

MH-CK Association News



Volume 3, Issue 1

www.mhckcivic.org

March 2010

Introducing New Officers!

President, Dick Tingley Dick, a native Washingtonian, has lived in the neighborhood for 30 years and served as Vice-President in the MH-CK Civic Association last year. 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 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 for a second term. 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 Census

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2nd Annual Winter Blues Fest Shines

A half-foot of snow did little to stop the all the neighbors who turned out for the Second Annual McKenney Hills Carroll Knolls Winter Blues Festival on Sunday, Jan. 31.

Despite 6 inches of snow that fell the day before (in retrospect a dusting compared to two later record snowfalls!), more than 75 McKenney Hill Carroll Knolls residents turned out for food, fun, tunes and a surprise footbag, or hacky sack, demonstration. Smells of fresh popped popcorn filled the air, and potluck treats galore filled the tables -- including the



Musicians Jamming at Winter Blues Fest

infamous "Darrow Street Cookies," made by residents on that street from recipe passed neighbor-to-neighbor over the years. Food was topped off by hot chocolate and steaming apple cider.

With full bellies, residents mixed and mingled to the tunes of local artists John Becker, Jonathan Watkins and Carey Creed among others. Leslie Street's Vincent Bradley and housemate Ryan launched into an enthusiastic demonstration of footbag to a few blues tunes.

President's Corner

As our Association enters the year 2010, I as your new President, along with you, look forward to a productive year of active involvement in the various issues in our community as we together strive for the betterment of our neighborhoods. We have a strong position upon which to build as we recall how our Association, under the strong and enthusiastic leadership of our past president, Tricia Steadman, won the award for being an outstanding civic association in Montgomery County. I want very much to help us to continue in this mode.

By becoming actively involved in the work of the Association, we begin to get to know our neighbors better. One outstanding example of this is the January event of the Winter Blues Festival at the Homewood Recreation Center at which there were about 75 of us having a good time of mingling together as neighbors as we chatted, munched on goodies, and listened to entertaining blues-type music. I got to know several of you as we were all there having a good time during a very welcome interlude between the snowstorms. This particular

social event is but one example of our coming together as neighbors. I now want to enumerate a number of other opportunities in which we can continue to come together in working on various issues for the betterment of our community:

-Traffic and sidewalks. As an ongoing issue, we want to expand and intensify our efforts in working with the County in its Renew Montgomery Program to help bring about various traffic-calming efforts ((additional stop signs, reduced traffic speed by posting of speed limit signs, speed bumps where deemed necessary, etc.). Importantly, too, we are working with the County to install additional sidewalks and improve existing ones for increased pedestrian safety.

-Annual Park Clean-Up Day, held during the Spring. Many of us gather in McKenney Hills Park to pull up invasive and overgrown plants and weeds and gather up and bag any accumulated trash in the woods and streambed,

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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 2010 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!

Unwelcome Signs in the Neighborhood

There has been a rash of signs offering \$100 for unwanted cars and guarantees to sell your house in a week stapled to Pepco poles around the neighborhood. A number of residents have been proactive in removing them. Even better is to call the Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6300. Since this has been reported, you may call and refer to service number 15266354# or 15266489# or 15266556 # and give the address where the signs may be found. You can also go to the web at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/permitting-services.gov and scroll to the lower right to file an online complaint. The web wants an exact address or a location, somewhat frustrating to be sure.

These signs are unsightly and usually indicate deterioration in a community; they are bad enough in a strip mall, but truly unacceptable in a residential neighborhood. We want to preserve and improve our quality of life and reporting these signs is a small but important tangible contribution we can make. These postings have no business name but are advertisements nonetheless, quite different from neighborhood signs pertaining to a lost pet or an event like the Blues Festival. Someday we (or our families) will want to sell our homes and we want the best outcome. Every little bit helps and this one is only a phone call away! □ Martha Randall, Secretary

Meanwhile, crafty children took to resident Ellen Cosgrove, who offered multiple projects for their busy fingers from snowflakes to stickers and more.

A local volunteer group -- Global Garden, which is working to establish a charter school in nearby Kensington (<http://www.globalgardenpcs.org/>) -- and Best-Hill Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning (<http://www.besthillservices.com/>) sponsored the festival.

A hearty thank you to all our attendees as well as our volunteers, but especially:

- * Our dynamic duo musicians: John Becker (www.john-becker.com) and Jonathan Watkins (www.jonathanpwatkins.com), among others.
- * The ever-creative crafter Ellen Cosgrove
- * Linda and Ed Wilhelm for donating the popcorn
- * Volunteers Jessica Flores, Carol Mould, Martha Randall, Tricia Steadman
- * Footbaggers Vincent Bradley & friends
- * last but not least Carina Nicodemus: the 2-year-old with the mostest who wields a mean Swiffer mop!

Missed this great event? Photos are online at www.mhckcivic.org. Interested in joining the Events/Social Committee? Contact mh-ck@hotmail.com -Susan Heavey

"President's" continued from page 2

etc. See the Earth Day article for information on this upcoming event for this year.

- Additional green space. Engage in and advocate for the creation of more open green space in the form of additional park space, particularly at the site currently occupied by the former Montgomery College art school. The building is vacant and has been for some time. Your Association has as a top priority the issue of urging the County to demolish the building and then convert the site to a park. As an association, we welcome all of our members to help us in this advocacy effort.

-Monitoring progress of on-going County work to replace McKenney Hills Learning Center school. We are closely following the County work to replace the now-demolished former school building with a new elementary school. We know that those Association members with elementary-age school children will be particularly motivated to become involved with this issue.

By noting the above issues and initiatives, you can see the many opportunities we all have to work actively in our Association for the betterment of our whole community.

Additionally, I have observed from the very actively used community listserv, the high degree of interest we all have in reaching out to our neighbors in response to queries posed about various issues or recommendations. This use of the listserv is a prime example of your Association at work for all of us.

I look forward to interacting with all of our members, especially as we witness increased attendance at our monthly Association meetings, at which we can discuss various issues of concern to all of us. At future meetings we plan to schedule speakers presenting about particular issues of community concern, such as traffic and public safety (a Montgomery County Police Community Relations officer), water pipes, etc. (a spokesperson from the WSSC to present about the current situation about water supply), electric power (a PEPCO spokesperson on issues

related to electric power, gas supply (a spokesperson from Washington Gas presenting on natural gas supply issues), and county government issues (a spokesperson on park and school issues, for instance).

I look forward to getting to know all of you better, as together we work on the various issues toward a fruitful year of accomplishment. I urge any who have questions or concerns to contact me at Tingley_r@msn.com. □ Dick Tingley, President

2010 Calendar

Meeting	Tuesday, March 23	8 p.m.
Earth Day/Park Clean up	Saturday, April 24	10 – 1 p.m.
Meeting	Tuesday, April 27	8 p.m.
Meeting	Tuesday, May 25	8 p.m.
Meeting	Tuesday, June 22	8 p.m.
No Meeting	July/Aug. - no meeting	No Meeting
Meeting	Tuesday, Sept. 28	8 p.m.
Meeting	Tuesday, Oct. 26	8 p.m.
No Meeting	Nov./Dec. – no meeting	No Meeting

Have something to say or want to advertise in the newsletter or on the website? Contact mh-ck@hotmail.com

Earth Day Festival & Park Clean Up

Saturday, April 24 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

After this record-breaking snowy winter, our local park needs some love.

Please come help spruce things up and meet your neighbors at our Annual Spring Park Clean Up on Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at McKenney Hills Park. We need plenty of volunteers to help pick weeds, gather trash and plant some shrubs.

We're also trying to revive the event to its former glory as an Earth Day Festival. We need folks with good ideas to help expand the clean up with possible music, environmentally-friendly activities/items and more. If you can help, please contact mh-ck@hotmail.com

As part of this event, we'll be participating for the second time in the Montgomery County's Garlic Mustard Challenge to pull this noxious, non-native invasive plant from the park. Last year, 30 volunteers at the park pulled 450 pounds of this plant as part of the event. And guess what? It's edible (see recipe). For more on the Weed Warrior Program and the Garlic Mustard Challenge, visit: www.weedwarrior.org

What's more, students who pick up trash or pull weeds can get community service hours. But all ages and experience levels are welcome at this event.

We'll meet at the kiosk/picnic tables at the McKenney Hills playground. Come anytime and help out as long as

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

you can. We provide most supplies, but you are welcome to use your own gloves so we can conserve supplies and reduce waste. Hats, long-sleeved shirts and sturdy boots are recommended.

For more details check the neighborhood listserv and website (www.mhckcivic.org) closer to the date or e-mail mh-ck@hotmail.com

Garlic Mustard Hummus

6 cups canned or cooked garbanzo beans (cooled)
5 cloves garlic
1/2 cup chopped garlic mustard
1/2 cup tahini sauce
1/2 cup lemon juice
1/4 cup olive oil
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
2 teaspoons cumin

Drain beans and puree in food processor with garlic and garlic mustard until smooth, scraping sides as necessary. Add remaining ingredients and continue to puree until a smooth paste. Serve chilled with warm pita bread or fresh vegetables.

Spring Pesto with Garlic Mustard

3 cups garlic mustard greens with stems
2/3 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon chopped garlic mustard root
2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
1/4 cup pine nuts
salt to taste

Put everything in a food processor and blend until smooth. Toss with hot pasta and garnish with cheese. Salt to taste.

Recipes courtesy of Montgomery County Weed Warrior Program, Bravo! Restaurant and Just Good Food Cafe. □ Susan Heavey

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 in his second term as Treasurer.

Past 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. □



Kids having fun in the snow (above) and Neighbors work together to dig out street (right). See page 6 for story.

Help Improve the Neighborhood

Perhaps you noticed, but our new officer list is missing a vice-president. That slot is vacant for the right person willing to lend just a few hours a month to keep our association ticking along. Could you be our next VP?

MHCK also has need for volunteers on several committees that range from school issues to traffic and the newsletter. If you can spare just a little time every year, it will help the neighborhood deal with issues such as the ongoing debate over development at the old Montgomery College of Art and Design as well as putting on events.

Committees include:

- * Park Committee
- * School Liaison Committee
- * History Committee
- * Social/Events Committee
- * Newsletter Committee

To help, please come to our monthly meetings, held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 8 p.m. at the Capitol View/Homewood Parks & Recreation Center behind Oakland Terrace Elementary or contact mh-ck@hotmail.com □



Snow Brings Out Sunny Side of Life

This winter brought with it not one, but two record-breaking snow storms; one on top of the other. Most McKenney Hills - Carroll Knolls residents were stranded in their homes for at least a week and were without power for some part of that time. Many neighbors were without heat, and some were even without a way to cook or heat up food as they have electric stoves and ovens.

While the weather outlook was bleak and people were stuck inside, this is when our neighbors were able to shine. The listserv was ablaze with information and updates regarding the power outages as well as pleas and offers for help. Neighbors invited neighbors in for a warm meal. Younger neighbors helped older neighbors dig out. And some neighbors even worked together to dig out their entire street when it became apparent that the plows were overtaxed and it would be a long time before freedom could be had.

While kids were out of school, there were also plenty of opportunities for fun with sledding, snowball fights, and even just climbing the mountains of snow outside our homes.

All in all, although the situation was certainly not ideal, our neighbors seemed to make the best of a bad situation. We came together and got through it, in some cases better than we started. We were able to show our true colors and even meet a few neighbors while we were at it. And, if nothing else, maybe we will be better prepared the next time mother-nature, or Pepco, decides to throw us a curve ball.□

Ashley Del Sole



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Hughes United Methodist Church
10700 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902
Telephone: 301-949-8383

Sunday Services
9 a.m. Informal
10:30 a.m. Traditional
12:30 p.m. Spanish

All are welcome!

Youth Service - April 25 @ 10:30 a.m.
Followed by Spaghetti Luncheon -
\$10 per person to benefit Haiti Relief
Call the church to make a luncheon reservation

Community Yard Sale - May 15 @ 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Reserve a 150 sq. ft. space for \$15 by May 3

www.HughesUMC.org

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