

September 2001

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CHEEA

College Heights Estates Newsletter

September 2001

Editor: Jean Lee, assisted by Bill DeWitt & Ron Blunck

Reminder of OctoberFest – Saturday, October 13th, 1-4PM

The CHEA Annual Community Block Party will follow an OctoberFest theme. This is a meet and greet your neighbors that will be a casual event.

- Saturday, October 13 from 1:00 to 4:00PM (with a rain date of Sunday, October 14).
- On the cul-de-sac at the end of Remington Court (drive up Southwark Terrace or Eversfield Drive and turn right on Hunter Lane and then right on Remington Court by the house that is under construction).
- Light food and beverages will be provided starting about 1:30PM.
- You may want to bring folding chairs.

These Are Trying Times

CHEA encourages all members to say a prayer for those who have been lost and those who are serving in the terrible events of September 11, 2001. If you have an American flag, you are encouraged to fly it as a sign of support for our fellow citizens and a vote against terrorism everywhere in the world.

2001 CHEA Membership Fee

Check the mailing label on your copy of the newsletter. Above your name, on the right, is the date (YYYY/MM format) of your last payment. If this date is highlighted in yellow, your 2001 fee (still only \$25) is due and should be sent to Ron Blunck, 7100 Eversfield Dr, College Heights Estates, MD 20782-1049. Thank you!

Add/Update Your Email Address

CHEA is making a concerted effort to create a group email capability for future and ongoing dissemination of current issues impacting the CHEA community. PLEASE check the mailing label on your copy of the newsletter. Below your name is the email address you have provided. Please send us updates to this, including the email addresses and the name of the CHEA member(s) who use that email address.

EMAIL Bill DeWitt at wdewitt@rhsmith.umd.edu and Bill will include your email address in future group mailings.

In addition, if you know a CHEA neighbor's email address, please ask them if they would like to be included in the CHEA group email process so that we can communicate quickly and effectively about issues that impact CHEA.

Letter From The President

Greetings,

Hope your summer has been a good one so far. It's hard to believe September is here and fall is just around the corner. Time flies.

CHEA has been active on a number of issues, and I would like to briefly report on these.

Bill DeWitt and I met with County Councilman Tom Hendershot and discussed a number of County support issues with him. It was an introductory meeting, and we asked for his assistance in setting up meetings with County officials to further review the support issues impacting College Heights Estates. Tom was very helpful and quick in contacting the appropriate officials and setting up a meeting. We are very thankful to Tom for his assistance with this. When Dave Merkowitz and I met with the Prince George's County officials, we discussed leaf collection, snow removal, street & curb repairs, streetlights, trash & recyclable collection, animal control, police statistics, University of Maryland development of the vacant 14+ acre parcel north College Heights Estates, commercial development in the general area, and insect infestation. Leaf collection service was discussed at length, and I believe we will see an improvement of this service this fall. All of the discussions with Councilman Hendershot and County officials were cordial and productive. We will continue the dialogue with the County on these issues and work towards improvement in all areas.

Bill DeWitt and I also met with University Park Mayor John Brunner to discuss a limited number of topics of common interest. These included Wells Parkway, Clagett Road, traffic control, leaf removal on Wells and Clagett, police statistics, potential insect spraying (gypsy moths and canker worms), commercial development in the Prince George's Plaza area and animal control. Mayor Brunner reported that the sidewalk on US 1, north of the College Park Exxon, would be replaced so that it will be ADA compliant. The new sidewalk is expected to extend south to Queen Chapels Road. The meeting with Mayor Brunner, which focused on general communications on selected issues important to both communities as separate communities, was cordial and productive.

Erskine Davis and I investigated rumors of the University of Maryland development of the Buddington & Michael properties, which are 14+ acre parcels owned by Maryland and Kenneth Michael that are situated between College Heights Estates (end of Commander and Lovell Drives) and the southwest corner of the University campus by the Robert H Smith School of Business. I sent a letter to Dr Dan Mott, President of the University, asking for a status of their plans for the use of these parcels. Dr Mott responded and indicated the University had authorized a special task force (College Park City-University Partnership – CPCUP) to propose a project to use this property. In his letter he indicated that potential uses might include student housing, a day care facility, faculty housing and office space. I believe that other potential uses might also be under consideration, such as a new home for the University President. Dr Mott agreed that College Heights Estates was an important neighbor and that our interests extend to their development plans. They will share their plans with us once they are drafted. Sunny Mothershead also became aware of the University intention to develop this property and did some investigation on his own. Sunny shared this information, as well as his insight with me, which I greatly appreciated, and he is interested in working with CHEA to protect College Heights Estates interests. Sunny has requested a rendering plan from CPCUP, which he hopes to get soon. We will share this with you as soon as we get it. If you provide me with your email address (see survey form), I will send you a copy of the rendering and keep you posted on our progress on protecting our interests. This is an important issue, and it will get significant CHEA Board attention. If you have questions or comments, please communicate them to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Blunck

Comcast Cable Modem Service Now Available In Our Community

Comcast cable modem service is now available and has been installed in the CHEA neighborhood. Some CHEA members have been able to have DSL installed via Covad

Yard Waste Pickup Service Reminder

For new residents, it’s useful to know that the County trash collection for yard waste is Wednesday, the same day as recycling, however it is a separate pickup from recycling. Large branches and material need to be cut into 3-4 foot lengths and bundled with string and put on the curb. Other vegetation needs to be bagged in black plastic or other bags and put out on Wednesdays. Yard waste will not be collected on Tuesdays or Fridays.

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

Mixed Paper Trash Service Now Available

You may now include mixed paper, newspaper inserts and magazines, with your other paper on Wednesdays when the County picks up recyclables. This includes old phone books. Place your recyclable paper either in brown paper bags or tie all of your paper together into one bundle and place it at the curb. For cardboard boxes there is no special pickup; however, you can break the cardboard down, bundle it with string and put it out with your regular trash on Tuesdays and Fridays.

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

Trash Collection For Senior Citizens & Disabled

The County provides back door collection of refuse and front door collection of recyclables for senior citizens who are over 65 years of age and for disabled persons. To qualify, no one living in the home can be under 65 years of age or be physically able to carry the collection containers to the curb. To make special arrangements, call the County at (301) 953-7630.

Useful General Information Numbers

Bulky Trash Pick-up	(301) 952-7600
Household Hazardous Waste	(301) 883-5045
Animal Control	(301) 499-8300
Yard Waste Collection	(301) 952-7630
Used Oil & Antifreeze Collection	(301) 473-2925
Property Tax Information	(301) 952-4030
Voter Registration	(301) 627-2814

Electronics Recycling Program

Community residents may bring their old/unwanted electronics to the Brown Station Road Landfill in Upper Marlboro on Sundays from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM. For more information, call (301) 883-5045.

Recycling Bin Replacement

If you are missing or need to replace your yellow recycling bin call (301) 883-5045.

Animal Control

Do you have an animal control problem? The County will not trap wild animals, but they may be able to provide a trap for you to use. If you capture a wild animal, the County will remove it if you call them. Regarding domestic animals and pets, the owner must control them. Dogs and cats are not permitted to roam outside of the owner's property. The County leash law applies to both, if they are outside of the owner's property.

Call (301) 499-8300 with any animal control question or problem.

Thinking Snow Yet?

The County is responsible for snow removal on our Community streets. However, there is a priority scheme in place that dictates the sequence of road clearing. Since local residents primarily use our streets, the priority for us is relatively low. The County does have a 'sand/salt barrel' program that any resident may utilize. Under this program, the County will place a barrel, with salt/sand inside, at the edge of the street at your address. You can then spread salt/sand in areas that are particularly slippery. This can be quite useful and effective when it snows or sleets and you live on a hill. The County maintains the barrels, attempts to make them as attractive as possible for residential use and will remove them at the end of the winter season. If you have a potential interest in this, please contact Ron Blunck at (301) 864-0186.

Road Resurfacing

You may have noticed that Eversfield Dr and Southwark Terrace have been resurfaced. The County has plans to mill and resurface the remaining streets this fiscal year, which ends next June. Some areas, such as Partridge Place, badly need it. They may be able to complete some of the work this fall. Any remaining work will be completed in the spring. If there is any special situation or need with the street near your property, please let Ron Browning know. These can be discussed with the County before any work begins. Ron's number is (301) 927-1209

Leaf Collection.

Leaf collection services over the past several years have been problematic for many residents. Many concerns and complaints about this have been expressed to CHEA. So, CHEA board members met with County officials, and they have agreed to modify their process so that collection services in our area improve. The County agreed to bypass their normal neighborhood sequencing they follow throughout the County and specifically provide the first leaf pickup in College Heights Estates either the last week in November or the first week in December. A second leaf pickup will follow about a month later. CHEA now has a contact at the County to monitor the pickup activities and schedules. The CHEA goal is to facilitate improvement in the leaf collection service in our area.

Bernie Nees Passes Away

Bernie Nees, previously a resident of Chansory Lane, passed away July 17th. He was living on the Maryland Eastern Shore at the time of his death. Mr. Nees was a partner of Johnson & Lemon, a regional brokerage firm and was instrumental in establishing the Washington Mutual Investors Fund, which was very successful. Long-term residents of College Heights Estates will remember and miss Bernie.

Dog Do-Do

Dog feces pose a potential health risk. In addition, these droppings detract from the beauty of our community. Please take a plastic bag with you when you walk your dog and pick up the dog waste. Dispose of it in your trashcan. It is as simple as that. Dog-owner cooperation is appreciated.

Mosquito Control

Mosquitoes can become a common pest in the area during this time of the year. Some common-sense practices can help minimize breeding areas. These include cleaning out gutters to allow water to flow freely, flushing out black drainpipes, and replacing water in birdbaths at least twice a week. Store plastic containers upside down or inside a shed or garage. Mosquitoes easily fly up to 100 yards, so your neighbor's mosquito breeding problem becomes your mosquito problem!

Most of you are aware of the West Nile Virus problem, which is growing in this area. Elaine Murphy provided some useful information on mosquito control and pointed CHEA to the Maryland Department of Agriculture for information on spraying. In contacting the Department of Agriculture, we found out that both the University of Maryland and the Town of University Park are participating in a special program that monitors dead crows and sprays for mosquitos when infestation is high. The Department indicated that the CHE community is in an ideal location, situated between these two locations. Spraying in either location will have a positive residual effect in our community. CHEA will pursue this further with the Department of Agriculture in the near future.

Kid Power Data Base

Do you have a child who wants to earn money baby-sitting, cutting grass, walking dogs, house sitting etc? If so, just call Gail Oklesson at (301) 699-5058 and let her know. She maintains a CHEA Kid Power Data Base with this information and will be happy to provide some leads to you from her Data Base.

It's About Our County Future

Prince George's County now faces, what are undoubtedly, key issues in our 300-year history. Commission 2000, a 53-member task force, has studied areas of concern and provided a report to the County Council. They identified the following growth issues: high quality schools, better access to high-paying County-based jobs, attracting investment to County communications, improving public facilities, protecting the environment, establishing greater transit support, preserving the County's farmlands, and high quality housing. Community feedback to the Commission 2000 Report is crucial as the County Council is now considering each of the report's recommendations. You can obtain a copy of the Commission 2000 Report online at www.itsaboutourfuture.org, at any County library, or by calling (301) 952-5974.

Have News To Report?

If you would like to include a short article in the CHEA newsletter, it is simple to do. Want to report a neighborhood activity, a child's accomplishment, a family event or an opinion of a current event? Compose it and email it to Gail Oklesson at oklessonge@navy.navy.mil.

Storm Sewer Clogged?

There are a number of storm sewers throughout the community. Occasionally, they get clogged and water backs up on the street during heavy downpours. When this happens, call (301) 499-8500 to report it. The County will gladly clean the storm sewer out.

Map Of College Heights Estates

We have a limited number of copies of a map of College Heights Estates showing plats and lots. If you wish to have one, they will be available at the OctoberFest.

Special Donation Requested For Gates & Signs

The gates and signs at both entrances to College Heights Estates along with all of the white wooden street signs need maintenance and repair. Repair of the gates will be starting soon. CHEA covers the cost associated with all of this, but the CHEA treasury is small, so special donations earmarked for gates and signs from residents would be greatly appreciated. Send your donation to CHEA, 7100 Eversfield Dr, College Heights Estates, MD 20782-1049.

No Commercial Advertising Allowed

It is not uncommon for small businesses and individual entrepreneurs to post signs on utility poles advertising their products and services. If you see any of these posted in our community, feel free to remove them right away. If you see anyone posting signs, please ask them to refrain from doing that in our area.

CHEA Internet Website Coming Soon

Erskine Davis and Julie Gilden (new resident on Wells Parkway) have agreed to assist with the creation and maintenance of a CHEA website. Thank you Erskine and Julie.

New Residents In College Heights Estates

If you are a new resident of College Heights Estates and wish to know more about College Heights and CHEA, please contact Ron Blunck at (301) 864-0186 or RBlunck@GEICO.com. Our independent community is unique, up-scale and an excellent place to live. CHEA is the primary collective voice focused on keeping it that way. Your participation in and support of CHEA will help us as we tend to important community interests.