

Carderock Springs 50th Anniversary-Introduction of Edmund Bennett-September 8, 2012

Good evening. Thank you to Mary Lou Shannon, Phil Rider, Jack Orrick, and the Carderock Springs Citizens' Association for inviting me to this wonderful 50 anniversary celebration of Carderock Springs. I'm Bruce Bennett and I'm here to introduce in a few minutes via Skype from Tucson, Arizona my 92 year old father, builder/developer of Carderock Springs, Edmund Bennett.

But first, on his behalf I would like to make a few remarks regarding the vision and passion he and his colleagues shared while developing this community.

The conceptual and planning stage of each project they planned primarily for homeowners who would appreciate a community that looked forward and not back for its planning and design precepts. They hoped owners would appreciate:

- 1) That homes should be ***"of" the land and not just "on" it.***
- 2) That old ***checkerboard street and lotting schemes were sterile in appearance*** and destruction of trees and terrain was usually less cost effective.
- 3) That ***leaving the natural terrain and vegetation***, along with the ***avoidance of overhead utility lines***, makes for an aesthetically pleasing community.
- 4) That a genuine ***"community" in the best sense, needs a social activities and recreation center*** for all ages.
- 5) That ***vehicle parking must be provided off the streets*** so traffic can move freely and views from the homes are not marred by parked automobiles.
- 6) That there should be ***variety and design interest in house and lot sizes***, shapes functions, materials and colors.
- 7) That industry advances in materials and construction technology should be incorporated.
- 8) And finally, perhaps most importantly, that the homes should be affordable to many families.

Ladies and gentleman, I'm pleased to introduce my father and the builder/developer of Carderock Springs, Edmund Bennett. [see page 2]

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(Edmund Bennett in Arizona via Skype to over 200 current Carderock residents in Maryland]

It is a pleasure to be able to join you for the 50th Anniversary celebration of Carderock Springs. My son, Bruce, has described a little of the history of the creation of this community. I am more than gratified that both the homes and the sense of community that I had envisioned have endured for half a century.

I do not know how many of my original home buyers still live in Carderock, but I have been told that some of their children, who spent their childhoods in Carderock, are now owners in their own right. That certainly speaks to the success of the design efforts of the principal architect, Don Lethbridge, of the firm of Keyes, Lethbridge, Condon, and Florence and to the thought that he and I devoted to relating the houses to the natural landscape rather than destroying it to make room for the houses.

The fact that you have chosen to place Carderock Springs on the National Register of Historic Places only underscores the value placed on the community that I hope endures for another half century. Best wishes to all of you and thank you for including me in your celebration.