



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

You are Invited on Monday, March 10th

Last year prior to elections Forest Heights Citizens were invited to come out to meet and question the candidates for Mayor, this meeting was received well by those that attended. Citizens asked at the March workshop if they would again be afforded the opportunity to meet and talk with the candidates and the answer is yes. On Monday, March 10th at 7:00 pm all citizens are invited to the Municipal Building to have the opportunity to meet all the candidates. See you there.

Real Help for Anyone Looking to Avoid Foreclosure

Remember the day you finally found the home of your dreams, signed all those papers to own your home and how you felt when you finally unpacked that last box. No one could foresee that the economy would take the plunge that it has, the unexpected layoff, the illness that has lasted a little longer than expected or that the rise in the adjustable rate would arrive so soon (and you didn't have time to refinance). If you are one of the thousands of people that are currently facing financial difficulties and foreclosure , there is HOPE.

We all have seen the signs—1-800– I will buy your house or received junk mail stating we will save you from foreclosure. Don't call the number or answer the junk mail. There are real solutions for anyone facing financial problems with their mortgage.

The worst thing that you can do when facing mortgage problems is to do nothing. You must take action NOW to avoid losing your home.

First Step— Call your lender right away to address the problem. Even before you miss the first payment, but know this month's payment may be a little late. Make that call there are options your lender may have.

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- *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: March 19th, April 7th and April 16th*

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POLICE CHIEF REPORTS

The Forest Heights Police Department has implemented a new schedule that will produce a higher amount of visibility, as well as coverage throughout Forest Heights. This schedule will commence in mid-March. Although we have endured personnel changes and budget cuts ending in a result of less manpower, we have developed a new schedule that will allow maximum coverage with the available manpower. Between the dates of February 02 thru February 22, 2008, the Forest Heights Police Department has responded to approximately 32 calls for service. The following is a list of total revenue received in January and February 2008 by the Town as a result of enforcement efforts by the Forest Heights Police Department. Our motto as always as law enforcement officers is to Protect and Serve.

Police Chief F. R. Webb

<u>Crime Report Update for Month of February</u>		
Vehicles Impound.....2	Theft from Auto.....1	Assault.....1
Arrest.....1	Recovery of Stolen Auto...1	
<u>Forest Heights Police Department Revenue Received YTD</u>		
Fingerprinting.....\$880.00	Red Light Citation.....\$6,175.00	Parking Violation Notices....\$1,750.00
Vehicle Release.....\$500.00	Ordinance Violation...\$150.00	Incident Reports.....\$30.00

**EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO AMEND
SECTION 15.3.2 (S) PARKING RESTRICTIONS**

Amendment was made for clarification of subsection (S), it now shall read:

(S)No person shall park a vehicle or motorcycle or boat or trailer on the ease-
ment of any Town or private property, which lies between curb line and (12)
feet in on any Town or private property. To request exception for extreme
emergency contact the Forest Heights police.

**All emergency ordinances shall take effect immediately upon on its
passage and shall remain in effect indefinitely. This amendment was
passed at the February 27th, 2008 Town Meeting effective that date.**

For a complete copy of the Forest Heights Ordinance please contact the Town
Clerk’s office at the Municipal Building, 5508 Arapahoe Drive.

MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Everyone knows by now that Hillary Clinton is the first woman to run for President of the United States and to be a serious contender for the Democratic nominee, but do we ever think how she arrived there?

Voting rights for women was first seriously proposed for women in the U.S. in July 1948 at the Seneca Falls Women's Right Convention organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. It would take another 72 years for Congress to pass into law the Nineteenth Amendment, allow women to right to vote.

Who was the first woman to vote under the 19th Amendment? On August 31, 1920, a special election was held in Hannibal, MO for the seat of an alderman who had resigned. An despite pouring down rain, Mrs. Marie Ruoff Byrum cast her ballot in the first ward. She became the first woman to vote in Missouri and the first woman to vote under the 19th Amendment.

March 8th is International Women's Day, check the library and/or the internet for other contributions that women have made to the world.



You can never plough a field by turning it over in your mind.

Old Irish Proverb

Message from your Treasurer

In these times of high inflation many of you are looking for ways to maximize your income from your job. Here are some tips I found online, I hope they help.

1. Keep your eyes open for better ways to do your job! Streamline a procedure, become an expert on a particular subject, volunteer for a company committee, all these are things that could make you stand out and put you in line for a bonus or raise.
2. Don't be afraid to negotiate! It has been found that those who negotiate received a larger raise than those who didn't.
3. Contribute as much as you can to your 401(k) and other tax-deferred retirement plans. You'll not only bill a bigger nest egg, but you will also cut your tax bill.
4. Flex your savings muscle. Contribute pretax dollars to a flexible spending account for your dependent care or out of pocket medical expenses. If you set aside \$1500. per year and you're in the 25% tax bracket, avoiding federal income tax and social security taxes means that Uncle Sam could be subsidizing almost \$500 of your expenses.

Hope this helps.

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

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

Spring and Summer Programs

Councilperson Lynn Smith-Barnes is seeking volunteers for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Persons interested in helping to develop the 2008 programs for seniors and the youth should contact Councilperson Barnes.

Municipal Building—301-839-1030

Via email at—Ward1handinhand@aol.com.

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.

Section 15.3.2 Parking Restrictions

It shall be unlawful, and it is hereby prohibited, to park, to leave standing, whether occupied or not, or to stop except when necessary to avoid an accident, or while actually loading or discharging passengers or merchandise, or in compliance with the directions of the police officer or traffic control device, any vehicle , at any time in any of the following places within the Corporate limits of Forest Heights

Within 60 feet of any designated school crosswalk between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm;

In such a position that either wheel on the side of vehicle closes to the curb or edge of the street is more than twelve (12) inches from said curb or edge;

In front of, on or in such a position as to obstruct all free vehicular access to any public or private driveway without the permission of the owner or in such a position as to obstruct a sidewalk;

On the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked on the edge or at the curb of a street;

On any street in such a position or under such conditions as to leave available less than ten (10) feet of the width of the roadway for free movement of vehicular traffic.

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

As a reminder to residents of our town. Residents are responsible for disposing of the following items: automobile motors and parts, fallen trees, cinder blocks, concrete, building materials, motor cycles, etc.

Residents must schedule with public works the pick up of water heaters and inoperative appliances a service charge of \$35.00 per item will be assessed.

Fines for violations can be up to \$100 for first offense and up to \$200 for repeat offenses.

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*

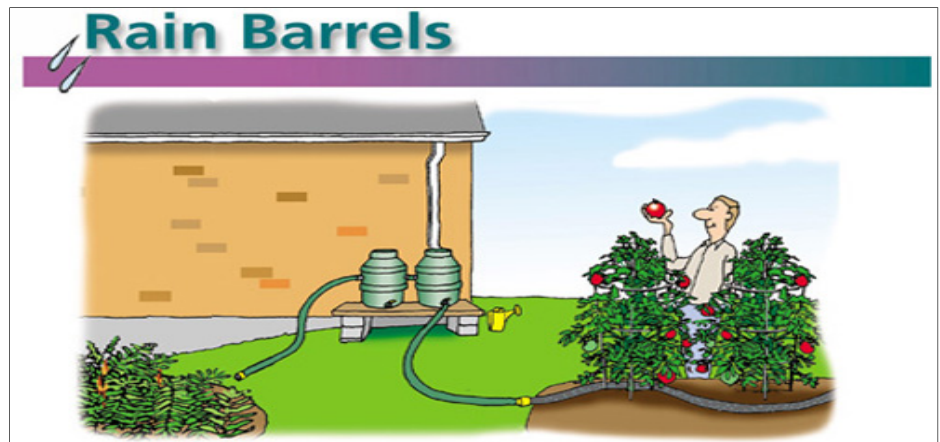
THURSDAY—*Bulk & Trash*

You must use trash containers with lids

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

THANK YOU!

*Phil Ruano, Supervisor
Public Work*



Rain barrels are containers or systems which collect and store rain water from rooftops for later use, providing valuable and useful opportunities for water conservation while also preventing the loss of "stormwater" as runoff, which is frequently channeled into nearby streams and rivers, carrying pollutants and other contaminants into neighboring ecosystems and on to the Chesapeake Bay.

Inexpensive rain barrels can be made from food grade plastic barrels or heavy-duty trash cans, often for as little as 15 dollars, or they can be purchased pre-made from numerous nonprofit agencies, commercial manufacturers and retailers, in prices ranging from 25 to 150 dollars.

Rain barrels can be used individually or linked in tandem to capture a greater volume of water. They can be tapped to fill a watering can for watering hanging baskets and other plants, or used as the central water source for water-saving drip irrigation systems.

RECYCLE BINS FOR RESIDENT

PLEASE CALL (301) 952-7630



KEN E TOWING

JUNK CARS REMOVED FREE

PHONE: 240-505-5114

OXON HILL, MARYLAND

FORECLOSURE HELP (CONTINUED)

If you find yourself in a temporary financial hardship, your mortgage company may agree to temporarily reduce or suspend your payments. This is a forbearance agreement, a temporary solution for a temporary problem.

If your problem is more permanent in nature, you may talk with your mortgage company about a loan modification. This could modify the number of years of the loan or change the adjustable interest rate to a fixed one.

It is also important to know who is the secondary lender, do you have a FHA insured loan, a FANNIEMAE insured loan or a FREDDIEMAC insured loan? This is important because all of the secondary lenders, have also stepped in with programs to assist you in keeping your home. REMEMBER, banks do not want your home, they would rather find ways to keep you in your home.

FHA has developed many products that will assist you refinancing your home with a fixed FHA loan from an adjustable rate loan. If your home loan is current and you want to refinance, regardless of what your credit score or if you have missed payments after your interest rate adjusted call **1-800-CALL-FHA** or contact them through **www.fha.gov**.

If you have a FANNIEMAE loan and don't get help from your lender call **1-800-7FANNIE**

Other sources for refinancing are offered through HOPE loan programs that were created by Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development.

Lifeline Refinance Mortgage Program provides a refinancing option to Marylanders who may be facing difficulties, you do need to have an acceptable credit score of at least 600 for this program. Another program offered by DHCD is the Homesaver Refinance Mortgage Program minimum credit score required is 550. If you are behind in your mortgage payments an/or you are facing foreclosure, you may be eligible for assistance through DHCD's Bridge to HOPE loan. This program provides homeowners with short-term relief from residential mortgage foreclosures if borrowers experience financial difficulties caused by either a subprime or exotic mortgage, or one that is preparing to reset. Call **877-462-7555** or contact them through **www.mdhousing.org** or **www.mdhope.org**

Second Step– Contact a FHA Approved housing counselor.

There are many housing counselors out there, make sure you ask if they are FHA approved, before you work with them. Listed are several housing counselors that are.

Greater Washington Urban League 202-265-8200

Housing Initiative Partnership, Inc. 301-699-3835

Kairos Development Corporation 301-899-1180

Sowing Empowerment & Economic Development, Inc.

301-458-9808

Homeownership Preservation 24 hr FREE Counseling HOTLINE

888-995-HOPE (4673)

National Homeownership Sustainability Fund 202-628-8866 or 800-475-6272

The Community Law Center located in Baltimore is there to help you if you have a complaint against a lender, feel you have been a victim of predatory lending or need to find legal assistance. Contact them at **410-366-0922** for more information

Finally, if you have a home that you have refinanced or received a home equity loan and you still have been able to maintain your payments, but you are in an adjustable rate mortgage loan or variable rate loan– get out of it now, before it resets. There are several programs available for you, call your lender or another lender that will assist you in finding a fixed rate low.

In April, the Mayor and the Town Counsel will host a housing fair to address the problems that many of our citizens are facing. We want you to know we are concerned and to know that there is help available for you to continue to be a homeowner. Please call one of the above housing counselors, if you need help right away. Call your lender about possibilities available to you. Have the same HOPE that you had in saving your home as you had when you first saw that home.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

How much water do you use?

Flushing toilets	5-7 gallons
Taking a shower	3 gallons per min.
Taking a bath	50 gallons
Running a facet	3 gallons per min.
Dishwasher	25 gallons per use
Washer	25-30 gallons per wash
Washing your car	100-300 gallons
Watering a yard	7 gallons per min.
Shaving	20 gallons running
Washing hands	2 gallons running

Each person uses an average of 66 gallons per day.

If you are experiencing an extremely high water bill, the culprit could be your toilet. A leaky toilet could be using 3 to 5 gallons per minute. The three most common culprits are the flapper, siphon tube or the overflow. It is very easy to check for leaks in your toilet, place some dark food coloring in your tank and watch for leakage into the bowl. If you see color leakage you should turn off the water valve until it is fixed. This could save on your next bill. If you find that your toilet is the culprit, WSSC will give you a one-time credit on your water bill, contact them.

If you still are experiencing high bills WSSC offers property inspections for plumbing problems, there is a fee for this service.

WSSC 1-800-634-8400

SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK

It's that time again, beginning in 2007 the United States began daylight savings time at 2:00 am on the second Sunday in March. This year we will take that spring forward on March 9th. However, little did you know that while twins born at 11:55 pm and 12:05 am may have different birthdays, Daylight Savings Time can change the order of their birth - on paper anyway. During the fall change in the fall, one baby could be born at 1:55am and the second baby born ten minutes later will be born at 1:05am. In the spring, there will be a gap when no babies are born at all, between 2am and 3 am. Don't forget to set clocks forward on Sunday, March 9th.

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.