

Shearwater Landscaping Committee Report
May 2015

❖ **Grounds maintenance**

The recent rains and mild temperatures have brought beautiful blossoms and lush greenery to our beautiful landscape. Hopefully by now many of you have seen the bright annuals that grace the great lawn and pool area and have had a chance to enjoy the feel of thick green grass underfoot. I think our landscaping contractor Highlands is doing a great job of keeping our grounds in top condition, from weekly mowing to regular edging and trimming to ongoing maintenance and improvement of our planted areas.

❖ **Landscaping Improvement projects**

Projects to replace/restore/refresh plantings damaged or destroyed by weather events, human intervention or the ravages of time have begun and will continue through the growing season. This year we are focusing on:

- ◆ Removal and replacement of overgrown, deteriorated or diseased shrubs and ornamental trees along community pathways and shared common areas
- ◆ Enhancement of the front entrance, both outside and inside the gate
- ◆ Dividing and transplanting overgrown perennials and/or inappropriately planted or volunteer shrubs and ornamental trees to other areas within the community

I've spoken to many residents individually and the list of projects is stacking up. This is a busy time for our landscape crews, but we hope to address each issue in turn, as weather and budget permit.

❖ **Trees**

In early May, a variety of new Maryland-native trees were planted throughout the community to replace the ones that were removed last winter. These included willow oaks, river birches, hemlocks and various flowering trees (serviceberry, redbud and dogwood). Since then we've been hand watering them on a regular basis to ensure they are well established by fall. The weather has been good to us so far, and we're hoping for a drought-free summer of sunny days interspersed with good soaking rains. We're looking for volunteers to help with the watering if we need it, so please contact the landscaping committee if you are interested in helping out. Please don't water the trees without coordinating with us first, since overwatering can cause as much damage as underwatering.

❖ **Irrigation**

The Irrigation system was serviced and started up on May 13, 2015. Residents are encouraged to monitor planting and lawn conditions in their area and notify the landscape committee if they feel that adjustments are needed. This is especially important during times of drought or sustained rains.

❖ **Shoreline Stabilization**

We are still awaiting word on whether our request to the forestry section of the county department of inspections and permits for free *Spartina alterniflora* grasses will be granted. If we don't hear from them in the next week or so, we will proceed to plant the free plugs of *Spartina patens* grasses

that have already been promised to us by the Rhode Riverkeeper. These will be planted at or immediately above the mean high water line behind Buildings 7 and 8 to stabilize the shoreline and mitigate erosion while improving its habitat and aesthetic values.

If you are interested in coming out to help preserve, protect and beautify our shoreline, please contact Deborah Birch (contact info provided below)

❖ **Landscaping Committee Procedures**

- ◆ All changes to general common elements of the landscape (lawn areas, trees and shrubbery) must be submitted to the Landscaping Committee for review and approval. Changes must be consistent with the overall theme and plan for Shearwater's grounds.
- ◆ Requests for landscaping work in general common areas shall be submitted via work order. Work orders may be submitted via the Shearwater website at www.shearwatercondos.com or by other means as determined by Metropolitan Management Group.
- ◆ Metropolitan Management Group will review all work orders on a regular basis and will promptly forward all work orders that directly involve or may have an impact on Shearwater's landscape general common elements to the Shearwater Landscaping Committee for review and coordination.
- ◆ The Landscaping Committee will promptly review all work orders forwarded by MMG and will coordinate with MMG on appropriate action, within the overall context of Shearwater's landscaping theme, planned landscaping activities and available budget.

❖ **Landscaping Committee Members**

The Shearwater Landscaping Committee is composed of the following volunteers: Deborah Birch (Chair, MaryAnn Cummins, Pat Duval, Ron Faulkner, Charlotte Featherstone and LeAnn Myhre.

If others are interested in joining the committee or contributing ideas, please contact us. As always, we encourage all members of the community to come forward with their ideas and concerns. *This is your community.* If you have suggestions, please contact:

Deborah Birch, Chair, Shearwater Landscaping Committee
Email: dbirch@seagreenintl.com
Mobile/Text: 202-629-6035