

FOREST Heights NEWS



Town of Forest Heights
Prince George's County, Maryland

We Work Together

Sue E. McGinnis
MAYOR

COUNCIL
Thomas Casey
Jerome Corrigan
Quincy Hines
Sharon McInnis
Paula Noble
Anne K. Reifsneider

Councilmember Paula Noble, Editor

50th Year, Issue No. 2

February 12, 2003

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Sue E. McGinnis

Dear Citizens,

Programs throughout the state government have been reduced in order to close the budget deficit. The largest reductions were in the Neighborhood Conservation Program, which will be stopped immediately. The project in our area is the MD210 - Indian Head Highway/DC line to MD 414.

The MD210 project has been placed on hold. Citizens, after conferring with state officials we know there will be critical pavement conditions that may be reviewed later. In addition to the cuts in Neighborhood Conservation Fund, \$10 million is being cut from the system preservation program during both

FY 2003 and FY 2004. To achieve these cuts, monies that are not currently allocated to specific projects in several system preservation categories will be cut.

All sidewalk projects that have not yet started construction are to be placed on hold until April at the least. ■

Celebrate Black History Month

Take the time to learn and celebrate Black History Month. February 19, 1926, Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week. Mr. Woodson motto was it is "never too late to learn."

The weekend of the 8th, my family and I celebrated Black History month at the Oxon Hill Farm (located at 3A off the Capital Beltway). On Saturday, we toured the new Mount Welby (White House). We looked at the exhibits that focus on African Americans who lived here in the early 1800s. Sunday we learned the history and cooking techniques for okra brought from Africa to America by slaves. I can now prepare a

delicious dish of corn, okra, and tomatoes. ■

SNOW PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Town ordinance Section 15.3.2 In order to effectively clear our streets during snow conditions, "Except as indicated by legally posted signs, it shall be unlawful to park on the side of any street opposite the street light poles during a snow created emergency." In other words, simply park on the light pole side of the street, unless restricted by **NO PARKING** signs. Note: If the snow plow is blocked by your car, the fine is **\$35.00** plus impoundment of your vehicle. ■

BOOKS, BOOKS, and more

**Saturday, February 15
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Municipal Building
5508 Arapahoe Drive
For more info - call
(301) 839-1030**

TOWN MEETING

**Wednesday, February 19, 2003 in
the Municipal Building at
8:00 p.m.**

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MAYOR

Sue McGinnis
(301) 839-1030

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ward I

Thomas Casey
(301) 839-0936
Sharon McInnis
(301) 567-2008
E-mail FHWARD1SCM@cs.com

Ward II

Jerome Corrigan
(301) 839-2585
Anne Reifsnnyder
(301) 839-1146
E-mail SPAR1@EROLS.COM

Ward III

Quincy Hines
(301) 839-8522
Paula Noble
(301) 567-4246
E-mail WARDIII4YOU@aol.com

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Chief of Police

Clifton C.K. Brinkley
(301) 839-4040

Town Clerk

Wilhelmina Gray
(301) 839-1030

Public Works Department

Maintenance Supervisor

William Clarke
(301) 686-1432

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 affirm 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.

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 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 3, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or as absolutely necessary).

TOWN TRASH COLLECTION

Your cooperation with Town ordinances for disposing of residential trash is important for maintaining healthy 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 BEGINNING AT 7:00 a.m.

MONDAY

Recycling

TUESDAY

Trash

FRIDAY

Trash

Bulky Trash

APPLIANCES & TIRE PICK-UP

These items 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 ITEM BY CURB UNLESS YOU WANT TOWN TO PICK THEM UP.** After 30 days Town Ordinance Article 11, Section 11-4 -4 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. **FOREST HEIGHTS DOES NOT HAVE ANY COUNTY PICK-UP FOR METAL & TIRES.**

TREE REMOVAL

All property owners who have trees removed from private property must make arrangements to have all debris removed from the property. Relocating the limbs and tree trunks to the street or curbside is prohibited. Public Works Department will not remove and discard the debris. Town Ordinance indicates that the resident is subject to a fine for non compliance.

Deadline to submit articles for the March 2003 issue of the newsletter is February 28, 2003. Articles are to be turned in or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.

CRIME REPORT
POLICE CHIEF UPDATE

January 1, 2003 through
January 31, 2003

Robbery.....	0
Auto	
Vandalism.....	1
100 blk Onondaga Dr	
Larceny/Theft.....	1
5800 blk Black Hawk Dr	
Stolen Motor Vehicles.....	3
Cree Dr	
South Huron Dr	
Onondaga Dr	
Property Damage.....	0
Vehicle Impound.....	7
Stolen Tag.....	0
Assault.....	0
Recovered Stolen Vehicle....	0
Recovered Property.....	0
Residential B&E.....	3
100 blk N. Huron Dr	
100 blk Cree Dr	
5800 blk Shoshone Dr	

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

Note to residents from the Forest Heights Police Department

"Do you want to give your beautiful car away? Here's how, start your car, leave the key in the ignition with the doors unlocked, and go into the house."

MD STATE LAW:
Any unattended motor vehicle is a \$50.00 fine.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HOURS

Monday through Friday
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed Saturday and Sunday

TOWN MOURNS THE LOSS OF ONE OF ITS LONG TIME RESIDENT

Dorothy Josephine Krizan, Woodland Drive departed January 11, 2003. The town will truly miss Dorothy. Dorothy attended the town meetings regularly and participated. She was always willing to assist. We will miss her laughter, but keep her close in memory. She is survived by her daughter, Helen M. Stratton and son, Gerald F. Krizan. She is also survived her mother, Helen J. Rice and seven grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.■

PROTECT YOUR PET FROM WINTER'S WOES

Probably the best prescription for winter's woes is to keep your dog or cat inside with you and your family. Dogs and cats are social animals who crave human companionship. Your animal companions deserve to live indoors with you and your family.

- Don't leave dogs outdoors when the temperature drops. Most dogs, and all cats, are safer indoors, except when taken out for exercise. Regardless of the season, shorthaired, very young, or old dogs and all cats should never be left outside without supervision.
- No matter what temperature, windchill can threaten a pet's life. A dog or cat is happiest and healthiest indoors. If your dog is an

outdoor dog, however, he/she must be protected by a dry, draft free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit and lie down comfortably, but small enough to hold his/her body heat.

- Pets who spend a lot of time outdoors need more food in the winter because keeping warm depletes energy. Routinely check your pet's water dish to make sure the water is fresh and unfrozen.■

FOREST HEIGHTS TOWN ORDINANCE: ARTICLE 7 - Dogs & Dangerous Animals Section 7.1 Part C

"It shall be unlawful for any owner, possessor, keeper, or harbinger of any animal to foul any public or another person's private property."

COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

"No person may keep or harbor five (5) or more dogs over four (4) months without obtaining an animal hobby permit, within thirty (30) days of establishing residence in the county."

Fine first offense: Twenty-five dollars (\$25.00); second offense: Fifty dollars (\$50.00)

PRINCE GEORGE'S CABLE COMCAST

The Prince George's Cable Commission meets the third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public. The meeting is held at the Prince George's County Administration Building, 14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Upper Marlboro,

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Maryland. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2003. Paula Noble is the Town of Forest Heights Comcast Coordinator. ■

2002 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. ■

LAUGHTER

Five health benefits of laughter, besides being fun, laughter has five great health benefits -- both mental and physical.

1. It stimulates a mild to moderate cardiovascular workout.
2. It produces endorphins, which counteract the production of stress hormones.
3. It appears to optimize the immune system.
4. It reduces self-consciousness and boosts self-confidence.
5. It relaxes muscles and helps fight the chronic pain associated with muscle tension.

Let's all try to practice these costless medications, improve our

mental and physical health and surprise our friend who in turn will respond with laughter.

THOUGHT: "The only thing tainted about money is, it 'taint mine or 'taint enough."

FOREST HEIGHTS HOMEMAKERS

RECYCLE BINS

Replacement for recycle bins, call County Public Management (301) 952-7630

Recycle bin will be delivered to your home.

Please do not replace, exchange, or borrow Joyce Beck's or any neighbor's recycle bin.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

Prince George's County is seeking homeowners to apply for the 2003 program to be held Saturday, April 26, 2003. The organization will be repairing about 100 homes. For more information, call 301-868-0937. ■

WASHINGTON GAS NEW PAYMENT ADDRESS

Washington Gas
PO Box 830036
Baltimore, Maryland 21283-0036

MAGNET SCHOOLS 2003-2004

APPLICATION DEADLINE

DATES:

February 14, 2003 Magnet Lottery Application

MAGNET INFORMATION SESSIONS:

Oxon Hill High February 12, 2003
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Magnet Lottery Application Brochure is currently available on line at www.pgcps.org/~magnet/ and will be available in all Prince George's County public schools and libraries by the end of January 2003. For additional information, contact the Magnet Schools Office at 301-952-6044. ■

WARD III 3rd BREAKFAST MEETING

Saturday, February 1, Councilmembers Hines and Noble held the 3rd Ward III breakfast and first breakfast for the new year. The residents remembered Dorothy Krizan in a moment of silence. Ms. Krizan's father William R. Rice built some of the homes in Forest Heights. Mr. Rice was instrumental in the paving of Onondaga Drive. Forest Heights' beginning stage when there were no streets, but dirt roads was hard to image. Anne Reifsnyder, the council's President was in attendance. Councilmember Reifsnyder responded to some of the residents concerns about the budget and spending. A special thanks to Mrs. Hines and her assistants, Syble and Mina for making the breakfast a success. ■

WORKING TOGETHER, WE CAN HAVE A BEAUTIFUL TOWN!

We want to hear from you. Please send your comments, question ideas for this newsletter to Town Hall at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745 or Fax (301) 839-9236.