



FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS

One Community—Many Cultures

December 2004

Incorporated 1949

51st Year, Issue No. 12

Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!

Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année à vous et votre famille!

Feliz Navidad y Prosperos año Nuevo!

Happy Hanukkah!

Happy Kwanza!

**Celebrate the tradition of giving, the beauty of the season
and a New Year of peace and happiness**

Mayor Paula R. Noble

TOWN MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2004

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

8:00 P.M.

Mayor Paula R. Noble

mayor.fh@verizon.net

TOWN COUNCIL:

Ward I

Lynn Smith-Barnes—(301) 749-9741

WARDIHandinHand@aol.com

George Wiggers—(301) 839-3712

wiggers@forestheights.biz

Ward II

Clifton Atkinson—(301) 567-4839

Joyce Beck—(301) 567-0084

Ward III

Worthington Ross—(301) 567-5016

wsross@comcast.net

Larry Stoner—(301) 839-9040

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Phone: (301) 839-1030

Cynthia H. Farrar, Town Administrator

townadministrator@verizon.net

Dennis Bobo, Town Treasurer

towntreasurer.fh@verizon.net

Bonita Anderson, Town Clerk

townclerk.fh@verizon.net

Gloria Wallace, Receptionist

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Phone: (301) 686-1432

William Clarke, Supervisor

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone: (301) 839-4040

Michael Eubank, Acting Chief of Police

fhpd2004@verizon.net

Latessa Crawford, Police Clerk

policeclerk.fh@verizon.net

THE TOWN REMEMBERS

PAULA HAMILTON

The senior citizens in this area and in the Town of Forest Heights will mourn the passing of a fine lady, Paula Hamilton. She and her husband were the owners of their house on Cree Drive when it was built in the 50's. In 2001 Paula left for assisted living in Florida. Then at age 97 she died on Thursday October 14, 2004. She was the beloved wife of the late Ralph Hamilton, mother of the late Wayne B. Hamilton; grandmother of Nicole Armitage, Angela Kuhnen, Jocelyn Medina and Vanessa Hamilton. Services were held at the Corkran United Methodist Church in Temple Hills. Internment will be at Arlington National Cemetery.

Work Session & Town Meeting Schedule/Highlights

COUNCIL WILL MEET EVERY MONDAY. TIMES WILL BE POSTED. PLEASE CALL TOWN HALL.

December 15th—Town Meeting

Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. during the months of September - June. Mayor/Council Work Sessions are held on the first Monday of the month (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or as absolutely necessary). Meetings are open to the public. The next Council Work Session will be Monday, December 6, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.

November 17th, 2004 Town Meeting Highlights

- ◆ RESOLUTION 13-04—ACCEPT BRIDGETT MOCK & ASSOCIATES P.A. TO PERFORM THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2004 AUDIT FOR THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS *5-0-1 vote*
- ◆ RESOLUTION 14-04—ACCEPT INNER CITY RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP AS THE CONTRACTOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL

BUILDING ADA COMPLIANCE PROJECT, CDBG GRANT (PY-29) *5-0-1 vote*

- ◆ RESOLUTION 15-04—APPROVE THE BUYOUT OF THE UNIFIRST CORPORATION CONTRACT FOR RENTAL OF UNIFORMS *5-0-1 vote*
- ◆ RESOLUTION 16-04—APPROVE THE SELLING OF TWO (2) USED FOREST HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT VEHICLES *5-0-1 vote*

Town Council to Vote on Ethics Ordinance at December Town Meeting: At the November Town meeting, the Charter and Ordinance Committee introduced a resolution to repeal the existing Article 14 "Town of Forest Heights Ethics Law" of the Town's Code of Ordinances and replace it with a new ordinance. In accordance with the Town Charter, the final vote on an ordinance must be made at a meeting other than the meeting at which it is introduced.

The major changes in the proposed

new ordinance are to eliminate the Town Ethics Commission (the Town attorney would handle complaints), increase penalties for violations, and make the ordinance apply to all Town employees. Copies of the proposed ordinance are available in the Municipal Building. Prior to the vote on the new ordinance, citizens will be permitted to voice any concerns they may have about the proposed changes to the Town's ethics ordinance.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Forest Heights will soon begin its Handicapped Accessibility project, making the Municipal Building ADA compliant. The contractor for the project is Inner City Residential and Commercial Development Group, LLC. There will be employment opportunities for qualified construction workers. Please contact Mr. Joseph Gaskins, President, Inner City Residential and Commercial Development Group, LLC at (301) 423-0524.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR ELIGIBLE MARYLAND RESIDENTS



Low-income Maryland residents may be eligible to receive a discount on a portion of the natural gas they use through a new Residential Essential Service (RES) pilot program. Depending on the amount of natural gas used during the winter heating season, this credit could be worth as much as \$135.

To be eligible for the RES discount, customers must:

- ◆ Use natural gas as the principal source for home heating
- ◆ Apply for and receive assistance from the Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP); and
- ◆ Be current on natural gas utility payments

For more information about MEAP and other Maryland energy assistance programs, contact the Maryland Department of Human Resources Energy Hotline at 1-800-352-1446 or visit the program's Web site at www.dlhr.state.md.us/meap.

Our Town Commitment

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.

THE CHRISTMAS ELF

Santa Claus has been around for centuries, however, during the years vivid imaginations changed his appearance. But it was not until the Civil War that he began to look the way he does today. From 1863 to 1886 a cartoonist named Thomas Nast created a series of Christmas drawings for Harpers Weekly. In his many drawings over the period of time the short pudgy elf grew to be a full size pot-bellied, bearded character as seen around the world today. Mr. Nast also contributed to the story by showing how he spends his year along with Mrs. Claus and his elf helpers making toys in his North Pole work shop. The story continues, through the year, he is checking on children's behavior keeping a list of who is naughty and nice, and of course we can not forget that he reads our list of Christmas wishes.

THOUGHT: Remember long after Christmas the warmth, joy, cheer, love, caring, and sharing.

FOREST HEIGHTS HOMEMAKERS



FOREST HEIGHTS EMPLOYEES
for donation
CYNTHIA H. FARRAR (JURY DUTY FUNDS to the Youth Council)
BILL CLARKE (WASHER & DRYER to the PW Dept.)
CHIEF SEWELL (POLICE RADIO to the Police Dept)

**CRIME REPORT
POLICE CHIEF UPDATE
November 2004**

Theft.....	1
Property Damage.....	0
Vehicle Impound.....	2
Theft from Auto.....	0
Stolen Tag.....	0
Robbery.....	0
Stolen Auto.....	0
Vandalism to Auto.....	0
Assault.....	0
Recovered Stolen Vehicle...3	
Residential B & E.....	1
Arrest.....	0

Forest Heights Police Dept.
(301) 839-4040
Eastover District IV Police
(301) 749-4900
Maryland Park Police
(301) 459-9088

**POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE HOURS**

Monday—Friday
8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday



Deadline to submit articles for the January 2005 newsletter is December 17, 2004. Articles are to be turned in via email to townclerk.fh@verizon.net or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.

TOWN TRASH COLLECTION

Trash shall be collected and removed beginning at 6:30 am each **TUESDAY & FRIDAY**. Waste Management agrees that on those collection days, (**TUESDAY & FRIDAY**) the removal of trash and garbage shall include the following:

- ◆ All mixed combustibles and non-combustibles including garbage, household trash, paper, rags, and cardboard. **Every WEDNESDAY, tree trimmings, grass and leaves will be picked up, provided they are no longer than 4 feet and tied in small bundles & GRASS CLIPPINGS ARE IN TRASH BAGS.**

Whenever Prince George's County Government holidays are celebrated on a Tuesday or Friday, trash will not be picked up on those days, nor will there be a make up date. However, trash will be picked up on the next regular scheduled pick-up date. The holidays are New Years, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your cooperation with Town Ordinances for disposing of residential trash is important for maintaining health and property values in the Town. The Town trash contractor collects trash on Tuesday and Friday (except holidays). The County also collects recyclable materials in the Town on **MONDAY** (plastics, newspapers, etc.). Trash should be placed within two feet of the curb line. **It is important to use trash containers with lids.** Public Works has a 24-hour answering machine (301) 686-1432.

TRASH PICK-UP DAYS BEGIN AT 6:30 a.m.

MONDAY—Recycling

TUESDAY—Trash

WEDNESDAY—Bulk & Yard Waste

FRIDAY—Trash

PLEASE CONTACT WASTE MANAGEMENT AT (301) 702-3558 OR TOWN CLERK AT (301) 839-1030, WITH ANY TRASH COMPLAINTS

Several residents recently voiced concerns about the management of trash and garbage disposal. Outlined are sections of the ordinance code for

ARTICLE 11 - HEALTH. If it is imperative that all residents adhere to the ordinance. The code enforcement officer will enforce the ordinance codes for the town. If you have any specific questions concerning this ordinance please contact Officer Heberlig at (301) 839-4040. Thank you for your cooperation, neighbor.

Section 11.3: Trash Receptacles (Trash and Garbage Disposal and Receptacles)

Trash and Garbage Receptacles

Commercial Trash and Garbage Receptacles - Proprietors of boarding-houses, restaurants, stores, and other places where trash and garbage is accumulated, and/or owners and agents of such places shall provide for the use of such premises a suitable mechanical disposal approved by the local health officer, or, a receptacle or receptacles to contain all garbage which may be accumulated on said premises during the interval between the collection of garbage there from. Such receptacles shall be kept in good repair at all times. Each such receptacle shall be made of durable material, watertight, provided with a tight cover and shall be so constructed that the contents can be removed easily by the waste collectors contracted by the commercial establishment.

Noncommercial Trash and Garbage Receptacles - Receptacles for non-commercial dwelling (private homes) containing "garbage" shall be leak proof and shall be kept securely covered at all times. Garbage shall not be placed in plastic bags or other containers which can be opened by animals. Receptacles containing "trash" must be securely closed to prevent the contents from littering the area. These receptacles must be of such size and girth that they can be easily handled by the Town's contracted refuse collectors.

Trash and Garbage Collection

Regular Collection - "Garbage" and

"Trash" receptacles shall be placed within two feet of the curb line on the two regularly scheduled collection days per week; however, these scheduled collection days could change annually depending on the Town and the refuse contractor negotiation prior to signing a contract.

Bulky Trash Collection - Bulky trash will be collected one day a week simultaneously with the regular scheduled collection. Bulky trash is considered to be discarded furniture **ONLY**, and must be placed in the same location as the trash receptacle on the eve of the scheduled bulky trash collection day. Water heaters [and] inoperative appliances will no longer be picked up by the refuse contractor. Occupants will be responsible for disposing of these items. Occupants are responsible for disposing of automobile motors and parts, fallen trees, cinder blocks, concrete, building materials, motor cycles, etc.

APPLIANCES & TIRE PICK-UP

Call the Municipal Building and let them know when you put out items for someone to pickup. **OTHERWISE WE WILL PICK UP AND CHARGE \$35.00**, or place a sign on item indicating it is to be picked up by someone.

Appliances and tires are **NOT** collected by the regular contractor. Town Public Works Department will collect these items at a cost of \$35.00 per item and tires \$4.00 without rim, \$6.00 with rim. Place items at curb by 7:00 a.m. You will receive notice of charges. **DO NOT PLACE ITEMS BY CURB UNLESS YOU WANT TOWN TO PICK THEM UP.** After 30 days, Town Ordinance, Article 11, Section 11.4: Penalty, states "Violation of this notice can result in \$100.00 fine for first offense and may be fined \$200.00 for repeat offense." For hazardous and poisonous materials, call (301) 883-5045. **Please remove doors from refrigerator, when you set them out for metal pick-up.**

FOREST HEIGHTS DOES NOT HAVE ANY COUNTY PICK-UP FOR METAL & TIRES.