

COLLEGE HEIGHTS ESTATES ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL NOTICE ON PRINCE GEORGE'S REAL ESTATE TAXES

Jan. 20, 1996

Many CHEA members have recently received one or more supplemental real estate tax notice(s) from Prince George's County relating to solid waste service charges. The CHEA contacted Prince George's County to determine what triggered this and why there were differences in many of the tax bills mailed. This notice is intended to give you information on the CHEA activities and the results that came from them.

All of the supplemental notices involve households who had private contractors that had been picking up their trash. For the most part, this was BFI within the CHEA area. Last year the County passed a law that effectively eliminated all private contractors throughout the County. The County took over this business in order to cover the increasing cost of the County landfill areas. A phase out of the private contractors began last fall. For our area, BFI continued service through December 31, 1995, and they billed their customers directly for these services through this date. Starting January 1, 1996, the County began providing the service, using a new company called Bates, Inc. Since the County tax year runs from July 1st through June 30th, only 1/2 of the tax year was under the new arrangement. This is where the tax-bill problem originated. Listed below are the normal annual charges:

Landfill Service	\$50.00
Recycling Service	\$50.00
Bulk Pickup Service	\$18.00
Trash Collection Fee	\$201.44
Total Solid Waste Services Charge	\$319.44

While the first three service charges apply in full to everyone, the correct trash collection fee for 1/2 year is \$100.72. This means the tax bill should be:

Landfill Service	\$50.00
Recycling Service	\$50.00
Bulk Pickup Service	\$18.00
Trash Collection Fee	\$100.72
Total Solid Waste Services Charge	\$218.72

Last week, CHEA contacted the County Treasurer's Office and the Solid Waste Management Office and asked them to review every tax bill in the CHEA area. They agreed to do this, using the addresses we provided. As a result of their review, they found many errors and have subsequently mailed new tax notices correcting them. If your tax bill was in error, you should have received one of these notices, along with a brief insert attempting to explain what happened. The explanation was short and didn't elaborate as we do now. The insert also contained the name of a contact (Linda Chialastri at 952-4827) at the County if you have questions. All supplemental notices have been mailed directly to the property owner and not to their mortgage company.

It is suggested that you check all of your County tax notices for this past year, including the supplemental notice(s) and make sure your total taxes for 'solid waste service charge' adds up to \$218.72. If your charges add up to any other number call Linda Chialastri. If you can not get a hold of Linda, call Mac Gibson at 833-5821. He is the manager of the County waste management program. They have been helpful to CHEA as we researched this problem, and they should be helpful to you if you need to call them.

1996 CHEA Membership Fee.

Check the mailing label on this notice. Above your name is the date (YY/MM format) of your last payment. If this date is highlighted in yellow, your 1996 fee (\$25) is due and should be sent to Ron Blunck, 7001 Wells Parkway, College Heights Estates, MD 20782. Thank you.

College Heights Estates Association, Inc.
7105 Wells Parkway
College Heights Estates, MD 20782

Mike Twigg, President 277-1567
Ron Browning, Vice President 927-1209
Gail Okleson, Secretary 699-5058
Ron Blunck, Treasurer, 864-0186
Jud Samon, Board Member 927-0739
Nora Lejins, Board Member 864-0486
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