



College Heights Estates Association Newsletter

September 2006

Letter from CHEA President

Dear Neighbors,

Hopefully you saw the recent CHEA email alert regarding criminal activity in our immediate and surrounding neighborhoods. If you did not, please provide your email to Lisa Holt, balloongirl@msn.com, so that you can be added to the list for any subsequent alerts. Lisa has been actively coordinating with Major Kevin Davis, Commander, District 1, Prince George's County Police Department. Major Davis sent Lisa a "Thank You" email. It follows below. Major Davis recently announced the good news that there has been a double digit (10.3%) crime reduction in District 1 during the first 7 months of 2006. Specifics are contained in the statistical tables which follow Major Davis' email.

We encourage you to raise to the CHEA Board questions or issues which are important to you. Please feel free to contact me or any CHEA Board member directly. Our contact information is at the end of this Newsletter.

Bill DeWitt

President

Major Davis' email of August 6, 2006:

"Just a note to thank you for helping **YOUR** police department connect the dots late last week regarding the stolen auto incident and theft from auto incidents in College Heights Estates with the recovered property incidents in University Park. There is no doubt in my mind that the same perpetrator_s (yes...I think there were at least two suspects involved) were responsible for these criminal acts. Having said that, I do hope that you and your neighbors have noticed some additional patrol cars in your community over the weekend.

As you know from attending my Advisory Council meetings, District I still consists of many "tucked away" neighborhoods that are rarely affected by criminal activity. When a crime occurs in one of these areas (...or crimes, in this case), my immediate concern always involves the possibility that a criminal believes he has discovered a "new area" to commit acts of (...in most cases) **property** crimes. By the way, District I, which includes 36 of the County's 497 square miles, is home to more than half of the County's pawn shops! There are only 40-some odd pawn shop licenses available in the County (...limited like liquor licenses), and public hearings take place when a new locale desires to take custody of an existing license. My point? Keep an eye out for pawn shops. We don't need any more! Why? They sell *unverified* stolen property taken by thieves who in turn fence the goods to pawn shops. The vast majority of these pawned items (appliances, tools, home entertainment equipment, etc.) cannot be recovered by the police from the pawn shops because most property crime victims never took the time to record serial numbers and/or other identifying characteristics to pass along to the police. Sounds like something to pass along to your neighbors!

I digress. One of my lieutenants took a ride through College Heights Estates the other night and later remarked to me how dark it was, particularly along Hunter Lane. As for Ms. Sandy Stein on Eversfield, I sent my auto theft detective to visit with her after I received your telephone call. They reportedly had a productive visit, and it was noted that some sort of wooded foot path exists that may provide ingress and egress to folks (mostly legitimate) who travel to and from the U of M. Nonetheless, perhaps those CHE residents whose homes are juxtaposed to Guilford Drive may be interested in some sort of neighborhood walk & talk in the future in an effort to identify environmental shortcomings that serve as welcome mats to would-be thieves. We would be happy to participate in such an outing. The Berwyn community recently hosted a similar event on a Saturday morning, and it was a huge success. My guys did walk along a foot path, so at the very least they are now more familiar with the community.

Now the tricky part: calling the police. Public Safety Communications (PSC) falls under the Department of Homeland Security in Prince George’s County, and not the Police Department. Emergencies should always be reported to 911. No exceptions. Non-emergencies should be reported to 301-333-4000. A complaint-taker will answer both types of calls, and she will immediately begin to gather information. Please remember that no crime is “too small” to report. And know that you are never “bothering” us. Property crimes are rarely isolated. Having all of the relevant pieces to these puzzles offers the police the greatest chance of catching the bad guys. It really is that simple. And thankfully so, or I may be out of work! We will always send a police officer to take a report in person. Just remember to request one if asked by a complaint-taker. Patience will occasionally be required for non-emergency calls for service, as we prioritize our calls based on a variety of objective factors. The good news as we continue to grow as an agency (...PGPD graduates 74 recruit officers this upcoming Tuesday night; District I will receive 14) is that response times continue to improve. Our District I average response times for priority calls and non-priority calls for service are 9.1 minutes and 16.0 minutes, respectively. I have attached a letter highlighting some overall good crime news that I recently sent out to several community leaders (...I trust that you received an electronic copy) to share with your neighbors as you see fit to do so.

I will keep you updated in the event that developments occur regarding the incidents of last week. I am convinced that you will return the favor should you become aware of additional incidents or concerns that are brought to your attention by your neighbors. I am always looking for a good quote.....actually used to jot them down when I had more time. Anyways, I heard this one over the weekend while sitting through the movie Barnyard with my kids: *A strong man stands up for himself. A stronger man stands up for others.* Thank you for choosing the latter.”

CRIME

Overall: DOWN 10.3%*
 Homicide: DOWN 46.7%
 Overall Robbery: DOWN 5.1%
 Commercial Robbery: DOWN 30.6%
 Overall Burglary: DOWN 7.4%
 Commercial Burglary: DOWN 35.6%
 Theft: DOWN 12.5%
 Stolen Autos: DOWN 17.1%

*This equates to 674 fewer crimes when compared to the same period in 2005.

PRODUCTIVITY

Arrests: UP 46%
 Handgun Seizures: UP 41%
 Warrant Service Arrests: UP 47%
 Field Observation Reports: UP 77%

NEWS TO USE

Call 1-800-Free-411! This is *free* directory assistance which you can use from your home

or your cell. If you have a similar tip to share, send it to jtsads@aol.com.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHEAFest 2006--Come One! Come All!

On Sunday October 15, 2006, we will celebrate the annual CHEAFest from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the corner of Hunter Lane and Remington Court. Hot dogs and hamburgers and other picnic fare will be served. You are welcome to bring a dish, although it is not necessary. A moon bounce is planned for the children. All College Heights Estates residents are invited. Bring your children and your neighbors and meet the rest of our community. Invitations will be sent to every home in College Heights Estates as the date nears. We hope you will all come!

The CHEAFest Committee includes Chris Blunck, Selma Clayman, Lisa Holt, Elaine Murphy and Bev Silverberg. Feel free to call any of them if you can lend a hand or have a question. Their contact numbers are at the end of this Newsletter.

Upcoming Election

The General Election is Tuesday, November 7, 2006. Polling places are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Most of College Heights Estates is in precinct 21-12, and votes at St. Mark's School. If you live on Clagett Road and your address ends in an odd number, you are on the rolls of precinct 21-12 and now vote at St. Mark's School. This is a *change* and was identified during the recent Primary Election.

Street Sign Replacement

During the last few weeks, worn street signs were replaced. The streets which were identified for sign replacement were College Heights Drive, Steed Court, Hunter Lane, Eversfield Drive and Southwark Terrace. If you know of other locations, please notify Ron Browning directly. His contact information is at the end of this Newsletter.

Disappearing Newspaper

A resident on Hunter Lane reported that the morning newspaper would periodically disappear. The case has been solved! The culprit, the driver of the recycling truck, has been confronted. No further problems are expected. If you do encounter this situation, notify the company directly.

THANK YOU

Thank you once again to Alex Norman and his staff from Hyattsville Nursery, Inc. They recently cleaned out the drainage ditches on both sides of Clagett Road just east of Eversfield. This will ease the water issue at the four-way stop every time there is a heavy rain.

2006 LEAF REMOVAL PLAN

As summer comes to its end, the leaves will begin to fall in College Heights Estates. This year the Vacuum Leaf Collection Program in our community will not receive the first pick-up service at the beginning, but somewhat later. The Department of Public Works and Transportation rotates the schedule every year. For leaf collection information, call (301) 499-8576.

SIGN REMOVAL

The County encourages residents to take down illegally posted signs in rights-of-way and on utility poles. There is an exception for temporary real estate signs that are legally posted from Saturday at 12:00 Noon through Monday at 12:00 Noon. All other signs, not on private property, are illegal and can be removed. Removed signs do not have to be accounted for and can be disposed of as trash. Only remove signs if it is safe to do so. If signs are too high or on a main road with a lot of traffic, notify the County Department of Public Works and Transportation and they will remove them.

CHEA \$ 25 MEMBERSHIP DUES

The *annual* membership fee is the primary source of funds for CHEA. If you have not yet paid your current dues, please send them to Don Hein, 4109 Clagett Road, College Heights Estates, MD 20782.

CHEA EMAIL ADDRESS

CHEA maintains a protected e-mail list which is used to contact residents about current issues. Your email address is on the mailing label. Please send updated information to Don Hein if your email address is missing or incorrect.

CHEA BOARD MEMBERSHIP

If your street is not represented on the last page, please consider volunteering as a Board Member. Contact Bill DeWitt at (301) 864-6777.

CHEA BOARD MEMBERS

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