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ARE MOSQUITO SPRAYS REALLY SAFE? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Hiring a company to spray your yard for mosquitoes will also kill other insects, including bees and butterflies.

When the weather is nice, there's nothing better than getting out of the house to enjoy nature right outside your door. Except, mosquitos. These pesky insects can turn a pleasant outdoor gathering into an itchy nightmare. No one likes mosquito bites, so it's understandable that you may be considering hiring a mosquito-control company to treat your yard by spraying it with insecticide. Maybe you already have.

Unfortunately, despite marketing claims, these sprays don't just harm mosquitoes. The most widely used residential mosquito sprays are also highly toxic to native pollinators such as bees and butterflies, fish and other aquatic organisms, and they can even



Image by 631372 from Pixabay

pose a risk to pets and people. Here's what you need to know before spraying.

What's in Mosquito Sprays?

Most residential mosquito control companies use insecticides known as pyrethrins, which are chemicals derived from chrysanthemum flowers that are toxic to insects; or more frequently, pyrethroids, which are synthetic chemicals that mimic pyrethrins. Whether natural or synthetic, these are broad-spectrum insecticides that are highly toxic to a wide variety of insects, not just mosquitoes. ■

Article adapted from NWF Blog: <https://blog.nwf.org/2020/09/what-you-need-to-know-before-spraying-for-mosquitoes/>



Thank you to Julia Alexander and all of the volunteers who weed the medians on Edmondson!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events from Greater Catonsville Chamber of Commerce, Catonsville.org

11/1/23 5:00-7:00pm
Networking Happy Hour at the Masonic Lodge

Events at Arbutus Library:

Saturday, 10/14/23 2:00-3:00pm
Relay House and the B&O Railroad

See full list here: <https://www.bcpl.info/events-and-programs/list.html#!/?locations=Catonsville>

Events from CatonsvilleArtsDistrict.org

10/11/23
Song Circle at the Clubhouse
Catonsville Clubhouse

11/4/23 6:00-8:00pm \$75
Murder Mystery Party
Doozy's Diner

Other Area Events

Saturday, 10/15/23
Picnic with the Ponies
Maryland Council for Special Equestrians
Patapsco Horse Center
\$10/car

Saturday, 10/21/23, 9:00am-12:00pm
Charlestown Treasure Sale

Saturday, 10/21/23 7:30pm
Nonsense Evening Show
Salem Lutheran Church

Sunday, 10/22/23, 12:00-3:00pm
A Harvest Tea Box Tea
Four course tea with box craft \$52.50
Elkridge Furnace Inn

Sunday, 10/22/23, 3:00pm
Katie Mahan-Presented by Catonsville Concerts at 3
Catonsville Presbyterian Church

Saturday, 11/4/23 10:00-11:00am \$35
Egwu Ngala: Igbo Dance Class
Revolve Wellness Studio
5621 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, MD 21228

Saturday, 11/11/23 9:00am-4:00pm
Catonsville High School Craft Fair
Over 100 vendors

Every Sunday May-November, 9:00am - 12:00pm
Catonsville Sunday Farmers Market
15 Mellor Ave Catonsville MD 21228

PAY YOUR OCNA DUES WITH PAYPAL

OCNA now accepts Paypal! Eager to pay your dues
as part of this great community but unused to writing checks?

Send your \$20 with the click of a button to
oldcatonsville@gmail.com



Cash and checks still gladly accepted—
payable to OCNA Membership, 16 Osborne Ave.,
Catonsville MD 21228 with 2022 on the memo line

OCNA NATURE WATCH: OUR SELDOM (UN-) SEEN NEIGHBORS

Most of us are well aware of our many feathered OCNA neighbors, since nearly all are active during the daylight hours. Of course we also have a few furred neighbors that are active during the day, such as squirrels and chipmunks, but there is a remarkable variety of critters in the neighborhood that are nocturnal, and seldom or never observed.



Photo by Navin Photography

These creatures-of-the-night can sometimes raise a stir when they are seen. On two separate occasions this summer a raccoon was observed during the daytime, a disquieting situation since a raccoon wandering around in daylight is likely to be impaired in some way, and they are known carriers of rabies. I never did learn the resolution of those two incidents, but they confirm that raccoons are still in the area. Their presence was well known to me many years ago when I kept my dog food in a plastic garbage container in back of my house. On warm summer nights, with the windows open, I would occasionally be awakened by the ratchety chirps and coos and occasional snarls of young raccoons as they followed their oversized mom in raids on the dog food supply. While my dog food is now stored in the pantry in the house, I still see the occasional raccoon when driving home at night, most often ducking into the storm drain along Osborne Avenue at Frederick Road. The frequency of my sightings at that drain suggests it has been a longterm den site.

But the nocturnal wildlife in Old Catonsville doesn't have to rely on man-made structures for shelter. The old maple trees along Osborne Avenue, some of which are nearing 100 years in age, are notorious for rotting in their cores. The result is that we have an aggregation of what are referred to in forest management as snags, trees that are partially or totally dead and, as a result, provide cavities of different sizes that can be used by a wide range of wildlife. I previously told the story of tree cutters being startled while taking down one of the Osborne maples when a four to five foot black snake squirted out from the tree as it hit the ground. Workers taking down another maple tree in a yard adjoining our own a number of years ago were surprised to have a large, plump opossum sprint out of the tree as it was falling. I have a feeling that our neighborhood wildlife diversity may decrease in future years as the maples disappear and are replaced by sturdier species such as oaks.

I suspect that the deer mice that invade our basement each winter and are never seen during the day also benefit from the

abundance of tree cavities. But these beautiful mice, with large dark eyes, a sumptuous brown coat and a bright white underside, also use many man-made structures. So this past winter, after one of our infrequent snow falls had occurred and melted away days later, I was not surprised to see several well-formed trails in the lawn extending out from under the lowest step to our deck. A little creature had burrowed beneath the snow out into the lawn for a distance of four to six feet and created a series of intersecting

runways. When the snow melted, the trails were very visible, pressed into the dormant grass. I did briefly wonder why a deer mouse, which is primarily a seed eater, would want to burrow out to a lawn, but gave it no further thought until early this summer while working in the flower bed along our koi pond. As I pulled weeds and excessively exuberant ferns from the edge of the pond, a small ball of fur darted out from near my hand and through the surrounding vegetation. I wasn't quite sure what it was, but as I continued weeding, I totally spooked the little guy, who had taken shelter near a large rock at the pond edge. With a great leap, he launched himself into the air and dove beneath the pond surface. Looking like the mouse version of Michael Phelps, he swam submerged across the pond, emerging on the other side to sprint out and under the deck. With a very good look this time, I realized we have a meadow vole living in the yard, although I had no idea they could swim! The vole looks a bit more like a hamster than a mouse, kind of short and stocky with a short tail. And they are grazers, thus explaining the snow covered trails across the lawn.

The presence of voles, mice and rabbits may explain why I rather frequently see a red fox somewhere on our block, most often while taking the dog out before bed or before daybreak in the morning. Of course, given that this is a modern day fox, it is as likely to be scavenging from garbage cans or eating dog and cat food as it is to be expending energy to catch natural prey. And many of us have been startled by the occasional deer that wanders through Old Catonsville, dining on our shrubbery. If you have decent night vision and are observant as you walk through the neighborhood in the dark, you may be surprised at the variety of creatures with which we share our lovely neighborhoods. ■

*Originally published in Volume 18, Number 3 Fall 2009
by Bill Richkus*

LOCAL BUSINESS CORNER: ARTFUL FLEA

Located at 16 Winters Lane The Artful Flea features products from 47 different makers/vendors in their two-story building and backyard shed. We recently visited on a rainy Saturday and looked at a wide variety of interesting things.

Here is a list of some of what's available:

- Wise Owl paints which are exclusively available locally here and can be used to bring old furniture back to life with vibrant or muted shades.
- Handmade tshirt quilts
- Exotic houseplants, plant care services and classes
- Antiques including lamps, glassware and furniture
- Clothing
- Record Albums and books
- Jewelry
- Paintings and wall decor
- Handcrafted cutting boards
- Handmade bags and pillows



- Handmade flowerpots, ceramics
- Windchimes
- Toys and more!

Prices are reasonable and the atmosphere is friendly and relaxed. They've been there for two years now and are owned by the owner of Objects Found. Go for a visit soon and you too may find something wonderful. They're open Friday-Sunday from 10:00am-6:00pm.

by Christina Drews Leonard



OCNA'S NEWSLETTER CHANGES FOR 2024

The newsletter will only be published twice a year starting in 2024 with a Spring/Summer issue and a Fall/Winter issue. With a decline in the number of regular volunteer writers, it has been difficult to produce four issues with original content by the volunteers left. Therefore the cost to place an ad in the newsletter will also be lowered to starting at \$75/yr.

We are seeking volunteers, writers and story ideas. Please write for us or submit article ideas. Do you know how many writers yearn for readers, and how hard it is to get published? Now's your chance to be read by hundreds of neighbors who welcome your expertise.

Will you be our next columnist? Gardening, local events, history ... we're open to a wide range of interests. Please contact Ann at annandsteves@gmail.com to talk about possibilities.

Please send your ideas in by Nov 15th for the next issue. ■

by Ann Quinn



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A R C H I T E C T S

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Catonsville Presbyterian Church

We seek to find and share God's calling for this community of faith through worship, fellowship and service.

For over 130 years in the Catonsville Community
www.catonsvillepres.org

1400 Frederick Rd.
Catonsville, MD 21228
410-747-6180

Catonsville Presbyterian Church
Child Care Center
410-747-4581

FALL LAWN AND LEAF TIPS

- For a healthier lawn, set your mower blade higher to leave grass longer.

- Only cut a 1/3 of the height of the grass blades at a time. You may need to mow more often during spring and cooler, rainy times when grass is growing faster.

- Cordless electric mowers are much improved, quieter and more affordable now. It's easy to mow a large yard without needing a recharge, cord or gas. After years of mowing with a corded electric mower, I really appreciate this!

- Make sure your lawn mower blades are sharp. Pro Edge Sharpening (<http://www.proedgemd.com/cal>) is at the Catonsville Farmer's Sunday market on certain weeks and they can sharpen your blade. Current price is \$15 for each lawn mower blade.

- Use a mulching blade mower so you don't need to bag your grass clippings and can instead leave them in the grass to add mulch to your lawn and improve the soil. By not bagging lawn clippings you will reduce the amount of grass clippings going to the landfill.

- Compost your leaves this fall. Start a compost pile or get a leaf bin. Baltimore County has a spring compost bin and rain barrel sale where they are available at reasonable prices.



Image by Urszula from Pixabay

- Mow leaves on your lawn with your mulching mower if they are not too thick and the dry leaf matter will help improve your soil.

- Once there are too many leaves to mow you can rake them into a pile and add them to your compost pile or bin, or bag them to store in your garage, shed or patio to add later to your bin. *Remember to alternate adding wet (green grass, fruit and veggie waste) and dry ingredients to your compost and occasionally turn the pile.*

- Mow your leaf pile to reduce them down or add them to an electric leaf shredder/mulcher or leaf vacuum/mulcher. The mulched leaves are great to use to cover flower beds and vegetable beds.

- Your leaf compost can be mixed into soil or just added on top to help add nutrients for plants. It will also act as mulch to help retain moisture, suppress weed growth and regulate soil temperature.

- Fall is a great time to plant grass seed, clover and wildflowers into your lawn to create a pollinator paradise next year. Check out American Meadows for their alternative lawn wildflower seed mix. ■

by Christina Drews-Leonard

Advertise Your Business to the Old Catonsville Neighborhood STARTING AT ONLY \$75 FOR 2 ISSUES!

Space available in the next issue.

1/8 page ad

3.75" wide x 2.375" high

\$75 / year / 2 Issues

1/4 page ad

3.75" wide x 4.75" high

\$100 / year

Deadlines to submit ads
to get into the next issue
(usually flexible):

Next Issue November 15

Spring/Summer issue:

March 15

Fall/Winter issue:

September 15

Contact Allison Dietz, allisonnoz@hotmail.com for more information.

Weinkam & Weinkam, P.A.
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 Catonsville Residents

ELDER LAW LEGAL PLAN

1002 Frederick Road

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410-744-3256

E-mail: Lou-Jr@weinkam.com
<http://www.weinkam.com>

MEMBER: NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ELDER LAW ATTORNEYS

HAVE A
 FABULOUS FALL!

Whether you love or hate fall, there are many things to do:

Enjoy the Pumpkin Spice everything. See how many pumpkin spice products you can count at Target.

Plant some bulbs for spring

Bring in your houseplants before it's too cold

Go apple picking at the farmer's market, or a pick-your-own farm

Take a hay ride

Enjoy butternut squash soup

Stock up on candy corn, but don't actually eat it.

Practice your pumpkin carving skills

Take some fall family photos

Go on a hike in Patapsco Park

Sip an apple martini or spiced apple cider

Snuggle under a weighted blankets

Sit around a fire pit and make s'mores

Rake a leaf pile and then jump in to it! ■



LOCAL
 SUSTAINABLE
 COMMUNITY
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 movement!

www.catonsvillecoop.com

We'd like to congratulate the Old Catonsville Neighborhood Association for their valuable contribution to our community!



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 815 FREDERICK ROAD CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND 21228

ADVERTISE IN THE OCNA NEWSLETTER

Space Available in the Next Issue starting at Only \$75 Per Year (2 Issues)

- Review this issue to see the types of ads that we run for local businesses.
- Choose ad size.
- Supply artwork in black and white. Please supply high resolution artwork for your ad. If you need help creating your ad contact us. Ads have to be reviewed before they're approved.
- You must have permission to use any images in your ads.
- Proofread your ad for errors.
- Payment accepted via check or Paypal. Ad must be paid in full before it can run.
- You can start advertising at any time of the year. Updated artwork can be provided for current ads by the next issue deadline.

Contact Allison Dietz,
allisonnoz@hotmail.com for information.

Deadlines to submit newsletter articles and ads to get into the next issue (usually flexible):

Spring/Summer issue - March 15
Fall/Winter issue- September 15

Archived copies of the OCNA Newsletter are now available on <https://www.oldcatonsville.org/connect>

Do you want free advertising? Volunteer to write for the newsletter regularly and live in Old Catonsville, get a free 1/8 page ad in each issue.

1/8 page ad size:
3.75" wide x 2.375" high
\$75 / year

1/4 page ad size:
3.75" wide x 4.75" high
\$100 / year

1/3 page ad
(not shown)
\$200 / year
7.5" wide x 3.25" high



Image by *Susanne Jutzeler, Schweiz, from Pixabay*

OCNA ANNUAL MEETING

- What:** OCNA Annual Meeting (including election of officers for 2024)
When: TBD, check your email for details from the OCNA list
Where: TBD
Who: all residents of OCNA welcome and encouraged to attend
Why: get involved!! help make OCNA an even better place to live