

3/95 Newsletter

In Memorium.

Rudy Lemaire, a long term resident of College Heights Estates, pass away in February. Born in Germany, he immigrated to France in 1924. As a graduate of the University of Lausanne in Switzerland, Rudy was a language teacher his entire life. He came to the United States in 1950, living in New York and Baltimore before moving to College Heights. For many years he taught at the University of Maryland and at Prince George's Community College. He is survived by his Wife, Anne-Marie, a son Theo and a daughter Anita.

Street Lights.

In the December newsletter there was a survey question on installation of street lights. While the overall survey responses were sparse (probably due to the Holiday season that was close at hand), some research was performed on the process and cost of installing street lights. No conclusions or commitments have been made.

The county has a program for installing new street lights, but it is currently suspended, given the county financial problems. At some time in the future, it will probably be restarted.

This is how it works. Any community wanting lights must petition the county for them. An entire community or the residents on a single street may petition. At least 51% of the residents impacted must be in favor of it. The county solicits installation pricing from PEPCO and then confirms with the community the petition and pricing. The cost of the installation is initially paid by the county, but this cost is then added to the first real estate tax bill for impacted residents. The one-time installation cost usually runs \$100-\$200 per household. After installation, the county maintains & pays for the continuing service.

At the end of this newsletter is another survey question to re-assess your interest, given these parameters. Please indicate your interest on the survey.

Annual Meeting.

The College Heights Estates Association annual meeting will be in May. Agenda and specifics on the meeting will be mailed to you later. Nominations for next year's Officers & Board Members will be:

President - Mike Twigg

Vice President - Ron Browning

Secretary - Ed Okleson

Treasurer - Ron Blunck

General Board Members - Jud Samon, Nora Lejins, Jack O'Leary, Pat Bryant

These individuals have volunteered to serve, but other nominations are encouraged and welcomed. Please give Ron Blunck (864-0186) a call if you have suggestions. You are also free to make nominations at the annual meeting.

Change In Constitution.

In an effort to add flexibility to the CHEA organizational structure, the Board is recommending a small change in the Constitution. The change would modify the size of the Board from a 'fixed' number (4 Officers & 2 General Board Members) to a 'flexible' number (4 Officers & any number of General Board Members). This would allow the Board to expand and contract, based upon the number of residents who may be willing to serve on the Board at any point in time. This change will be voted on at the annual meeting.

Queens Chapel Road.

CHEA sent letters of concern to State Senator Paul Pinsky and State Delegates Richard Palumbo, Anne Healey and Rushern Baker. Letters were received back from all four. Senator Pinski, some months ago, seemed interested and willing to hold public hearings this spring or summer. His letter of response to us, however, seemed to back away, somewhat, from this interest. We will continue to pursue the matter, given the number of petition signatures we received from CHEA members last fall.

Outside of the CHEA efforts are corresponding efforts by surrounding communities to raise the same issue. You have probably seen many of the 'OPEN QUEENS CHAPEL' signs posted. This is a part of those efforts.

Some residents have personally written to our elected officials, and this is encouraged. The Senate address is 303 James Senate Office Building, Annapolis, Md 21401 (Tel (410) 841-3155) and the House address is Lowe House Office Building, Annapolis, Md 21401 (Tel (410) 841-3058).

Anyone wanting to become a part of the CHEA effort should give Logan Schultz a call at 779-5623.

Wells Parkway & Clagett Road.

CHEA has been in contact with Anne KacKinnon, our County Council Person and Chair of the County Council. She has been very willing to look into the issue of ownership and maintenance. While the roads have already been turned over to the Town of University Park, unfortunately without any notice or input from College Heights residents, the turnover agreement did spell out maintenance responsibility. The County committed to resurfacing the roads in fiscal 1995, but the Town is responsible for repairing the curbing. To date, the Town has been unwilling or unable to do the curb repairs, which puts into question the resurfacing work by the County.

Overall ownership of the roads is a fundamental issue, but one that will be more difficult to handle than resurfacing & curb repair.

CHEA will continue to pursue all of these matters. Anyone wanting to become a part of the effort should give Ron Blunck a call at 864-0186.

Note From The President.

It has been a long winter, and spring is just around the corner. It will be welcomed by all, I'm sure. As you begin to think about your yards and gardens, you may need to acquire some nursery material. CHEA is trying to arrange bulk sales of mulch and top soil. Hopefully this will result in quality material at a good price, with home delivery!

At the same time that you are sprucing up the yard, you may need painters, electricians, plumbers or other household specialists to improve the appearance or functioning of your home. Be sure to give Ed Okleson a call (699-5058) and ask for names from the CHEA 'dependable worker list'. I think you will find this list valuable, if you decide to use it.

Spring is a great time to improve the appearance of our homes our yards and the community, and I hope you all take advantage of the services CHEA can provide in the process.

On a second note, CHEA will soon sponsor the first community yard sale! It will be held in conjunction with St Mark's Church. In a past newsletter survey, many of you expressed interest in a community yard sale, so Bev Silverberg agreed to prepare an information kit on 'what to do'. Just give Bev a call (779-0861) to get one of her kits.

On a sad note, one of our long-term residents of College Heights, and a dear friend and neighbor of mine, Rudy Lemaire, passed away. His cheerfulness, his energy, his walks through the community, his smile and his wit will be missed by all who knew him. I know I will miss him, and he will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Lastly, the CHEA annual meeting will be held in May. All residents are encouraged to attend. Material on the meeting will be mailed later. I wish to continue my active involvement in the Association, but I also want to give others a chance to exercise some leadership as well. For that reason, I look forward to moving to a different role on the Board. Over the past several years, many residents have stepped forward to help with Association activities. I, for one, have greatly appreciated that. It is important that this continue, however, and I ask that each of you consider contributing in some way, even if it is small. For those of you who have already contributed, particularly the other Officers and Board Members, I sincerely thank you for your service.

Ron Blunck