

Seneca Whetstone Homeowners' Assoc. Inc.

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

November 2007

NEWSLETTER

GREETINGS FROM THE SENECA WHETSTONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SWHOA email address:

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

IMPORTANT DATES:

NEXT BOARD MEETING: November 19, 2007 7:30 p.m.

Place: Gaithersburg Public Library

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

Place: Gaithersburg Public Library

Message from the President:

All,

We have a great community; one I've been proud to represent these past two years. I hope at least some of you feel the same, because I'm passing the ball to whoever is willing to run with it for the next year or two.

Just a word about volunteering. Many of you know this, but some may not, or have forgotten. Volunteering is scary! It scares me, and I'm sure it scares you. Because of course we're all driven to succeed in all that we do. We don't want to fail as a volunteer any more than in our paid work or even hard-earned leisure time. We'll nobly press on to success. And we know that takes work.

Why, really, do we even care to think twice about volunteering? It may be proud community service, or the Golden Rule, or ambition (nothing wrong with this), or just plain love of giving. I think that inside all of us there's one or several good motivations for volunteering.

Now, I think we all know that fear will always trump these good motivators. FIRE, FIRE! And we're all out of the building. We sit on our hands. Some of us don't even have to invent justifications; our spouses do this for us!

But here's the naked truth about volunteering; YOU CAN HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. It's true, anyway, at Seneca Whetstone HOA. Come to the Board with naiveté and trepidation. Serve with community pride and maybe a little love of giving. Finish with SUCCESS!

Get off those hands.

Thanks for listening,

Winn

MIDCOUNTY CORRIDOR STUDY

Midcounty Corridor Study (MCS) Public Workshop Wednesday, December 12, 2007 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Seneca Valley High School.

Format: Stations set up with mapping and display staffed by County/other agency representatives. Citizens are encouraged to view the information at their own pace and provide comments (verbally or written). No formal presentation will be given. Public input will be used by the Study Team in the selection of alternates that will be carried forward into the next stage of detailed study.

This is a chance for nearby residents (us) to contribute ideas for further analysis. This would include: revisions to the alignments and engineering details to better serve the project Purpose and Need and to avoid or minimize direct impacts (physical and noise impacts) to natural and socioeconomic resources, including wetlands and streams, historic resources, community facilities, and neighborhoods.

Please consider attending this workshop and letting the Study Team know your concerns and opinions.

BADGER DRIVE UPDATE

At last! Badger Drive is now receiving some long-overdue upgrades! First, new lights and light poles will be installed, making Badger Drive safer at night. Also, the street will be repaved and new parking spaces will be marked. This may happen soon, or if the weather turns too cold before they get to it, it will definitely be done at the earliest possible time in the spring. New sidewalks are going to be put in when the weather improves as well. Plans are in the works for some painting of trim, and maybe even some landscaping to beautify the area will take place in the spring.

Also, the dormant Board for Badger Drive has been revived! Angela Hansen has taken responsibility for getting it up and running again and has made great progress in reinstating insurance and the bank account for the association. Come to our Board meeting on November 19 to hear her report!

SAFETY MESSAGE

The following has been going around the Internet for some time now, and it is worth considering for all of you who have cell phones.

ICE Campaign - "In Case of Emergency"

We all carry our mobile phones with names and numbers stored in its memory but noone, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends. If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know whom to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence the ICE (In Case of Emergency) campaign. The concept of ICE is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name ICE (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as ICE. For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2, and ICE3, etc. A great idea that will make a difference! Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our mobile phones today!

Please make sure that you and your loved ones have this information. It really could save your life or put a loved one's mind at rest. ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.

PICNIC UPDATE

We apologize for having to cancel the community picnic due to lack of response from residents. We will try to hold a picnic in the spring or early summer.

GREAT FUN FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

Basket Bingo for Special Olympics Maryland will be held on December 1, 2007, at the American Legion Post 171 located at 10201 Lewis Drive, Damascus, MD 20872. All proceeds will go to Special Olympics Maryland. Tickets are \$18.00 in advance and \$20.00 at the door. All prizes will be filled Longaberger baskets. Refreshments will be available. Anyone who is interested in attending can call Barbara Waldecker at (301) 528-5052 or email her at specialolympicsmdbingo@msn.com.

WEBSITE

The Seneca Whetstone Homeowners' Association website continues to have new information added to it on a regular basis and has PDFs of recent newsletters for your convenience. 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.

REMINDERS

Commercial vehicles are not allowed in the neighborhood unless they belong to a contractor doing work during daylight hours only.

Trash receptacles must be stored out of sight except on pick-up days when they are put at the curb. Please keep your trash cans and recycling bins in your garage or behind a fence that will completely shield them from view at all other times.

DOGGY DOO

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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