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<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

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Please visit our web site at:

<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

Contact Us At:

CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com

C-Cultivating C-Community C-Connections

- * Encouraging Community Involvement
- * Linking Communities to Resources

Uniting community members to transform our neighborhoods is at the heart of what we do.



Movers and Shakers (Prince George's County)

Improving Access to County Services

Making County services accessible to all residents is a priority for Movers and Shakers and Cultivating Community Connections. Community leaders often know the right levers to pull when residents encounter problems with getting the services they need. But, if getting service requires intervention by leadership, then the system is not working as it should. We can help prevent issues by educating community members. Below is an article West Laurel Civic Association is going to publish, and that other communities can also use. The purpose of the article is to help residents get direct access to the County agencies responsible for providing the services they need.

Who Handles That?

Have you ever filed a report to 3-1-1? Did you know that all 3-1-1 reports become a Service Request that are routed to an agency for follow-up and resolution? This routing can cause confusion for residents, especially if there is a need to reach out to the right agency for more help when dealing with the issue that was reported.

How can residents tell what agency is handling the report? Scan the QR Code for a helpful chart, provided by Prince George's County, to see where the 3-1-1 Service Request has been sent.

Important Advice: Keep a record of the Service Request ticket number.

Residents will need this ticket number in order to do any additional steps, such as making a direct phone call to the responding agency or other advisors. Agency phone numbers can be found by going to the County web site:

www.princegeorgescountymd.gov, click on "Residents" and then on the appropriate agency. The contact information will be at the bottom of the agency's page.



"Community is much more than belonging to something; it's about doing something together that makes belonging matter"

Providing Access to Information

Continuing our focus on educating community members, for most people the web sites for governmental agencies can be overwhelming, at best. Community leaders have much more practice navigating these overwhelming, information-packed web sites. If the goal is to empower and educate the community, then we need an effective tool for providing direct links to the web pages that most people need.

In Prince George's County many residents have concerns about private property issues such as an abandoned property, illegal construction, or unsafe structures. Filing a Service Request via pgc311 is recommended for reporting illegal or unsafe conditions that are clearly in need of immediate attention. But, what do residents do when they aren't sure if something is worthy of reporting or if their own storage of construction material in their carport is a violation?

We can provide better access to the official agency web information. For electronically delivered content, a link is going to be easy to use, such as this one to KnowledgePGC311. <https://pgc311.my.site.com/KnowledgePGC311/s/article/Private-Property>

However, for printed content such as mailers or newsletters, a QR code is much easier for the public to use. **It is easy to create QR codes like the one below. Just type QR Code Generator into your search engine.** We found several web sites that offered this for free, even though the one we used tried to sell us a monthly plan. (If we use this more often, a monthly plan might be useful. For now, we are happy with the free access.) Give this means of communication a try and see if it helps provide useful information to more community members.



What Do You Think?

Cultivating Community Connections would like to know about the people in your community that are making a difference. Tell us who they are and what they are doing. Email us at:

CultivatingCommunityConn@gmail.com

Our Leadership Team

Carol Jenkins- founder

Jeff Jenkins- co-founder

In memory of Melissa Daston-
Movers and Shakers past president

Carol Relitz- web administrator

Thank you for supporting CCC's efforts to strengthen communities.

Check out the web site cited below for some inspiration. The work all of our volunteers do to make our communities vibrant places to live, has an impact on the health and well-being of all residents.

Is community connection beneficial for individuals and society?
<https://www.heartwisesupport.org/post/how-community-connections-enhance-development>

“Community bonds play a vital role in enhancing personal and societal health. When people feel connected, loved, and valued, they experience improved mental and physical well-being. Strong social ties are associated with a longer lifespan and better health outcomes, reducing the risk of chronic illnesses such as heart disease, strokes, depression, and dementia.

Engagement in community activities like volunteering, joining groups, or participating in cultural or spiritual practices fosters resilience and helps people cope with stress. These activities also contribute to community trust and cohesion, making neighborhoods safer and more supportive.

Additionally, nurturing community relationships can alleviate loneliness and social isolation, which are linked to negative health impacts. Overall, developing a strong social fabric benefits individuals by improving their mental health and enhances societal stability by creating resilient, cohesive communities.” (Continued on page 3)

Why are social connections important for societal development?

<https://www.heartwisesupport.org/post/how-community-connections-enhance-development>

“Social ties are the foundation of societal growth and stability. They promote trust, cooperation, and a sense of belonging among residents, which are crucial for a thriving community. When people have meaningful relationships, they tend to experience less stress, better mental health, and higher life satisfaction, leading to a more engaged and productive population.

These connections encourage prosocial actions such as volunteering, mutual aid, and participation in community projects, strengthening social support networks. Such activities build social capital, making communities more resilient in facing challenges.

Efforts to foster social engagement—through community programs, inclusive policies, and supportive workplaces—can combat loneliness and social disconnection. Ultimately, nurturing social bonds supports societal development by creating healthier, more cohesive, and resilient communities.”

Aspect	Impact	Additional Details
Mental Health	Reduced anxiety and depression	Strong bonds provide emotional support and resilience
Physical Health	Longer lifespan and lower risk of chronic diseases	Socially connected individuals tend to lead healthier lifestyles
Societal Strength	Increased trust and social cohesion	Community engagement and cooperation foster stability
Children & Youth	Better social development	Community ties offer children a sense of belonging and access to resources
Economy & Safety	Improved safety and community resilience	Well-connected communities are better equipped to respond to crises

Check Out Our Useful Resource on CCC's Web Site

Please check our web site for future newsletters and other updates:

<https://ccc-cultivatingcommunityconnections.net>

A big “Thank you!” to our web master, Carol Relitz, for all of her work on the CCC web site!!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who work so hard to serve their communities!

A special thank you goes out to the members of Cultivating Community Connections and Movers and Shakers. You are making a difference every day. Thank you for all of your efforts and your support!