

FOREST Heights NEWS



Town of Forest Heights
Prince George's County, Maryland

We Work Together

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49th Year, Issue No. 11

January 15, 2002

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Town of Forest Heights



We have accomplished many tasks last year. This was only accomplished through the Town Police, Council and other government agencies working together. This year I expect to do much more.

I have only begun my journey of making Forest Heights Community the best in the nation. We have completed plans through a partnership with the Maryland Park and Planning to renovate Forest Heights Bell Acres Town Park in Memory of Clifford Armhold, which is located on North Huron Drive with new playground equipment for ages 3 to 6. The improvements will include the following: reconstructing of the slide board; adding a new jungle gym;

replacement of old swings with new swings; new picnic tables, water fountains; barbecue grills; and replacement of old fence.

The reason for the above mentioned improvements is to upscale our community park/playground, so that families can bring their children to the park in order to have a day of fun and relaxation.

The upscale of our Community Park will attract children, young adults, as well as older adults, to the point of spending quality time within the park, instead of on our neighborhood streets.

The Town has also embraced another tremendous project as we kick off the New Year in a partnership with the National Park Service to provide a series of workshops focusing on African American History. (Check workshop dates on page 2).

Finally, I would like to thank the following town residents: Joyce Beck, Seneca Drive, Alice Farrell, Modoc

Lane and Councilwoman Paula Noble, Cree Drive for serving on an ad-hoc committee I appointed to review the Town Charter and report its recommendation regarding the process used for taking, counting and verifying Town Elections. They did a wonderful job in researching, writing and submitting a report on voting.

At Your Service,
Mayor Sue McGinnis

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET
THIS MONTH'S TOWN
MEETING at 8:00 P.M.
JANUARY 16, 2002 IN THE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING

The Guest Speakers: Karmen R. Bailey, Director of Government Affairs for Comcast

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
Sue McGinnis
(301) 839-1030

Council Members

Ward I

Derek Bennett
301-839-3177
George Wiggers
301-567-7718

E-mail

wiggers@ottawatower.com

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Jerome Corrigan
301-839-2585
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Administrative Offices

Clifton C. K. Brinkley -
Chief of Police
(301) 839-4040
Jose Gonzalez – Town
Manager
(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 Feb 4, 2002.



**The National
Park Service
&**

**The Town of
Forest Heights**

Invites children and teens to a series of 5 Saturday workshops focusing on African American History. Workshops will start on January 12, and continue on the following dates 19, 26; Feb 2, 9, 2002 at the Forest Heights community Center located at 5508 Arapahoe Dr., Forest Heights, MD. Each Saturday session will take place between 11a.m. and 12p.m. Please sign up and pick-up field trip permission slips at the Forest Heights Community Center. For more information Call 301-839-1176 (Monday through Friday).

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.

MEAP

**Maryland Energy
Assistance Program**

(MEAP) helps to keep you safe from the cold in winter and heat in summer. You may be eligible based on your income. Eligible households may be: (1) Homeworkers or renters, including roomers and boarders, whether or not you pay home energy costs directly. (2) Elderly or disabled and living on small income. (3) Receiving temporary cash assistance, SSI or Food Stamps. (4) Working for low wages or unemployed.

What Are The Benefits If I Qualify?

The amount of a MEAP grant is based on your income and type of fuel. The MEAP grant is

sent to your home energy supplier. If home energy costs are included in your rent, your grant is sent to your landlord, as long as your landlord agrees to deduct the grant amount from your rent payments. The MEAP grant is paid one time per year to cover part of your home energy costs. For more information call 1-800-352-1446

**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 school 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.

**\$250.00 Student
Black History
Essay Contest**

The Youth Initiative Program mission is to encourage youth to develop and use their research, analytical and writing skills. This project is funded through a grant applied for by Mayor Sue McGinnis. As a sponsor of this program the Town of Forest Heights Youth Initiative is to support the academic, recreational and safety programs in the Town of Forest Heights.
Contest: Each contestant must be a student at Flinstone or Forest

Heights Elementary Schools. Students must be in grades 5 and 6. Each student must submit a **500 word essay about an African-American person; event, Civil Rights movement; or social studies issues for example, the slave trade for Black History Month.**
Prizes: One student from each grade level will receive a **\$250.00 Savings Bond.** Deadline: February 18 by 4:30pm. For more information call (301) 839-1030

**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 on curbside. For more information contact Forest Heights Municipal Center at (301) 839-1030.

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**WOMEN
VETERANS**

Forest Heights Homemakers have been busy with their handy work making many beautiful and colorful hand crocheted lap robes. The Homemakers have donated these lap robes, games and many toiletries to the women at Charlotte Hall Veterans Home. Lap robes are used by the ladies who need a little extra warmth when sitting in wheel chairs. We are pleased to assist our ladies in some small way and sincerely hope they enjoy the lap robes.

Thought: Some people have their first dollar but the person who is really rich is the one who still has their

first friend!" Forest Heights Homemakers.

**Martin Luther
Kings Birthday
Celebration**

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-68) was a Baptist minister and an African-American leader of the civil rights movement in the United States from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. King was born in Atlanta, Georgia, and nurtured in the Christian ideas of his father, a Baptist minister. The most notable element of King's leadership was his commitment to the philosophy of nonviolent resistance, first learned from the Christian faith and then from the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Especially dedicated to King's cause were young people—even children—who withstood attacks by dogs, firehoses, bombs, and club-wielding police.

King's struggle for human dignity earned him a Noble Peace Prize in 1964. In honor of his memory, King's birthday has been established as a national holiday.

Police Chief Update

**Neighborhood Watch
Meeting Saturday
January 12, 2002
12:00pm at Town Hall**

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

**Crime Reports
December 2002
through January
2002**

Robbery.....0
Assaults.....3
Vandalism.....1
Breaking Entering.....2
Larceny /Theft.....6
Stolen Motor Vehicles...2
Recovered Motor Vehicles.3
Calls for Service.....115

Tip of the Month: Use caution and stay safe coming into the New Year.

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