



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

October 2009

Partnership Pays Off

At the General Membership meeting on June 24th, members in the Hollaway Estates area, particularly those residing on and near Rhodenda Ave., expressed concerns about speeding and the need for speed bumps on this street. Capt. Howard, Asst. Commander of Police District V promised increased traffic enforcement. Since the meeting there has been an increased police presence and traffic enforcement and citations issued.

The Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) was contacted and requested to conduct a current traffic study to determine whether traffic calming devices (speed bumps) could be installed. By the July 4th weekend, DPWT had setup speed indicator signs at both ends of Rhodenda. Shortly thereafter traffic counters were installed at each end of the roadway.

On August 4th, DPWT advised us the traffic study had been completed and "that it takes approximately 6 months for us to complete everything entailed with one". However, as a participating organization in the Community Partners program, we requested an earlier response. On August 21st we received a letter from DPWT which stated, "Rhodenda Ave. has been found eligible for Level 2 Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) measures, which include speed bumps". The letter went on to say that "in order to further pursue the implementation . . . , it is necessary that a community meeting be held. Also the extent of community approval required". In addition, the county police and fire departments must agree to such installation.

DPWT will hold a Community Meeting on Wednesday, October 21, at Rosaryville Elementary School at 7 pm for all residents, specifically those that "front" Rhodenda Avenue. BHCA has been requested to distribute flyers to all Rhodenda residents regarding this meeting, if you can help with this effort, please respond to bhca-membership@comcast.net

No Vacuum Leaf Collection

Although it has been announced in the newspapers, BHCA, as a member of the Community Partners program with the Dept. of Public Works and Transportation (DPWT) has been asked to remind our members that vacuum leaf collection has been "discontinued" this year. This is a direct result of the cutbacks in the County budget and DPWT's budget specifically.

DPWT will be posting "Notice Signs" to this effect in the neighborhoods as well as in newspapers and on their website.

Residents are being asked not to rake leaves to curbside, into the street, storm drains or ditches. Leaves must be bagged and put out on your regularly scheduled Yard Waste pick-up day. Bagged leaf collection is provided through the Department of Environmental Resources (DER). For further information about this service, please call 301-952-7630.

Continued Enforcement

At two recent meetings attended by BHCA, a representative of the Revenue Authority of P.G. County has been a speaker and addressed that agency's enforcement authority. It was stated the Authority will continue to issue citations for infractions of parking regulations. As expressed by the Authority representative these are not new regulations they are enforcing. They have been "on the books" for years and enforcement is a part of the County's "Livable Communities" initiatives.

Those regulations most frequently cited include: No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle in a direction other than the flow of traffic (wrong side parking) and on an unpaved area of a residential lot that is less than one acre in size (parking on the lawn). (Section 26-127.04)

On Abandoned Vehicles: that is inoperable and remained or left unattended on public property for more than 48 hrs, that has remained on private property for more than 48 hrs. or any partially dismantled , wrecked or junked vehicle may be presumed to be abandoned. (Section 26-162)

More information regarding the Revenue Authority's functions can be obtained by contacting them at 301-925-9448.

TLBU Update

On Thursday, October 29th, representatives of the developer for this planned 409 single family community on the west side of Frank Tippet Rd. will be presenting their preliminary plan before the County Planning Commission. Representatives of BHCA will be meeting with the developer prior to the hearing for a detailed update on the project.

As previously reported, BHCA, along with Williamsburg Estates Community Assoc. (WECA), have been following this project for several years and working with the builder toward helping to achieve one of BHCA's goals of getting a recreation/community center built in our area. This effort met with success when the developer and the Commission approved a plan amendment which will require the builder to allocate funds to the County toward construction of this facility.

BHCA will continue to report on this project due to the significant impact it will have on our community.

New Online Waste Collection Complaint Form

The Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources" (DER) Waste Management Group recently launched an online Waste Collection Complaint Form. The form can be accessed and completed online by visiting the DER website located at <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/DER/> and clicking on Waste Collection Complaint Form under the Quick Links heading.

"We want to assure our citizens and residents that we value any concerns they may have regarding missed appointments and their collection service", said DER Director Charles W. Wilson. "Providing good customer service is a top priority of this agency."

Neighborhood Watch Report

As we move into the fall season, we will see the morning temperatures dropping. This usually leads to more incidents of residents leaving vehicles unattended and/or in open garages while they “warm up”. This is a reminder that leaving a running, unattended vehicle in Prince George’s County is illegal and will lead to violators being ticketed. Not to mention that this is the number one cause of stolen vehicles in the County.

Neighborhood Watch is strongly encouraging residents who live in areas community which continue to experience cases of vandalism, theft, or loitering to work with the N.W. Block Captains to help observe and report incidents. Where no Block Captain exists, one or more individuals are being strongly urged to volunteer to fill the role. The most effective way to address such issues is through organizing residents to work together, and the expectation is that someone living in the subject area needs to work with the Neighborhood Watch Chair, Rick Brown, by taking on the role of Block Captain.

Neighborhood Watch Patrollers are now patrolling the neighborhood without the use of the amber strobe light and vehicle signs. This is an effort to move “undetected” throughout the community to better observe and report any incidents that might be in progress. Patrollers will occasionally utilize the strobe light and signs as a “reassurance” to residents that the patrols are still out and about.

There is still a need for a Neighborhood Watch Committee Co-Chair to fill an important need. Currently the Committee is organized into Co-Chairs, with one fulfilling the role of managing the Block Captains and the Communications Chain, and the other Co-Chair fulfilling the role of recruiting members, attending BHCA Board of Director meetings, and managing Watch Patrols. Help is needed for the latter Co-Chair position. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Rick Brown at crb9904@verizon.net.

Crime Reports

The crime statistics for District 5 are reported weekly in The Washington Post, The Star and are also available at www.gazette.net. Additionally you can sign up for daily, weekly or monthly alerts of crimes reported within 5 miles of your home address at www.crimereports.com.

All neighbors are encouraged to review these reports to be aware of what is happening in our community.

Important Public Hearing

Are you concerned about traffic and transportation issues in our County? Then you may wish to consider attending a Public Hearing on Monday, October 26, 2009. The Prince George’s Planning Commission will receive testimony regarding the proposed amendments to the Countywide Master Plan of Transportation. The hearing will be held in the Council Hearing Room, First Floor, County Administration Building in Upper Marlboro. Hearing starts at 7:00 pm.

The amendments are identified in CR-54-2009 (DR-1). Copies can be obtained at the CAB or at <http://egov.co.pg.md.us/lis/>:

General Membership Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Monday, December 14, 2009 at 7 PM for our general membership meeting. The meeting will be held at Rosaryville Elementary School.

The agenda for this meeting will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Welcome Back

We want to let everyone know that Valerie Mersier is back with us as Chairperson of our Communications Committee and Board member.

Valerie had to take a "leave of absence" for several months but has indicated she is back to work and ready to get back into it again. (Gradually). We're glad to have her back. She is a valued member and contributor to the BHCA Board of Directors.

BHCA Contact Information

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