



HPCA Harford Park Community Association



October 2019 ... Incorporated 1939 ... www.harfordpark.org

Community Building: 2522 Linwood Rd., Parkville MD 21234
(410) 497-7320 info@harfordpark.org

Bingo Fundraiser—Saturday October 19th

Join us Saturday October 19th at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) for the Harford Park bingo fundraiser. Proceeds will help pay for repairs to the Harford Park community building. Bingo takes place at 2522 Linwood Rd.; tickets for the evening are \$5 each and bingo cards are 25 cents per card per game. Food and non alcoholic beverages are provided. **All cash prizes!** Call/text Dave Duvall at 410-967-9549 for info and tickets.

www.harfordpark.org/bingo

Halloween Party & Scavenger Hunt Saturday Oct. 26th

Join us for our 7th annual Halloween Party & Scavenger Hunt with pumpkin decorating, food, fun and games. The fun starts Saturday October 26th (rain date Oct. 27) at 12:00 p.m. To join the scavenger hunt, please be there by 12:30 p.m.

www.harfordpark.org/halloween-scavenger-hunt

General Meeting — Thursday November 7th

Our next general meeting is Thursday November 7th at 7:00 pm at our community building. Officer Goorevitz of Baltimore County Police and Mike Hilliard from HARBEL will present a crime summary for the county and city. Ron Parker will present “How to Insure and Protect You and Your Family from Economic Crisis”.

Our annual elections for the board of directors of HPCA will be held at this meeting. Our board needs new members and this is a great opportunity to give back to your neighborhood. The descriptions for those positions will be posted on Nextdoor and the Harford Park website.

www.harfordpark.org/association

HPCA is also looking for people to help with website, social media, membership and other activities. No board membership required!

Join the Harford Park Community Association to support your neighborhood and all the events and activities you see here

Residence Address _____

Member 1 _____

Member 2 _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues: _____ # of Members x \$10/member = _____ Total Dues

Drop off or mail this form to 2522 Linwood Road, Parkville Maryland 21234 or sign up online at www.harfordpark.org/association/membership/

Note: to vote at the November general meeting, your membership dues must be up to date. Dues are \$10 per person per year. Please mail or drop off your dues and membership form to 2522 Linwood Rd, attention Lynn Dickens or sign up online with PayPal:

www.harfordpark.org/association/membership

Storm Drain Stenciling—Date To Be Determined

Join your neighbors to help spread the word about the connection between our streets and our streams by painting storm drain art! Check for updates on our website, Nextdoor, and Facebook. For more information, contact Cathy Thompson at president@harfordpark.org.

Game Night— On a Friday Coming Soon

Word on the street is there is interest in having a tabletop game night for DnD, Magic: the gathering, Warhammer, etc. Stayed tuned for more info!

Herring Run Relief Sewer Project

Baltimore County Department of Public Works will be starting this project early in 2020. The project will involve construction of approximately 11,000 feet of a relief sewer along Herring Run from the City Line to Aiken Avenue, construction of 58 manholes and 900 feet of tunnel under Perring Parkway. This project is necessary to alleviate sewer backups impacting homes in Harford Park.

Work includes clearing and grubbing vegetation, relocation of 200 feet of water main, traffic control, trench excavation, trench repair within Oakleigh Road, Darlington Drive, Queen Anne Drive and Taylor Avenue, and landscaping and tree planting.

HPCA is in contact with DPW regarding this project and will provide updates at our quarterly meetings and through our website, Nextdoor and Facebook.



Don't forget to check for the latest HPCA news and events at any of the sources below.

News from HPCA is just a click away

Website: www.harfordpark.org

Email Address: info@harfordpark.org

Mailing list: www.harfordpark.org/mailling-list

Facebook: www.facebook.com/harfordpark

Twitter: www.twitter.com/harfordpark

Join us on Nextdoor:

harfordpark.nextdoor.com/join

Use code **YKSZKE**



Neighbors have expressed concern over rat sightings in Harford Park. HPCA has been in contact with Baltimore County regarding their Rat Attack Program. You may have received a door hanger with tips on rat control. Please be aware that because Harford Park does not have alleys, it is not eligible for some extermination options provided to other neighborhoods. HPCA has requested that treatment options be made available if rat activity increases with the onset of excavation for the relief sewer project.

1. **Be Aware.** Inspect your property regularly for signs of rodent activity.
2. **Be neat.** Keep your yard free of trash, debris, high grass or accumulations of building supplies. If you must store materials or equipment outside do so neatly. Organizing and/or elevating stored items helps to reduce harborage and allows you to inspect under and around them more easily.
3. **Don't feed the Rats.** You may not realize that pet food, dog manure, open garbage cans or cans without tight fitting lids or bags of garbage, bird seed or other food scraps left outside are an open invitation for rats to visit you and establish a home in your yard. Never put household garbage or food scraps in compost piles.
4. **Cut off their water supply.** Dump pails, unused flower pots, toys or equipment in which water can accumulate (standing water also provides a breeding area for mosquitos during the summer months).
5. **Protect your home.** Close any holes you find in the foundation of your house, eliminate cavities under steps, sidewalks, or porches. Close threshold gaps at exterior doors. Provide a heavy one fourth inch mesh screen over sump pump outlets or a tight fitting lid on your sump pump well.
6. **Think about your own activities.** Be sure to clean up any outside eating areas. Minimize spillage around the Bar- B-Q. Greasy residue on a patio or porch or food residue allowed to build up on cooking equipment may attract rodents for extended periods of time. The feeding of wild animals such as birds and squirrels must cease and vegetable gardens or even fruit trees may have to be removed for rodent abatement measures to be effective.
7. **Don't build in problems.** Try to utilize construction methods that minimize or eliminate crawl spaces under decks or sheds. If building low to the ground is unavoidable utilize heavy one fourth inch wire mesh to close perimeter gaps. Remember rats can slip through spaces of one half an inch and are energetic diggers. Wire mesh should extend below ground at least 1 foot to deter tunneling.
8. **Communicate.** Talk to your family and your neighbors.

County residents may call in complaints or request information using the Code Enforcement telephone number, 410-887-3351, or file a complaint online.

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/ratattack/ratcomplaints.html>

If you use the online complaint form, please give **as much specific information as possible** regarding where the rats, rat burrows or rat runs have been seen and how you may be contacted for more information. Please fill out the online form only if you have seen rats at a specific address, not for an entire neighborhood. The County will keep a record of your complaint and use it to generate statistics, which help to pinpoint neighborhoods with significant rodent control problems.

Rat Facts

Where do rats live?

The most common rat responsible for residential infestations is the Norway Rat. These rodents prefer to live underground in burrows. These burrows are most often made alongside building structures, fence lines walkways patios sheds and under low decks.



What do they look like?

Adult Norway rats are 12 to 18 inches long with a tail five to eight inches long. Their fur is brown to reddish gray on their upper back and grayish white on the belly. They are heavy set with a sparsely haired tail, blunt nose, and short ears. Feces are capsule shaped and up to three fourths of an inch long.

How long do they live and how often do they breed?

Rats typically live about one year, although they may survive longer, and females may have four to seven litters of young per year. Litters range from six to 12 with a total of about 30 young expected to live to maturity per year.



Norway Rat

What are their Habits?

Norway rats typically live in burrows which are 12 to 18 inches below ground and under three feet in length. Burrow openings are three to 10 inches in diameter, roughly dug, with openings usually angled towards a sheltered area. There are typically clearly defined paths of "rat runs" leading to the burrow openings. Rats will travel up to 150 feet to find a source of food. They are omnivorous or will eat their young if the need arises. They tend to grow in population in direct relation to the available food supply.

How does this affect the public?

Rats can destroy or contaminate food supplies. Rodent feces and urine are a source of gastrointestinal diseases such as Salmonellosis or E-coli infections, and respiratory diseases such as Hantavirus. The rat flea has been an important agent of transmission for Plague and Murine typhus.



Rat Burrow