

# FOREST Heights NEWS



Town of Forest Heights  
Prince George's County, Maryland

*We Work Together*

Sue E. McGinnis  
**MAYOR**

**COUNCIL**

Derek V. Bennett  
Jerome K. Corrigan  
Quincy Hines  
Anne K. Reifsnieder  
George F. Wiggers  
Paula Noble

*Michelle E. Dyer, Editor*

**49<sup>th</sup> Year, Issue No. 14**

**April 15, 2002**

## **MAYOR'S MESSAGE**



**Sue E. McGinnis**  
**Mayor**

Dear Citizens,

Next month will be my one-year anniversary, in which I have been representing and serving you. My work has just begun. We have accomplished a great deal of unification between the Town of Forest Heights and the Government agencies (i.e. Maryland Highway & Traffic). The following activities and events took place last month:

- **Black History Award's Dinner Project.** The award's dinner ceremony was a huge success. Dr. Iris Metts congratulated and presented the winners with their awards.

- **The Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project.** After the meeting with Robert Douglas, the Director of the Woodrow Wilson Project, the following are the new conditions for compensation of the four (4) homes taken from The Town of Forest Heights last year:
  - (A) Forest Heights wants the noisewall;
  - (B) Sidewalk next to the noisewall;
  - (C) Landscaping Project;
  - (D) Street Scape Project coming from Patrick Schmitt;
  - (E) Trees on State Highway next to bus stop on Arapahoe Drive cut down; and
  - (F) Lighting near bus stop on Arapahoe Drive and steps with handrails leading down to the bus stop.
- **Maryland Municipal League ("MML").** Comcast and AT&T merger. The Town of Forest Heights is to receive additional compensation.

- **Lights** are installed at Talbert Drive and Rt. 210 for safety of children crossing Rt. 210.
- Arapahoe Drive and Pitt Lane. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission ("WSSC") cap has been repaired after being broken for 3 years.
- **March 27 meeting.** There was a meeting with the Engineers and Talbert Drive residents for their final approval of Talbert Drive Reconstruction.
- **March 28.** Task force meeting with Patrick Schmitt of Highway and Traffic: subject, beautification of Rt. 210 to the D.C. line.

At Your Service,

**Mayor Sue McGinnis**

**.....**  
**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET**  
**THIS MONTH'S TOWN**  
**MEETING at 8:00 P.M. APRIL**  
**17, 2002 IN THE MUNICIPAL**  
**BUILDING. THE GUEST**  
**SPEAKER IS, MARYLAND**  
**ENERGY ADMINISTRATION,**  
**MR. THOMAS C. BARRANCO.**

**Mayor  
Sue McGinnis  
(301) 839-1030**

**Council Members**

**Ward I**

Derek Bennett  
301-839-3177  
George Wiggers  
301-567-7718  
E-mail  
[giggers@ottawatower.com](mailto:giggers@ottawatower.com)

**WEBSITE:**

[www.ottawatower.com](http://www.ottawatower.com)

**Ward II**

Jerome Corrigan  
301-839-2585  
Anne Reifsneider  
301-839-1146  
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[SPAR1@EROLS.COM](mailto:SPAR1@EROLS.COM)

**Ward III**

Quincy Hines  
301-839-8522  
Paula Noble  
(301) 567-4246  
E-mail:  
[WARDIII4YOU@AOL.COM](mailto:WARDIII4YOU@AOL.COM)

**Administrative Offices**

Clifton C. K. Brinkley -  
Chief of Police  
(301) 839-4040  
Michelle E. Dyer – Town  
Clerk  
(301) 839-1030  
William Clarke –  
Maintenance Supervisor  
(301) 686-1486

**IN TOWN**

Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday during the months of September through June. Mayor/Council Work Sessions are held on the first Monday (Tuesdays when Mondays are

holidays or as absolutely necessary) of the month approximately two weeks prior to Town Meetings. Meetings are open to the public and we greatly encourage your participation. The next Council Work Session will be April 1, 2002.

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**ELECTION  
INFORMATION**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2002.**

**Two Council Members will be elected for two – year terms. Polls will be open at the Municipal Building from 11:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m.**

**The election will be conducted by the Town’s Board of Elections. Only those who are registered voters will be permitted to vote in this election.**

**Voters are reminded that we will be using new touch screen voting machines this year. These are also used for the Maryland general election in Prince George’s County. These machines have a write-in capability; however, inadequate identification of a person for whom a write-in ballot is cast makes that ballot subject to disqualification.**

**Elections results will be published in the regular May edition of the Forest Heights Newsletter and the newly elected officials will be sworn into office**

**at the May 15, 2002  
Town Meeting.**

**ABSENTEE VOTING**

- 1. Any voter who is qualified and registered to vote in the Town Elections is entitled to vote by absentee ballot, provided the following conditions are met in accordance with Section 1 of Charter Amendment Resolution Number 1 of 1992:**
  - a. Any qualified voters registered to vote who may be absent from the town of Forest Heights on any Election Day.**
  - b. Any qualified voter registered to vote whose physical disability or confinement in or restriction to any Election Day.**
  - c. Absentee ballots must be received no later than the close of the polls on May 8, 2002.**
- 2. A qualified voter desiring to vote in any election by absentee ballot shall make an application for an absentee ballot in writing to the Board of Elections. The application must be received no later than 7 days before the election. The application shall contain an affidavit, which need not to be under oath, but which shall set for**

the information required under this section, under penalty of perjury. The application shall contain the following information:

- a. The voter's name and residence address.
- b. That the person is a qualified voter at the residence given.
- c. If the person voted at the preceding election, the residence address from which he voted; and
- d. That the voter expects in good faith to be unable to vote in person for the reasons stated in 1.a. or 1.b.

**CANADIDTES IN THIS ELECTION**

**Council, Ward I  
Sharon C. McInnis  
Council, Ward I  
George F. Wiggers  
Council, Ward II  
Richard Whitehurst  
Council, Ward III  
Paula R. Noble  
Council, Ward III  
Doris Ross-Stephens**



**Our Town Commitment**

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities is committed to promoting racial equality and justice as a fundamental aspect of a healthy community **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Mayor of Forest Heights and Town Council of Forest Heights reaffirm our commitment to ensuring racial equality and justice in our city and to working with the National League of Cities to sustain this commitment throughout the country.

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**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

The Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988: "We Do Business in Accordance With the Federal Fair Housing Law" Urban Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing: 1-800-669-9777.

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**2001 INCOME TAX REMINDER**

We ask you once again to assist us in making sure that the Town receive as much income as we can possibly get from the State and from the County. Please make sure you do the following two things: (1) Make sure your car registration lists Forest Heights as the town in which you reside--NOT

Oxon Hill. This will ensure that we get our proper tax from the State. (2) Make sure that on your State Income Tax form you specify that the Incorporated Municipality in which you live is Forest Heights. This will also ensure that we get our proper share of your Income Tax back from the State.

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There will be no Neighborhood Watch Meeting For the Month of April, 2002-For information contact: Doris Stephens (301) 567-2593

**Police Chief Update**  
**Crime Reports**  
**March 1, 2002 through March 31, 2002**  
Robbery.....2  
Vandalism.....2  
Larceny /Theft.....1  
Stolen Motor Vehicles...1  
Eastover District IV Police-- (301) 749-4900  
Maryland Park Police---- (301) 459-9088

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**Pinochle:** Players meet at the Municipal Building every Friday evening at 7:00 p.m.

**ELECTION MAY 9, 2002 – CANDIDATES STATEMENTS**

The Town of Forest Heights does not accept responsibility for accuracy of information in these statements.

*SHARON C. Mc INNIS  
5816 SHOSHONE DRIVE  
FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745*

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*March 25, 2002*

*STATEMENT of SHARON C. Mc INNIS - CANDIDATE for COUNCIL MEMBER  
WARD I*

*My name is Sharon C. Mc Innis. I am a homeowner and have been blessed to live in Forest Heights for ten years. I have three children, all girls, ages, 7, 10 and 15, and they attend the local schools. Obviously, I have a vested interest in the town and Ward I in particular.*

*I was supportive of the installation of speed bumps on Comanche, Shoshone, and Choctaw Drives. I am very involved with the children of this community and I serve as a mentor for them. I enjoy the privilege of living in Forest Heights. I believe, for the most part, the town has been managed well and is a decent place to live and raise a family. I am proud to invite my relatives and friends to visit and have encouraged people I know who are house hunting to consider Forest Heights.*

*I am interested in serving as a Town Council Member because I want to be an intricate part of future development of Forest Heights. The city of Oxon Hill and the county of Prince George's are experiencing positive changes. I want to ensure that this positive change includes Forest Heights. While some would have us remain the same forever, we must change with the times if we are to continue to develop our children, improve our schools and attract upwardly mobile families.*

*I have been employed with the Metropolitan Police Department in Washington, D.C. for over twenty years. My experience there has taught me to work with all people, regardless of race, creed, color, or financial status. I have served on many committees and facilitated countless meetings. I know how to listen and consider the needs of all stakeholders in a community and arrive at solutions that are in the best interest of those concerned. I ask that you support me for Council Member – Ward I in the next election!*

*Note: While it would be an honor, and she has my full support, I AM NOT related to the town mayor, Sue McGinnis.*

*Sharon C. McInnis*

## **George Wiggers, Candidate for Council Member, Ward I**

I am pleased to announce my candidacy for reelection as Ward I Council Member.

My vision for Forest Heights is a close-knit community where newcomers are warmly welcomed and diversity is respected. The town has many citizens who set down roots to raise families and retire here. Other citizens are more mobile, following occupation advancement or other opportunities. The town should promote an environment reflecting the values and needs of all its citizens.

The town should be run in a business-like manner. Major town programs include the town police, maintaining streets and lighting, and refuse collection. Security is a concern of many of the town's citizens, particularly in the wake of 9/11 -- support of the town's police is crucial to maintaining that security. Well-maintained streets, reliable refuse collection and town beautification are important to maintaining property values. These programs must be run efficiently to keep our property taxes low.

During my first term, I prepared a successful \$150,000 grant application for the rebuilding of Talbert Drive. I also worked hard for the people of Ward I, including obtaining speed bumps on Shoshone and Choctaw Drives, a safety measure that was critically needed because of the number of children that play in that area. As Chairman of the Health and Sanitation Commission I took the lead in alerting Town residents to the West Nile Virus threat last summer and provided information on ways to reduce the number of mosquitos spreading that disease. I have established a web site for Forest Heights residents:

[www.OttawaTower.com](http://www.OttawaTower.com)

which provides current information to Town residents on activities in and around the Town.

Forest Heights has been my hometown since 1971. My four children and three of my grandchildren attended Flintstone Elementary School. Forest Heights is a town I have been happy to live in and raise my family. I have wonderful neighbors and I want to continue serve and contribute to the betterment of the town.

Happily, I have provided individual assistance to many residents of Ward I when they had a problem or concern, and if reelected, I will continue to serve the all people of Ward I to the best of my ability.

# ***DORIS STEPHENS FOR COUNCIL MEMBER WARD III***

To The residents of WARD III:

Hello! I am Doris Stephens. My family and I moved to Forest Heights in 1994. I am the mother of two sons who attend Forest Heights Elementary School.

Since moving to Forest Heights, I have been actively involved in and supportive of the community. First, as a member and Chairman of the **Neighborhood Watch Committee**, I became a team player and have worked with Mayor Sue McGinnis. For instance, **The Neighborhood Crime Watch**, and the **Awards Program for Our Youth**, etc. I have, also, supported each and every social event. Secondly, in 1998 while working with Mayor McGinnis' Committee as town Council person, I helped organize the **First Annual Day Family Picnic**. Since that time, I have been involved on various Forest Heights Community projects and committees. Most recently as a **Child Safety Advocate**, I actively worked with other Forest Heights parents to restore school bus services for the safety of the children who had to cross Indian Head Highway.

I believe in unity within the community. As your Council person, I feel I can represent you further in the unification of the community. Forest Heights can be one of the best communities with productive citizens.

I will service you on May 8, 2002.

❖ **Vote Doris Stephens – Unity Within the Community**

**VOTE**  
**PAULA NOBLE**  
**FOR WARD III COUNCIL MEMBER**

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**Who Am I?**

My name is Paula Noble and I am one of the current Council Members for Ward III.

**How did I become a Council Member for Ward III?**

In October 2001, Ward III was underrepresented on the Town Council, when Joe Mauer, a previous Council Member for Ward III, resigned and moved to Ohio.

As an active and concerned citizen, I advocated for Ward III to have equal representation on the Town Council and for the Town Council to take an active role in making sure that all three Wards have equal representation. The Mayor and Town Council requested interested residents to apply for a special appointment to fill the Ward III vacancy. After applications were received, the Mayor and Town Council voted, and I was appointed as a Council Member for Ward III.

**What have I been responsible for as a Council Member?**

In my three months as a Council Member for Ward III, I serve as the Police Commissioner, the Chair of Housing, and the Comcast Coordinator. As the Police Commissioner, I work with the Chief of Police to ensure that the safety concerns of our town are met without compromise. As the Chair of Housing, I work with, in addition to the Mayor and the Council, the Department of Environmental Standards to maintain housing standards in the town. As Comcast Coordinator, I keep the town informed of activities involving the Prince George's Cable Commission and Comcast.

**How do I hear the concerns of Ward III residents?**

The voice of Ward III residents is very important to me, and I have implemented two ways to make sure that **YOUR** voice is heard. The first was an e-mail address (**[WARDIII4YOU@aol.com](mailto:WARDIII4YOU@aol.com)**) to ensure that the concerns of Ward III residents could be voiced at any time and recorded for the Town to take action. The second way was a continental breakfast on 2/16/02, designed for Ward III residents to get together and discuss the town issues that concern them. [The breakfast was an excellent example of how the residents of Ward III and both Council Members of Ward III can work together to make the Town a better place.]

**What makes me the Council Member for you?**

Working as a banker for the last 25 years and being an active board member of the Alumnae Association at Trinity College, I know how to work with people to reach common goals. My vision for the Town of Forest Heights is to foster an environment where residents can see their concerns addressed efficiently and effectively by the Mayor and Town Council. My duty as a Ward III Council Member is to represent the people of Ward III.

## **Richard S. Whitehurst – Candidate – Council Member Ward II**

My wife and I began our residency in Forest Heights, in 1973. I retired from the Metropolitan Police Department Washington, D. C. My second career was with the Hotel & Restaurant Employees local 25 AFL-CIO, where I retired as President. I have grown with our community.

I would like to mention a few things that I think would help to beautify our town and improve it's conditions. One, when old and diseased trees are cut down, new ones should replace them. Two, the potholes in our streets should be repaired.

I look for the opportunity to serve my neighbors in Ward II and to work with Mayor Sue McGinnis, the council and the Police Chief. I thank you for your vote in the upcoming May 8, 2002 Town election as Council Member for Ward II.

### **FITNESS AND RECREATION Come and join us!**

Forest Heights Walking Club: Every Saturday beginning at 7:00 a.m. throughout the year. We start at Forest Heights Playground and walk to Children's Farm. For information contact Town Hotline (301) at (301) 839-8522.

Deadline to submit articles for the May 2002 issue of the Newsletter is May 1. Articles are to be turned in or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.
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*We want to hear from you. Please send your comments, questions and ideas for this newsletter to Town Hall at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745 or fax (301) 839-6221 .*