

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

New Survey Questions:

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

1. Planning for this year's CHEA Summer Outing will begin shortly. We are looking for suggestions on where to have the outing this year. Last year it was at Commander & Windsor, the previous year it was at the end of Partridge Place and the year prior to that it was at Chansory and Calverton.
 - A. Where would you suggest it be held this year?
 - B. Is Saturday or Sunday a better day?
 - C. Any suggested changes to the past format (simple picnic style event)?
2. Many residents are already busy in their yards - planting, trimming, spraying and the like.
 - A. Would there be any value to you in providing some form of CHEA recognition for residents who excel in their yard work and yard presentation?
 - B. Any suggestion(s) for how a recognitions program should be organized?
 - C. Would you be willing to help with this?
3. Additional Comments:

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

Last Survey Responses:

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.

College Heights Estates Newsletter

February 1997

Editors: Jean Lee, Gail Okleson

Letter From The President

It was brought to my attention by one of our neighbors that vitriolic hate-mail fliers have been distributed to many households in College Heights Estates. These anonymous fliers, purporting to be the work of someone in our neighborhood, are filled with venomous attacks and accusations against a doctor in our community. He is falsely accused of including abortions in his medical practice, and consorting with other doctors similarly accused.

Quite aside from the falsity of the accusations, the flier itself is extremely troublesome. It includes the doctor's picture, his name, address, telephone numbers, office address and other information including his wife's name and a reference to his children. It looks to all the world like a wanted poster for the entire family. It calls for direct action against the doctor both at home and at his office, and virtually encourages violence. Equally repulsive is a clearly racist theme.

I spoke with the victim of this act and he is justifiably concerned about the very safety of his family. He has had to resort to self-protective precautions in and around his house. Terrorist tactics are not unknown in this type of situation. The police and FBI have been notified and are working with the information at hand. There is very little to advance the investigation save the fact that the fliers were distributed sometime late Friday morning, April 11th by more than one person.

I am outraged and frightened by this despicable incident, as I am sure you are, too. As this newsletter constantly reminds us, crime prevention begins with the vigilance of all of us. This crime threatens the safety and integrity of everyone in College Heights Estates. If you have any information, no matter how vague, about this incident, please call the police. If you saw the fliers being distributed, or if you received one, also call the police.

As a neighborhood we must have zero tolerance and a swift response to this kind of dangerous criminal activity in our midst. Some issues have produced some zealots on each side, but no matter where one stands on any issue, this hateful and dangerous approach never is an acceptable means to resolution.

Sincerely,
Jack O'Leary
CHEA 1996-1997 President

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the College Heights Estates Association will convene at 7:30 PM, Wednesday, May 21, 1997, in the multi-purpose room of University Park Elementary School. The school is located at 4315 Underwood Street, at the intersection of Queens Chapel Road.

A number of issues of importance to the neighborhood will be discussed and excellent guest speakers have been invited. Public works and police activities will be included. It promises to be an interesting and fruitful meeting. If you haven't been able to mail your dues (\$25), you may bring your check (payable to CHEA) to the meeting.

We also need to elect officers of the association. The current slate of officers has agreed to stand for re-election. They are:

Jack O'Leary, President
Gail Okleson, Vice-President
Ron Blunck, Treasurer
Mike Twigg, Secretary
Jean Lee, Member of the Board and Newsletter Editor
Ron Browning, Member of the Board
Dave Barks, Member of the Board
Jud Samon, Member of the Board

Additional nominations from members are welcome and solicited. You can make nominations during the meeting, or call Jack O'Leary (301/277-8909) with your candidates.

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

Upcoming Community Events

Annual Flea Market at St. Mark's School-Saturday, May 3. Located at 7501 Adelphi Road. From 10-4. Neighbors donating items to be sold may start setting up at 6 AM. The cost to rent a space is \$15 (a space=two parking spaces). This will be done on a, "**First Come, First Serve**" basis. Danish will be served for breakfast and hamburgers and hot dogs will be served for lunch. For more information, please call Susan Leone at 277-6333.

May Fair at University Elementary School-Saturday, May 17. From 1-3 PM. Come for a day of fun for the whole family. Events include face painting, crafts, food, local artists, etc.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Weekend. On Saturday, May 3, Parkdale High School located at 6001 Good Luck Road in Riverdale will be accepting materials from 8 AM-3 PM. On Sunday, May 4, Surratsville High School located at 6101 Garden Drive in Clinton, will accept materials from 8 AM-3 PM. Many household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, solvents, oil based paints and automobile fluids contain toxicants and are hazardous. Improper disposal of these materials is harmful to our environment. Residents are encouraged to drop-off unwanted hazardous materials at one of the collection sites. Materials collected will be disposed of in an environmentally safe manner. For more information, call the Prince George's County department of Environmental Resources at 301/95-CLEAN.

1997 CHEA Membership Fee

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

Notes and Letters

Many of you continue to send notes and letters to CHEA on a variety of topics and concerns. Many of these accompany the annual dues that are sent in, and most of these express appreciation to CHEA for the volunteer work that is performed. All of the work of the Association is performed by volunteers, and nobody is paid for providing any services. Your letters are greatly appreciated. Keep them coming!

Police Support and Statistics

Statistics for the first part of 1997 are not compiled yet, so they will be reported in the next newsletter. Sorry for the delay.

As a reminder, the County Police encourage all citizens to call them to report any problems you encounter, even if they are only minor issues or unusual activities. As residents, we know our community better than anyone else, and we can assist the police by simply picking up the phone and call them. They won't feel like you are wasting their time!

Spring Cleanup Time

With spring well underway, flowering trees, colorful shrubs and green yards are evident everywhere. Now may be a good time to plan for yard-improvement services, house painting, tree pruning and the like. Summer will be coming soon, which is a time when the full beauty and elegance of our community is always noticed. If you need help getting contacts for services around your home, please give Ed Okleson a call. He maintains the CHEA Dependable Worker list, and he might be able to help you find service providers. Ed can be reached at (301) 699-5058.

Everyday Errands Plus

Speaking of dependable workers, most of you have probably received a flyer from Lee Goldstein about his company, Everyday Errands Plus. His company does everything from shopping to plant watering. It's hard taking care of everyday tasks when we're holding down a 9-to-5 job. Why not give Lee's company a try? Everyday Errands Plus is also fully bonded and insured and offers senior citizen's discounts. For more information, please call Lee Goldstein at (301) 982-0236.

Kid Power List Update

In the last newsletter, there was an article on CHEA providing a "matching" service for residents who would like to hire neighborhood kids who would like to perform odd jobs. Several young people in the community have already expressed interest in this. Other 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. Furthermore, residents who would 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 the work they do. More or less may be appropriate, depending upon the situation, however, fairness and reasonableness on both sides should be in order.

Home Repair Frauds

There are always con artists to watch out for, and as we all look over our property to see what needs to be done as the nice weather approaches, this is a good time to be especially alert. Home repair is a popular area for criminals who promise a lot, tell a good story of what they can do, and then leave you with shoddy work, or no work at all. Don't fall for it.

They come to the door with a great list of skills, like painting, roofing, windows, gutters and you name it. Mostly, they can't do anything except take your money. But, like any crook, they always have a good story. They are just in the neighborhood and saw you needed some work done. They worked for the previous owner who liked the job. They just retired and are supplementing their income. Sometimes it's a "sob" story, too. Don't fall for it. Protect yourself.

Never give any money up front. Always check references. If they claim they work for a company, check it out. Don't accept an estimate that has the word "about" in it. Check with the Better Business Bureau. Get a second estimate from a company YOU called. There is no such thing as being too careful, since they can take you for a lot of money, and then you get to pay even more to fix up what they did.

CHEA maintains a list of dependable workers (see the article on that in this newsletter). This is a good place to start if you are looking for home improvements, since your neighbors have used them before.

Water Main Cleaning Begins June 1st

On June 1st, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission will be moving into College Heights Estates and University Park to continue its on-going program of flushing, cleaning and relining the water mains on their distribution system. According to a WSSC spokesman, the purpose is to eliminate water discoloration and to restore the hydraulic pressure lost by years of build-up inside pipes. Valves and some fire hydrants will be replaced to accommodate the restored water pressure.

This means construction on local streets. The estimated duration is through the end of October. It will proceed down streets in phases. There will be excavation at specific sites usually intersections, where pipes branch out or are connected to fire hydrants. Excavation sites should be 3 to 4 blocks apart.

We will all experience some inconvenience, since steel plates will be installed at excavation sites until the work on that site is complete. Blue plastic by-pass pipes will be used to supply water to affected areas. As we all remember from about 2 years ago, these pipes will be ramped, but are still worthy of caution when crossing over them.

Time Share for Farmhouse in Pristine Valley

We own a farm in the mountains of Western Maryland, adjacent to Savage River State Forest, and large amounts of preserved farmland. The house is remodeled and in a pristine valley by itself. We are looking for one or two other families to use it when we are not. It is available for most of the summer. \$500 a week, \$1000 a month, or at a reduced rate for all summer and every other weekend.

Call Peter or Judy Brown at 277-3779, before 8:30 PM. Thanks!

Meet Your Neighbor

Gail, Eddie and Kelley Okleson live at 7003 Eversfield Drive. In 1991, they bought a lot from Sally Hageage ("Hey-Jay") and designed and built their home.

Their daughter Kelley is nine years old and in the fourth grade at University Park Elementary School. Kelley loves sports, piano, going to the beach house in Ocean City, and her pets. Her #1 pet is her 4-year-old Wire Fox Terrier, Ms. Tiggy Winkel. Kelley and Tiggy Winkel are both energetic and curious explorers and are always together. If you ever see a Wire Fox Terrier sprinting down the street at the speed of light you know where she lives. Eddie is an Engineer with Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Gail is a Senior Realty Specialist with the Food and Drug Administration in Rockville, Maryland. Gail and Eddie are both native Washingtonians and are graduates of the University of Maryland. They are also life time members of the Terrapin Club. Gail and Eddie love to garden in their beautiful community. Don't forget, Eddie keeps the dependable workers list and can be reached at 699-5058, and Gail is a member of the CHEA board.

In Memoriam

Frederick Xavier Wilson, a long-time resident of College Heights Estates died March 26 after a brief illness. He was known to his friends and family as "Xavier." Fred was born on August 26, 1905 in Upper Marlboro, MD. He was the first child of Katherine Beatrice Nalley and Frederick William Wilson. In 1920, before he turned 15, he began his 52-year banking career as a board boy putting up stock quotations at W.B. Hibbs & Co. in Washington, DC. He graduated from the Emerson Institute and Strayer Business College. He worked at American Security and Trust Company from 1925 to 1929 when he moved to Murphy Co. Stockbrokers until the financial crash of 1931. For the next two years he supported his family by selling vacuum cleaners and some of his own hand-crafted wood items. In November 1933, he joined Prince George's Bank in Hyattsville where he later established its Mortgage Loan Department. He retired as Senior Vice-President of Suburban Trust Company in 1972.

In 1945, he purchased land in College Heights and began his long affection for the property where he later built his home in 1951. From then on, he found great joy working there, both inside with his woodcrafting and outside with his landscaping and gardening.

In addition to his banking career, he was a master gardener with a special love of, and an ability to propagate azaleas and to raise dogwood trees. His plants and trees now grown in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia as well as in his beloved garden on Chansory Lane. He was an accomplished wood craftsman having made dozens of pieces of furniture and toys for his family and friends. He was a founding member and active parishioner of St. Mark's Catholic Church in Hyattsville.

The neighbors of CHEA express their sympathies to Fred's wife, Barbara and to the rest of Fred's family. The editor also thanks Barbara Wilson on providing Fred's biography.

KID'S COLUMN

Model Rockets and You
By Gavin O'Leary, Age 10

I must confess, most of us like to watch rockets launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Almost everyone wishes to be on that rocket. Anyway, who has the money? So the next best thing is to build a model rocket. So come on down to the NASA GODDARD VISITORS CENTER every first and third Sunday of each month (weather permitting). The visitor's center is on Soil Conservation Road (off Greenbelt Road in Greenbelt). If you aren't there to watch the rockets being launched, you can visit either the gift shop or the museum. So, if you can't go into space, this is the next best thing. Come on down every first and third Sunday at 1 o' clock.

(Editor's note: This is the first of what we hope will be a regular feature of the newsletter: articles written by neighborhood kids about things the other kids might be interested in. Have your kids write about something (or dictate if they don't write yet) and send the articles to: Jean Lee, 4000 Clagett Road/phone: 927-1956. Thanks, Gavin, for getting the "Kids Column" off to a great start!)

Telephone Service Change.

Bell Atlantic has announced that you will need to dial the area code for all calls beginning May 1st, even local calls. They are running short of available telephone numbers, and they will begin to use new area codes in the current (301) geographic dialing location. Unfortunately, this brings one more small complexity to our busy lives!

Yard Waste Pickup Service.

The County trash collection for yard waste is now back in service, and Wednesday is the day they will collect your yard material each week. Yard waste will not be collected on Tuesdays nor Fridays. Wednesday is also the day that your recycle bottles, plastics and paper are be collected. That schedule does not change.

If you have trash collection problems or questions, call Mac Gibson at the County. He can be reached at (301) 883-5821.

Articles of Interest

Gail Okleson clipped the following from **Bottom Line** magazine. We hope you will find the information interesting.