



## TOWN ELECTIONS FOR COUNCILPERSON IN WARDS I, II & III TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2008

In accordance with Section 33-31 of the Forest Heights Town Charter persons may be nominated for elective office in the Town by filing a certificate of nomination together with a statement of the particular office to which he aspires, with the Town Clerk on or before the first Wednesday in February preceding the Town election. Such certificate shall state (1) the office for which the person is seeking, (2) the name and signature of the candidate, (3) the ward in which the person resides, (4) a statement that he meets the qualifications for the office as contained in this charter. No person shall file for nomination to more than one elective Town public office or hold more than one elective Town public office at any one time. The Town Board of Elections shall review each certificate of nomination and shall certify that the candidate meets the qualifications contained in this Charter. Any certificate of a candidate, that the Board's judgment does not meet the stated qualifications, shall be returned to the candidate with the reasons for the return stated thereon. Certificate of Nominations may be obtained from the Municipal Building.

**Qualifications** Councilmen shall have resided in the Wards of the Town they represent for at least one year immediately preceding their election, shall be qualified voters of the Town, and shall maintain a permanent residence in the Town during their term of office.

If you have recently moved into Forest Heights from somewhere else in Prince George County or moved from one Ward to another Ward you must provide the County Board of Elections Supervisor with your new address or if you have never registered to vote in Prince George County, a voter registration application must be submitted to your local board of elections or the State Board of Elections at any time. However, applications must be postmarked by January 22, 2008, to vote in the Town Election and the Primary Election. The deadline for the General Election in November is October 14, 2008. If you submit a voter registration application during the period that registration is closed, your application will be held at the local board of elections and processed when registration reopens. For the 2008 elections, registration will be closed from January 23, 2008 to February 25, 2008 and October 15, 2008 to November 17, 2008 .....continued page 6

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**POLICE CHIEF REPORTS**

Happy New Year to all! I am looking forward to the anticipated progression in 2008. As a whole, we have made major achievements within the Police Department. Since June of last year, I have attended the monthly meetings held at the National Harbor, hosted by Major Lee James (Commander, Prince George’s County Police District IV/Oxon Hill). April 1, 2008, the first completed section of the National Harbor will be open for business. Obviously, there will be an anticipated increase in activity on the outer perimeter of Forest Heights. The Town of Forest Heights and it’s Police Department is proud to be a part of these major events and accomplishments, and looks forward to progression and growth in the months to come.

Remember we are midst of the winter months, a few snow storms are anticipated. Please be advised that snow emergency routes have been designated. Please be aware of the posted signs on particular streets as to where **NOT** to park during a snow storm. Violators will be ticketed and/or towed.

Over the past several months, there have been complaints of suspicious/drug activity with a high volume of vehicle traffic. The FHPD has been more proactive and visible in these areas. I have received several favorable comments from citizens, advising that there has been an obvious difference as a result of the “Quality of Life” enforcement effort. In the near future, we plan to have an Anonymous Citizens Hotline, specifically for any suspicious activity in and around Forest Heights. Another way to report information to Officers is to send suspicious activity information via e-mail. The Administrative division is in the process of procuring individual e-mail and voice mail accounts for each officer. Until the aforementioned is in motion, please do not hesitate to send suspicious/drug activity to FHPD2004@verizon.net or call (301)839-4040, Monday thru Friday, between 8am & 4pm and speak with any officer. Please be advised that this is an administrative number **ONLY** and should not be used to call for non-emergency police calls for service. For all **NON-Emergency** Police calls for service, please call **(301) 333-4000**. This is the number for Countywide Communications. The Prince George’s County Police Department dispatches Forest Heights Police Officers to calls for service via Police Radio.

Acting Police Chief Lt. F. R. Webb

<b><u>Crime Report Update for Month of December</u></b>		
Theft..... 1	Vehicles Impound.....1	Stolen Auto.....2
Accidents.....1	Returned Missing Person.....1	

## Council Awards Verizon Franchise for FiOS Tv

The Forest Heights Council voted to allow citizens a long-overdue, much needed choice for competition for their TV service at the December meeting by awarding Verizon franchise rights to offer fiber-optic-powered FiOS TV. Forest Heights joins Prince George's County and other municipalities in offering this service. Verizon will announce when service will began to be offered.

### Financial Status of the Town of Forest Heights

<u>Department</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Expended</u>
<u>Elected Officials</u>	27,000.00	11,434.50
<u>Administration Expense</u>		
	114,600.00	53,309.94
<u>General Administration</u>		
	254,429.00	122,596.53
<u>Police Expense</u>		
	334,024.00	125,810.47
<u>Public Works</u>		
	299,815.00	88,140.43
<u>Health &amp; Sanitation</u>		
	180,000.00	62,090.01
<u>Income</u>		
Budgeted in FY08	1,276,800.00	
Actual receipts as of 12/07	560,000.00	

We are keeping a close eye on our budget and will adjust the FY08 budget expenditures as necessary for the financial well being of the Town. Town Finance reports from the Town Treasurer are given at the January, April, July and October Town Meetings.

### REMEMBER

1. Make sure your car registration lists **"Forest Heights"** as the town in which you reside **NOT "Oxon Hill"**, this ensures that we get our proper tax from the state and assistance for our streets.
2. Make sure that on your State Income Tax form you specify that the Incorporated Municipality you live is **"Forest Heights"**

### **HOMESTEAD TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY**

Effective October 1, 2007, a new law enacted by the 2007 session of the Maryland General Assembly requires all homeowners to make a one-time application in order to be eligible to receive or continue receiving the Homestead Tax Credit. The Homestead Tax Credit law limits each year the amount of assessment increase on which an eligible resident homeowner actually pays County, Municipal and State property taxes. The application is required to insure that all property owners the credit on the one property used as their principal residence and not on properties used for other purposes, such as a rental or vacation home.

In order to submit a Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility Application through the website [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us) you must have been issued, from the Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation, an application form containing your Real Property Account Number and an Access Number. You will be required to enter Account and Access Numbers as part of the submission process.

If you have not received an application, contact Department of Assessments and Taxation, Homestead Tax Credit Division, 301 W. Preston St, 8th Floor, Baltimore, MD

*Mayor Quincy Hines Jr- ext.222*

Mayor.fh@verizon.net

**Town Council**

**Ward I**

**C. Lynn Smith-Barnes-ext 234**

WARDIHandinHand@aol.com

**Jacqueline Goodall-ext 238**

jacquelinegoodall@msn.com

**Ward II**

**Andrea McCutcheon-ext 239**

dreinward2@aol.com

**Anne Reifsneider- ext 241**

**Ward III**

**William E Clark, Jr- ext 233**

**Tanya Hines-ext 235**

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

**Phone (301) 839-1030**

**Bonita Anderson Town Clerk ext 221**

Townclerk.fh@verizon.net

**Marjorie Munson Office Assistant**

**Miranda Shepard Town Treasurer**

**ext 223**

Towntreasurer.fh @Verizon.net

**PUBLIC WORKS**

**(301) 686-1432 -ext 231**

**Phil Ruano, Supervisor**

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**(301) 839-4040**

**Lt. Webb, Acting Chief of Police**

**ext 224**

Fwebb.fhpd@verizon.net

**Latessa Crawford, Police Clerk**

**ext 225**

Policeclerk.fh@verizon.net

**Eastover District IV Police**

**(301) 749-4900**

**Fire Department 911**

**Obituary**

**Arnold Vincent Bland**, age 43, of Manassas, VA passed away suddenly with his wife by his side. He is survived by his loving wife Donna, his six children and his parents. Earnest and Gwen Bland were former residents of Forest Heights.

Vincent attended Forest Heights Elementary School and graduated from Oxon Hill High School in 1982. He graduated from University of Maryland in 1986. Memorial services were held in Manassas on Wednesday, December 19th, 2007.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OF TOWN ORDINANCE**

Each month we will begin to include sections of the town's town ordinance so that residents will begin to familiarize themselves. We also will begin strict enforcement of the Town of Forest Heights codes, violators can be fined up to \$1000 for offenses. In recent years we have been very laxed in this area and our town shows it.

Join us in making Forest Heights the most beautiful municipality in Prince George County.

**Article 3, Section 3.5 Front and Side Yard:** Fences and footings must be confined within the property line, must not block or impede passage through any easement or right of way and cannot be more than four(4) high.

**Rear Yard:** The rear yard of a property may be enclosed by a fence. Such a fence shall not be erected beyond the front building line established by the Zoning Ordinance for the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Prince George's County, Maryland. A rear yard fence or fence and wall combination shall not exceed six(6) feet in height. County and Town Permits shall be obtained for all 6 foot fences.

**Walls:** Walls built to retain or support the lateral pressure of the earth or water or other superimposed loads shall be designed and constructed of approved masonry, reinforced concrete, steel sheet piling or other approved material within the allowable stress of accepted engineering practices.

A complete copy of the Forest Heights Ordinances may be obtained from the Town Clerk at the Municipal Building.

## ***NOTE FROM YOUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT***

The Public Works would like to advise all citizens that if you rake your leaves into the gutter and don't pick them up, the Public Works Department will pick them up and charge a fee of \$50. Also, there is a cost for pick up of propane tanks of \$30 each.

### **TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE**

### **PLEASE PUT TRASH OUT THE NIGHT BEFORE**

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

**MONDAY**—*Recycling & Trash*

**WEDNESDAY**—*Yard Waste*

**THURSDAY**—*Bulk & Trash*

**You must use trash**

**containers with lids**

Trash consist of all mixed combustibles and non-combustibles including garbage, household trash, paper, rags, and cardboard. Trash

should be placed within two feet of the curb line.

The County also collects recyclable materials in the Town on **MONDAY** (plastics, newspapers, etc.)

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. Your cooperation with Town Ordinances for disposing of residential trash is important for maintaining health and property values in the Town.

### **METAL PICK—UP**

please call the Town Hall @ (301) 839-1030, M-F 8:30 am—4:30 pm. for metal pick-up.

When shoveling walkways and driveways **DO NOT** throw the snow back into the street. The plows will just come along and pile it back up.

Rest assured we will do our best to keep the streets cleaned and ice free. Keeping cars parked on one side of the street will allow us to plow to the curb. When the plow is out during a snow, please remember that they do not have the maneuverability or stopping ability of a regular car, so please stay out of their way.

***THANK YOU!***

***Phil Ruano,  
Supervisor Public  
Work***



**RECYCLE BINS FOR RESIDENT**

**PLEASE CALL (301) 952-7630**

- *Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. Mayor/Council Workshop Sessions are held on the first Monday of each month (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday). Meetings are open to the public. Next meetings: January 16th and February 4th*

***Deadline to submit articles for the February 2008 newsletter is February 6, 2008. Articles are to be turned in via email to [townclerk.fh@verizon.net](mailto:townclerk.fh@verizon.net) or mailed to the Municipal Building at 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, MD 20745.***

**CONTINUED....TOWN ELECTIONS FOR COUNCILPERSON IN WARDS I, II & III TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12TH, 2008**

Registration applications may be obtained from the Municipal Building in Forest Heights. For any additional information regarding election registration, please contact the Town Clerk or the Prince George County Board of Elections at (301) 430-8020.

**Absentee Voters** may make an application in writing for an absentee ballot. The application must be received no later than 7 days before the election. The application shall contain an affidavit, which need not be under oath, but which shall set forth the information required. Please contact the Town Clerk of Forest Heights for additional information.

Taking a phrase from President John F. Kennedy's inauguration speech "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what can you do for your country" and inserting the words 'Town of Forest Heights'. We must all participate in our town government, by serving as elected officials, participating in decision making, by serving on committees and boards, attending town meetings and most importantly by voting on election day. Let all of the citizens work together to make Forest Heights a Town we are proud to live in.

**MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HINES**

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! Have you made your New Year's resolutions? There is a New Year's resolution that I would like to propose to the citizens of Forest Heights, which is increasing healthy living. Healthy living is a vital resolution that we should strive to maintain every day. Healthy living does not pertain strictly to the well being of our body. One vital part of healthy living is respect. The respect that we have for each other – neighbor to neighbor, the respect that we have for our community – keeping our yards cleaned, the respect that we have for our Administration, Public Works and Police Force – the people working to assure that the routine tasks of the town are completed, the streets are cleaned and our community safe. The respect for the government – the people elected to serve the needs of the community.

Things are much better than it was before. There are still some challenges, but challenges can turn into opportunities. There are some problems in the Town of Forest Heights. These problems can be resolved with your cooperation. The problem is lack of respect for our community streets and private yards. Every street has litter either tossed from cars or thrown on the ground from pedestrians. Automobiles are parked in the yards instead of on the street. Residents pass through the yards of neighbors destroying shrubbery and plantings. There are trash receptacles throughout the Town, but some people do not bother to use them. There are abandoned cars in driveways and on the streets. There has been dumping on some streets.

The cause of the problem is lack of respect for the community in which we live. The solution is simple – respect. Friends and family should know that the Town of Forest Heights will not tolerate disrespect of its community. Tell your friends who visit to throw trash in the receptacles. If we pledge to not dump in the town, to park automobiles on the street, and to remove abandoned vehicles from driveways and streets, then the community will be a healthier place.

Crime statistics in Forest Heights are minimal. Unfortunately, our neighbors in surrounding communities are not experiencing the same statistics. We must be proactive in our pursuit against crime in Forest Heights. And also, there have been a couple of recent fires in our community. **PLEASE** make sure you have working smoke detectors on all floors of your home.

This year, in the Town of Forest Heights, neighbors, let's respect our community, its neighbors, its streets and its environment and let's pledge to give back to the community, its schools – Flintstone Elementary and Forest Heights Elementary as well as the local middle and high schools. We as a community need to support our local businesses. And neighbors, let's stop criticizing and start proposing solutions. This year, in the Town of Forest Heights, neighbors, let's be neighbors and stop living next door to each other.

*Mayor Quincy Hines, Jr.*

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

### **Keeping your Energy Costs Down**

The U. S. Department of Energy estimates that you can reduce your heating and cooling needs up to 30 percent by properly insulating and weatherizing your home.

#### **Day to Day Tips:**

- Change or clean your furnace filter once a month.
- Seal leaks around doors, windows and other openings, such as pipes or ducts, with caulking or weather stripping.
- Replace broken or cracked glass and consider installing storm windows.
- Dress warmly in the home and turn down your thermostat.
- Close vents and doors in unused rooms and close dampers in unused fireplaces.
- Run your washer and dryer with full loads.

By setting your thermostat at a comfortable setting between 65 and 70 degrees during the day and slightly lower at night, lowering your setting to 58 degrees when you are away you can save as much as 3 percent on your heating bill in a 24 hour period according to the Dept. of Energy.

**Never use range-top burners or ovens for home heating purposes.**

### **Washington Area Fuel Fund**

Founded by Washington Gas in 1983, the Washington Area Fuel Fund (WAFF) helps families who do not qualify for or who have exhausted government energy assistance. WAFF provides funds for all types of fuels. For more information or to apply for WAFF funds which are available January 1st through May 31st, call the Salvation Army at 1-888-318-WAFF (9233)

### **Scholarship Program**

The Prince George's County Municipal Association is offering scholarships to residents of municipalities in Prince George's County. Applications can be picked-up at any Prince George's municipality. The entire application (including letters of recommendation) is due no later than April 30th. Incomplete applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Selection of the scholarships will be made on by a countywide selection committee and announced by the end of May.

**Student Eligibility**—Applicant must be accepted to or currently enrolled in a accredited college or university in an undergraduate degree program intended to prepare students for a career in governmental or public service. Applicant must have good scholastic standing, i.e., at least 2.0 GPA. Applicant must be a resident of a municipality in Prince George's County. If you are unsure if you reside within the boundaries, please check with your Town Hall.

Further information can be obtained from PGCMA Scholarship Committee c/o council member Michael Leszcz, City of Laurel: (301)725-5300, extension 120.

**ATTENTION RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ADVERTISE IN THE FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS**

**YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR TOWN NEWLETTER**

Monthly Advertising Rates are as follows

Full Page—\$100      Half Page—\$50      Quarter Page \$25      Business Card—\$10      Inserts -\$50

Minimum 2 Month Advertisement

Circulation is approx. 1,000 which includes distribution to Forest Heights Residents, business, community churches and other Prince George's County Municipalities.