

Seneca Whetstone Homeowners' Assoc. Inc.

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

May 2007

NEWSLETTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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lmsturtz@comcast.net

SECRETARY

/TREASURER

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ARCHITECTURAL CHAIR

Jim Casey

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Architectural Committee

Dan Deist

dan@ttbservices.com

SWHOA email address:

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

GREETINGS FROM THE SENECA WHETSTONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IMPORTANT DATES:

NEXT BOARD MEETING: July 9, 2007 7:30 p.m.

September 10, 2007

November 19, 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,

Wow! The neighborhood looks good in the spring! All neighbors are commended for expert lawn upkeep, landscaping, and diligent trash pickup in the common areas. Thanks!

For our part, the Board continues to maintain your neighborhood services, particularly the grass cutting and the trash collection. For these and other services, we need prompt payment of dues. Please send your check if you haven't done so already. We will now aggressively pursue payment on long-outstanding accounts with legal help, and the fees will be paid by the homeowner.

We also are keeping an eye on the future of Old Game Preserve Road. The Travis Avenue Self Storage Zone proposal is moving ahead; the City of Gaithersburg Planning Commission has asked the developer to complete plans and land purchases and to seek approvals from the County on storm water management improvements. For more details on this matter, see http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/poi/default.asp?POI_ID=1413&TOC=310;1413.

We are still working with the County for comprehensive OGP road improvements beyond what the developer is offering. We want a safe road with adequate traffic management for minimal disruption to our neighborhood.

Our Annual Picnic is planned for July 21. We plan to have a catered event and hope for enthusiastic participation. Come say hello to a neighbor you don't know - act locally!

Thanks for reading this quarter's newsletter.

Regards,

Winn

SUMMER PICNIC

We are looking for volunteers for the 2007 Seneca Whetstone Community picnic! We need about a dozen people to help plan, organize and make happen a neighborhood picnic this summer. This is your chance to contribute to the community!

This event is a lot of fun and a great way to talk to your neighbors, new and old! It will be held in the M-83 easement between Game Preserve Rd and Jericho Dr.

To make this work, we need an short organization meeting. Mary Kimball, the event coordinator, would like to first meeting to be Tuesday, June 5th from 7 – 8 at her house at 10800 Game Preserve Rd. The meeting will be kept to one hour (as long as everyone is on time.)

Please call, write, or email Mary at 301-330-3663, 10800 Game Preserve Rd., or Mary.Kimball@Marriott.com

Light refreshments will be served. Thank you in advance.

WEBSITE

The Seneca Whetstone Homeowners' Association website continues to have new information added to it on a regular basis. The link to the website is: www.neighborhoodlink.com/gaithersburg/swhoa. Please check it out! If you have suggestions for the site, please feel free to contact any Board member.

BADGER DRIVE

After several years without one, the Badger Drive HOA now has a Board of Directors. The SSWHOA Board has agreed to assist this Board in managing upcoming County-funded improvements to the Badger Drive neighborhood parking spaces, sidewalks, and streetlamps. Please watch for further notice of construction activities by flyer and on our website.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Officer Diane Tillery reported that on May 15, 2007, at approximately 9:17 p.m., the owner of the home at 19212 Jericho Drive called the police to report that someone was on her back deck. The person reportedly said that he was waiting for someone. The suspect left the deck before the call was made to the police and officers circulated the area for 35 minutes looking for someone.

Also, someone was seen walking down Eberhardt Drive and in between two homes on the court in the evening on May 16 around 8:30-9:00 p.m. It appeared he was taking a shortcut down to Game Preserve Road. Neighbors are encouraged to keep an eye out for any unusual occurrences or unfamiliar faces in the community and to report them to local authorities. Telephone numbers are provided at the end of this newsletter.

FROM THE TREASURER

We are now in week 22/23 of the Fiscal Year and surprisingly, 20% of the members have not submitted their annual dues. We will be sending out reminders soon and if this applies to you please send your assessment to the address on the Newsletter. If you (or your realtor) require confirmation of dues payment please get in touch with Jay Long.

Starting the year we had a handful of people who still had not sent their assessments, but since then most of our members have brought their accounts current. However, we still have several individuals who have outstanding balances that are several years old. In these cases we are taking a zero tolerance approach and will be pursuing restitution through legal means. Essentially, these individuals are costing us all.

On a lighter note, the board has noted several budgeted areas that are complete and their entire budget has not been used. The board reviewed this situation and has agreed to fund at least a partially catered picnic – so hopefully it will be a go. Any assistance you can provide would help.

FROM THE SECRETARY

We are working to consolidate all the directory updates to finish up the 2007 directory and we will probably have both a hard (paper) and a soft directory. No promises, but a by soft directory we mean we are trying to generate a web page for the Neighborhood Link site for address and phone number lookup. We are currently addressing issues such as homes that have requested not to be in the directory and encrypting the information.

TRAVIS AVENUE SELF-STORAGE

Our Secretary/Treasurer attended the City Council meeting on April 18, 2007, for the new storage facility on Old Game Preserve and unfortunately it looks like it will go forward. In testimony, Jay reiterated the concerns SWHOA presented in September of last year—safety of the road, traffic flow, access issues, and “green” development. To each, the developer commented on what they were doing and received complete support from the city. Many of the issues associated with the county road (down to Arrowsmith) they are not addressing.

This we do know—from the new development to Travis they will widen the road (purchased the land from Pepco) but will not change the grade. The bump by Travis will stay due to the gas line under it. They will route their drainage to the culverts under Arrowsmith and pick up the car lot runoff on the way. The city will allow big trucks to leave the storage facility either north or south on Old Game Preserve, unlike Fitzgerald’s where traffic is directed south only (away from our neighborhood). We may need to request a one-way sign on Old Game Preserve from the county.

A general note here—if you see white zone change signs near the neighborhood, take note and consider attending the public meetings. Jay was the only SWHOA voice at this meeting and additional voices would have made a difference.

REMINDERS...

Yield and **Stop** signs have a purpose. Please observe them—particularly the Stop sign at the end of Gatlin Drive. Recently a driver was observed turning left from Gatlin Drive onto Game Preserve Road without even slowing down, much less stopping at the stop sign. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated occurrence. We all are in a hurry these days, but a few seconds stopped at a Stop sign will not make a difference in the time it takes to get where you are going—but it could mean the difference between getting where you are going or having a fender-bender (or worse).

Also, 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.

BE REWARDED FOR MAKING THE SWITCH TO CLEAN ENERGY

What if you could do something to reduce pollution, help protect the health of humans and animals, and increase the nation’s energy independence? You can. Montgomery County is *helping you make the switch* from electricity generated using fossil fuels to clean energy!

Even if you do not pay your electricity bill directly you can *be clean* and make a difference. Switch to an electricity supplier offering clean energy, or choose renewable energy certificates to offset your energy consumption, and actively decrease your impact on the environment. You can learn more and *make the switch* on-line through the Clean Energy Rewards web site in a matter of minutes. Just log-on to: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cleanenergyrewards> for LOTS of useful information.

DOGGY DOO Continued....

Since the last newsletter article on the subject, sightings of “gifts” on lawns and near the curbs in our lovely neighborhood have been reduced. Thanks, dog owners! We all appreciate your care and consideration in picking up after your pets, especially now that the weather is nice and our children are playing outside more often.

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.

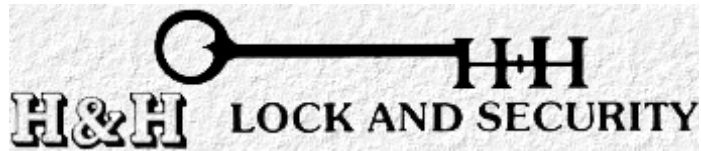
Montgomery County Code, Sec. 5-203 (a)(2): An owner must not allow an animal to damage or defecate on property outside of the owner’s property. An animal may defecate on public property or the common area of property in which the owner shares an interest if the owner immediately removes and disposes 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 Affairs	240-777-3636
County Call Center	240-777-6000
Housing Code Enforcement	240-777-3785
Landlord-Tenant Affairs	240-777-3609
Police (non-emergency)	301-279-8000
6th District Police	240-773-5700
Fire (non-emergency)	240-683-6520
24-Hour Bioterrorism Hotline	(240) 777-4200
Snow Removal	240-777-6000

See <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/government/services/services.asp>
for a full listing (including forms for streetlight outage and pothole reporting)



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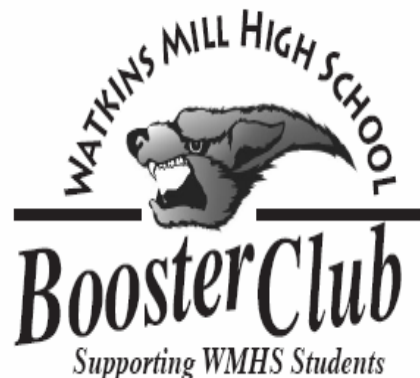
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301-439-7191



The non-profit Booster Club fundraises for Sports Teams and Clubs at the school
Please contact: Winn Gaynor



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