yesterday, scratched its calling card just on my neck.

Tigers are about the same size as most American mosquitoes, but their gaudy black-and-white striping makes them look larger. They are also easier to spot because they bite in daylight as well as after dark. They are just as sensitive to mosquito repellent as the rest of their relations. They are definitely more aggressive, and they're quick and tough to swat.

Swatting is critical. Biters are females, and they bite to get a "blood meal" when they are preparing to reproduce, so swatting the one that bit you might just save you a lot more bites later. Let's let every mosquito bite be a reminder that we can do a lot to reduce the population of Asian Tiger Mosquitoes in Country Club Hills.

One major difference between the Asian Tiger Mosquito and our various domestic brands is that it will reproduce in any small

see Mosquito page 3

Civic Association Revived

38 CCH residents responded to a call for a civic association meeting Tuesday, May 8. At the meeting a slate of candidates was elected and a number of programs were initiated to revive the association as a source of information and action for the community.

"Our main goal at this early point is to make contact with every resident of the community and to energize our main asset, which is people," said Patrice Winter, who organized the meeting and accepted election as President of the Corporation for the current term.

In addition to elections, those present discussed a number of goals, including social events, improvement of signs, and updating and distributing the CCH Civic Association Directory. "The directory is the result of a great deal of hard work. It has a tremendous amount of useful information already, and we want everybody to contribute to it and use it," said Joyce Skoglund, Secretary of the Corporation.

One early order of business will be a membership drive to distribute applications and collect dues for the organization. Dues have been set at \$10 per year. Projects under discussion that will require funding include the directory and a plan to replace the signs at the three entrance streets.

One key organizational structure for the Association will be a system of block captains delegated to distribute material and make personal contact with all residents of CCH.

All plans of the board and its committees are still in development. Residents are encouraged to contact the appropriate board member or their block captain to get involved in these projects or suggest additional ones.

See also "Membership Drive" p. 3; "Officers" p. 2; "Rescue Crew" p. 2.

5/17 Board Meeting

The CCH Civic Association board met Thursday, May 17 at board president Patrice Winter's home, 3502 Old Post Road. A quorum was present. Matters discussed included the newsletter, membership drive, organization of committees, and new activities. For complete minutes of the meeting call Joyce Skoglund at 591-4017. If you would like to discuss any association matters or propose new business, call Patrice Winter at 385-9817.

Speeding in CCH

Attorney and CCH Civic Association member Olivier Long has proposed a program which can be used to abate speeding in residential areas. Under the program citizens use radar guns to clock the speed of vehicles. City police use data collected to determine if a problem exists and then take a series of measures to solve the problem, including posting radar signs and increasing enforcement. Interested CCH residents should contact Mr. Long at 703-591-1600.

New Signs an Early Order of Business

One of the first tasks the CCH Association has set for itself is a review of the signs that mark the three entrances of the community. It is the general opinion so far that the current signs are dilapidated and outdated and need to be repaired or replaced.

We are lucky enough to have a professional sign manufacturer as a resident in Country Club Hills who has offered to build and install the signs to our specifications at cost.

Residents interested in influencing the sign project should contact Patrice Winter at 703-385-9817. She will consider submissions of original designs and other suggestions about the signs, and convene a committee to consider designs. 2' by 3' is the maximum size allowed by the city. Any submission or suggestion should be made by June 15, 2001. The board hopes to have the sign project completed by Fall.

...and another sign issue:

Some residents have expressed concern about the traffic signage in our community. Dozens of intersections are not marked at all by stop or yield signs, though many of the high-traffic areas are. Several residents felt that the sparseness of traffic signage was an advantage, or at least a quaint feature, of this generally quiet dead-end neighborhood. It is likely that the city will put up the required signs if we ask them to (or if they notice that they are not present), but with rules comes enforcement. Residents with an opinion on this issue are urged to write or e-mail the newsletter with comments so we can take the temperature of the association.

...one more sign issue:

A service project or community effort may be in order to create clearer address signs. Many of the old curb stenciled street numbers are illegible now. Some residents have placed handsome street side number plates or have mounted numbers on their homes, but many houses and even a few streets are unmarked. This is more than an inconvenience for the pizza man; police and rescue response still depends on clear street signs and numbers even in this age of high-tech navigation.

2001 Officers Country Club Hills Civic Association

President	Patrice Winter	703-385-9817
VP Civic Affairs	Brad Preiss	703-273-8914
VP Block Captains	Jill Butterfield	703-352-8854
Special Projects	Hildie Carney	703-591-5305
VP Membership	Sue McKenzie	703-352-3817
VP Membership--directory	Tom Sparks	703-691-1972
VP Publication	Dave Motes	571-432-5881
Treasurer	David Oliver	703-352-3955
VP Social Activities	Kim Motes	571-432-5881
Secretary	Joyce Skoglund	703-591-4017
Welcoming Committee	Jill Toth	703-383-1965

Maintenance Rescue Crew

The CCH Board is seeking volunteers and leadership for a Maintenance Rescue Crew. The Crew will be a project oriented service committee tasked to help residents in need.

The exact composition and procedure for the crew is still being developed, but the general idea is to take on planned weekly projects and to be ready for 'rapid response' problems as they arise for CCH residents who need help.

Some scenarios the crew might handle include regular lawn and outside maintenance for some of our older residents or those who can't keep up with the demands of a lawn on a spring growing binge; emergency response "chainsaw crew" to handle storm damage; help with emergency plumbing problems or heavy lifting; maintenance for families that may need to leave town or manage other extra responsibilities; cleanup before or after social events.

The main skill required for service on the crew is enthusiasm, though people with special knowledge or tools and the willingness to give up a few hours on a weekend are a prized commodity. Service organizations such as the Scouts would also be welcome components of the crew, as would students looking for community service credit. Leadership will help to maintain communication and manage resources.

The outfit will be modeled on the tradition of neighborly help. With over 300 homes in the community, people often be in extraordinary need--and we have the resources to help them.

Membership Drive

The association's first order of business is a membership drive. Our association's strength is in its people, and for that strength to be accessible we need 100% participation. All residents, owners and renters alike, are encouraged to join the association.

An application form is included as the back page of this newsletter. Dues are \$10 per year. We would like to have dues logged by June 10. By-laws stipulate the dues period as September through March, so next year's dues cycle will begin a bit earlier. Funds will be used for social events, new signs, publications, and the directory.

Another key function of the membership application is to gather information for the directory. The directory is a wonderful way for our community to pool skills and talents. Please include an e-mail address if you use one.

The membership drive will also be the first test of our system of block captains and area coordinators. The neighborhood has been divided into four areas, and within each area "blocks" of 10 or so homes. Block captains will call on each home to introduce themselves, discuss neighborhood issues, and encourage residents to join the association. Block captains will also distribute newsletters and make other contacts as necessary. In some situations blocks will be the unit for association activities such as pot-luck suppers, yard sales, etc. If you're curious about your block or would like to help out, call Jill Butterfield at 352-8854.

Membership is our strength. If you have any questions about membership or dues, call Hildie Carney at 591-5305.

Rolling Thunder

Tomorrow may not be the best day to plan to sleep late. Instead of birds and gentle breezes, the distinctive sound of large-bore Harley-Davidson motorcycle engines will most likely be the theme of the morning.

The Patriot Harley-Davidson dealer on Route 50 will serve as a gathering point for several thousand riders who will then ride together into Washington. Gathering time is no earlier than 7 AM, and the riders will take off together at around 9.

City officials have worked out some measures to reduce noise impact from motorcycles in the Circle area, including rolling gathering times back and limiting events each year. The Memorial Day event in honor of POW/MIA issues is a centerpiece of many motorcycle clubs' social calendars.

Though it is an occasional nuisance, Harley noise is also part of an amazing spectacle. Riders come from all over North America to participate in this event, and some beautiful and exotic motorcycles will be on display. The event is free.

Directory Seeks Input

The CCH Association Handbook is undergoing a revision. The handbook has always been a valuable resource for residents of the neighborhood.

Beside the usual specific information about the association, phone numbers, block captains, and so on, the directory will also contain listing of residents who offer services such as babysitting, lawn work, etc.; information on the city leadership; phone numbers, dates, and schedules; and an area map of CCH.

Anyone interested in contributing to the directory project should call Tom Sparks at 691-1972.

Mosquito from 1

amount of captured water. Normal mosquitoes generally use larger bodies of stagnant water in swamps or creeks; the Asian Tiger is happy with a pint of water in a forgotten bucket. Take a walk around your yard, and you'll probably find a few examples--your very own maternity wards for your very own population of aggressive daytime vampires.

This also means that the tiger is nearly impervious to drought. In fact, the worse the drought, the more mosquitoes you are likely to have in your yard. Rainfall may turn any discarded can or piece of plastic into a perfect breeding site; if the only rain comes from your sprinkler, the only place they'll breed is near your sprinkler, and therefore near your patio.

Take a walk around your yard and find every vessel that can possibly hold water--even just a cup of water will do--and dump it out, cover it, put it away. The worst culprits are folded plastic tarps or large bags; old tires; clogged gutters or downspouts; flowerpots; boat bilges; old buckets or other plastic vessels; or ornamental fish ponds. If you have a garden, plantings, or lawn areas that you water, take special pains to check them for objects that might hold water, even for a short time. Most mosquitoes don't range far, so if you meet a Tiger, check around; you'll probably find a breeding site. Shake out tarps once a week; change water in birdbaths; put some goldfish in your garden pond.

Some believe that copper inhibits breeding, so it might not hurt to put a penny in your birdbath. Entomologists believe that the Tiger is here to stay. The best we can do is make it a bit tougher on them.

CCH Classified

Country Club Hills residents are invited to submit three-line ads for help, for-sale products, services, etc. Especially interested in unique products (such as properly-sized CCH equipment and installations) and unique neighborhood services such as babysitting, yardwork, etc.

Ads should be submitted to Dave Motes by e-mail to dmkfs@erols.com with "CCH" in the subject line, by telephone to 571-432-5881, or in writing to 10101 Capeway Ct. All ads must include a name, address, and phone number. Ads are free but space is limited. CCH residents only.

WOOD BURNING STOVE-- \$100, you lug it home. Perfect CCH fireplace fit. 385-9817

FLY FISHING INSTRUCTION-- fly tying, guided fly fishing trout/bass. 571-432-5881

BABYSITTING needed/offered

YARDWORK, MOWING

BEACH/SKI RENTALS

CCH-SHAPE/SIZE ITEMS

We have had only one home sale in CCH in the past six months that is listed in the computer. That may be because everybody realizes that Country Club Hills is such a great place to live, and perhaps

CCH Real Estate Report

the prices will go even higher. The listing below goes back one year. At the moment there are no homes listed for sale in CCH. For further information call Barbara Barnes of Jobin Realty at 273-0529.

1002 Blackthorn Ct.

List: \$244,900

Sold: \$244,900

3514 Old Post Rd.

List: \$220,000

Sold: \$225,000

9910 Pinhurst Ave.

List: \$234,000

Sold: \$227,500

10108 Spring Lake Terrace

List: \$214,000

Sold: \$214,000

10101 Capeway Court

List: \$249,900

Sold: \$242,500

Noted--the Editor

I tried not to resent Farrcroft. I did. I know deep down that resentment is a sign of jealousy. They are very large houses, but I tried not to gossip at their energy costs or their hectares of hardwood floor. They're tall and close together, I know, but I resisted the temptation to make jokes about the gloomy canyonland between. That would have been bitter. I didn't kvetch about grandiosity because secretly I was impressed, and perhaps a bit intimidated. I kept my mouth shut. I tried not to hoot at the selling prices. I didn't make fun of the spindly lonely trees or shake my head at cars with weird headlights that came and went. Really I didn't.

Then they built that bridge.

It's a massive bridge, built to resist the inexorable currents of Daniels Run, which gnaw tirelessly at its piers--maybe twice a year; the rest of the time the currents sort of lean and rest, panting, against the enormous concrete bulkheads and automobile-sized rocks.

The bridge is massive, a Parisian monstrosity, but then they built that railing--a quarter-mile of chunky concrete Gothic-Edwardian balusters with a kind of a Greek revival anti truck-bomb barrier look. I always expect to see Charlotte Brontë perched there, hand to brow, about to hurl herself to a muddy death.

What next? A row of wrought iron streetlamps, very Jack the Ripper, perfect for a foggy late-night rendezvous, passing mysterious envelopes, the sound of footsteps? Maybe an open chaise drawn by high-spirited draft horses? Flower girls in tattered shawls and fingerless gloves bursting into song?

Come to think of it, we could use a bridge at the end of Spring Lake Terrace. I'm thinking Brooklyn.

Social Committee Developing Plans

A key strength of any civic organization is its special events, especially the kind of social events that will bring the community together. Country Club Hills has traditionally held several such events, and the Social Committee is aiming to revive those plans.

The committee evolved at the recent organizational meeting when several in attendance judged that a committee was a better organizational structure than a single social vice president. Those who expressed interest immediately began planning to head individual events with the support of the entire committee.

Events under consideration include a summertime block-style party in a single street location, perhaps on the Labor Day weekend; a community-wide rummage sale in the green space at the foot of Spring Lake Terrace and at individual houses on a single date; and a Halloween party and parade.

The committee at this time is Dia Pullen (352-8670), Sandy Lamb (273-6543), Kim Motes (571-432-5881), and Lisa Muccio (359-4284). New ideas, old ideas, and all neighbors are welcomed.

Country Club Hills Membership Application - 2001

Be a Part of Your Community!! Get Involved!! CCHCA Needs You!!

Directory Information:

Names of Adults: _____

Names of Children (ages optional): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Number of Years at Current Residence: _____

E-mail Address: _____ (optional)

The following members of the household wish to be listed in the 2001 Directory for personal and/or professional services (fill out ONLY new information):

Babysitter Registry _____

Petsitter Registry _____

Yardwork Registry _____

Maintenance Rescue Crew _____

Please check one box for each question below:

1) Are you interested in volunteering services for the CCH Civic Association?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, in what capacity? (example: help with a social activity, block captain)

2) Would you like to join or form a special club or group?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please describe! _____

3) Would you like to advertise your company's business or service in the directory?

Yes _____ No _____

4) How would you prefer to receive CCHCA Newsletters and other Information?

E-mail _____ (provide e-mail address) Hardcopy _____

Dues = \$10.00 per family for 2001 Make checks payable to: Treasurer, CCHCA

Please return form and payment to: Sue McKenzie (Vice-President for Membership)

3408 Brookwood Dr., Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 352-3817

E-mail address: suencolin@aol.com