



Moving Forward

Paula R. Noble
MAYOR

51st Year, Issue No. 1

COUNCIL
Clifton Atkinson
Joyce A. Beck
Worthington Ross
Lynn Smith-Barnes
Larry Stoner

Incorporated 1949

January 2004

Bonita Anderson, Editor

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Neighbor,

We are now into the New Year 2004. It is important that we take pride in our community, and we can start by creating a theme or motto for the town. Please submit your suggestions to the town administrator, Cynthia Farrar, in writing by February 20th. The winner will be announced at the Black History Program on Saturday, February 28th. (see next newsletter for details)

During the January council work session, we identified committees to include community participation, such as but not limited to, ethics commission, historical, planning, senior, youth programs. This is an exciting time in the Forest Heights community, and we need your help. Please contact the town clerk at (301) 839-1030 to volunteer for one of these committees.

In December the town hosted a Children's Christmas Party organized by Doris Stephens and many volunteers including Santa and Mrs. Claus. More than 60 children enjoyed dancing and playing. The sights and sounds of the children awakened the walls and floors of the town hall. We anticipate more activities for the children.

On the 26th of January, the Thornton Hearing will be held in Annapolis, MD at 6:00 pm. The Thornton plan requires massive amounts of money to be poured into the state's schools to offset funding inequities in education. You should contact your local school to sign up and register for free bus transportation.

Mayor Paula R. Noble

SOLICITING IN THE TOWN

Town Ordinance Article 5—Canvassing and Soliciting

Section 5.1: It shall be unlawful for any peddler, canvasser, solicitor, hawk, itinerant merchant or transient merchant, or transient vendor of merchandise, to go in or upon private or public property in the Town for the purpose of selling or soliciting orders of the sale of goods, wares, merchandise, or services, without having been requested or invited to do so by the owner or owners, occupant or occupants of said property.

Section 5.2: The prohibitions of Section 5.1 shall not apply to sales by local civic, charitable or religious organizations, or to the sale or soliciting of orders for the sale of food and other farm and garden products, laundry and dry cleaning services and newspapers.

Section 5.3: Penalty

Any person violating the provisions of this Article shall be guilty of an infraction and shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense. Repeat offenders may be assessed a fine not to exceed \$200.00 for each repeat offense.

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.

TOWN MEETING

Wednesday,

January 21, 2004

Municipal Building

8:00 p.m.

TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS

Forest Heights News

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MAYOR

Paula R. Noble—(301) 839-1030

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ward I

Lynn Smith-Barnes—(301) 749-9741

Ward II

Joyce Beck—(301) 567-0084

Clifton Atkinson—(301) 567-4839

Ward III

Worthington Ross—(301) 567-5016

Larry Stoner—(301) 839-9040

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Acting Chief of Police

Bernard Sewell—(301) 839-4040

Town Administrator

Cynthia Farrar—(301) 839-1030

Town Treasurer

Stacey Gaskins—(301) 839-1030

Town Clerk

Wilhelmina Gray—(301) 839-1030

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Maintenance Supervisor

William Clarke—(301) 686-1432

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.

2003 INCOME TAX REMINDER

We ask you once again to assist us in making sure that the Town receives 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 care 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.

MARYLAND TRIVIA

Maryland, My Maryland was adopted as the state song in 1939. Written in 1861 by James Randall, the song is set to the melody of the Christmas carol, O Tannenbaum. The oldest "free running" (no cable) ferry in the nation is the Tred Avon Ferry in Oxford. America's first Roman Catholic convent—Mount Carmel Monastery—was established in 1790 in Charles County.

Maryland was named after Henrietta Maria (1609-1669), wife of Charles I of England and daughter of Henry IV of France.

Native Maryland Henry Stevenson administered the nation's first inoculation against smallpox in 1769.

THOUGHT: Growing old is mandatory; growing up is optional.

FOREST HEIGHTS HOMEMAKERS

THE TOWN REMEMBERS

Maxine Susan Richardson—June 5, 1932—December 11, 2003

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

The Barbara Jordan Health Policy Scholars Program is now accepting applications for the Summer of 2004. It is a nine-week program from June 1-July 30, 2004. All application materials are due by January 30, 2004. The Scholars Program brings talented African American, Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaska Native college seniors and recent graduates to Washington, DC, where they work in congressional offices and learn about health policy. The Kaiser Family Foundation established the Scholars Program to honor the legacy of late US Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who was a Foundation Trustee, and to expand the pool of students of color interested in the field of health policy. Eligible candidates must be US citizens who are members of a racial/ ethnic minority group and will be seniors or recent graduates of an accredited US college or university in the fall of 2004. Candidates are selected based on academic performance, demonstrated leadership potential and interest in health policy. Scholars receive approximately \$5,000 in support, which includes a stipend, daily expense allowance, airfare and lodging. Application forms and additional information about the Program are available online at <http://www.kff.org/docs/topics/jordanscholars.html>. For further information, contact program manager Jomo Kassaye at (202) 865-4827 or jkassaye@huhosp.org.



OUT OF STATE TAG ENFORCEMENT

Letter to the Forest Heights Town Citizens:

First of all I want to wish everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season. As we reflect on the past year, I encourage everyone to ponder on what we can do to improve our community.

One of the mandates from the Town is to improve our community in "Out of State" tag enforcement. The Forest Heights Police Department will begin enforcement efforts January 2004. The law requires that Maryland residents display Maryland tags on their vehicles within 30 days of residency. Part of the registration fee for Maryland tags is funneled to our community. Additionally, properly registered vehicles aid the police in identifying your vehicle should it be stolen.

In closing, the Forest Heights Police Department wishes everyone a healthy and prosperous New Year.

FREE GUN LOCKS

The Forest Heights Police Department has joined in partnership with "Project Child Safe". "Project Child Safe" is funded by the Department of Justice and provides "Free" gun locks to participating Police Departments. These gun locks are available to town residents free of charge. If you own a firearm of any type simply come by the Forest Heights Police Department Office during normal business hours, and request a gun lock.

LET'S KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE!

SAFETY REMINDER

We have received several complaints about dirt bikes being operated on Town streets. Remember these types of vehicles are for off road use only, and handling and control can be lost on paved roads, causing serious injury. Additionally, if you are stopped by the police, your dirt bike will be impounded. If you have a dirt bike, please enjoy it in a safe and appropriate manner.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday and Sunday

CRIME REPORT— POLICE CHIEF UPDATE December 2003

Theft.....0
Property Damage.....1
 100 blk Onondaga Drive
Vehicle Impound.....4
 5900 blk Shoshone Drive
 Shoshone & Comanche Drive
 6000 blk Sachem Drive
 100 blk Iroquois Way
Theft from Auto.....0
Stolen Tag.....
 6000 blk Terrell Avenue
 5600 blk Livingston Road
 5700 blk Blackhawk Drive
Robbery.....0
Stolen Auto.....1
 900 blk Comanche Drive
Vandalism to Auto...0
Assault.....0
Recovered Stolen Vehicle...1
 200 blk Seneca Drive
Residential B & E:....1
 100 blk South Huron Drive
Arrest:.....0

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

IN TOWN

TOWN TRASH COLLECTION

Trash shall be collected and removed beginning at 7:00 am each Tuesday & Friday. The Contractor 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.

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 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 & FRIDAY—*Trash*

WEDNESDAY—*Yard Waste*

FRIDAY—*Bulky Trash*

COUNCIL WILL MEET EVERY MONDAY. TIMES WILL BE POSTED. IF NO TIME IS LISTED, PLEASE CALL TOWN HALL ON THAT MONDAY.

- ◆ Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday during the months of September - 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 February 2, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or as absolutely necessary).

APPLIANCES & TIRE PICK-UP

Call Town 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 -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.

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 Largo Government Center, 19201 Basil Court, Largo, Maryland. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2004.

1-800-COMCAST

301-499-1980

301-731-4230

Deadline to submit articles for the February 2004 issue of the newsletter is January 29, 2004. Articles are to be turned in or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5588 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.