The Montgomery West Homeowner’s

Association newsletter

http://www.montgomerywesthoa.org

# SEPTEMBER 2014

**Upcoming MWHOA Board Meetings:**

**October 14th**

**Nov 18 – Annual Meeting (7-9 pm) Strawberry Knoll Elementary School**

**Goodbye Letter from the President**

Farewell, my neighbors of Montgomery West

It has been a pleasure to serve our community of Montgomery West for the past several years. My wife and I will be leaving Maryland as I have accepted an engineering faculty position at Trine University in Angola, Indiana. We have appreciated your efforts to send your HOA dues on time and keep your properties well maintained. Thank you for responding timely to the friendly reminders regarding outstanding dues or issues on your properties. As the volunteer Board continues to manage our HOA business, I hope you will encourage and support them as you have for me. This allows us to keep our dues low and property values high. I wish all of you success in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

John Patton

**The MWHOA Needs Volunteers!!!**

I would like to thank John Patton for his years of service to our community, going above and beyond the duties of HOA President. He put in much time and effort, simultaneously fulfilling the duties of AERC Chair and Webmaster. He diligently worked to address all issues raised by our residents and

personally tended new landscaping, even driving around with water jugs in hot weather. We have lost a dedicated President who truly cared for his neighbors and neighborhood. The remaining members of the Board strive to maintain the level of service that Montgomery West residents have become accustomed to.

Due to John’s departure and other impending changes in the Board of Directors, we have an *immediate need* for volunteers.

When you think of the HOA, many of you may think of the Architectural Review Committee (AERC). Perhaps you have had to get approval for new siding or have received a Friendly Notice of a property violation. The AERC is an under-appreciated job, but it serves to maximize all of our property values. Please note that membership on the Board does not require participation in the AERC.

The Board performs many essential functions, such as paying taxes and bills, as well as a variety of other tasks that keep the neighborhood safe, beautiful, and property values high. We maintain and improve the common areas and mediate our neighbor’s concerns. We interface with the county to improve services. Members can propose projects of particular interest to them.

With a full Board, minimal time is required of each member, typically a couple of hours per month plus 6 meetings a year for a two-year term. Lack of sufficient volunteers will unfortunately necessitate hiring a management company. This would *require a large increase in fees to all residents* and would eliminate the personal touch adds to our neighborhood’s unity. Please consider if you can spare a little of your time!

Anyone interested in learning more are encouraged to contact us at info@montgomerywesthoa.org.

Sincerely,

Mikayla Higgins, Vice President

**Fall Property Review**

As cooler weather of fall approaches, we ask

homeowners to review their property and

take any required action:

\* Make sure all your fences and gates

are split rail in good condition.

\* Make sure your satellite dishes are

not visible from the front of your

home.

\* Sheds – metals sheds are not

allowed, wood and vinyl sheds

should be well maintained and

painted the same color as your

house siding. Only one shed is

allowed per lot.

\* If you have removed a tree this year,

please remove the stump and plant a

replacement tree.

\* Make sure there are no piles of

trash, junk, or brush on your

property.

\* Trim trees and bushes to keep your property attractive

**Plant Trees**

One of the greatest assets in our

Montgomery West neighborhood is the

beautiful landscaping and trees. To maintain

our neighborhood value, we are suggesting

that homeowners consider planting trees on

their property to replace dead or damaged

trees. Fall is the perfect time to plant trees.

The weather is cooler so the trees have all

winter and spring to get established before

the hot dry summer weather. Also, most

nurseries put trees on sale in the fall.

Consider planting a few trees. Thanks!!

**REMINDER!**

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

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