

# Audubon Square / Fallbrook Newsletter

Volume 5/Issue 1

January 2021

## Board of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Dena Saunders</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Elizabeth Baldwin</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Stephan Kaufman</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Supreet Kaur</b>
<b>Director at Large</b>	<b>Faye Bobb-Semple</b>



**OPEN MEETING via ZOOM**

The Board is inviting you to scheduled Zoom Meetings on the THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:00pm

To Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5268390540?pwd=MWZXRTRRa2RWNUlmbGRYYlVydzRVZz09>

Meeting ID: 526 839 0540  
Passcode: Audubonsq

Trash Pick-Up is Tuesdays & Fridays  
Trash in a secured container  
AFTER 7:00 pm on Monday & Thursday

Recycle is on Mondays  
Set out AFTER 7:00 pm on Sunday  
MUST BE PLACED IN A GREEN RECYCLE BIN  
If your recycling is missed, call: 311

**CITY OF GAITHERSBURG**

**“ON DEMAND BULK PICK-UP PROGRAM”**  
**Schedule a Pick-Up 301-258-6370**

Community Association, Inc.  
15742 Crabbs Branch Way  
Rockville, MD 20855  
P: (301) 258-7711 F: (301) 258-6283  
[www.communityassn.com](http://www.communityassn.com)

**COMMUNITY MANAGERS**  
Josie Wells

[Josie.Wells@communityassn.com](mailto:Josie.Wells@communityassn.com)  
Phone: (301) 258-7711 Ext. 150

Brenda Lanier  
[Brenda.Lanier@communityassn.com](mailto:Brenda.Lanier@communityassn.com)  
Phone: (301) 258-7711 Ext. 180

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**2021!**

The Board of Directors would like to wish all of the residents a happy new year.

We look forward to exciting times as we continue our efforts to make Audubon Square the best place to live. As you make those New Year resolutions, we as Board, would ask that each homeowner resolve to help make Audubon Square a great place to live.

There are many ways you can get involved such as attending the Annual meeting, running for office, get on one of numerous committees to become a member of one, picking up trash when you see some lying around or simply being kind to a neighbor.

We appreciate your support and are trying to do the best we can in the interest of our homeowners and residents.

***Best of luck for the coming year!***

## REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **BIG TOW TOWING AND RECOVERY:**

**Towing is enforced! Parking permits must be placed on the rearview mirror with the sticker facing out, visible by looking through the front window, to prevent from being towed.**

Between the hours of 2:00am to 9:00am the Contractor will tow, remove and store the following vehicles:

- 1) Any vehicle parked in a Fire Lane or No Parking Zone
- 2) Any vehicle taking up two or more parking spaces
- 3) Any vehicle parked in other than a marked space
- 4) Any vehicle double-parked, blocking another vehicle, or trash dumpster
- 5) Any vehicle parked on the grass
- 6) Any vehicle parked in a "Visitor Space" without a valid Association issued parking permit
- 7) Any vehicle with expired tags or no tags (within local law)
- 8) Any otherwise unauthorized vehicle parked on the property as defined in the Declaration of the Association
- 9) Any inoperable vehicle (wrecked, flat tire(s), broken windows, leaking fluids, up on blocks, missing engine, etc.)

To report lost parking permit, call (240) 832-0212 or email [Brenda.Lanier@CommunityAssn.com](mailto:Brenda.Lanier@CommunityAssn.com).



### **Alliance Association Bank Update on On-line Payments**

Alliance Association Bank has updated their on-line payment system for security reasons.

Homeowners can make a one-time HOA assessment payment with just a few clicks. **Payments made with eCheck will take up to four days to process.** Our secure, convenient HOA assessment payment service accepts Visa®, MasterCard®, American Express® and Discover® Card, with minimal fees. **Payments made by credit card may take up to five days to process.**

Homeowners can have their HOA assessments taken directly out of their accounts each month, for free. Since it's automatic, they won't have to worry about remembering to make payments. Moreover, this option removes the management company from ACH transactions, and reduces the higher fraud risk associated with other payment methods.

To make online payments go to: <https://onlinepay.allianceassociationbank.com/home.aspx>.

To registered with Community Association, Inc.'s web portal, go to [www.CommunityAssn.com](http://www.CommunityAssn.com) to become a Community Member. This web portal is for owners and tenants to get updated information about the community.



### **City of Gaithersburg Snow Removal**

When it snows in Gaithersburg, the Public Works Department staff goes into action. These snow fighters concentrate on keeping City streets passable during winter weather events and cleared as soon as possible after the storm is over.

If you have a comment or concern during or immediately following a storm, please do not hesitate to contact us at [snow@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:snow@gaithersburgmd.gov) or leave a message at 240-805-1345.

The following is a list of general information and ways you can help our snow fighters provide the most efficient winter weather services.

**PREPARE:** Stock emergency kits and winterize your vehicle & home.  
Move vehicles off City roads. **Snow Emergency** - If declared, all vehicles must be removed from snow emergency routes. Vehicles parked in violation are subject to ticketing and towing at the owner's expense.

**PRETREAT:** Salt brine is applied to City maintained roads two days before predicted storm.  
Road salt is applied once snow begins to stick to street surface. Locate & mark the nearest fire hydrant. Keep it clear of snow during & after storm.

**PLOWING:** Plowing begins after snow accumulates 2 inches on roadway.  
Order of Plowing: 1) Primary Roads 2) Secondary Roads 3) Neighborhood Roads 4) Courts  
It takes 8 - 10 hours to plow all City streets ONE time. Crews work 24/7 until all roads are cleared. **Do not allow children to play in snow close to the road or on high piles of snow left by plow trucks.**

**DRIVING:** Stay off the roads! Do not drive until roads are cleared.  
**If you must drive:** 1) Yield to plow and salt trucks and keep your distance. 2) Clear snow & frost completely off roofs, windshields, windows, headlights, and taillights. 3) Make sure your vehicle is equipped with snow or all-weather tires and emergency supplies.

**SHOVELING:** Shovel after crews have finished clearing roadways. Do not throw snow into the street or court. Shovel in the direction of traffic.

#### **Snow Removal Policy**

Residents/business owners are required to remove snow/ice from public sidewalks along their property within 12 hours of the last precipitation. To avoid repeated shoveling, wait until the plow crews have cleared the roadways

### **Christmas Tree Removal**



The **City's** recycling contractor will collect holiday **trees** along with branches and other yard trimmings during the weekly recycling **pick up** throughout the year. Please note these helpful reminders: Place the **tree** at the curb next to your recycling container by 7 AM on your weekly recycling day.

Bulk items are collected by appointment only via our on-demand bulk refuse collection program. City residents can schedule a bulk pick up any of their regular recycling days as long as that day does not fall on an observed holiday. Since your tree will be chipped for composting and mulch, it must be in its natural state. No tinsel, decorations, stand or angel hair.

Appointments are being accepted now for pickups. They can be requested via an [online form](#), by emailing [BulkPickUp@gaitHERsburgmd.gov](mailto:BulkPickUp@gaitHERsburgmd.gov), or by calling 301-258-6370. Items should not be put out until the appointment is confirmed by City staff & instructions have been provided about where to leave the items.

### **2021 Trash Reminders**

Below are some highlighted trash rules for the community.

1. No item can be put out for any type of disposal (bulk, recycle, regular trash, or any other pick up) any earlier than 7:00pm the night before a scheduled pick up.
2. All items placed out for pick up must meet all Federal, State, and local laws and requirements for acceptable pick up.
3. Newspapers- Do separate newspapers from regular trash. Do place newspapers in paper grocery type bags. Do include inserts received with the newspaper. Do not mix newspaper with other recyclables. Do not include magazines, catalogs, phone books, or other paper products. Do not use plastic bags. Do not stack loose newspapers.
4. Leaves and other Yard Trimmings- Place these items in brown biodegradable paper bags only and put out on your regular recycle day. Do not put yard trimmings or leaves in plastic bags or in loose piles.
5. Do not put out automotive products, household hazardous material, garden or pool products, radioactive materials, explosives, tires, oil, conditioners, paint, building materials, or any commercial, industrial, and medical waste out at any time. You may call the County Transfer station to find out how to dispose of these items.
6. No trash container or recycle bin can be stored in the front of the unit or in common areas. Trash cans and recycle bins must be removed from the front of the unit by 12:00 midnight the day the removal service was rendered.
7. Trash and recycle containers should be placed in front of your home near the community sidewalk for pick up. Do not place in an island or other common area away from your house.

**NO BULK, NO YARD CLIPPINGS, NO TRASH on Fallbrook Road or Fallbrook Court! It is costing the community fortune every year. Assessments WILL go up if it continues!**

## How to Get Rid of Mice — And Keep Them Away for Good



Fall and winter are prime time for rodents trying to make their way into warm, cozy homes, but it's never too early to start mouse-proofing. Not only can they chew through walls and boxes in your pantry, but mice can wreak serious havoc on your home. Particularly, they can gnaw on wires, which can lead to house fires. "And they carry a slew of illnesses and bacteria," Mannes warns. "A build-up of their droppings can worsen allergy and asthma situations, too."

**What do mouse droppings look like?** Mouse droppings resemble dark grains of rice, about a quarter inch long. Rat droppings look a little wider and longer — about half an inch in length. Trails of little poop pellets are certainly a major sign

that you have mice, but the best evidence might not always be scattered along your countertops. Another tip off could be boxes in your pantry have been chewed through.

**If you see one mouse, does that mean there's more?** Sorry to break the news: If you see one mouse, you almost definitely have more than one. "They're looking for the same things that humans are looking for in the winter — food, water, and shelter," says Mannes. "They've gotten so good at living with humans. When you get one, others will find their way in. Plus, they multiply very quickly."

**What home remedy can you use to get rid of mice?** We've seen all sorts of DIY repellent ideas (including peppermint sprays, dryer sheet stuffing, and cotton balls soaked in oil and cayenne pepper), but you may want to skip the home remedies.

**Okay, so how do you get rid of mice?** Here's what you need to do to eliminate these pesky little critters — as fast and as painless as possible.

1. **Find their entry point** - Before you put down any traps or bait, do a little detective work. Determine where they are living and building nests. Once you have found those places, set your traps around those general areas. Of course, professional exterminators will be able to determine exactly where to put them and how many you will need.
2. **Set store-bought traps** - The tried-and-true mousetrap is still very effective with a little dab of peanut butter on each spring-loaded trap. You can also try the *d-Con Discreet No View, No Touch* mousetrap, which conceals the little guy so you can just toss the whole. You can also go the more humane route with a reusable trap that doesn't use any glue or poison, so you can release the critter.
3. **Use caulk and steel wool to seal up the house** - Once you handle the infestation inside, you will want to make sure no additional mice can find their way in. Mice can fit through openings the size of a dime. Rats can fit through something the size of a quarter — incredible! Even if a hole does not start out that large, the rodents can gnaw their way to make the opening larger.
4. **Prune shrubbery away your house** - Shrubby and branches should be cut back from the exterior of your house. They are like highways for mice and insects to get into your home.
5. **Seal food in airtight containers** - Put cereal and other pantry items into airtight canisters and you are less likely to attract mice. If you leave pet food out in a dog bowl all day, that just gives rodents another source of food.

### Services and Resources

1. **Free COVID-19 Testing Locations** - [montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html).
2. **Mental Health Wellness** – [montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/get-help/mental-health-wellness.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/get-help/mental-health-wellness.html). If you need to talk to someone immediately about your stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic, you can call the County's 24/7 Crisis Center at (240) 777-400.
3. **Housing Assistance:** [montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/eviction\\_process\\_and\\_renters.html](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/eviction_process_and_renters.html). No one should be experiencing homelessness, especially during the pandemic. Learn more about the County's rental program
4. **Food Assistance:** If you or anyone you know is in need of a meal, explore the interactive map from the Montgomery County Food Council: [mocofoodcouncil.org/map](https://mocofoodcouncil.org/map).