

Last year at this time we were getting familiar with masks, social distancing and the creeping realization that our usual activities of gathering with family and friends was dramatically changing. This spring we are heartened that vaccinations are underway and that we hope for a sense of “normalcy” to return to our way of life.

For the last year the number of people walking up and down Hines Road has increased. Often, when the sidewalks were too narrow to allow distance between walkers, we have safely stepped off into the street to let others pass by in comfort.

We all look forward to safely returning to backyard and/or driveway BBQs and sharing good times in our neighborhoods.

The Great Eastern Brood of cicadas is coming our way. Once the soil temperature reaches 64 degrees the harmless (to humans) cicadas will be making their appearance known and sucking the sap from trees and plants. Along with this feeding frenzy will come a volume of noise (90 dB) that is on the par with the volume of a motorcycle (95 dB) in the backyard. Rest assured that after 4 – 6 weeks this brood of cicadas will return to the soil for another 17 years.

Montgomery County has established rules that do not allow the use of “Weed & Feed” products on lawns containing both fertilizer and pesticides.

We opted to aggressively aerate and overseed the common areas in the fall to keep the weeds at bay. This effort will be evaluated for its effectiveness and if the results are not satisfactory a change in

course can be addressed in future budgeting.

#### ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS REQUIRED

If you are planning exterior renovations or major repairs to your home or property that change the current characteristics of your home/property, you must submit an architectural review form and receive approval prior to the work commencing.

Replacing siding or roofing with the same material/color does not require HOA approval.

As always, consent and acknowledgement of your neighbors (and their signature on the form) is a required part of the application process.

The standards and forms can be found on our website [www.olneycrossingmd.org](http://www.olneycrossingmd.org)

Please mail the completed forms to: OCHOA Architectural Review PO Box 278 Olney MD 20830

#### WE CONTINUE TO SEEK RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE ON THE BOARD OF THE OLNEY CROSSING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

I welcome your participation and involvement on the HOA Board. This is a small neighborhood and we welcome others to participate in managing the HOA. Limited activity required including

- Oversight of landscape activities
- Collecting payments and making bank deposits
- Reviewing architectural submissions
- Addressing realtor inquiries

Thanks to Julie Jenkins for stepping in to help with the payment collections.

If you have questions about your billing please contact Krista Boteler at [kristabotelercpa@comcast.net](mailto:kristabotelercpa@comcast.net) Other inquiries can be directed to Bill Hysell at [president@olneycrossingmd.org](mailto:president@olneycrossingmd.org)