



# ***Moving Forward***

Paula R. Noble  
MAYOR

**51st Year, Issue No. 9**

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

**Incorporated 1949**

**September 2004**

*Bonita Anderson, Editor*

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS, MARYLAND, WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION ON THE PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF BONDS AUTHORIZING THAT \$2,000,000 OF PUBLIC DEBT BE ISSUED UNDER THE STATE OF MARYLAND'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE BOND PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY OF SECTION 2-204(16)(IV) OF ARTICLE 83B OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, AS AMENDED. THE PURPOSE OF THIS DEBT IS TO FUND THE COST OF ROAD REPAIRS AND RECONSTRUCTION WITHIN THE TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS AND TO PAY COSTS OF ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS.

**PLACE OF MEETING: MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2004**

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15, 2004 TO : TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS, MD AT 5508 ARAPAHOE DRIVE, FOREST HEIGHTS, MD 20745.

TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS

**FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS**

# Important Numbers & Email Addresses

### **Mayor Paula R. Noble**

(301) 839-1030  
[mayor.fh@verizon.net](mailto:mayor.fh@verizon.net)

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

#### • **Ward I**

Lynn Smith-Barnes  
(301) 749-9741

[WARD1HandinHand@aol.com](mailto:WARD1HandinHand@aol.com)

George Wiggers—(301) 839-3712  
[wiggers@forestheights.biz](mailto:wiggers@forestheights.biz)

#### • **Ward II**

Clifton Atkinson—(301) 567-4839  
Joyce Beck—(301) 567-0084

#### • **Ward III**

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

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

**Phone: (301) 839-1030**

**Hours of Operation:**

**8:30 am—4:30 pm**

#### **Town Administrator**

Cynthia H. Farrar  
[townadministrator@verizon.net](mailto:townadministrator@verizon.net)

#### **Town Clerk**

Bonita Anderson  
[townclerk.fh@verizon.net](mailto:townclerk.fh@verizon.net)

#### **Receptionist**

Gloria Wallace

### **PUBLIC WORKS DEPT**

**Hours of Operation:**

**6:00 am—4:30 pm**

#### **Maintenance Supervisor**

William Clarke—(301) 686-1432

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Hours of Operation:**

**8:30 am—4:30 pm**

**Phone: (301) 839-4040**

#### **Chief of Police**

Bernard Sewell  
[fhpd2004@verizon.net](mailto:fhpd2004@verizon.net)

#### **Police Clerk**

Latessa Crawford  
[policeclerk.fh@verizon.net](mailto:policeclerk.fh@verizon.net)



# Work Session & Town Meeting Schedule

**COUNCIL WILL MEET EVERY MONDAY. TIMES WILL BE POSTED. PLEASE CALL TOWN HALL.**

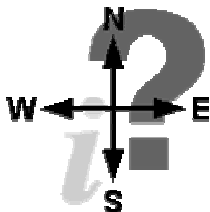
Town Meetings are always held on the third Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. during the months of September - June. Mayor/Council Work Sessions are held on the first Monday of the month (Tuesday when Monday is a holiday or as absolutely necessary). Meetings are open to the public. The next Council Work Session will be Tuesday, October 4, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.

- September 15th—Public Hearing/Town Meeting
- October 4th—Work Session
- October 20th—Town Meeting
- November 1st—Work Session
- November 17th—Town Meeting
- December 6th—Work Session
- December 15th—Town Meeting

# Town of Forest Heights Trivia

In the Town of Forest Heights:

1. On what street is the water tower located? Ottawa Street
2. What street has the same name as a state? Delaware Drive
3. What neighbor has a rose garden planted? Mrs. Muhammad



## FIRST PRESIDENTIAL YACHT

A successful stockbroker had a wooden steam-driven schooner built in New York for \$200,000 in 1873. Three years later he had serious financial problems and sold the schooner at auction. The U.S. Government bought it for \$90,000. The Navy refitted the vessel and named it The U.S. DESPATCH for President Rutherford B. Hayes. It was also used by Presidents James A. Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland and Benjamin Harrison. The Despatch was sailing from Brooklyn to Washington in October 1891 to pick up President Harrison and take him to the Naval Proving Grounds, when in a storm it sank off Assateague Island, Virginia. Everyone survived.

**THOUGHT:** Quit blaming others for your failures. Change yourself and the world around you will get better.

Forest Heights Homemakers



## Would you like to receive the Forest Heights News monthly or quarterly?

Please forward all comments to Bonita Anderson or Gloria Wallace at the Municipal Building via phone (301) 839-1030, mail to 5508 Arapahoe Drive or email [townclerk.fh@verizon.net](mailto:townclerk.fh@verizon.net). Look forward to hearing your comments.



## VOLUNTEERS FOR TREE PLANTING

Saturday, October 16, 2004, will mark the second annual celebration of Gorgeous Prince George's Day, rain or shine. The Town of Forest Heights will be planting trees and shrubs. We are seeking volunteers for this annual celebration of tree and shrub planting. Interested parties please contact the Municipal Building at (301) 839-1030, with your name or names of others who are willing to participate.



*"Celebration of Gorgeous Prince George's Day, rain or shine."...*

*Deadline to submit articles for the November 2004 newsletter is September 24, 2004. 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 Dr., Forest Heights, MD 20745.*

## **TOWN TRASH COLLECTION**

Trash shall be collected and removed beginning at 6:30 am each **TUESDAY & FRIDAY**. Waste Management 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 health 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 BEGIN AT 6:30 a.m.**

**MONDAY**—*Recycling*

**TUESDAY**—*Trash*

**WEDNESDAY**—*Bulk & Yard Waste*

**FRIDAY**—*Trash*

**PLEASE CONTACT WASTE MANAGEMENT AT (301) 702-3558 OR TOWN CLERK AT (301) 839-1030, WITH ANY TRASH COMPLAINTS**



**Town of Forest Heights  
5508 Arapahoe Drive  
Forest Heights, MD 20745  
Phone: (301) 839-1030  
Fax: (301) 839-9236  
Email: townclerk.fh@verizon.net**

***CURRENT RESIDENT***

## The Proposed \$2 Million Bond Issue

On Wednesday, September 15, 2004, at 7:00 P.M., the Town Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed bond issue that will be used to finance the repair and reconstruction of the Town's streets.

**History** Oscar Baca, a professional highway engineer, measured and inventoried all the Town's streets in early 2001, identifying pavement, curb, sidewalk and drainage work that would be required to restore each street to a good condition. (Talbert Drive was excluded because it was being reconstructed under a Federal Grant)

Mr. Baca's estimate for the work was \$1.98 million. The major cost categories were curbs & gutters (\$837,578), asphalt (\$551,968), driveways (\$180,626), milling (\$109,480), pavement preparation (\$79,674), sidewalks (\$70,349), and speed humps (\$34,500) (together accounting for 94 percent of the total estimate). Copies of the Baca Report are available at the Municipal Building. Note that curbs and gutter work account for a substantial portion of the proposed project – this concrete is now over 50 years old and is failing in many areas. Mr. Baca cautioned that steps should be taken soon to repair the streets because the under-base of the streets will begin to crumble, further increasing the cost of repair.

Mr. Baca proposed a seven year program for completing the work, where streets that were in the worst condition would be repaired first.

Since the report, the only major street repair work in Forest Heights was the paving of North Huron Drive in September 2001 at a cost of \$76,384. That project accomplished only part of Mr. Baca's recommended work for that street.

In early 2004, the Mayor and Town Council concluded that the revenues coming to the Town from various sources was insufficient to sustain a street repair program as envisioned by Mr. Baca.

**Tax Increase** At the April 2004 Town meeting, the Town Council voted to increase the Town's property tax rate from \$0.256 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.466 (later corrected to \$0.470). The total assessed value of private property in Forest Heights is \$106,330,259 as of July 1, 2004, and the \$0.210 increase in the tax rate should yield an additional \$223,294 annually in real property revenues to the Town. Only part of the increase was intended to cover debt service on the proposed bond issue, the remainder covering increases in outlays for the police department, a new snow plow, employee salaries and other improvements to Town services.

**Bond Repayment** An approximation of debt service payments for a 20 year bond issue at 4.65 percent is \$155 thousand annually. Readers should keep in mind that there are a number of other factors that will go into the actual cost of selling the bonds and the final repayment schedule, including the final market yield on the bond sale.

**Options** Forest Heights now has three basic options: (1) Continue funding street repair on a funds available basis as has been done in prior years. This option would lead to continued deterioration of the Town's streets. (2) Increase taxes to cover the cost of repairs within a four year period, spending \$500 thousand per year out of current tax revenues. The property tax rate over last year's base rate of \$0.260 per \$100 would have to be tripled to support this burst in outlays. (3) Conduct all the work within a three to five year period using the proceeds of the proposed bond sale. The nominal 4.65 percent interest rate adds to the cost of the project, but allows the work to proceed without any undue delay, and avoids the much sharper increase in taxes under the foregoing options.

Now, is the time for the Town to take advantage of the low interest rates available for municipal bonds.

**THANK YOU TO OUR  
DONORS & PARTICIPANTS IN  
THE FOUNDER'S DAY FESTIVAL**

**BP Gas—Amoco  
COMCAST  
Desserts by Gerald's  
Eastover Liquors  
Forest Heights Automotive  
Himina Jackson  
Forest Heights Public Works Department  
Giant Food  
Henry's Soul Café**

**Kalas Funeral Home  
Levi's NC Barbeque  
Lee's Convenience Store  
Mead's Liquors  
Mike's Liquors  
Murry's Steakhouse  
McDonald's  
Maryland I—Blue Knights  
Maryland II—Blue Knights  
Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission  
Mercantile Bank  
Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison  
Mrs. Wilma Smith**

**Nancy Saxon  
Norris Garage  
Prince George's County Government  
REMAX  
RC Tolbert  
Safeway  
Staples  
Silesia Companies, Inc.  
Terri Greene  
The Exposure Group  
Urban America  
WSSC**

