



# The Official Newsletter of the Brookwood-Hollaway Civic Association, Inc.

December 2008



The Board of Directors extends to all our members and their families the warmest greetings for a joyous holiday season and our wishes for 2009 to be a happy, healthy and prosperous year for all.

## Meeting Moves BHCA Forward

The general membership on December 3<sup>rd</sup> provided a number of actions that will propel the Association forward in the coming year.

It was reported that membership has grown to 191 members with 45 new/first time members. The financial records are scheduled for an audit in December and the Auditor's Report will be published in a future newsletter.

Neighborhood Watch informed the members of several recent incidents that have occurred within the community and emphasized there has been an increase in residential breaking and entering and thefts from vehicles. Members were also reminded as cold weather is now upon us, not to leave your vehicles running, unattended (warming). This could result in a \$70 citation and one point. This report was further supported by a presentation from a County police officer from the District V Community Response Team. He also said to take precautions by placing packages in the trunk of your vehicle (not on the seats) and checking your surroundings before using an ATM machine and 7-11 type convenience stores before entering.

Our speaker that evening was Melissa Grice, Acting Asst. Superintendent of the Cheltenham Youth Facility who spoke about the facilities history, its services and programs.

Just prior to the meeting, President Schlossberg received a memo from former Nominating Committee Chair, Phil Woodruff providing an "opinion" letter dated July 8, 2008 that Mr. Woodruff's removal from the Board was improper which resulted in an extended discussion. Subsequently, a motion was made to move forward with the meeting and the election with only one vote in opposition. The Nominating Committee presented its recommendation of Carolyn Green-Fitzgerald for Vice President and Delores Monroe for Treasurer. With no nominations from the floor the nominees were confirmed unanimously.

The members also approved the Board's Recommendation to proceed with the establishment of a Scholarship Fund. Accordingly, \$1,000 will be set aside for the awarding of two \$500 grants. Further details about the program will be provided in future issues of this newsletter.

The membership also approved the transfer of \$5,000 to an interest bearing account.

The meeting ended at 9 PM as scheduled.

Note: Although the Minutes of this meeting will not be officially adopted until the next general membership meeting a copy will be available to any member submitting a written request to the President.

## Leaf Pickup

As announced at the general membership meeting we have received a number of inquiries from members about leaf collection in the area. According to the Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) vacuum leaf collection for our area will likely occur the latter part of December. Since our area was done "early" last year we're done "late" this year. Leaves can still be bagged and picked up on the normal yard waste day.

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Prince George's County Dept. of the Environmental Resources will provide free Christmas tree collection and drop-off service for recycling of live trees. Residents with yard waste collection service should place their undecorated Christmas tree at curbside before 6:30 AM on their regularly scheduled collection day from December 26 through January 15, 2009.

Trees may also be taken to the Yard Waste Recycling Facility on Southeast Crain Hwy. or to the Brown Station Landfill.

Information can be obtained by calling DER at 301-952-7630.

## TLBU Development Update

For the past several months' members of the Board of Directors of BHCA and Williamsburg Estates Citizens Assoc. (WECA) have had meetings with the attorneys and developer of this project along Frank Tippet Road with regard to the proposed 115 acres of parkland to be dedicated to M-NCPPC Parks and Recreation Div. In addition, the BHCA President Schlossberg and WECA Vice President, Carolyn Lowe have testified at several M-NCPPC hearings. The development plan was subsequently referred to the County Council for a hearing. Prior to the Council hearing, at which Mr. Schlossberg and Ms. Lowe also testified, they met with a member of Council Woman Bland's staff to enlist her support for our objective of having a recreational center built on the property.

Two significant Conditions were added to the Plan by the Council. One, "the applicant (developer) and M-NCPPC shall work in partnership with BHCA and WECA on the nature of the recreation facilities to be constructed on the land to be conveyed for a community park", and two, "the applicant shall meet and work with Parks and Recreation staff and BHCA and WECA to assist in the selection and construction of recreational facilities \_ \_ \_". "The applicant shall contribute \$500 per unit to a Parks and Recreation fund for the construction of a recreational park, as part of a future Recreation center."

The lack of a recreational facility in our area has been a focus of discussion for several years. Approval of the TLBU project, with the added Conditions, will give BHCA direct input into what will be constructed.

## Darkened Streetlights

Our Neighborhood Watch patrollers try to observe and report street lights that are out. However, there is an easy way that residents can do this also. If you have a computer, go to [www.pepco.com](http://www.pepco.com). Look under Alerts and Outage Information and click on Street Light Problems. This will bring you to a screen -Report a Street or Area Light Outage. Click on the third bullet point item. Fill in the requested information (your account number is not essential). Then, click Submit. You will receive and email acknowledgement of the report with a repair number you can track.

## Safety and Holiday Decorations

Try to select a fresh tree by looking for one that is green. The needles of pines and spruces should bend, not break, and should be difficult to pull off the branches.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk and put the tree in a sturdy, water-holding stand. Keep the stand filled with water so the tree does not dry out quickly.

Stand your tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Make sure the tree does not block foot traffic or doorways.

Choose electric decorations that are tested and labeled as fire resistant. Electric decorations and artificial trees with built-in electrical systems should have the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label. Inspect your previously used decoration carefully, checking for broken wiring, plugs or sockets.

Use no more than three light sets on one extension cord. Extension cords should be placed against the wall to avoid tripping hazards, but do not run cords under rugs or furniture.

Turn off and unplug all electric decorations at night and when away.

Never leave candles unattended and NEVER use real candles on your tree.

Install and maintain a working smoke alarm on every level of your home and in every bedroom.

Consider the gift of a smoke alarm for the Holidays. No other gift sends the message that says, "I care for you and want you to stay safe." Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department will install a smoke alarm in your home, free of charge. Please call our Livable Communities Smoke Alarm Hotline at 301-864-SAFE.

### BHCA Contact Information

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