The Montgomery West Homeowner’s

Association newsletter

http://www.montgomerywesthoa.org

# Fall 2016

**2016 Annual Meeting**

Let your voice be heard at the 2016 MWHOA Annual Meeting, which will be held on November 15 at the Strawberry Knoll Elementary School. If you cannot attend, homeowners can still participate by using an absentee ballot or by assigning your vote by proxy to a neighbor who will be attending. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.

**Notes from the Treasurer**

**Quarterly Assessment Payments**

Homeowners are kindly reminded to send your quarterly assessment payments, checks made out to Montgomery West HOA (or MWHOA), to Attentive Accounting Group, Montgomery West HOA billing; Attn: Rita Terterian; 532 Beall Ave.; Rockville, MD 20850. A return label sticker is conveniently included with your invoice. This will ensure your payment is credited promptly. Thank you.

**Help Reduce Paper and Mailing Costs**

Help the HOA reduce mailing costs by having your quarterly invoice emailed to you. If this option works for you, please email us at info@montgomerywesthoa.org with your preferred email address.

**Neighbor to Neighbor**

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Squad (MCFRS) recommends replacing your smoke detector every 10 years. You can also request a free safety check of your house by contacting MCFRS at 240-777-2430. More information is available on their website at www.mcfrs.org/mcsafe.

As always, residents can reach the Board with questions or concerns at info@montgomerywesthoa.org. Please remember that any visible changes to the exterior of your home, excluding plantings, require submission of an Architectural Review Application to the Board of Directors. This and other useful information, such as the Covenants and Bylaws that govern our community, can be found on our web site: <http://montgomerywesthoa.org/>

**Winter is Coming**

With fall in full swing and Halloween on the horizon, we know that winter is not far behind. We will turn our clocks back on Sunday November 6 this year. When the snow begins to fly, please remember that it is the homeowners’ responsibility to clear any sidewalks that are adjacent to their property. Please remember too that our streets are plowed by the county and the schedule is outside of the control of the HOA. For updates during snow emergencies please visit the county website at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-highway/snow/snowplow.html>

**The MWHOA Needs Volunteers!**

Unlike many HOAs, Montgomery West does not employ a management company. Instead, our community relies on a small group of volunteers drawn from our residents to perform all essential functions. This minimizes costs to homeowners and gives a more personal touch. The Board of Directors are essentially running a small business. We pay the taxes and bills, maintain and improve the common areas, interface with the county, and help mediate our neighbor’s concerns. Board members can also propose and take on projects of particular interest to them.

Please consider volunteering some of your time to help our community. Remember that Montgomery West truly is a small village – only 104 homes - and we need at least 5 participants each year! With a full Board, minimal time is required of each member, typically a couple of hours per month for most positions plus 6 meetings a year for a two-year term.

A nomination form can be found on the reverse of the enclosed annual meeting flier. We also encourage anyone who may be interested to attend our next meeting on **October 18 at 7:00PM**. Elections will be held at the annual meeting on November 15, which all volunteers must attend in order to be elected. For more information, you can also contact us at info@montgomerywesthoa.org

**Useful Links**

**Police Contacts**

Always call 911 for fire or police emergencies. However, at times we need local police or fire departments for other reasons.

* If you or a loved one is experiencing a personal crisis situation, please call Crisis Center 24-Hours, 240-777-4000
* Police non-emergencies such as noise or nuisance pet complaints: 301-279-8000

**CCOC**

Montgomery County maintains an Office of Common Ownership Communities (CCOC), which provides residents with information about the rights and responsibilities of homeowners and HOAs, including impartial dispute resolution programs.

Their website can be found here: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ocp/ccoc/ccoc_index.html>

**Trash and Recycling Services**

Montgomery West’s trash is collected by Ecology Services, a private company. For information on their pickup schedule and how to arrange a bulk pickup see: <http://www.ecologyservices.com/esrr/index.html>

Our recycling and yard waste are collected by Montgomery County. For pickup schedules, information on what to recycle, to order recycling bins, or schedule a scrap metal pickup visit: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/programs/

**Nextdoor.com**

Nextdoor.com is a private social media site arranged by neighborhood, and Montgomery West falls within the greater Strawberry Knoll Park neighborhood. On Nextdoor, members share local recommendations, exchange information about crime and safety issues, view the neighborhood map, and ask for advice.