

# College Heights Estates Newsletter

February 1997

Editors: Jean Lee, Gail Oklesson

## Letter From The President

If you are like me, you tend to forget things. But, one thing we should not forget about CHEA is the wide range of services it performs and the information it makes available to our community.

During 1996, CHEA worked closely with the County to insure continued priority attention to the Community Oriented Police (COPS) program, which brings police patrols into our neighborhood. An article on this is found later in this newsletter.

We also had a terrific community barbeque in September at Windsor and Commander, where neighbors got to know each other and our sense of community was renewed. The homeless shelter in Laurel expressed its gratitude to CHEA for its donation of remaining food from that evening.

Wells Parkway got a much needed repaving job, and the road markings that once made the parkway look like a speedway were removed. We also completed the installation of the first street signs that enhance the appearance of the neighborhood.

Community services like bulk mulch purchases, coordination of gypsy moth control and maintenance of the dependable workers list all served the needs of residents of CHE.

We should also remember that CHEA works because we all make it work. It is an organization of volunteers and is only as strong as the support it receives. With that in mind:

- \* Remember to pay your dues. \$25 isn't much considering what CHEA accomplishes.
- \* Don't forget that neighborhood cooperation is the key to our success. CHEA has many programs in place to help us all. Many are highlighted in this newsletter. Your participation insures success.
- \* Don't forget that neighborhood security begins with you. Report all suspicious behavior or activities. Don't think it's too trivial. Your report is a valuable service to your neighbors.
- \* Don't forget to respond to the surveys in the newsletter. It is your way of expressing opinions on neighborhood issues.
- \* Don't forget to contact any board member with any ideas you have about what CHEA may do to better serve the neighborhood.
- \* And, above all, don't forget to be involved in CHEA programs. It's the only way to make it work.

Thanks to all!

Jack O'Leary  
President, CHE Association

### **Adopt a Sign**

Even though they have been in place for some time now, people are still praising our terrific street signs, particularly visitors. They truly enhance the unique character of the neighborhood.

You can help make them even better! CHEA is contemplating an Adopt-a-Sign program where interested neighbors who have signs on their property can landscape and maintain a small area around their sign to make it even more attractive. A few azaleas (whatever color you like), or some bulbs for seasonal blooms would make an attractive area around a sign.

You can see what a difference a small planting can make just by checking out what Ron Blunck has done around the CHE entry pillar at Wells Parkway and Adelphi Road.

If you are interested in supporting this program, please call Jack O'Leary at 277-8909, and he will begin to coordinate this idea, including coordination with interested homeowners who have signs on their property.

### **More on Signs**

It takes money to make and install these signs. Some intersections don't have them yet. If we all pay our dues, CHEA will have the financial ability to continue this and other worthwhile programs mentioned in this newsletter.

### **Queens Chapel Road**

Early in February, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals upheld a decision by the Circuit Court dismissing a suit that may have led to the reopening of Queens Chapel Road. The decision effectively ends the suit by Good Neighbors of Prince George's County.

However, another suit, Benedetto, et. al., v. State of Maryland is still pending. It was continued last October pending the outcome of the Good Neighbor's suit. Plaintiffs in the Benedetto suit hope to convince the judge that this is not the same suit and is brought over a different set of issues, including the fact that many affected residents of surrounding communities were not informed of hearings and were denied a vote on the issue.

We'll keep you posted.

### **Annual CHEA Meeting**

You're invited to the annual CHEA meeting, which will be held in May or June on a weekday evening (around 7:30 PM). We plan to have the meeting at University Park Elementary School. Details will be announced in the next newsletter.

### **Bulk Mulch**

Spring gardening is coming upon us. Don't forget to purchase your bulk mulch or top soil! Those neighbors interested in buying mulch or top soil should call Barbara Wilson no later than March 16 at (301) 779-4139. She'll provide pricing and delivery dates. Thanks to Barbara are in order for organizing and running this activity each year!

### **Recycling Bins**

Is your recycling bin showing signs of wear and tear? You may contact the PG County Dept. of Environmental Resources-Refuse and Complaints Division at (301) 952-7630, and they will give you a new bin within 7-10 days of your request. They are free!

### **Beverly Silverberg Honored**

Beverly Silverberg made "headlines" in a recent issue of the Washington Post (Prince George's Weekly Section-February 13, 1997). The Post cited Beverly as the, "1996 Public Relations Woman of the Year" by Washington Women in Public Relations. The WWPR commended Beverly for her more than 25 years of service in the communications field and for "advancing the role of women in the workplace." She is also president of her own public relations firm and active in various community organizations, including the Greater Washington Urban League. Beverly was also a Metro spokesperson for almost a decade. Congratulations, Beverly, for this high honor and for setting a positive example in our community. Beverly lives with her husband on Calverton Drive.

### **Lee Preston Retires and Is Recommended for Professor Emeritus Status**

Lee Preston, a recently retired professor from the College of Business and Management at the University of Maryland, was recommended for designation of Professor Emeritus. As a distinguished faculty member, Lee received many major awards during his long tenure at Maryland. Among the recognitions were his election as a Fellow of the Academy of Management Science, recognition as a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher and awards for Distinguished International Service as Director of the Center for International Business Education and Research. Recently, Lee received the 50th Anniversary Medal from Poland for his service to their 'society and science.' Having received his undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and his graduate degrees from Harvard University, Lee has been an active researcher and writer throughout his many years of service to Maryland, the State University of New York and the University of California. Lee and his family first moved to College Heights many years ago, purchasing their first home in the area on Southwark Terrace. They continue to live in the community but in their current home on Wells Parkway. Congratulations Lee!

### **Welcome to College Heights Estates**

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the Barks family: David, Cathy, and their daughter Sarah, who live at 7004 Eversfield Drive. They moved here last March, from Springhill Lake in Greenbelt. David is on the CHEA Board of Directors and is already making contributions to our community. He works for Fannie Mae. Cathy recently earned her Ph.D. in English from the University of Maryland and is doing some part-time teaching while looking for a full-time position. Their daughter Sarah, age 12, will begin seventh grade this fall, at St. Hugh's in Greenbelt. She is eager to meet children her own age and is interested in doing some baby-sitting. The Barks' hobbies include caring for their one-year-old cat, Chase, and working on their house and yard.

### **Meet Your Neighbor**

There is an incredible wealth of expertise and experience in our community. The purpose of this column is to bring to your attention some of the unique residents who make up that wealth.

In this installment of Meet Your Neighbor, we'd like to profile Richard Waldron, who lives with his wife Mary, at 7012 Hunter Lane. The Waldrons have lived in their home since 1972. Judge Waldron was a practicing attorney who was appointed as a District Court judge for the State of Maryland in 1977. While he is now retired from the District Court, he has been practicing law since 1979. Currently, a portion of his 'retirement' time is spent working with individuals on reopening Queens Chapel Road, and those in the community who believe strongly in this issue owe Dick a thank you for his efforts.

Judge Waldron and his wife Mary have three children. Their two daughters live in Greenbelt and Edgewater respectively, and their son lives in Annapolis. Both Dick and Mary enjoy gardening, and Dick likes to play golf with the remainder of their 'retirement' time!

### **College Heights Estates History**

CHEA will begin to compile and publish a history of our community. In order to accomplish this, we need help from residents in gathering interesting information and pictures. Jud Samon will be assisting in the compilation of material and overseeing the project. Further details on the types of items being collected for the history will be presented in the next newsletter. If you have an interest in this effort or are willing to lend assistance, please give Jud a call at 927-0739.

### **C.O.P.S. Bike Patrol Program Update**

Last year, a small group of local Prince George's County police officers began an experiment with a bike patrol program. Rather than patrolling only in police cars, this group also patrolled on bikes as much as possible. This gave them a better feel for the community, and it gave the community a better ability to have one-on-one contact with the police officers involved. The Association supported the overall aim of the new bike program and contributed money to purchase one of the first four bikes acquired. Several Association members also felt strongly about the value of increased patrols in our community, and they made personal contributions to supplement the Association donation.

Over the first year of operation, five additional bikes were purchased and eight more officers completed training for the bike program. Unfortunately, three of the original bike officers have transferred to other police districts, some of whom will be helping their new districts begin bike patrol programs as well. The County is moving toward formally adopting the bike program in all districts.

Danon Ashton, the original leader of the bike program and the one who got it started, has been assigned to train new bike officers and to perform creative education in selected County schools where there are student problems. However, he remains committed and involved with the COPS (Community Oriented Policing) program in our area, and he is still available should the Association or any community member have a police issue they may want to discuss. Emergency police issues should always be reported by using 911, but the COPS program is a source of police support for many non-emergency, community issues and questions. Danon can be reached at 699-2876. If you have non-emergency issues, and you want to discuss them with someone who knows the community, call him. If he's not there, leave a message on his voice mail.

If you wish to add financial support to the COPS and bike patrol program, you may do so by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Fraternal Order of Police (write your check out to FOP Lodge 89). You may deliver it directly to Danon at the COPS office in PG Plaza or mail your check to Ron Blunck (7001 Wells Parkway), who will make sure it gets to him.

### **Dependable Workers.**

As a reminder, Ed Okleson (699-5058) maintains a database of names of individuals who have performed dependable work in the area. Plumbers, painters, electricians, etc. are included. If you need a name or you have a name to include or you want a new category added to the database, please call Ed.

### **1997 CHEA Membership Fee**

Check the mailing label on this newsletter. Above your name is the date (YY/MM format) of your last payment. If this date is highlighted in yellow, your 1997 fee (\$25) is due and should be sent to Ron Blunck, 7001 Wells Parkway, College Heights Estates, MD 20782-1040. Thank you for your support.

### **Notes and Letters.**

Many of you sent notes or letters to CHEA on a variety of topics and concerns. Most of these have also expressed appreciation to CHEA for the volunteer work that is performed. Your letters are greatly appreciated. If you have ideas about new activities for CHEA, please send them to us. Above all, keep your letters coming!

### **Police Support and Statistics.**

CHEA stays in contact with the Community Oriented Policing (COPS) officer assigned to our community. His name is Danon Ashton, and he works out of the COPS office at PG Plaza. If you have general questions or concerns related to police issues, please feel free to call him at 699-2876. Officer Ashton is the individual who initiated the bike patrols within his jurisdiction several years ago. His jurisdiction includes College Heights Estates.

If you have a Police emergency, you should always call 911 for 24 hour-a-day emergency service. Don't wait for Danon to be on duty for emergencies! Also, the County Police at the District 1 Hyattsville Office prepare monthly statistics on police calls received from our general area. Each of these calls are recorded in their records. On-site police reports are taken on those that require it. Call statistics for our area through 1996 are:

<u>CALL TYPE</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>CALL TYPE</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>1996</u>
Accident	30	14	Abuse	1	0
Suspicious Person	13	12	Tampering	1	1
Found Property	0	7	Check Auto	6	4
Premise Alarm	24	47	Hit & Run	1	1
Stolen Vehicle	2	4	Death	1	0
Assault	1	0	Prowler	2	2
Theft	14	6	Break & Enter	13	11
Domestic Issue	12	2	Assist	2	0
Traffic	18	45	Vandalism	8	1
Disorderly	2	2	Other	25	21
Party	2	1	Total	178	188

The County Police encourage all citizens to call them to report all problems, even if they are only minor problems or unusual activities. We know our own neighborhood and community better than anyone else, and we can help the police by being willing to pick up the phone and call them. They won't feel like you are wasting their time!

### **Using College Heights Estates in Your Address.**

The mail delivered to your home comes from the West Hyattsville Post Office located on Hamilton Street in old Hyattsville. While the 'official' city designation for your home is 'Hyattsville', we are not part of the incorporated boundary area for the City of Hyattsville. The Post Master, however, has agreed to correctly deliver your mail if 'College Heights Estates' is used in your address instead of 'Hyattsville'. The ZIP code in your address has to be correct, however, so that your mail will reach the West Hyattsville Post Office.

### **Survey Results.**

In the last newsletter, there were two survey questions. In summary, the responses we received were as follows:

1. Has your normal trash pick-up been satisfactory?

Most responders indicated the service was reliable and on time. Only a couple of responders indicated displeasure with the service.

2. Would you like to have a list of neighborhood kids for odd jobs?

Several responders indicated an interest in having a list of kids who could be called for doing odd jobs.

### **Kid Power Service.**

As a result of one of the survey questions in the last newsletter, CHEA will attempt to provide a 'matching' service for residents who would like to hire neighborhood kids to perform odd jobs. Kids who would like to participate should talk with their parents and then contact Ron Blunck, 7001 Wells Parkway (864-0186) so that he can update the 'Kid Power' list with your name, age and types of service you would like to perform. Residents who might like to use the list should also contact Ron Blunck so that he can pass along to you appropriate names from the list. As a general guideline, kids who perform service should normally be paid \$5-\$10 per hour, depending on the amount and difficulty of work they do. More or less payment may be appropriate, depending upon the situation. However, fairness and reasonableness on both sides should prevail.

### **Roads, Curbs & Storm Drains.**

Ron Browning (927-1209) stays in contact with Prince Georges County Department of Public Works and Transportation. If you have any problem with road surface or curbing on your street, you can call the County directly at (301) 499-8520. If you have any problem with plugged or damaged storm drains, you can call the County directly at (301) 499-8500. You may also call Ron on these issues.

### **Bulky Pickup Service.**

Did you know that the County will pickup, free of charge, bulky items from your residence? This would include most items that the regular weekly trash collectors are instructed not to pickup. For examples, old furniture, appliances and lawn equipment will be collected. Tree stumps, auto parts, construction material, fences, sheds and liquids are items that will not be collected. To use this service, simply call the County at (301) 952-7600.

### **Articles of Interest**

Gail Okleson clipped the following articles of interest from **Bottom Line** magazine. We hope you will find the information interesting and useful.





## **New Survey Questions:**

If you have a moment, please respond to the following survey questions. Your feedback is always wanted.

1. Have you ever called the COPS officer for our area or the County Police to report a problem or concern?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes , was their response timely and complete? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Additional Comments:

2. Would you be interested in a compiled history of College Heights Estates?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Would you be willing to provide information and photos (copies) that could be a part of history?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Additional Comments:

Please return your survey response to Ron Blunck at 7001 Wells Parkway, College Heights Estates, MD 20782.

College Heights Estates Association, Inc.  
7001 Wells Parkway  
College Heights Estates, Maryland 20782-1040

Jack O'Leary 277-8909  
Gail Okleson 699-5058  
Jean Lee 927-1956  
Dave Barks 864-4569  
Ron Browning 927-1209  
Jud Samon 927-0739  
Mike Twigg 277-1567  
Ron Blunck 864-0186