



# ***FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS***

**Incorporated 1949**

**53rd Year, Issue No. 6**

**March 2006**

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR - TOWN GETS TOUGH ON DRUGS**



time to be in Forest Heights.

Spring has sprung and we are looking forward to continued growth and development in our community. The Mayor and Town Council continue to work to stay in step with the socio-economic development around us. Already, we are seeing positive signs as the Wilson Bridge and National Harbor projects aid in raising the values of our properties. Add to these projects the approval in the District of Columbia to build a baseball stadium on the Anacostia waterfront and we are now poised to see even more value added to our properties. This is an exciting

As a part of the Mayor and Town Council's commitment to enhance the lives of the residents of Forest Heights, we have implemented several amendments and ordinances to produce stability, continuity and integrity in our town government while improving the quality of life for our residents. Initiatives such as the Forest Heights Anti-Corruption Act of 2006 and the Forest Heights Legislative Practices and Procedures Act, ensure that the citizens of Forest Heights have town government which is accountable, responsible, and functioning in a way to maximize the use of your tax dollars and stabilize the value of your investments. Elected officials can no longer operate above the law in Forest Heights without facing real consequences.

With the progress that the Mayor and Town Council are making, there still are challenges to be addressed. The scourge of drug activity continues to plague neighborhoods in all quadrants of the world. We have taken steps to combat drugs in our neighborhood that have never been taken in the history of our town. The Mayor and Town Council recently passed the Hazardous Conduct Ordinance. This ordinance gives our law enforcement officers another tool in their arsenal to combat crime in Forest Heights. Those who would participate in the illegal drug market will pay both financially and judicially. Parents will now bear a \$1,000.00 cost when their children are involved in drug related activities. The word is getting out that we will not tolerate crime in Forest Heights.

As expected, the rapid changes have caused some ripples but most residents appreciate the stability and improvement in the quality of life which the Mayor and Town Council are achieving. What next? Street repair! We are ready to put your tax dollars to work on the streets. The bids are in, contractors have been selected, and scheduling is underway - June is the target.

Stick with us as we take real action to make Forest Heights the premier municipality in Maryland. We appreciate your support in keeping Forest Heights first.

Sincerely,

**2 of 4 Publications as Required by the Annotated Code of Maryland**  
**Summary of Proposed Forest Heights Town Council Resolutions 19 & 20**  
**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FOREST HEIGHTS TOWN CHARTER**

*Introduced on March 6, 2006 and shall take effect April 25, 2006.*

**Charter Amendment Number 19**, Section 33-6 (Meetings). Propose to adopt the framework of the Maryland Open Meetings Act, which permits local jurisdictions to close portions of meetings to the public that limited government business may be conducted away from the public, such as personnel issues, legal issues, contract negotiations; and other sensitive matters in an executive session from the public.

**Charter Amendment Number 20**, Section 33-22 (*Enforcement of Powers*). Propose to increase fine limits to \$1,000. The enforcement of Town ordinances is essential for maintaining the quality of living and safety of the Town's residents. The current limit for fines is \$500 which was set in 1963. Inflation has reduced the significance of the level of fines for inducing compliance with the Town's ordinances. Article 23A § 3 (a) and § 3(b)(2) of the State Code permit municipalities to levy fines as high as \$1,000.

*\*\*The full text of all amendments referred to above can be found posted on the BULLETIN BOARD at the Forest Heights Municipal Center, 5508 Arapahoe Drive, Forest Heights, Maryland 20745, (301) 839-1030. \*\**

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**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**  
**TO BANNING HAZARDOUS CONDUCT IN THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS**

On March 15, 2006 the Forest Heights Town Council passed an emergency legislation making hazardous behavior a municipal infraction. Any person arrested for drug related charges within the Town of Forest Heights shall be subject to a \$1000.00 fine. In the event that individual is a minor, his/her parent shall be liable for the fine and all costs associated with processing and/or prosecuting the infraction.

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE**  
**TO IMPLEMENT THE LEGISLATIVE PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES ACT**

On March 15, 2006 the Forest Heights Town Council passed emergency legislation to ensure the proper conduct of the Town business, proper administrative interaction with agencies outside of the municipality, and proper administration of employees of the Town of Forest Heights.

**\*\*\*ALL EMERGENCY ORDINANCES SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON ITS PASSAGE AND SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT INDEFINITELY\*\*\***

# **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM**

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## **CATEGORIES FOR SERVICE**

*Applicants may be eligible to participate in one of the following categories:*



1. Public Sector Category—applicants 14—21 who meet social or financial criteria are referred for placement in the subsidized work experience or academic enhancement activities.
2. Government Sector Category—applicants between the ages of 15—21 are referred for placement in the county government.
3. Private Sector Category—applicants between the ages of 16—21 who are referred for placement in private business in Prince George's County and the Metropolitan Area.

## **GUIDELINES**

1. Students must be in good academic standing with their school.
2. Applicants under 18 years of age must have the signature of a parent or guardian.
3. Applications will be accepted February 20, 2006 thru April 14, 2006
4. Applications received after April 14, 2006 will only be considered if additional jobs become available.
5. To be considered applications must be accurately and fully completed.

Please come by the Municipal Building, 5508 Arapahoe Dr., Forest Heights, MD 20745, during the hours of 8:30 am– 4:30pm to pick up an application.

## **IT'S TAX TIME!**

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**KEEP YOUR INCOME TAXES IN FOREST HEIGHTS!**

WRITE FOREST HEIGHTS AS YOUR MUNICIPALITY ON YOUR MARYLAND INCOME TAX RETURN. IF YOU DON'T, TAXES THAT SHOULD GO TO FOREST HEIGHTS WILL GO TO OXON HILL OR TO THE STATE.

### **FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745**

FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND 20745 IS A UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE RECOGNIZED ADDRESS. TELL EVERYONE WHO SEND YOU MAIL THAT YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS IS FOREST HEIGHTS, MD.

### ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

*FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2006*

**AREA-WIDE COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP**

**OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENTS TO EARN COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE TOWN HALL FOR MORE INFORMATION AT (301) 839-1030**

# **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS 2006 APPLICATIONS**

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Any person or group maintaining property in Prince George's County is invited to submit an application for the 35th Annual Beautification awards. Better yet, enter yourself! Please come by the Municipal Building, 5508 Arapahoe Dr., Forest Heights, MD 20745, during the hours of 8:30 am– 4:30pm to pick up an application.

## **KEN-E TOWING**

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In order to help the town of Forest Heights with the clean-up efforts. Ken-E Towing is offering free towing of unwanted vehicles. Call Ken-E Towing at (240) 505-5114 or Forest Heights for more information.

## **CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE**

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The Mayor and Town Council is seeking volunteers 3 persons from each ward to be directly involved with the Town's Government. Please contact the town hall for more information at (301) 839-1030.

## **OUR TOWN COMMITMENT**

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### *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.

## **ADVERTISEMENT IN THE FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS**

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### **ATTENTION RESIDENTS ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER**

WE ARE SEEKING ARTICLES FOR OUR NEW COMMUNITY BUSINESSES AND SERVICES SECTION COMING IN APRIL 2006. CIRCULATION IS APPROXIMATELY 1,000 WHICH INCLUDE DISTRIBUTIONS TO FOREST HEIGHTS RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, COMMUNITY CHURCHES & OTHER PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES.

MONTHLY ADVERTISEMENT RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FRONT PAGE—\$250

FULL PAGE—\$100

BACK PAGE—\$105

HALF PAGE—\$50

QUARTER—\$25

BUSINESS CARD—\$10

MINIMUM 2 MONTHS ADVERTISEMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT BONITA ANDERSON AT (301) 839-1030

# TOWN TRASH COLLECTION

## Waste Management

### TRASH COLLECTION SCHEDULE

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

MONDAY—*Recycling*

TUESDAY—*Trash*

WEDNESDAY—*Bulk*

FRIDAY—*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.)

Every WEDNESDAY, tree trimmings, grass and leaves will be picked up, provided they are no longer than 4 feet and tied in small bundles. Grass clippings should be in trash bags.

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.

### YARD WASTE

Waste Management will continue to pick up the town's yard waste with regular scheduled trash pick-up.

Please make sure your yard waste is in plastic bags, not trash cans.

**THANK YOU!**



**RECYCLE BINS FOR RESIDENT**  
**PLEASE CALL (301) 952-7630**

# WORK SESSION & TOWN MEETING SCHEDULE

## *Next Town Meeting*

*April 19, 2006*



Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. during the months of September - June.

Mayor/Council Work Sessions are held on the first Monday of the month (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or as absolutely necessary).

Meetings are open to the public.

## *Mayor/Council Work Session*

- Monday, April 3 @ 7:30 pm
- Monday, May 1 @ 7:30 pm

## *Town Meeting*

- Wednesday, April 19 @ 8 pm
- Wednesday, May 17 @ 8 pm

**Deadline to submit articles for the April 2006 newsletter is April 7, 2006. 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.**

Mayor Myles Spires, Jr.  
mayor.fh@verizon.net

TOWN COUNCIL:

Ward I

Alice Hoskins—(301) 839-1030  
thecook@worldnet.att.net  
George Wiggers—(301) 839-3712  
wiggers@forestheights.biz

Ward II

Clifton Atkinson—(301) 567-4839  
cliftonatkinson1@yahoo.com

Ward III

Worthington Ross—(301) 567-5016  
wsross@comcast.net  
Larry Stoner—(301) 839-9040

ADMINISTRATIVE OF FICES

Phone: (301) 839-1030  
Ronnette Watts, *Town Treasurer*  
towntreasurer.fh@verizon.net  
Bonita Anderson, *Town Clerk*  
townclerk.fh@verizon.net  
Lillian King, *Receptionist*  
receptionist.fh@verizon.net

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Phone: (301) 686-1432  
Javier Nazario, Supervisor

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Phone: (301) 839-4040  
William Waithe, *LT/Acting Chief*  
fhp2004@verizon.net  
Latessa Crawford, *Police Clerk*  
policeclerk.fh@verizon.net

**CRIME REPORT**  
**POLICE CHIEF UPDATE**  
**February 2006**

**February 2006**

Theft .....	0
Property Damage .....	0
Vehicle Impound .....	0
Theft from Auto .....	0
Stolen Tag .....	0
Robbery.....	0
Stolen Auto .....	0
Vandalism to Auto .....	2
Assault.....	2
Recovered Stolen Vehicle .....	1
Residential B & E.....	0
Arrest .....	3
Attempted Stolen Auto .....	0
Accident .....	0
Lost Property.....	0
Found Property .....	0

Forest Heights Police Dept.  
(301) 839-4040  
Eastover District IV Police  
(301) 749-4900  
Maryland Park Police  
(301) 459-9088



**CURFEW REMINDER: ALL TEENS AGES 16 AND UNDER SHOULD NOT BE ON THE STREETS DURING THE HOURS LISTED BELOW WITHOUT AN ADULT.**  
**FRIDAY—SATURDAY: 12:00 AM TO 5:00 AM**  
**SUNDAYS—THURSDAY: 10:00 PM TO 5:00 AM**