

October 2003

College Heights Estates Association, Inc.
7100 Eversfield Dr
College Heights Estates, MD 20782-1049

Is Your Label Highlighted In Yellow??

If So, Please Pay Your CHEA Dues

CHEEA

College Heights Estates Newsletter

October 2003

Letter from the President

Greetings,

Don't miss the Annual CHEA Block Party! It is scheduled for 1:30-4 PM on Sunday, October 26th. See additional details in the newsletter. The Block Party, which is being held next to the Buddington Property, will also serve as the final community-wide meeting for Buddington issues. So, there are two reasons this year to attend!

As always, if you have a question or issue that's important to you, please feel free to contact me or any Board Member to discuss it. Phone numbers and email addresses are listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Blunck

CHEA Board Members

The CHEA Board Members are listed below. If you have a question or issue that you would like the Association to address, please contact any Board Member. All Board Members volunteer their time and energy and are not compensated for services they provide.

Ron Blunck (301) 864-0186, RBlunck@GEICO.com

Bill DeWitt, (301) 779-4370, wdewitt@rhsmith.umd.edu

Don Hein, (301) 927-4396, donaldhein@erols.com

Elaine Murphy, (301) 403-8891, emurphy@hyattsville.org

Ron Browning (301) 927-1209, arkabee@comcast.net

Edna Szymanski, (301) 779-3289, ednas@deans.umd.edu

David Merkowitz, (301) 927-5811, drmerkowitz@earthlink.net

Bev Silverberg, (301) 779-0861, BRSCComm@aol.com

Jean Lee (301) 927-1956, No E-mail Address

Erskine Davis, (301) 864-2749, edeldavis@aol.com

Julie Gilden, (301) 864-8007, julie_gilden@fanniema.com

Cathy Beard, (301) 927-2375, cb133@umail.umd.edu

Sandy Stein, (301) 864-9556, sangret@aol.com

Walt Johnson, (301) 277-390, walter.johnson@longandfoster.com

Your 2003 CHEA Membership Fees May Be Overdue

The annual membership fee, still only \$25, is the primary source of funds for all CHEA activities. The fee covers newsletters, postage, street sign maintenance, gate maintenance, community block party, special projects and all other CHEA expenses. The annual fee is a small amount for each household to pay and we ask that each resident sends their payment each year to help support the only community organization that serves all of College Heights Estates.

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 2003 fee (\$25) is due and should be sent to CHEA, 7100 Eversfield Dr, College Heights Estates, MD 20782-1049. Thank you!

refreshments and setup, call David Merkwitz at (301) 927-5811.

Please Add/Update Your E-mail Address

CHEA is making an effort to maintain a group e-mail capability for dissemination of current issues impacting the CHE community. **PLEASE** check the mailing label on your copy of the newsletter. Below your name is the e-mail address you have provided to CHEA. Please send us corrections/updates to this. In addition, if you know a CHEA neighbor's e-mail address, ask them if they would like to be included in the CHEA group e-mail process so that we can communicate quickly and effectively.

Telephone Tree

For those residents who don't have access to e-mail, CHEA would like to maintain a telephone tree list for emergency notifications. There may be events that occur requiring immediate contact and a telephone tree allows neighbors to communicate quickly with each other. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please call Jean Lee, (301) 927-1956 and leave your name, address and telephone number indicating your interest in being a part of a telephone tree.

Community Block Party

**Sunday, October 26, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
3918 Commander Drive
Edna and Mike Szymanski's home**

Come meet and greet your neighbors at this casual event. This will be your chance to see the latest plans for development of the Buddington property at the end of Commander Drive, tour the property itself, provide comments and ask any remaining questions that you may have.

Light food and beverages will be provided starting at 1:30 p.m. You may want to bring folding chairs.

For further information, contact Edna Szymanski at (301) 779-3289. If you would like to help with

CHEA Annual Meeting and Elections

The annual CHEA meeting was held on Sep 30, 2003. Forty residents attended and the meeting was held in the cafeteria at Northwestern High School.

Ron Blunck provided a short history of the College Heights Estates Association.

Don Hein presented an audit summary of the treasury including the present balance of \$4,849. A request was made to provide a written summary and Don will provide that in future meetings.

Ron Blunck asked for additional nominations for officers and board members and none were received. A motion was presented and seconded to vote on the officer and board member slate below:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Ron Blunck | President |
| Bill DeWitt | Vice President |
| Don Hein | Treasurer |
| Elaine Murphy | Secretary |
| Ron Browning | Board Member |
| Edna Szymanski | Board Member |
| Dave Merkwitz | Board Member |
| Bev Silverberg | Board Member |
| Jean Lee | Board Member |
| Erskine Davis | Board Member |
| Julie Gilden | Board Member |
| Cathy Beard | Board Member |
| Sandy Stein | Board Member |

The slate was passed with no objections noted. Absentee ballots numbered 39. With one exception, all of these voted in favor of the nominated slate. A further nomination was made and seconded for an additional board member, Walter Johnson, and a vote was taken and no objections were noted.

Ron Blunck provided background on dues payment and the board’s recommendation that it remain at \$25 per household. A motion was made and seconded to retain the dues at \$25 per household and passed. No objections were noted.

Ron Blunck described the annual plan, including discussions on communications, the Buddington property, services provided by P.G. County (leaf collection, snow removal, street repairs, refuse collection, etc), redevelopment of the Route 1 Corridor and any new issues that may arise that are important to the community. Requests were made to also include communications with new residents and a web site for CHEA in the annual plan. Lastly, a couple of residents expressed their opinion that CHEA officers/board members should get community vote(s) on issues related to the Buddington property before expressing comments to the developer. After all discussion was completed, a motion was made and seconded and the members present approved the annual plan. No objections were noted.

A discussion followed regarding the annual community party which will be held this year at Edna Szymanski’s house and residents will have an opportunity to view the Buddington property. The date of the party will be determined within the next week and publicized in the newsletter – late October is the likely timeframe.

Ron Blunck briefly described CHEA activities over the last year, including comments about the proposed merger with University Park, road and curb repairs and communications.

Ron Blunck noted that copies of the constitution and by-laws were available as well as the process for amending the documents, which include

bringing any recommended changes before the board, and pending the board’s approval, then presenting the changes to the membership at the subsequent annual meeting. The board’s recommendation for this year was that no changes need to be made. A motion was made, seconded and approved by the membership, with no objections noted.

Seeing no new business, the meeting was adjourned.

Crime Statistics

Below are the non-violent crime statistics reported to the County Police for addresses in CHE.

| Type of Crime | 2002 Jan-Dec | 2003 YTD |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Breaking & Entering | 0 | 3 |
| Theft | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen Auto | 0 | 0 |
| DWI | 0 | 0 |
| Vandalism | 0 | 0 |
| All Other | 1 | 0 |
| Total | 1 | 3 |

If you are a victim of crime within College Heights Estates, contact the Prince George’s County Police substation in Hyattsville at (301) 699-2630. For emergencies, call 911 immediately. At the same time, please let CHEA officers or board members know so e-mails and telephone calls may alert other residents. Be watchful of those who travel through your block and report anything suspicious to the County Police.

Buddington Property Development Update and Community Meeting on October 26

On October 9, 2003, CHEA convened a meeting of the Buddington area subcommittee, i.e., the households on Commander, Windsor and Lovell that will be directly impacted by the proposed development of 24 upscale houses in the wooded property at the end of Commander and Lovell Drives. The subcommittee reviewed the new plans received from the developer, the Michael Companies, and formulated questions to be addressed by the subcommittee with Mr. Michael.

The group reaffirmed that they do not want sidewalks in the development and they support the proposed underground storm water management plans rather than a holding pond. In addition, they agreed to ask some questions of the developer regarding the daily construction schedule, the proposed curve of the road, the tree conservation plan, the landscape buffer between the new development and the existing neighborhood, some features on the planned models, and the exterior illuminations resulting from the planned models. **The committee will meet with Ken Michael for clarification of these issues and will then report to the full College Heights Estates Association at a community meeting to be held October 26, at 1:30 p.m.**

Finally, the residents expressed concern about traffic calming. At present, there is concern about cars speeding through an area when young children play. It was agreed that, in the near future, a meeting will be convened of the Commander, Windsor and Lovell residents to discuss an optimal solution to traffic calming and emergency vehicle access.

Fall Leaf Collection

County leaf collection is scheduled to begin in early November and continue with a second planned pickup in December or January.

Notification will be placed on utility poles in the community the week before collection begins. Additionally, residents may bag their leaves or use their trash containers for the Wednesday trash collection (through January 15). The Association is looking into private contractors for raking as well as disposal of leaves and if you are interested in this service, please contact Bev Silverberg at her e-mail address: BRSComm@aol.com

Refuse Collection/Recycling

Residents may still have limbs, perhaps even small trees, that fell during tropical storm Isabel that they have not had collected by the County. Limbs must not exceed four feet in length and three inches in diameter and must be securely tied in bundles. Bundles of limbs must weigh less than 60 pounds. If you have any concerns or complaints about your trash collection, including yard waste, please directly contact the County at (301) 883-5848. The County collects the number of complaints from individual homeowners and uses that information to work with the private trash collector.