

FOREST Heights NEWS



Town of Forest Heights
Prince George's County, Maryland

We Work Together

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49th Year, Issue No. 12

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The Town will absorb much of the impact of upgrading the 95/210 interchange. As you know Maryland 210 is a major artery that carries an ever-increasing volume of traffic on it. At the Mayor's request on January 29, 2002 the Town of Forest Heights held its first Task Force meeting to develop a concept plan for improvement along MD 210. The topics covered included the following: safety and accessibility, pedestrian lighting, traffic flow especially on Talbert Drive and MD 210 and improvement to the approach to a bus stop on north lane of MD 210, where one must descend a 4 ft. bank to the bus stop.

Also Neighbors things are progressing very fast in our town with the re-

construction of Wilson Bridge and the National Harbor at our back door. Property value in our town is expected to soar. A wise person will hold on today for a brighter tomorrow.

On Feb. 7, 2002, the Mayor attended a buffet reception held by Governor Parris Glendening in honor of the Maryland Mayor's Association. The Governor re-confirmed his commitment to support municipalities.

On Saturday, February 2, 2002 the Mayor, Parents and Forest Heights Youth visited Oxon Hill Farm as part of the National Park Service series on African American History workshops. As we explored the Farm, we had discovered with the help of the National Park Service that the Farm was once called the "Plantation." This Plantation was used to hold seventeen (17) or more slaves, in which these slaves lived within the Plantation. The slaves' duties on this Plantation were to tend to the animals, crops and meeting the needs of a family by the name of the DeBois, in which they occupied the big white house, which sits on the top of the hill,

beyond the horse stables (i.e. this house is the oldest building on the 200 year old farm. Included with these slaves were individuals who lived at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, in which they were transported, everyday from the Hospital to the Farm.

Special Ceremony Congratulations to Candace Paulk and Shuanda Hinnant the Winners of the \$250.00 Student Black History

Essay

We wish to congratulate **6th grader Candace Paulk and 5th grader Shuanda Hinnant of Forest Heights Elementary School as winners** of the Black History Essay-sponsored by a Grant applied for by the Mayor. Each winner will receive a \$250.00 Savings Bond. Prizes will be awarded to students and their families at a **special ceremony** Wednesday, March 20, 2002, at Forest Heights Town Hall, 5508 Arapahoe Drive. The Youth

Initiative Program mission is to encourage youth to develop and use their research, analytical and writing skills.

At Your Service,
Mayor Sue McGinnis

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THIS MONTH'S TOWN MEETING at 8:00 P.M. February 20, 2002 IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Guest Speakers: Al Richardson/Will Ridgely from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission

Town of Forest Heights Municipal Building 5508 Arapahoe Drive Forest Heights, MD 20745 (301) 839-1030 (301) 839-9236 – fax

Free refreshments-Katie's brownies, cakes and pastries.

Mayor
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(301) 839-1030

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(301) 839-4040

Michelle E. Dyer – Town Clerk

(301) 839-1030
William Clarke – Maintenance Supervisor
(301) 686-1432

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 March 4, 2002.



ELECTION INFORMATION FILING DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATES IS APRIL 3, 2002

Forest Heights residents who plan to be CANDIDATES for the office Town Council Member in the coming Town election are reminded that they must file a Certificate of Nomination at the Administrative Office at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, on or before Wednesday, April 3, 2002. Filing of such a Certificate constitutes a filing for office provided the candidate is otherwise qualified. The Town Charter provides that all candidates shall have resided in the Town for at least one year immediately preceding the election, shall be qualified voters of the Town and shall maintain a permanent residence in the Town during their term in office. Candidates for Town Council Member may seek office only in the Ward in which they reside and shall have resided in that Ward for at least one year preceding the Town Election. **THOSE ELECTED OFFICIALS WHOSE TERM EXPIRES IN MAY**

ARE: COUNCILMEMBERS: WARD I – GEORGE WIGGERS, WARD II – JEROME CORRIGAN, WARD III – PAULA NOBLE

CANDIDATES STATEMENTS
Candidates in the MAY 2002 TOWN ELECTION MUST have their statements for the APRIL NEWSLETTER to the TOWN CLERK by APRIL 5, 2002.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Every person who is a citizen of the United States, is at least 18 years of age (or will be at the time of the Town Election), and has been a bonafide resident of the Town for at least 30 days at the time of the election, is qualified to register in Prince George's County, Maryland, with the Board of Elections Supervisor. Only those who are registered voters will be eligible to vote or to run for office in the Town Election.

Deadline to REGISTER for Forest Heights Town Election is April 12, 2002 Registration forms are available at the P.G. County Library or at the Forest Heights Municipal Building.



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.

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.

IF I WERE MAYOR, I WOULD... Contest

ATTENTION 4TH GRADERS

A Contest: The Maryland Municipal League wants to hear your ideas! The statewide contest for 4th grader "If I were Mayor, I Would..." lets you tell others what you would do as Mayor to make your town the best place to live for everyone. This year's theme is Building Inclusive Communities. One winning essay will be

selected from each of the Maryland Municipal League's 11 regional districts. Each winner will receive a \$250 savings bond. The 11 winners, along with their parents and a teacher, will also be recognized at the statewide Municipal Government week event in April. **Contest Rules:** The contest is open to all Maryland schools students enrolled in the 4th grade during the 2001-2002 school year. **Essays must address the subject with the opening line beginning: "If I were Mayor, I would..."** Essays may not exceed 250 words. Essays will be judged by contest sponsors on knowledge about the role of a real Mayor, creativity, legibility, proper use of grammar and use of the Building Inclusive Communities theme. Students must include their first and last names, school and teacher's name at the top of their essays. Essays must be received by MML no later than March 1, 2002. Winners will be notified by the end of March 2002. Mail all entries to: Maryland Municipal League, 1212 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

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.

TRASH REMOVAL SERVICES BIDS

Open January 1, 2002 through April 1, 2002
Request for Proposals Forest Heights-
 The Town of Forest Heights is seeking bids for Trash Collection Services.

Contractor will be responsible for picking up town resident's weekly trash, bulk items and leaves placed curbside. For more information contact Forest Heights Municipal Center at (301) 839-1030.

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**CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST WITH
COUNCIL MEMBERS**
Council Members Quincy Hines & Paula Noble invite the residents of Ward III to a Continental Breakfast Saturday, February 16, 2002, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at The Forest Heights Municipal Center.

TALE OF THE TAG
As early as 1901, New York State made owners register their cars, by putting their initials somewhere on the car. In the early days the states assigned the numbers and the owner made the plates of leather or wood. In 1903 Massachusetts and New York introduced the first numbered plates. Early license plates were good only in the state where the driver lived, when driving to the next state it was necessary to purchase a visitor's plate. In the early 1900s, states began making steel plates coated with porcelain. To save metal during World War II, many states issued plates of board made from soybeans. The life span

was short as drivers complained when goats ate the plates. Some states now issue special plates so drivers can show support for their favorite groups. Military, veterans etc. Special plates are also used to help raise money for worthy causes. The Chesapeake plate raises money to help clean up the Chesapeake Bay and the area around it.

Thought: *Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.* Forest Heights Homemakers.

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

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) 686-0014.

Deadline to submit articles for the March 2002 issue of the Newsletter is March 1, 2002. Articles are to be turned in or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745

Police Chief Update

**Junior Neighborhood
Watch Meeting Saturday
February 23, 2002
12:00pm at Town Hall**

**For more information
contact: Doris Stephens
(301) 567-2593**

Crime Reports

**January 1, 2002 through
January 31, 2002**

Robbery.....0
Assaults... ..1
Vandalism.....1
Breaking entering.....4
Larceny /Theft.....3
Stolen Motor Vehicles... 1
Recovered Motor
Vehicles.....2
Calls for Service.....150

Eastover District IV
Police--(301) 749-4900
Maryland Park Police---
(301) 459-9088