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

**MARCH 2015**

**Upcoming MWHOA Board Meetings:**

March 24th, May 12th, September 15th,
October 20th

\*Held at 7 pm at Gentleman Jim's

**Nov 17 – Annual Meeting (7-9 pm)** Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

**New Members Join, Veteran Members Re-elected to MWHOA Board of Directors**

This January, the MWHOA elected new and returning members onto the board during its first meeting of the year. The members and their positions are as follows:

* Mikayla Higgins, President
* Jessica Stokan, Vice President
* Ashleigh Hapuarachchi, Treasurer
* Rod Olaya, AERC Chair
* Mike Anderson, Secretary

During the board meeting, decision-making in dates and community issues as well as general neighborhood happenings were discussed. 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.

Sincerely,

The MWHOA Board

**Online Communication Begins**

In addition to our quarterly newsletter, we will begin a neighborhood listserv. The purpose of the listserv is to provide quicker communication to all neighbors about neighborhood events, updates, questions and concerns. The Board will be able to communicate necessary information and dates to the masses in a much timelier fashion than through the newsletter alone. Additionally this will be a forum for homeowners and their families to share valuable information that others may benefit from.

If you would like to be part of our neighborhood listserv but have not yet sent in your email address please include it with your next mailing of dues or email it to us directly at info@montgomerywesthoa.org.

**Car Break-Ins in Our Area!**

In recent months there has been a string of car break-ins in our community. In many cases valuables were stolen but in others the cars were merely searched. We are not aware of any evidence of forced entry. We strongly recommend that you keep your doors locked at all times and that you do not keep any valuables in your car. Some of our neighbors have even had small items stolen, such as phone chargers, when they were stored out of sight.

It appears that most incidents were not reported to the police or the HOA, so we don’t know how widespread this problem is. We do know that multiple cars were affected on each of several nights on both sides of Centerway. If you witness suspicious activity or believe that someone has unlawfully entered your car, even if nothing was stolen, please inform the Montgomery County Police at **301-279-8000** (non-emergencies) and the HOA Board of Directors at info@montgomerywesthoa.org. Call **911** to report a break-in in progress. **All reports are useful!** Even if the thief is long gone, this information can be used by the police to help decide what neighborhoods would benefit from extra attention and by the HOA to advocate for increased patrols.

**Please Be a Responsible and Considerate Pet Owner**

Many of our neighbors have recently shared concerns about pets. In addition to the ongoing issue of dog walkers not cleaning up after their dogs in and around Montgomery West, we have recently received reports that plastic bags of dog waste are being tossed into back yards, especially behind the townhouses. As a reminder, Montgomery county regulations require that all owners clean up after their pets on common and public property. Other concerns we’ve received include cats and dogs wandering onto or relieving themselves on others’ properties, and pets making 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**.

**Local Middle Schoolers Out to Help Our Community**

J&W yard services began with two middle schoolers who had an idea. Jed and Will, two of your neighbors, offer the following services: snow shoveling, mowing, edging, weeding, mulching, leaf raking, and fertilizing. First time customers receive a 50% discount their first service. While serving the Montgomery West neighborhood, they stand by their 100% satisfaction guarantee and will provide you with a free estimate.

\*J&W Yard Services not affiliated with or endorsed by MWHOA.

For further information contact them at jwyardservices@gmail.com.

**Neighborhood Notes**

With warm weather, comes time to check housing conditions. Winter can cause damage to a variety of building materials and cause build up in unwanted places. Further there are occasional changes to make to keep our properties at their highest value. Here are some updates and maintenance items to consider:

* Check and clean gutters as necessary.
* As you make changes and beautify your property, consider planting a tree in place of an old one.
* Greenlink, our community lawn service, will be once again working to keep our common areas attractive and ready for your families to enjoy.
* Update fences and gates and split rails as necessary.
* Hide satellite dishes from view from the front of your home.
* 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 may be on lots.
* 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.
* If you have any questions or ideas, please email us at info@montgomerywesthoa.org.

**Upcoming 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 with AERC.

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

**March 14** - AERC Spring Survey

**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 of the treasurer much easier!

Thanks in advance.

*Effective* ***January 1, 2014****, our HOA Dues quarterly late fee increased to* ***$25****.*