

Farm News

AUTUMN EDITION 2015



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Patriot Day – Sept. 11
- CPF Flag/Displaying a Flag
- Fall Activities
- Important Info on Smoke Alarms & CO Detectors
- Tips for the DIY-Challenged
- Deck Maintenance
- Home Maintenance Tips for End of Fall

Autumn 2015 runs from September 23 to December 21

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015 - PATRIOT DAY



OUR CPF FLAG/DISPLAYING A FLAG

Committee Member Jane, and her husband, Bob Groben, take care of our flag, flying it at half-mast on appropriate occasions, such as Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Peace Day, and most recently, on September 11, Patriot Day. Carol sends us a “One-Call Now” message on each date this is done.

Homeowners are welcome to fly a flag throughout the year to honor our country and our veterans. The flag may be flown either from the front of the garage or the back of the deck. You may also use the mini-garden flag posts to house the mini flag.

FALL ACTIVITIES

Here are some nearby Fall activities that may be of interest.

- ❖ **MERRYMEAD FARM** (close by on 2222 S. Valley Forge Rd.)
 - For produce, corn mazes, hayrides, pumpkin painting, etc.
 - Visit their website for more information at <http://www.merrymeade.com/>
- ❖ **FREDDIE HILLS FARMS**, 1440 Sumneytown Pike, Lansdale, PA
 - Activities include Pumpkin Patch tours in October, cornstalk mazes, hayrides, and miniature golf.
 - Visit their website for more information at <http://www.freddyhill.com/>
- ❖ **The PETER WENTZ FARMSTEAD** around the corner from us has various learning events for children during the year; two are mentioned below. See their website at <http://www.peterwentzfarmsteadsociety.org/>.
 - **Saturday, October 17th from 10:00 a.m-3:00 p.m.** Explore the traditional chores performed during the autumn harvest; join the farmers as they shell corn and press apples for cider. Learn about General Washington's use of the site as a temporary headquarters.
 - **Wednesday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.** In honor of Veterans' Day, preschoolers will learn about a soldier's life during the Revolutionary War, including the clothes they wore, what they ate, and where they slept. Pre-registration required.



The **PERKIOMEN TRAIL** provides 20 miles for visitors to ride their bikes, walk, or jog through some of Montgomery County's most scenic landscapes. For more information and a map, visit www.montcopa.org/perkiomentrail.

IMPORTANT SMOKE ALARM & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR INFORMATION

- The U.S. Fire Administration says that most smoke detectors installed today have a life span of about 10 years. After this time, the entire unit should be replaced. It's important to keep track of the date it was replaced. Replace batteries in smoke detectors using 9-volt batteries at least once a year.
- If you have a smoke alarm that is hardwired into your home's electrical system, you should replace the back-up battery at least once a year, and the entire smoke alarm every 10 years.
- If your smoke alarm is powered by a 10-year lithium battery, you cannot replace the lithium battery; you should replace the entire smoke alarm according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Select a Carbon Monoxide detector which is certified by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for replacement of batteries, and the life span of the detector.

HOME MAINTENANCE OR REPAIR TIPS FOR THE DIY-CHALLENGED



One of our Communications Committee members admits to being extremely Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Challenged, but, amazingly, she was able with a little research to tackle the repairs listed below on her own. If you have any tips to share with us, we would love to know about them! Homeowners can pass along to others any special tips about how they handled their own home-maintenance projects on our CPF website, using the “Maintenance” tab on the left. Tips or contractors recommended by residents are submitted in a neighborly, information-sharing context. The CPF Homeowners Association or Board does not assume any responsibility for them.

1. Repair a Broken Handle on a Microwave Oven

So, so, easy to do in only 10 minutes after you view easy-to-follow demonstration on YouTube, as follows:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJm3GOMUzsg

2. Replace broken cabinet hinges



Cabinet hinges on doors which are used frequently break over time, especially on pie-cut Lazy Susan cabinets. The hinges can be ordered on the internet by comparing your hinges to those on the website, and placing an order. However, there are so many look-alike parts to choose from, so the best way to ensure you order the correct part is by emailing pictures of your cabinet parts to this site: russ@cabinetparts.com. Then replacing the part is as easy as pie.

Note: A magnetic screwdriver works well for use on repairs #1 & 2 above.

3. Easy Cleaning of Stovetop Oven Grates

Oven grates frequently collect baked-on grease and food which are very difficult and time-consuming to remove. One of our committee members contacted GE and was told that it would be safe to put the grates in the oven, using the self-cleaning cycle. She did so, and *voilà*, the grates and the oven both came out sparkling clean at the same time.

4. Quick, easy hanging of pictures or items up to 35 lbs. with Monkey Hooks



Monkey hooks are a fast and easy way to hang certain art or mirrors up to 35 lbs. on drywall.

They're also useful for hanging items on your garage walls or attic. No tools required. Just push, twist, and insert into drywall. Available at stores such as Home Depot.

DECK STABILITY & REPLACEMENT

Homeowners are responsible for ensuring the safety and maintenance of their decks. Also, remember that replacement or expansion of existing decks must be pre-approved by the Architectural Committee and the Board via a completed Request for Architectural Modification Form. The form is available on our CPF Website, as well as additional information on deck topics, such as colors.

HOME MAINTENANCE TIPS FOR END OF FALL

- ✓ Check weather stripping around doors.
 - ✓ Drain garden hoses and disconnect from outside spigots.
 - ✓ Turn off exterior faucets and inside valves as well.
 - ✓ Drain and store hoses in a dry place.
 - ✓ Ensure you have your sprinklers checked. Our website lists contractors our homeowners have used.
 - ✓ It's not too early to start getting your calcium chloride for the driveways. We've had some rogue snowfalls during the Fall months.
-



HAPPY HALLOWEEN – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31