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SHCA

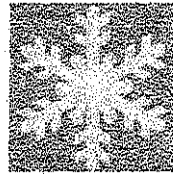


Sligo Headwaters Civic Association

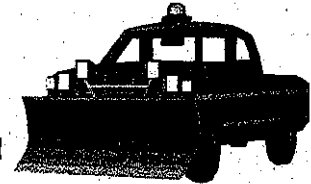
Issue 3
WINTER, 2004

Who are we???

Neighbors who border Sligo Creek between Orebaugh, Franwall, Blueridge, Naim and any courts, streets and terraces surrounding these streets and the park.



SNOW!!



The streets in our neighborhoods seldom receive adequate snow plowing and sanding. Many of us live on narrow and dead-end streets or cul de sacs. Even when the streets are clear, large delivery trucks must back in or out of our streets.

PLEASE park in your driveways during snow and ice storms. We can more easily make the case for necessary services if the plows and trucks can actually plow without wending between so many street-parked cars. If you must park on the street, please try to park on one side only.

Following this procedure may cause a small inconvenience, but it could help prevent treacherous walking and driving conditions for all of us and help ensure timely arrival of emergency vehicles.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

In November, 2003, neighbors Leah Haygood, Edward Murtagh, and Kathleen Michels were presented with the *Community Hero Award* for their work in the renovation of Northwood High School by the MCCP.

(MCCP) Montgomery County Civic Federation is a countywide nonprofit, educational, and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Delegates meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month (except for holidays, July, August and December) at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

HAVE A BUSINESS in our neighborhood? Let us know, and we can advertise your services in future newsletters. This includes babysitters!

ISSUE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Containers to use for Trash:

All containers for the storage of trash or garbage must be rigid containers of metal or plastic,

having tight-fitting, overlapping lids, with a capacity of not less than fifteen (15) and not exceeding thirty-two (32) gallons. No responsibility can be assumed by the County or Contractors for damages to plastic containers.

Disposable plastic liners, if used, must be made of heavy, waterproof paper or plastic and must not exceed thirty-two (32) gallons in capacity. Such container liners must be kept in approved containers when storing trash between collections. In other words, don't leave your items out in plastic bags alone – crows, squirrels and other critters love to get into their contents and would have easy access.

Native Plant Co-op



The Native Plant Co-op group met on Sunday, Feb. 8th to discuss plans and goals for the spring season. The overall goal is to complete the installation of possibly three or four native gardens this spring and the same in the fall. At the next meeting in March, we hope to review some simple diagrams of individual yards and discuss/decide on projects for April, May and early June. If you are interested in participating in the co-op contact Ed Murtagh at edward_b_murtagh@yahoo.com

SCHOOL NEWS:

The Latest on the Re-Opening Arcola Elementary School

On December 16th the Design Advisory Committee, which included members of our community, voted to accept the architectural schematic/conceptual plans for the new Arcola Elementary School. The next steps are as follows:

1. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will submit a schematic booklet for the re-opening of Arcola Elementary School to the Board of Education (BoE) in either March or April. If the BoE approves the schematic plans/construction cost, the project will be submitted to the County Executive for inclusion in the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) projects list. The County Council will decide in May if it will fund the CIP projects.
2. After the BoE approves the schematic booklet (which includes plans/estimated construction cost), the Design Development Phase begins (this is the filling in of all the details). At the same time, the schematic booklet will be sent to the MD State BoE.
3. The traffic study will also start soon, looking at how buses, cars and walkers will get into and out of the neighborhood. We are hoping to at least get a new traffic light installed on Channing Dr. and Arcola Ave. This may also be an opportunity to get some attention to the intersection of Arcola and Orebaugh. Our community will have an opportunity to stay involved with all these future phases. Most of the minutes of the Design Advisory Committee meetings are posted on the Sligo Headwaters Civic Association web site (www.sligoheadwaters.org).

The tear-down of the school was originally scheduled for July 2004. If County Council does not approve funding for the construction of the new school, the tear down may be delayed. The residents on the committee expressed their concern about the possibility of having a vacant building in the community for an extended period of time. If the tear down is delayed, MCPS may approach the Washington Christian Academy to extend their occupancy another year.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

On Monday, December 8, the Neighborhood Watch Committee of the Sligo Headwaters Civic Association held its first community meeting at the Washington Christian Academy to discuss setting up a Neighborhood Watch program. Officer Cindy Wiseman, a Park Police officer who patrols our area, reminded the group that because there are only 50 park police officers to patrol 30,000 acres of parkland in the county, park users should be alert and call the Park Police if we see anything suspicious. It is important to tell the dispatcher as exactly as possible where you are when reporting an emergency, including where you walked in and how far down the trail you walked. The Neighborhood Watch Committee distributed magnets with emergency and non-emergency phone numbers.

"You are doing the right thing", said County Police Officer Luis Hurtado, referring to our efforts to band together to keep our neighborhood as safe as possible. He said that we are in the midst of a national crime wave because of the slow economy, the biggest teen population that has ever existed in the United States, and the recent release of many of the people who were imprisoned on drug charges during the 1980s crack cocaine epidemic.

So what can we do? Officer Hurtado distributed brochures available from the county police with suggestions about personal safety and burglary prevention. Officer Percel Gregory, Wheaton's new Community Relations/ Crime Prevention Officer, said that he will come to our homes and perform a free, confidential Home Security Survey if we request it by calling the 4th District non-emergency number.

Our next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be on **March 1**, at the Washington Christian Academy. This will be a "meet and greet," where residents can catch up with Officer Gregory and schedule a Home Security Survey. All members of the SHCA can register on our neighborhood watch log, so that neighbors can get to know who is in their community. The time of this meeting will be from 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Have an article to submit to the newsletter? Want to advertise your business here? Wish to donate \$ for cost of production? Call or email Nan Martino (301) 754-1091, coachnan11@aol.com.