

## Local “Warriors” Take on McKenney Hills Park 20 Volunteers Tackle Invasive Vines, Plant Trees and Shrubs

It wasn't easy to get there, but when they did the trees were not hard to miss. Nearly 20 volunteers trudged through McKenney Hills Park on Nov. 2 to reach dozens of trees choking from invasive vines. Armed with clippers and small hacksaws, they chopped vines in hopes of saving some of the struggling forest that borders our park's tributaries.

Neighbors of all ages focused on the area behind the tennis courts as well as a section near the bridge by Leafy House retirement home.

Keeping our park's trees healthy is key to helping reduce run-off as their roots help absorb rainwater and keep the soil anchored. Allowing invasive vines like English Ivy to spiral up trees can choke-off growth, encourage pests and disease and destroy protective bark.

English Ivy is especially worrisome as it produces seeds only when it grows vertically (like up trees) and then spreads, making the problem worse.

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Civic Association volunteers Beverly Sobel (L) and Rochelle Bartolomei (R) tackle a monster-sized vine in McKenney Hills Park at the Nov. 2 Fall Clean Up.

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## Get Connected!

**Check out our new website for activities and more at [www.mhckcivic.org](http://www.mhckcivic.org)**

**Join our list serve to get service recommendations and keep up with other neighbors at [www.mhckcivic.org](http://www.mhckcivic.org)**

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The group also planted a small grove of native plants, including three river birch trees, seven spicebush and dozens of ferns, to help reforest part of the area by Brunswick Avenue destroyed during a 2007 water management project. The group worked under two local members of the county's Weed Warrior program, which trains residents to identify problem plants and eradicate them. Afterward, the "warriors-for-a-day" enjoyed a social hour with cookies and cider.

Interested in helping out? The McKenney Hills Carroll Knolls Civic Association has set up a new Parks Committee to conduct similar, informal efforts throughout the year in addition to our twice-annual larger Park Clean-Up events in the spring and autumn. To join, e-mail [susanheavey@yahoo.com](mailto:susanheavey@yahoo.com). Students, school environmental clubs, or Boy Scout or Girl Scout troops looking for community service hours or volunteer projects are also welcome to contact us.

Separately, the Sierra Club hosted a hands-on look at the impact of our neighborhood's run-off on the park. Look for Diane Cameron, of the Sierra Club, to speak at an upcoming association meeting and offer some project ideas for residents to take in their own yards as they plan for spring.

For more photos of the two events, please visit the association's website at [www.mhckcivic.org](http://www.mhckcivic.org). The next Park Clean-Up will be held Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. – noon. □

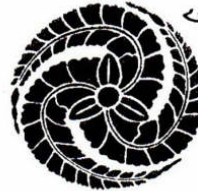
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Please detach this portion of the form and return it along with a check for \$10 suggested contribution made payable to **McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association** to:

**McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls Neighborhood Association**  
Post Office Box 2102  
Silver Spring, MD 20915-2102

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional- for use on neighborhood list only): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: (optional- for use on neighborhood list only): \_\_\_\_\_

Paying your dues allows you to become a member of the Civic Association for the 2009 calendar year. All residents of the community (both renters and owners) are eligible for membership. These dues help pay for: neighborhood events such as the Community Earth Day Celebration and the Neighborhood Party, the newsletter, rental of meeting space and other items and activities that are vital to the Association. Thank you for becoming a member, or, if you are already a member then thank you for your continued support. We can not do it without you!

## Meeting News: Elections & Water, Cash-Saving Tips

Join us **Tuesday, Jan. 27 from 8 to 10 p.m.** for special civic association elections (see right). We'll also hear from local environmental engineer and advocate Diane Cameron for **tips on installing rain barrels, planting rain gardens and other ways to conserve water and make your yard more eco-friendly.** Find out where to get barrels, what to do with your gutters and drains, and what plants might work well.

Cameron, coordinator for Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network and Conservation Program Director at the Audubon Naturalist Society, led a recent tour of through the McKenney Hills Park to highlight the enormous amount of damage our neighborhood's run-off is doing to the areas tributaries. Come learn how to do your part, improve your yard and save money on that water bill! □

All businesses and organizations advertised are neighbor - owned and/or recommended. Please let them know you found them here!



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## Leaders Needed

### \*\* Listserv, Association May Cease Operations \*\*

Our Association is in danger of failing (and along with it will go the list serve and the brand new website) if new leaders are not found to lead us in 2009. Please consider stepping up to serve your community and your neighbors. The benefits of a vital civic association are innumerable and none of the positions on the Board are burdensome. You have a chance to do your neighbors a great service. Please consider running at the meeting on Tuesday, January 27. For more information contact Ashlev Del Sole at ashlevdelsole@hotmail.com □



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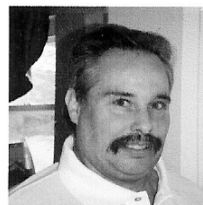
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## Take Gadgets & Lock Car, Police Liaison Says

Two things not to forget when you're rushing in the front door: lock your car and take your valuables, says Officer Joy Patil, our neighborhood liaison to the Silver Spring District 3, when speaking to residents at the October Association meeting. This is imperative as more people use iPods, GPS systems and other electronics in their vehicles. "By just removing them... you're really doing yourself a service," she said.

By far the most frequent crime our area's streets see are auto-related, Patil told residents. But as the economy worsens, the area around us is also seeing a rise in pack robberies, some gang activity and other crime. Many recent robberies in the area occur when 4 to 5 men in their late teens or early 20's attack a single male of the same age. County officials are doing what they can, but residents can also help themselves, she said.

Use a visual deterrent such as a "Club" in your car. Sign up for the county's Car Watch program, which provides a sticker for your car that notifies police to stop anyone driving that vehicle between 1 a.m.

and 5 a.m. Park as close to your house as possible. Use a locking gas cap. Sign up for District 3's free home security survey. Watch for area trends on [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com), which began a recent collaboration with Montgomery County.

If you are interested in joining the Car Watch program or learning more about the free home survey, contact Officer Patil at [joy.patil@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:joy.patil@montgomerycountymd.gov) or at 240-876-9640. □

### Winter Blues Festival

**Sunday, Jan 25**

**2:30 – 5:30 p.m.**

Join us as we shake off the winter blahs with some blues music at our first annual Winter Blues Festival at Capitol View/Homewood Park Center.

Enjoy **live music, arts & crafts for kids, a bake sale and marketplace. All free!**

If you would like to donate a bake sale item or rent a table to sell your items, contact us at [MH-CK@hotmail.com](mailto:MH-CK@hotmail.com). Tables are first come, first served and space is limited - so hurry!

### 2009 Calendar

<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, Jan. 27	8 p.m.
<b>WINTER BLUES FESTIVAL</b>	<b>Sunday, Jan. 25</b>	<b>2:30 – 5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, Feb.. 24	8 p.m.
<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, March 24	8 p.m.
<b>EARTH DAY PARK CLEAN UP</b>	<b>Saturday, April 25</b>	<b>10 a.m. – noon</b>
<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, April 28	8 p.m.
<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, May 26	8 p.m.
<b>Meeting</b>	Tuesday, June 23	8 p.m.
<b>NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK FESTIVAL</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>AUTUM PARK CLEAN UP</b>	<b>Sunday, Oct. 18 (tentative)</b>	<b>1 – 3 p.m.</b>
<b>HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST</b>	<b>Dec. TBD</b>	<b>N/A</b>

