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Your CHEA dues make a difference.
Can we count on you?
See inside for details.

College Heights Estates Newsletter

SUMMER 2009

Dear CHE Friends and Neighbors,

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful spring and getting ready for a fun-filled summer. My spring certainly was made more pleasant by not having gypsy moths and their waste all over the trees and yard. Our collaboration with College Park and University Park in a joint spraying program was a huge success. Hopefully, the gypsy moth population will be under control for several more years as a result.

Did you notice the daffodils at our entrance gates and the new crepe myrtles that have been planted at the corner of Adelphi and Wells Parkway? CHEA plans to continue our beautification program by replacing all of our distinctive but aging signs. The poles will be sanded and painted, new hardware will be installed over the next few weeks, and the street signs will be replaced. Many thanks to Ron Browning, Ellen Wallis and Joe Novello for their help with this project.

A gentle reminder to all CHE residents that the year is half over. We would appreciate receiving your membership dues (only \$25) if you haven't yet sent them for 2009. Details are included in this newsletter.

On May 26, we had a community meeting about our application for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. With financial support from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, a fascinating history of our community has been prepared. You can read an early draft on the CHEA Website (www.cheamd.com). There are many benefits to having this recognition including tax credits and preservation loan programs and no down side, because property owners can do whatever they want with their property. In the coming weeks, you will receive a letter about an upcoming public hearing (tentatively scheduled for **July 21**) regarding our application. I would like to thank Ron Blunck for all his hard work in spearheading this effort.

I have been asked if there is anything we can do about controlling the mosquitoes that have invaded our yards. In talking to experts at both the state and county levels, I have been advised that spraying is an option. The most important line of defense is to make sure that you do not have standing water on your property where mosquito larvae can flourish. This includes such things as flower pots, bird baths and hardest of all standing water in gutters. Mosquitoes don't fly too far from where they hatch, so the more you can do to eradicate breeding places around your yard, the fewer mosquitoes you're likely to have.

The last subject I want to mention is leaf pickup, or more accurately, lack thereof. You may have read that the county is eliminating the Vacuum Leaf Collection Program as a service due to budget cuts. You can protest this to the County Executive (by email countyexecutive@co.pg.md.us) and to Councilman Eric Olson (by email EOlson@co.pg.md.us). I have already done both on our behalf, but it can't hurt to get more emails and letters from their constituents. However, I don't think they're going to change their minds about this. So we will be looking at alternatives including the names of contractors who will do leaf vacuuming. You still have the option of bagging your leaves and having them picked up curbside.

Have a great summer!

Beverly R. Silverberg

2009 CHEA MEMBERSHIP FEES

Help support CHEA. The annual membership fee is still only \$25, and is the primary source for all CHEA activities. The fee covers street sign and gate maintenance, newsletters, postage, and CHEA Fest. The annual fee is a small amount for each household. Send your annual payment to Don Hein, CHEA Treasurer, 4109 Clagett Road, College Heights Estates, MD 20782.

WELCOME TO NEW NEIGHBORS

Steve and Marie Fetter have moved into 7112 Eversfield Drive, the former home of the Mothershead Family.

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CHEA maintains a protected email list which is available only to CHEA Board members. During the last several weeks, we have sent out a number of "CHEA Alert" emails on safety issues in and near our neighborhood. You will not receive these time critical notifications unless you submit/update your email address to CHEA at CHEAMD@CHEAMD.com.

From COUNCILMAN ERIC OLSON

I recently presented legislation (CB-16-2009) to tighten up some of the requirements for the renting of single family homes. I've heard many complaints in our neighborhoods about problem rental properties and drafted this legislation to help address some of those concerns. This bill would deny a rental license for a new rental property if the landlord owns other rental property in the county where the license has been suspended or revoked. The legislation also increases the fines associated with not registering a rental home and strengthens some other aspects of the code to minimize the likelihood of overcrowding in single family homes.

FROM COUNCILMAN OLSON

I want to honor the life of former State Delegate Pauline Menes, who died on May 16th. Pauline was the picture of a conscientious public servant. She served 40 years in the legislature as a Delegate from the 21st District. When she retired in 2006, she was the longest serving female legislator in the nation. First elected as a reformer in 1966, she championed many progressive causes including health and children during her legislative career. She served Prince George's County with honor and will be missed.

MARYLAND FORUM ON TRANSPORTATION

Summary submitted by Jean Lee

The Transportation for America hosted the above forum. Cheryl Cort of the Coalition for Smart Growth said our region is affected by the federal transit policy, and recommended a blueprint for development. One study forecasts that traffic congestion will increase, uneven growth will continue, and commuters will travel longer distances. She also recommends an investment in transportation choices by building the purple line, renewing the metro line, considering location and efficiency to travel as well as considering mixed use/income families and bike accessibility.

James Corless of the Transportation for America indicates that transportation has yet to become a major national issue. He says that we need America's imagination to bring transportation to the forefront because national transportation funds for a cleaner, smarter and safer system are limited. Various committees are working to draft a national vision, "Route to Reform." The thrust is to dramatically increase walking and biking and decrease driving.

Duchy Trachtenberg, Montgomery County Councilwoman, said that transportation is a necessity for vital communities and equity. Many residents have expressed concern about

obstacles to walking to locations. She also stresses that any in-depth look at transportation must include creative funding solutions, affordability of rental properties, and health risk assessments.

Eric Olson, Prince George's County Council, commented that transportation is our major people mover and transportation dollars are tighter. Current road and rail systems should be fixed now while also exploring transportation enhancements such as bike trails. Locally, the Inter County Connector (ICC) and air pollution are concerns. Many current workers want jobs and businesses closer to their homes. As we know, student housing in College Park is a booming business, allowing students and staff to ride their bikes or take the shuttle to school. Councilman Olson suggests elected officials should be visionaries on rail and bus management and highway issues.

The four presenters encouraged the audience to get involved by contacting Congressional and County officials as well as networking with environmental and transportation organizations to bring importance to this issue.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

College Park Farmers Market is now open on Saturdays and will run through November 21, 2009 at Herbert Wells Ice Rink (5211 Paint Branch Parkway in College Park). The market operates from 7:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

Visit www.pgparcs.com, the web site for the Prince George's County Department for Parks and Recreation. You will find opportunities to enjoy the arts, to enroll your child in summer programs, to identify volunteer opportunities, and to learn about senior activities.

CHEA WEB SITE

Please visit us at www.CHEAMD.com for the latest happenings in our neighborhood. We

welcome your feedback and questions at cheamd@cheamd.com.

"WATCH UP & CHE"

This listserv is up! You do not need an invitation to join. Just click on the link at the CHEA web site (www.cheamd.com) or go to <http://groups.google.com/group/WATCH-UP-CHE> and click on "Join this group."

This listserv is to SHARE information in real time. Law enforcement officials cannot post immediate alerts because they are investigating and sifting through facts. Getting information out quickly may jog someone's memory. Changes to this listserv process will depend on what works best for our neighborhood.

Police emergencies should always be called into 911. Other concerns should be called into the Police Department's non-emergency number (301) 333-4000

GREEN TIPS

The theme for the United Nations' World Environment Day was *Your Planet Needs You*. Each of us can make a difference by following their tips. 1) Bring a washable mug to work to use in your office instead of using a paper cup. 2) Use the back of copy paper you have rather than pulling out a note pad. 3) Copy on both sides of the paper. 4) If you are leaving a room for 15 minutes or more, turn off the lights. 5) Put your office equipment on its *Energy Saving Mode*. Each of us can make a difference.

Recycling and the effective management of trash, yard waste, household hazardous waste, electronics, and bulky trash are some of the best ways to improve our environment. Back door collection of refuse and front door collection of recyclables and household hazardous waste are available for senior citizens over 65 years of age and for disabled persons within Prince George's County. For more information, call the County at (301) 952-7630.