

Seneca Whetstone Homeowners' Assoc. Inc.

P.O. Box 2825 ♦ Gaithersburg, MD ♦ 20886-2825

NEWSLETTER

February 2007

GREETINGS FROM THE SENECA WHETSTONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SWHO A email address:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swhoa>

IMPORTANT DATES:

NEXT BOARD MEETING: March 12, 2007 7:30 p.m.

May 14, 2007

July 9, 2007

September 10, 2007

November 12, 2007

Place: Gaithersburg Public Library

Annual Meeting: December 3, 2007 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Place: Forest Oak Lodge
(Rt. 355 & Game Preserve Rd.)

Message from the President:

Hi Neighbors,

You sent a message loud and clear at the December 6, 2006, Annual Meeting. We must be doing a great job, since only the VERY minimum number of SWHOA homeowners showed up. Of course, you're all invited next year, if only to compliment us in person.

2006 turned out to be a good year for our community, as we reached out to our neighbors for help and cooperation towards constructing a plan with the County and City for widening Old Game Preserve Road. We also established regular contact with County advocates for Badger Drive improvements. I believe the Board's representation of SWHOA has vastly improved chances of having our needs considered in the high stakes municipal budget processes in Montgomery County and the City of Gaithersburg.

Otherwise in 2006: we published 3 newsletters, managed revenues and expenses to a balanced budget, and maintained the neighborhood's fine appearance. Your Board plans to continue offering these services and more in the coming year.

We have several appeals in this newsletter for your cooperation as "good neighbors." Please attend to the suggestions that apply, so we can get at least the easy stuff done in 2007!

Sincere regards,

Winn

TRASH HAPPENS!

Anybody experience this? You're out for a walk in your neighborhood, enjoying the environment, homes and yards well-kept, streetlights working, common trees trimmed, and then you notice a scrap of litter. No problem; you just stoop to pick it up. Then, another piece appears; then, since you're looking now, another and another and...You're now looking for a discarded plastic bag to put it all in so you can do your part and carry home what you find. And you're now wondering what your neighbors have done in your situation.

Well, probably the same, and still despite our greatest efforts, TRASH HAPPENS!

And it will continue. Here's what we'll do:

Homeowner, make sure your yard is free of litter and yard waste.

If you have large trash items, arrange a pickup with B&B at (301) 424-1427.

If you have large recyclable or yard waste items, arrange a pickup with Montgomery County at 240-777-6410.

As the weather improves and you once again take those pleasant strolls throughout the neighborhood, especially down to Rt. 355, please remember to take a small trash bag with you to collect any debris you may find along the way. If we all do just a little, it will have a huge impact on the appearance of our neighborhood.

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

Annual assessments should be in the mail by February 15, 2007. Please return payment within one month to Jay Long. If you are behind on dues payments, your outstanding balance and any fees associated with them will be reflected on the invoice.

ANNUAL YARD SALE

We are once again planning on having a spring yard sale on Saturday, April 14, 2007. This will be a great opportunity to get rid of those "treasures" that you have stored in the basement or garage! Your trash may well be someone else's treasure! We also will arrange for a dumpster for unsold items that you no longer wish to keep. Please do not use the dumpster for yard waste or renovation/construction debris—the idea is to use the dumpster for yard sale items only. Do you want to help organize this effort? Please contact a Board member as soon as possible.

PICNIC, ANYONE?

Once again we are asking if residents of Seneca Whetstone are interested in a summer picnic. We have not had one in a couple of years now, so this may be a great time to revive this activity. Please contact the Board if you are interested in this event. It may be hard to imagine a summer picnic while the weather is so cold and icy, but it won't be long before warm weather will be here and school will be ending for another year. We'll need to start planning soon to make it a successful event!

WEBSITE

We now have a neighborhood website, hosted on Neighborhood Links! Although it is sparsely populated at the moment, it does have some content, with more to come in the near future. The link to our fledgling website is: www.neighborhoodlink.com/gaithersburg/swhoa. Please check it out!

CHRISTMAS DECORATING!

It has been suggested that the entire neighborhood might enjoy getting together after Thanksgiving to decorate the light poles along our streets, as a few of our residents have done in the past, and enjoy camaraderie and holiday cheer (hot chocolate and cookies, perhaps?). What do you think? Let us know!

REMINDERS...

Please remember to maintain a maximum speed of 25 M.P.H. in the neighborhood. It's the law, and more important, our children's lives depend on your safe driving.

Yield and Stop signs have a purpose. Please observe them—particularly the Stop sign at the end of Gatlin Drive.

DOGGY DOO! PLEASE DON'T....

Wow! Who knew that some yards and the rights-of-way in the neighborhood have become a public bathroom for pets? When did that happen?

Apparently it happened gradually over time, and it has become quite a nuisance. Please, dog owners, when you are walking your pets please clean up after them. Your neighbors do not want to walk out in their yards and find a "surprise" in the lawn or by a tree near the curb. In addition to being unsightly and smelly, it is unsanitary for all of us, especially small children.

Please remember that **Montgomery County law** requires pet owners to clean up the mess left by their pets. You can be fined \$100 if someone files a complaint.

Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203 (a)(2):

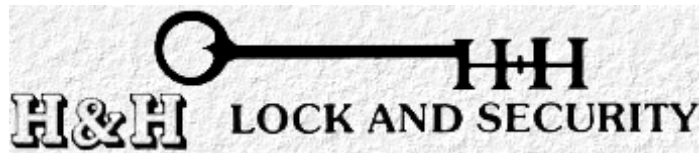
An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner's property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes of the feces by a sanitary method approved by the Director.



Important Phone Numbers

Abandoned Vehicles	301-840-2454
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Consumer Affair	240-777-3636
County Call Center	240-777-6000
CPWI Resale/Mortgage Assistance	301-309-8977
Housing Code Enforcement	240-777-3785
Landlord-Tenant Affairs	240-777-3609
Police (non-emergency)	240-777-2600
Snow Removal/Potholes	240-777-7623
Street Lights	240-777-2190

See <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/apps/Phonebook/phonebook.asp> for a full listing



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