There is only one think that I really want to emphasize this week.   I  know that the weather has created a lot of weeds and grass.  That same weather has made it difficult to mow and clean up.  My yard looks like I planted Dandelions.   I am so thankful that the CCC, the School, and the City, have all been out there working to clean up and haul away the trash from the parks, the streams, the streets, and the yards, and most of us are keeping a few steps ahead.

The grass helps to hide the imperfections and looks beautiful always.  The flowers have begun to do their come and go act.  And the branches that fall now have leaves on them in many cases.

All of these things are directly due to nature and the type of weather Mother Nature has decided to send our way.  We learn to work with her to help beautify our landscapes.

There is another part of beautifying our landscapes that Mother Nature cannot do.  She cannot paint our houses, (though she can help remove that paint) pick up our trash, (though she loves to blow it around and onto other people’s property) nor repair our broken sidewalks, porches, windows, and doors.  (though she will send in the vermin to any spot acceptably left in ill-repair)

I am today, appealing to all to walk about your property.  Take a look.  Are you comfortable with everything in your yard?  Do you think your neighbors are comfortable with everything in your yard?

And the next question of course is weather you are comfortable with everything in your neighbor’s yard.  I know that many of you are not.  I have listened.

The Planning and Zoning Board is an important group in any town.  They help with the planning of what the town should look like, what responsibilities should fall on the shoulders of the city, and what improvements and upkeeps are directly in the hands of the property owners.

Crofton has a written Comprehensive Plan, Zoning districts and maps and guidelines, a Subdivision Guide, and City Ordinances to guide the commission and the public in how to maintain the properties within those guidelines.  Not only does this group help to plan, guide, and determine limits for building; they also have the daunting responsibility of helping determine when a property owner is out of compliance with the responsibilities of property ownership.

If a property is not lived in, it is still the owners responsibility to keep that property in good repair and the grounds clean and appropriately mowed and trimmed.  Old boards, cans, tree limbs, etc., are a perfect nesting place for vermin.  This is a health issue and must be cleaned up.  Cars parked off the street may not need a license place, but may still be liable for property tax, and must not block allies, or views.  Cars, trailers, decorations, etc., must not block sidewalks.

I know folks, it is a long list.   Most of you never notice most of these items.  A blocked sidewalk may never me noticed, as long as it is a short time.   Long grass and weeds may never be noticed, unless the house is empty and we begin to wonder when it will be cared for.  The abandoned car may never be noticed, until the mice and rats begin to nest in it.   And that unpainted house with the door banging,  oh I hope we do not have one of those.

The Planning and Zoning has had its first meeting.  I am pleased that all members have vocally contributed to the process and are ready to work together in their roles.

The lifeguards are painting at the pool.  The water is warming.  Opening day is this weekend.  The clean-up days have all taken place.  The city mowers are trying hard to stay ahead of the rain.  And many residents and visitors will be out and about enjoying nice weather (I hope) as they visit and decorate the memorials of family and friends who have gone on before us.

Please be, and thank you for being, a part of the responsible groups who have done, and continue to do, the hard work of keeping properties in acceptably pleasant and healthy conditions.

FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK come wishes for good weather and beautiful surroundings for the Memorial Day activities of you and yours.

Mayor Sharol