

Introducing New Officers!

President, Tricia Steadman Tricia has lived in MH-CK for two and a half years but has lived in Silver Spring for nearly 10. One of her first goals when she moved to the neighborhood was to become more active in her community and get to know her neighbors better. She is excited to be the association's advocate with county leaders and representatives, hoping this year to build upon the strengths of the outgoing board. One of her main goals is to improve traffic and safety issues to make our area safer as well as find more ways for neighbors to socialize. Tricia lives on Leslie Street with her husband, son, two dogs and a persnickety cat.

Vice President, Dick Tingley Dick, a native Washingtonian, has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years and has been somewhat active in the MH-CK Civic Association for several years. He graduated from American University as an undergraduate and has an MBA. Before retiring from the federal government in 2001, he was an auditor for the U. S. Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) and an administrative officer for the Federal Accounting Standards Advisory Board. Dick enjoys traveling and is very active in his church, The National Presbyterian Church.

Secretary, Martha Randall Martha has lived on Conover Drive since 1979, and one of the reasons for the move was that the neighborhood seemed so friendly. She teaches voice and voice pedagogy at the

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Possible Park Sees Good News, Bad News

The controversy continues over the future use of the former The School of Art + Design at Montgomery College, also known as MCAD, on the edge of the McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls neighborhood. In 2005, the Montgomery College Foundation became the owner of MCAD and entered into a contingent sales agreement with the developer Kaz Brothers for 27 townhouses, 3 single family homes, and a road with a cul-de-sac on the existing 4-acre MCAD property. The sales agreement was mainly contingent upon the nullification of Carroll Knolls' 1948 covenants that prohibit townhouses. Since then, the MH-CK Civic Association has joined with GreenSpaceOnGeorgia.org and other local groups to fight for the site to be turned into a much needed neighborhood park on this western side of Georgia Avenue.

There have been several recent developments, both positive and negative: First, the Circuit Court of Special Appeals recently ruled in favor of the Carroll Knolls community to keep their covenants, which would prevent the land from being converted from R-60 single family residential zoning to RT-12.5 townhouses. This ruling will hopefully be finalized soon, but Kaz Brothers could appeal.

On March 9, 2009 Councilmembers Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich sent a co-authored letter to the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic

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Get Connected!

Check out our website for activities and more at: www.mhckcivic.org
Join our listserv to get service recommendations and keep up with other neighbors at: www.mhckcivic.org

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Neighbors Get 'The Blues'

Dig it! Nearly 60 residents took refuge from the winter weather at the First Annual MH-CK Winter Blues Festival on Sunday, Jan. 25.

Neighbors enjoyed warm apple cider, fresh popcorn and potluck snacks while mingling with each other. Children of all ages made dozens of creative valentines and snowflakes, and everyone relaxed to the music of Gaithersburg-resident Tom Blood, whose lively cover songs kept spirits up (See www.tomblood.net). Several entrepreneurs pitched their goods -- including jewelry to benefit a non-profit health group, homemade cakes, tax services and tile crafts.

The event not only gave residents a chance to tap their toes and see each other during these cold months but also helped raise much needed dues for the association. Thanks to all those who turned out and our group of industrious volunteers, including Martha Randall, Julie Hunsaker, Ellen Cosgrove, Carol Mould, Ed and Linda Wilhelm, Patricia Curtiss, Marian Katz, and Norman Kaplan, among others.

We'll see you there again next winter! If you're interested in joining our new social committee and helping to plan future events, please contact mh-ck@hotmail.com. □

Two Park Clean Up Events: April 4, April 25

With spring here, it's time to clean up our local park! In April, there are two chances to spruce things up and improve the area.

First, we're teaming up with Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE) for Rock Creek Extreme CleanUP -- the largest clean-up of the Rock Creek watershed ever. We'll meet Sat., April 4, from 9 a.m. to noon at the McKenney Hills School parking lot (2600 Hayden Drive). Contact: Peter Viechnicki at 301-650-1908 or Diane Cameron at 301-933-1210.

Then we'll hold our now twice-a-year McKenney Hills Park Clean Up on Sat., April 25 from 9:30 to noon. This year for the first time we are part of the county's Garlic Mustard Challenge, a competition to weed out this non-native invasive plant! No experience necessary. Folks compete to collect the most and win prizes. We'll conclude with our annual tree planting ceremony and refreshments.

Volunteers are needed to pick up trash, clip vines, pull garlic mustard and plant. We'll provide bags and some gloves. Please wear long-sleeves, long pants and a hat; if you can please bring your own gloves and tools. To sign-up or to join our Parks Committee e-mail list, contact susanheavey@yahoo.com. □

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!

2009 Association Budget

A budget represents the anticipated spending for an organization and acts as a guide for where the neighborhood association officers expect the association to go in the next year. On March 8, the new 2009 officers got together and ratified the budget for 2009 (see "Budget" Page 4).

Our estimated income of \$1,000 represents 100 households out of 1,085 households in the community paying their annual dues of \$10. We have 50 households who have paid their dues and will be getting a membership card. I hope that at least another 50 households will send in their dues as soon as possible. Ideally, all homeowners and renters would pay their dues so we can provide additional events, a larger welcome package for new neighbors and a better newsletter (the cost for the listserv and website is currently being donated). Norman Kaplan, Treasurer

Continued on page 4

2009 Calendar

Meeting	Tuesday, March 24	8 p.m.
FORCE Park Clean Up	Saturday, April 4	9 a.m. – noon
EARTH DAY PARK CLEAN UP	Saturday, April 25	9:30 a.m. – noon
Meeting	Tuesday, April 28	8 p.m.
Meeting	Tuesday, May 26	8 p.m.
Meeting	Tuesday, June 23	8 p.m.
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK FESTIVAL	Tuesday, August 4	TBD
AUTUM PARK CLEAN UP	Sunday, Oct. 18 (tentative)	1 – 3 p.m.
HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST	Dec. TBD	N/A

Development Committee requesting MCAD be listed as appropriate for future acquisition. Additionally, GreenspaceOnGeorgia.org and several other groups, including MH-CK Civic Association, will be submitting a letter to the county's Planning Board requesting MCAD be formally added to the list of future properties to be bought as parkland.

Hopefully, Montgomery College and its Foundation will work with us to save MCAD as a much needed park. In the meantime, the MCAD building itself has vandalized since it became vacant in August 2007. Most recently, several windows have been broken and replaced with plywood. The County Council and the Department of Parks have been notified of MCAD's decline and photos have been sent to them documenting the vandalism and noting public safety concerns.

We need your continued support to save MCAD as a future neighborhood park! Please e-mail Councilmembers Elrich and Ervin at Councilmember.Ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov and Councilmember.Elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov. Please thank them for their support and encourage them to continue acting on our communities' behalf. Please also Cc: Chairman Royce Hanson of the Planning Board (royce.hanson@mncppc-mc.org) and Mary Bradford, Director of Parks (mary.bradford@mncppc-mc.org). Beverly Sobel, head of GreenSpaceOnGeorgia.org



Recent photo showing boarded up windows at MCAD.

President's Corner

Hello McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls Neighbors! Thanks to everyone who came to the February meeting and elected the new board. I'm excited to build upon the strong foundation created by the former board and appreciate all the hard work that Ashley, Jessica and Marian did on behalf of the community. Their achievements include a brand new event for the community – the Winter Blues Festival – and generating enough revenue from the newsletter to keep us in the black. We also have a frequently updated neighborhood website (www.mhckcivic.org) and a moderated listserv. All of these accomplishments are ones the outgoing board can be proud to have implemented.

Yet there's more to be done to keep our community active and vibrant. Unfortunately, our area is not immune to the economic crisis facing our country. Short sales and foreclosures are as much a part of our neighborhood as others nationwide. And Montgomery County faces budgetary shortfalls, which could impact our road repairs, school improvements and park maintenance. One of my top goals is to be a conduit to our county's leaders and representatives. Being active and vocal participants in the governmental process is vital for us all. The mantra of "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" is still applicable in these tough times, and I plan to ensure that we are not forgotten by our representatives. We've already had some success. The mobilization behind upholding Carroll Knolls' covenants in the face of MCAD's development is one example (see "Park" page 1).

But activism cannot happen alone. I urge all of you to come to our neighborhood association meetings on the fourth Tuesday each month at 8 p.m. at the Capital View-Homewood Park Recreation Center and pay your \$10 per household dues. Only 50 of the roughly 1,100 neighborhood households have paid this year. Without that revenue, we cannot hold wonderful events or keep our association vital and active. Additionally, Dick, Martha and I need volunteers to spearhead various committees. I believe we all collectively need to work on traffic and safety concerns to improve our community as well as create more events to gather together socially. There are plenty of ways large and small to help out, and I urge you all to think of ways that you can lend a hand. We live in a great neighborhood, but it's up to all of us to keep it that way and to make it even better.

I look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year. To reach me and the other new officers, please send us a note to mh-ck@hotmail.com. I'll see you at the next meeting! Tricia Steadman, President □

"Budget" continued from page 3

	Income	Expense
Member Dues	\$ 1,000.00	
Newsletter/ Web Site Ads	\$ 1,700.00	
Donations	\$ 200.00	
Sales/ Rentals	\$ 250.00	
Meeting Room		\$ 48.00
Post Office Box		\$ 72.00
Newsletter		\$ 1,736.00
Events*		\$ 800.00
Supplies		\$ 300.00
Welcome Package		\$ 100.00
Total	\$ 3,150.00	\$ 3,056.00
Balance		\$ 94.00

*Events Include: Winter Blues Festival, Spring Park Clean-up, National Night Out, Fall Park Clean-up, and Halloween Party.

University of Maryland and was president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing from 2006-2008. After enjoying MH-CK for all these years, she wants to thank the community by serving as secretary. You may see her in the morning and evening walking her two small black dogs. Please wave!

Treasurer, Norman Kaplan Norman and his wife, Elaine, bought their home on Loma Street in 1973. A retired federal employee who worked for the the Census Bureau and several other agencies, he has been active in a number of community organizations, including serving as treasurer for REACT International since 2001. He also served as treasurer for Federal City REACT, from 1991 to 2002 and was the MH-CK Civic Association's secretary in 2006. Norman has worked with a certified public

accountant for REACT to maintain approved records and plans to continue maintaining the same level of professionalism for the neighborhood association.

Past President, Ashley Del Sole Ashley has lived in Carroll Knolls for four and a half years and has come to love this neighborhood. Having grown up just down the road in Kensington, she was already familiar with the neighborhood, but it was not until moving here that she understood how wonderful it is. She lives on Duvawn Place with her husband, daughter and dog with a "new addition" due in April. They are currently renovating their house and plan to live here for the long haul! Ashley says, "I have truly enjoyed my time as president meeting so many wonderful neighbors and doing my part to expand the neighborhood association as the great asset and resource it is for our area. I am sad to leave the Board, but I know that it is in great hands, and have every intention of continuing to be an active member of the association." □



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