The Montgomery West Homeowner’s Association newsletter http://www.montgomerywesthoa.org

**MARCH 2016**

**2016 MWHOA Board of Directors**

In January, new MWHOA Board members were welcomed and officers were elected during the first Board meeting of the year. The 2016 Board members and their officer positions are as follows:

* Mikayla Higgins, President
* Rod Olaya, Vice President & AERC Chair
* Jessica Stoken, Treasurer
* Mike Anderson, Secretary
* Enitan Mason, Member-at-Large

This spring will include several events and meetings to be on the lookout for, so be sure to mark your calendar with the dates below and keep an eye out for additional announcements via the listserv.

Sincerely,

The MWHOA Board of Directors

**Important Dates**

Our calendar for the spring is quickly filling up. The dates below will be helpful as you plan to spruce up your property and make any planned updates.

**Upcoming MWHOA Board Meetings:**

March 22th, May 17th, September 13th,
October 28th

\*Held at 7 pm at Gentleman Jim's Restaurant

The Annual meeting will be held in November. The date/time will be announced in the early fall.

**March 19** - AERC Spring Survey (weather permitting)

**April 30** - Bulk pick-up. Trash out by 7AM.

**New Payment Process for HOA Dues, Same HOA Fees**

Recently letters from both the HOA president and our new accountant were sent to all homeowners with information about the new procedure for submitting dues payments. As a reminder, your payments should now be sent directly to the accountant, Rita Terterian. With each invoice she will include address stickers for your payment envelope. Remember that that you **still make your check out to: Montgomery West HOA**.

**Listserv Update**

The MWHOA listserv is up and running via Yahoo Groups. The Board will use it to share important dates and information. All who join the group can also use it to ask questions or share information with your neighbors. If you submitted an email address, you should have received an invitation to join the group. If you have not yet joined, send us your email address and you will be sent an invitation. You may continue to send individual questions to info@montgomerywesthoa.org.

**Snow, Snow, and More Snow!**

Our area has been hit hard with snow so far this winter. After the huge storm in January, it was wonderful to see our community come together; assisting neighbors and shoveling out fire hydrants and mailboxes.

The county plows worked 24hours a day, but still many of us were stuck in our homes for several days before they reached our streets. The next time a snow storm hits, you can monitor the county’s plowing progress on their web site:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-highway/snow/snowplow.html

**Pet Perks**

Many homeowners enjoy the company of cats, dogs, and other pet friends in the home. As a reminder, Montgomery county regulations require that all owners clean up after their pets on common and public property. Additionally, pets may not wander onto or relieve themselves on others’ properties, or make unwanted contact with neighbors. Please be aware that these occurrences violate county regulations for all kinds of pets, not just dogs. Montgomery County animal control laws and fines can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/animalservices/asd/laws.html>.

Montgomery County Animal Services has asked that anyone with pet concerns first try to resolve their concerns directly with the pet owner. If this is unsuccessful, complaints about nuisance pets or other pet violations can be submitted to Montgomery County Police at their non-emergency line: **301-279-8000**. To report an emergency such as an animal attack or animal cruelty in progress call **911**.

**REMINDERS!**

Quarterly Dues are due on January 10th, April 10th, July 10th, and October 10th each year.

Please put your Lot # on your check when mailing in HOA dues. It makes the job much easier! Thanks in advance.

**Neighborhood Notes**

With warm spring weather comes a great time to check your property's condition. Winter can cause damage to a variety of building materials and debris can build up in unwanted places. Here are some updates and maintenance items to consider in order to beautify your property and keep our properties at their highest value:

* Check and clean gutters as necessary.
* Update fences and gates and split rails as necessary.
* Hide satellite dishes from view from the front of your home when possible.
* Sheds – Wood and vinyl sheds should be well maintained and painted the same color as your house siding. Only one shed is allowed per lot. No metal sheds are permitted.
* If you have removed a tree this year, please remove the stump and plant a replacement tree.
* Remove any piles of trash, junk, or brush from your property.
* Trim trees and bushes to keep your property attractive.
* Clean mildew from your siding. A soft brush and Oxyclean in warm water works wonders!
* Greenlink, our community lawn service, will be once again working to keep our common areas attractive and ready for your families to enjoy.
* Remember to submit an application with AERC for any visible changes to your property.