

# Habitat 1 Section B Condominium Community

SPRING / SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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## Board of Directors

Elizabeth Bowers  
*President*

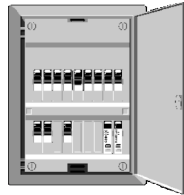
Leslie Bolton  
*Board Member*

Jason Moreira  
*Board Member*

Mary Morton  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Board meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Go to [www.HabitatCrofton.com](http://www.HabitatCrofton.com) for meeting location. Meetings are open to all residents of the community.

## **Electric Panel Safety**



The Board of Directors would like to remind residents to periodically have the connection points of the electric panel in their unit checked and tightened. Our units are among millions in the US built in the early 1970s using aluminum wiring.

After a while the connections can come loose, resulting in overheating and arcing which have lead to fires. Over the years we have experienced several fires in the Habitat community related to aluminum wiring.

Signs of trouble in aluminum wire systems include warm-to-the touch face plates on outlets or switches, flickering lights, circuits that don't work, or the smell of burning plastic at outlets or switches. However, not all failing aluminum wired connections provide such easily detected warning signs. Aluminum wired connections have been reported to fail without any prior indications or problems.

It's a good idea to periodically have a licensed electrician check and tighten the main circuit panel.

For more information log on to: [www.CPSC.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/516.pdf](http://www.CPSC.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/516.pdf)

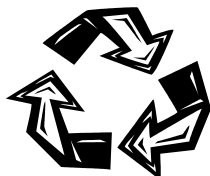
## **Outdoor Grilling Reminder**



Anne Arundel County fire code prohibits the use of a hibachi, charcoal grill, gas-fired grill, or similar apparatus on a balcony, deck, or *any* area within 15-feet of a condominium or apartment building that has 3 or more living units. The Habitat 1 Section B Bylaws prohibits the use of such devices in the common areas, including the area in front of the garage and unenclosed grass areas.

Residents can use an electric grill or similar appliance provided no open flame is produced. We ask that you adhere to these provisions for your safety and the safety of your neighbors.

## **Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Days**



listed facilities.

Drop off of household hazardous waste is scheduled at the Glen Burnie Convenience Center on June 20 and at the Millersville Landfill & Resource Recovery Facility on July 25. Drop-off hours are 8 AM until 2 PM at both locations.

Residents are encouraged to safely dispose of products containing harmful chemicals by taking them to one of the

## **Bulky Trash**

### **Disposal**



The Board would like to remind all residents that bulky trash and debris may not be placed or abandoned in the common area. Our trash removal service contract does not include removal of bulky items such as appliances, furniture, or auto parts. Each of us is responsible for removal of our own bulky trash or debris from the community. When residents abandon bulky items in the common area, it costs everyone. Your condo fees are spent to remove those items – funds that could be used for other needs in our community.

Each spring the Habitat 1 Section B community has a clean-up day and provides a dumpster for residents' use and it is a great opportunity to clear out the clutter and debris. However, if you have a need for bulky trash removal at other times throughout the year, we ask that you locate a service provider who can haul off bulky items on your behalf and at your expense.

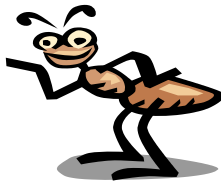
## **We're on the web...**

Be sure to log on to visit the Habitat 1 Section B website at [www.HabitatCrofton.com](http://www.HabitatCrofton.com).

There you will find information about meetings, architectural guidelines, contacts, resource links, and more.



## **Controlling Ants**



Many people mistakenly think that ants are drawn into kitchens because they are dirty. The truth is that ants invade the kitchen because that's where the food is stored. You need to eliminate the ants access to food in your kitchen if you want to keep them out. All food should be kept in air-tight containers and any crumbs or

spills should be promptly cleaned.

Ants need very little encouragement to enter your home. It's a good idea to regularly sweep or vacuum your floors to remove crumbs and keep your pet food bowls clean and spill-free. Be sure to store pet food in an air-tight container.

Spraying ants only kills those outside the colony—offering temporary relief. The use of ant bait traps, in addition to spraying, is usually needed to stop the problem at its source. Bait traps work by causing ants to take poison back to their colonies to be eaten by the queen, as well as all the other ants, wiping out the entire colony.

If you prefer a more natural method to control ants in your home, try sprinkling cornmeal or cinnamon around the perimeter of your home, especially where ants can easily get in. Cinnamon repels ants, while they carry cornmeal back to the colony. Ants cannot digest cornmeal properly and eventually die from starvation due to build-up of the fiber in their digestive system. You should notice a decrease in the population in about a week or so.

## **Recycle Schedule Revision**



the change.

However, under the service contract with WMS, the scheduled pick-up day has been changed again, and effective immediately, recycles will be picked up on Wednesday.

We apologize for any confusion this has caused.

Trash collection dates remain on Monday and Thursday.

## **Reminder**



If you contract with Comcast, Verizon, Dish Network, Direct TV or similar utility company to provide telephone, cable or internet service, it is your responsibility to ensure that all cables run on your behalf are inconspicuous and safely and properly installed.

It is prohibited to run cables across common areas such as (but not limited to) roofs and sidewalks, or up buildings. Improperly installed cables and wires are potential safety hazards for residents and guests. In addition to being safety hazards, they create liability issues for our Association. You are responsible for the cost to correct or repair any improperly installed cables that were mounted or run on your behalf or according to your direction.