

MH-CK Association News



Volume 2, Issue 2

www.mhckcivic.org

June 2009

Neighborhood May See New Elementary School

Volunteers Needed for Task Force

Plans are in the works for a new elementary school to relieve over-utilization at nearby Oakland Terrace and Woodlin elementary schools. Recommendations were recently submitted by the Montgomery County Public

PROPOSED TIMELINE

Community Facility Advisory Committee Begins	June 2009
Design Phase Begins	August 2009
Construction Phase Begins (18 months for construction)	Feb 2011
Boundary Development	August 2011
Scheduled Opening	August 2012

School Board's Division of Long Range Planning for FY2010 to the Montgomery County Council to fund the construction of a new elementary school where the McKenney Hills Alternative Learning Center ...

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McKenney Hills - Carroll Knolls Chosen as Civic Association of the Year

On April 22, 2009, the McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls Civic Association was honored with an award naming ours the Civic Association of the Year. The award was presented by Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board at the Wheaton/Kensington Chamber of Commerce awards dinner. Tricia Steadman, president of the civic association and Dick Tingley, vice president, were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the community.

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Tricia Steadman Accepting Award



Councilwoman Valerie Ervin will attend MH-CK Association Meeting June 23. See page 6 for more information!

President's Corner

Amazingly, we are officially in to summer here in McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls. Spring went by at a whirlwind pace, and by the time this newsletter reaches your front door the kids will be out of school and summer will be full swing. Lots of activity is taking place in our community, and I hope this newsletter will keep you abreast of many of them.

The ongoing issue of future use of the vacant space that was formerly the Maryland College of Art and Design (MCAD) had a significant development earlier this year when the Carroll Knolls covenants, which prohibit any building except that of single-family homes, was upheld in court. That ruling means that the space effectively cannot be developed into high-density townhouses. It also means that the neighborhood currently has a vacant, abandoned building in it. And with the land facing out onto Georgia Avenue, it's definitely a beacon and difficult not to notice. While the developer currently is still under contract with Montgomery Community College Foundation, it's

more than likely that the land will go back to them permanently after the contract expires as the developer will be less likely to want to build in the current economic climate and they would now only be able to build single-family homes. Both of which would mean that they would never recoup their investment in the property.

For us, this means that we need to be ever vigilant in keeping watch of what is happening with the vacant property. MCC has granted permission to the police force's canine training unit to run drills in the vacant building and on the grounds. While this activity may be a deterrent to potential squatters, it can also be disruptive to the neighbors in close-by homes. It would be prudent to make calls to police if you see any suspicious activity occurring there or if the canine training bothers you. We also have to pressure the college to keep the grounds mowed, security lights operating and to pick up any trash on the property. Those are short term solutions to the issue.

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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!

New County Parking Restrictions

Beginning July 1, 2009 it will be illegal to park certain large trucks, RVs, buses or boats on residential streets in Montgomery County. According to the law residents will no longer be allowed to park **heavy commercial vehicles** with, “a gross vehicle weight (GVW) of over 10,000 pounds, a manufacturer’s rated capacity of more than 1 ton, a length of more than 21 feet measured from the extremes of the vehicle including any object loaded on the vehicle; or a height of more than 8 feet with properly inflated tires...including racks but not antennas.”

(Montgomery County Code, Section 31-1, 31-14, and 31-20, “MCC”)

Additionally, it will be illegal to park **recreational vehicles** including a: “motor home, travel trailer, camper or camping trailer including truck insert or collapsible unit; or non-freight trailer...used to transport other leisure equipment such as a boat, horse, motorcycle, show car, race car, snowmobile or bicycle.” (MCC)

Any of these vehicles may be parked on a street that is zoned on both sides for industrial use, so long as they are not prohibited from parking by other posted signs.

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Park Sees Fewer Weeds, More Improvements

More than 30 neighbors took on the county’s challenge this spring to help rout the non-native invasive Garlic Mustard plant from local parks. They pulled dozens of bags of the noxious weed from McKenney Hills Park Saturday, April 25 as part of Montgomery County’s Park Department’s annual Garlic Mustard Challenge.

The event was part of the neighborhood’s annual Earth Day Celebration and Park Clean Up. Residents of all ages also planted two trees – a weeping willow and a dogwood – in honor of the civic association’s long-time treasurer Marion Katz, who kept the group’s finances in order for nearly 16 years. Look for the new trees by the Brunswick Street entrance.

Separately, the association’s Park Committee has procured two recent improvements: a new picnic table and a community bulletin board, both near the playground. Park officials are also seeking to repave the lower walking path near the creek.

Garlic Mustard, which made its way here from Asia and is used in cooking, can choke out native plants that are essential for our local birds and other creatures to survive. About 12 inches tall, it blooms in early-mid spring with small white flowers and smells, well... garlicky. It’s easy to pull and easy to use in dishes such as pesto.

More information on invasive plants in our area can be found at www.weedwarrior.org.

The next park clean up will be held this October. For more information, to join the Park Committee or post something to the park bulletin board, contact susanheavey@yahoo.com. □ **Susan Heavey, chair, MH-CK Civic Association Parks**

2009 Calendar

Meeting	Tuesday, June 23 Councilwoman Ervin	8 p.m.
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BLOCK FESTIVAL	Tuesday, August 4	TBD
AUTUM PARK CLEAN UP	Sunday, Oct. 18 <i>(tentative)</i>	1 – 3 p.m.
HOLIDAY HOUSE DECORATING CONTEST	Dec. TBD	N/A

Treasurer's Report

As of May 31, 2009, the following figures show how much the association budgeted for expected income and expenses (second and third columns) as well as percentages to show how well we are meeting those goals. For example, we only planned to receive \$1,700 in newsletter ads this year, but have so far received \$1,800; that puts us over our targets or at nearly 106% of our budgeted goal.

Note that some expenses are not due until autumn, and that the "new neighbor" welcome packages are being developed so we have seen no expenses there yet. Bank account interest was not originally included in the budget since it is completely outside the neighborhood association's control. □ **Norman Kaplan, Treasurer**

<u>Item</u>	<u>2009</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>2009</u> <u>Current</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Income:			
Membership Dues	\$1,000.00	\$770.00	77.00%
Newsletter/Web			
Ads	\$1,700.00	\$1,800.00	105.88%
Donations	\$200.00	\$110.00	55.00%
Sales/Rentals	\$250.00	\$100.00	40.00%
Saving Interest		\$0.27	
Total	\$3,150.00	\$2,780.27	88.26%
Expense:			
Meeting Room	\$48.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Post Office Box	\$72.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Newsletter	\$1,736.00	\$448.23	25.82%
Events:	\$800.00	\$247.00	30.88%
Meeting Room		\$155.00	
Printing		\$92.00	
Web	\$10.00	\$10.00	100.00%
Supplies	\$300.00	\$13.00	4.33%
Welcome Package	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Total	\$3,066.00	\$718.23	23.43%
Balance	\$84.00	\$2,062.04	

Getting in the Fourth Tuesday Habit

Attendance at MH-CK meetings – held the fourth Tuesday of every month – has been going up, possibly because guest speakers have addressed issues of concern to neighborhood residents. In April, Ryan Donovan, a realtor who lives in McKenney Hills, spoke about trends in the real estate market, explained terms and gave tips for selling a house quickly.

In May, Montgomery County Police Officer Joy Patil, our neighborhood's police community liaison, spoke on safety and security in our immediate area and said that crime was declining. She said that the best way to prevent theft from cars was to lock them and remove any items from view. Even a gym bag containing nothing of value can prompt a break-in. She reminded us to call the non-emergency number to report suspicious activity (301-279-8000) and to explain why it was suspicious. She recommends programming the number into cell phones.

The last newsletter introduced the new slate of officers. Acknowledging the contributions of the past officers with gratitude, those of us now in office want to take our turn and do our part to serve and represent the MH-CK Civic Association. Please join us and your neighbors at these monthly meetings – get the Fourth Tuesday habit with us! □ **Martha Randall, Secretary**

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**

But long term we need to let our local leaders know that a vacant, abandoned building in our residential neighborhood is not acceptable and that we need an effective solution to the issue. Budgetary cut backs for the county may mean that this is something that will not be able to be resolved right away, but we need to make sure that our elected officials know that we expect them to help us find a fix.

Even though we won't be seeing construction crews at the former MCAD site, we will be seeing them late summer at the McKenney Hills Learning Center as the current school building is demolished to make way for a new elementary school to help relieve overcrowding at Oakland Terrace and Woodlin elementary schools. The new school is not schedule to open until the fall of 2012, but demolition of the old school will start in just a few months.

And everyone probably noticed another set of construction crews that recently left the neighborhood as sidewalks were installed on Dennis Ave from Haywood to Georgia Ave on the south side of the street. While a few trees had to be sacrificed in order to make it happen, and it has been a long time coming, it's such a relief to have a sidewalk on such a busy street in the community. Thankfully, we didn't have to experience a tragic accident to make it happen and our neighborhood is a bit safer because of it. Yesterday, I saw a little girl riding her bike down the new sidewalk, and I thought how great it was

I hope everyone is ready for the summer and takes advantage of the two great parks that we have right in the neighborhood – McKenney Hills park and Capital View/Homewood. Plans are ramping up for our fall events for the community including a neighborhood block party in the early fall that we hope to have in McKenney Hills park this year. We'er also working to reintroduce a former neighborhood mainstay – the neighborhood Halloween parade for kids and pets. All are something to look forward to after the summer vacations and cookouts. We'll keep you posted on dates and details as plans firm up.

Have a great summer! □ **Tricia Steadman, MH-CK Civic Association President**

currently resides near McKenney Hills Park.

Both the school's construction and district boundaries will impact our neighborhood, and the MH-CK Civic Association is looking for volunteers to sit on a task force to keep the community up-to-date on the transformation process. Members would attend meetings of the MCPS's Community Facility Advisory Committee starting this month then report back to the association on the school's progress.

Please email mh-ck@hotmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for this task force. Those on/near Hayden may be especially interested as a new school will increase traffic on their street/in the area. □ **Tricia Steadman**

Ervin to Attend Next MH-CK Association Meeting

The June MH-CK Civic Association Meeting on **Tuesday, June 23 at 8pm** at the Capital View - Homewood Park Rec Center will have special guest speaker: Montgomery Council member Valerie Ervin. Ervin will be present to discuss the vacant building and land at the former Maryland College of Art and Design (MCAD) located at Evans and Georgia Avenues. Ervin will take questions from the community, listen to our concerns and help address future solutions for the vacant property. This is an opportunity for all of us to collectively have our concerns raised to our elected official so the MCAD property will be the focus of discussion for the entire meeting. Please plan on attending, and encourage your neighbors to come out with you as we need a strong turnout from the community.

These restrictions were created in order to make our neighborhood streets safer for pedestrians (particularly children and pets) since these vehicles block the site lines of vehicles driving on our narrow roadways.

If you see a vehicle that may be in violation of this law (after July 1) please call the police non-emergency number to report the problem at 301-279-8000. □ **Ashley Del Sole, Contributor**

"Award" continued from page 1

"One of the compelling reasons your civic association was chosen is because of the active participation in the association's listserv," said Carolyn McKenzie, assistant director of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board.

Additional awards and certificates were presented to the McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls Civic Association including those from the Montgomery County Civic Federation, the Maryland General Assembly, the County Council of Montgomery County and Congressman Chris Van Hollen.

"It's wonderful that our efforts to rejuvenate and revitalize our neighborhood civic association are being recognized even outside of the neighborhood," said Steadman. "We've shown that our neighborhood can come together collectively, upholding the Carroll Knolls covenants is a strong example of that, and it's been the efforts of lots of people working together that have made it all possible. We have reason to be proud."

Other honorees at the banquet held at Hollywood East Cafe on the Boulevard included public safety awards for district police officers and volunteer firefighters as well as teacher of the year awards for the three local high schools in Wheaton; Einstein, Kennedy and Wheaton High.

This award is one that everyone who participates and communicates via the listserv can feel responsible for the civic association winning. If you aren't a member of the McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls Civic Association listserv and are interested in joining, please visit groups.yahoo.com/group/mckenneyhills to ask for access. □

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