



MEMORANDUM

To: Mount Royall and Harrington Place homeowners

From: Mount Royall and Harrington Place HOA Board, Courtenay N. Brack, CPM®

RE: Caterpillar webs on trees

Date: September 2009

In response to both inquiries and our neighborhood inspections, we would like to share information about the cobwebs you may notice on trees, especially along Ashley Gardens Boulevard.

First and foremost, the webs do not pose any danger to the health of the trees. The webs are unsightly but again, cause no harm to the trees.

The webs are made by caterpillars who are attracted to the trees in early summer. They come to eat some of the green leaves and make webs for their cocoons and hang in the trees until they become butterflies. Once they fly away, the webs die and go away.

This phenomenon of the cobwebs occurs once a year at the beginning of the summer and fades by late summer.

We have spoken with our HOA's landscaping company regarding the webs. There is a spray that can be used on the webs to kill the caterpillars; however, the chemical spray is strong, cost prohibitive and there is a risk of chemical drift during the application process.

The production of the webs is greater in some summers than others and this is dependent on weather factors like the amount of rain we get and our summer temperatures.

Our landscapers will be checking with their suppliers in the spring as to whether a systemic (root system) treatment is available to apply to the base of the trees in order to help prevent the caterpillars from making their "cobweb nests."

Again, although the webs are unsightly, they cause no harm to the trees in the neighborhood and based on a recent inspection, we noted that they are now gone for this season!