



FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS

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Happy Holidays to All!

April 2006

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Neighbors,

Once again Forest Heights finds itself at a great place in the town's history. We are poised to begin work on our streets, work on our buildings, and even during a crisis that has affected our waste management situation, been able to persevere and maintain a modicum of order. In fact, our increased police presence has been noted by so many citizens and a real appreciation is felt for the quality of life ordinance implementations that have been enacted.

It is true, we have implemented changes in our short time in office than has been implemented in twenty years. How? — by doing what legislators are supposed to do. The time for procrastination is over. Progress is being made all around us and we must keep up with the progress. Some highlights of what we have done are:

- The Anti-Corruption Act which holds elected officials ethically responsible.
- The Code of Conduct Charter Amendment which holds public officials responsible for their conduct.
- Hazardous Conduct Ordinance which places a \$1,000.00 fine on any drug related charge in the town of Forest Heights.
- Obtained approval for \$175K of road repair money from the state.
- Successfully lobbied the General Assembly for \$150K of building repair and renovation money.
- Restored financial order to the Town Of Forest Heights
- Restored Forest Heights Police Department to full capacity

Unfortunately, with all of this progress, rapid as it may be, there are those who would rather hold on to the Jim Crow, racially discriminatory days of 1963. These same people want to repeal charter amendments which hold our town officials responsible for their actions. How unfortunate. These folks only wish to destabilize your town and decrease your investment.

As a public service to our residents, we are issuing this information. You will also find a reprint of an article from the Washington Examiner. As you are aware, the preliminary report to the investigation of past administrations was released this week. Carefully read this article and understand that this administration is committed to further uncovering the truth about our past and strengthening our future by acting on facts discovered.

Do not allow a few rebel rousers who can not handle the necessary changes which we have implemented to jeopardize your investment. Change when best reacted to is seen as an opportunity for progress.

Once again, thank you for help in putting Forest Heights as a community first!

TOP NEWS

Investigation: Ex-mayor's career full of corruption

Scott McCabe, The Examiner

Apr 12, 2006 7:00 AM (1 day ago)

Prince George's County –

For 20 years, Joyce Beck and her friends ran a private business through the town's recreation council, according to a preliminary investigation by the Forest Heights Town Council.

The 30-page report, which covers the town's 57-year history, its public figures and culture, touches on accusations of corruption, voting irregularities and institutional racism — long before Beck became mayor in May 2005.

New Mayor Myles Spires Jr. said the Prince George's County town of 2,600 may have lost tens of thousands of dollars over the years.

"We got a real situation here," Spires said. "It's going to get ugly."
Beck was removed from office in January. She could not be reached Tuesday.

In the early 1980s, the town's Forest Heights Recreation Council became a private corporation headed by Beck, former Town Council Member Anne Reifensneider and Terry Spille, the report states. It continued to receive government money, according to the report.

When the Recreation Council was incorporated, Beck was the first chair of Forest Heights' ethics commission and served as president of the unincorporated recreation council.

Town leaders have alerted the National White Collar Crime Center in Richmond, and will decide whether to send it on to the FBI and ask to bring charges, Spires said.

The report also alleges that Beck failed to reveal in ethics disclosures her interest in the recreation council; conducted business with the recreation council while she sat on the council; destroyed town documents and records; and misappropriated at least \$20,000 as mayor.

Three months before her removal, the police chief filed assault charges against Beck for allegedly slamming a door on an officer's arm and knocking over a former council member. She fired the police chief and appointed herself chief. The charges were later dropped.

The Town Council commissioned the investigation for \$9,000, allowing an outside investigator to interview Forest Heights officials and pore over town documents.

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