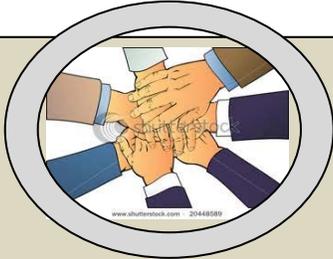




Woodland Hills Newsletter

Fall 2014

www.WoodlandHillsMD.com



A Community Working Together

Board of Directors

President

Leesa Willis
1507 Tanyard Hill Road
240-246-1514

Vice President

Zeno Lantos
1927 Windjammer Way
540-270-6604

Treasurer

Pam Sonnevile
314 Wye Mill Court
301-869-4460

Secretary

Judith Sudholt
1725 Logmill Lane
240-801-4633

Director at Large

Richard Reise
1911 Windjammer Way
301-330-4517

Property Management Agent

Peggy Toland
Community Associations, Inc.
P.O. Box 1130
Germantown, MD 20875
Phone: 301-258-7711

****Board meetings take place the fourth Monday of every month. Watch the sign at the top of Travis Avenue for the location of the next meeting.****

Woodland Hills Receives Awards

Woodland Hills received the Keep Montgomery County Beautiful (KMCB) Award of Distinction for beautification efforts on the Welcome Hill. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation KMCB encourages communities to undertake landscape activities and beautification projects that improve the overall appearance of the county. Also, KMCB supports beauty without toxicity by encouraging projects that utilize conservation measures that keep pesticides and fertilizers out of local streams, and encourages the use of native plants.

Additionally, our community received an Environmental Award for 2014 by the City of Gaithersburg at City Hall in April for demonstrating outstanding environmental stewardship in the Gaithersburg community. A few of the initiatives for 2013 include installing more than 100 native trees and shrubs throughout common areas, removing invasive species, cutting twining vines at tree bases, and installing Flexi-Pave to prevent tree decline.

Neighborhood Watch Update

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH



WE IMMEDIATELY REPORT
ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES
TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

There have been a handful of reports of vehicle break-ins in the past month. Cars that were breached were unlocked. Please remember to keep your homes and vehicles locked.

Please report all incidents to the police, even if nothing of consequence was stolen. If you witness a break-in, call 911. If you are reporting an incident after the-fact, please call the non-emergency number [301-279-8000](tel:301-279-8000).

As a reminder, the Gaithersburg Police Tip Line is [301-330-4471](tel:301-330-4471) or you can e-mail them at police@gaithersburgmd.gov.

Woodland Hills Receives Grant from City of Gaithersburg

Woodland Hills received \$2,500 from the City of Gaithersburg Frederick J. Felton Neighborhood Matching Grant Program to be used for landscape enhancements in the community. Woodland Hills is among twenty-four neighborhood and homeowner associations awarded a total of \$60,000 in matching grant funds from this program. The program provides an incentive for neighborhood organizations to improve their communities by awarding matching grants of up to \$5,000.

Bulk Recycling Notice

Residents are reminded that bulk recyclables should be placed on the curb no sooner than the night before the scheduled monthly pickup day, which is the first Tuesday of each month.

Residents who dump unwanted household goods, furniture, paint, etc., detract from the beauty of the community, and the HOA incurs additional unbudgeted costs in order to clean up these dump sites.

Violators will be reported to the City of Gaithersburg and face possible citation and up to a \$500 fine.

For a full description of Gaithersburg's recycling program or to request a free recycling bin, please visit the City website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recycling or call the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370.

Follow These Bulk Recycling Guidelines

The City provides monthly bulk refuse collection for those large items that private collectors will not accept. Bulk items include heavy electrical appliances, furniture, and other large household items. Items must be clearly marked as "Bulk Pick Up" or placed in labeled containers.

- Bulk items in Woodland Hills are collected by City crews on the first recycling day of the month (see **Bulk Recycling Dates** chart above) If that day falls on a holiday when City offices are closed, bulk items will be picked up on the same day the following week.
- **Large Appliances** - Doors should be removed or secured so they cannot be opened.
- **Large Household Items accepted:** Furniture, bedsprings, mattresses, rugs, large toys, televisions, computers, nonmetal sinks, tubs, toilets, and small amounts of remodeling debris (piles less than 4' x 4' x 8' in size).
- **Large Yard Waste accepted:** Tree trunks and limbs less than 6 feet long and less than 40 pounds.
- **NOT ACCEPTED:** routine recyclable items, regular household refuse, contractor debris, household hazardous waste, propane tanks or tanks under pressure, motor vehicle parts (including tires).

Woodland Hills Bulk Recycling Dates

November 4 ~ December 2

January 6 ~ February 3

March 3 ~ April 7 ~ May 5

June 2 ~ July 7 ~ August 4

(The first Tuesday of every month)

Have a New Neighbor? Let Us Know

If you have a new neighbor move into your corner of the community, please let us know. We'd like to welcome them with a helpful information packet about life and activities in Woodland Hills and many of the various services made available by the City of Gaithersburg.

E-mail president@woodlandhillsmd.com with your new neighbor's name and/or address information. We'll be sure to drop by to welcome them to the community.

City Regulates Woodland Hills Home Leases

Woodland Hills homeowners are reminded that the City of Gaithersburg requires all landlords and rental properties to be licensed with the City. Also, City Code strictly regulates occupancy levels.

Woodland Hills governing documents also require that absentee homeowners must lease their homes as one unit, covered under one lease, and submit a copy of the lease to the property manager.

(Below - Richard Denchfield displays his edible birdhouses during the Memorial Day 2014 pool opening celebration.)



Frequently Asked Questions

I'm interested in joining a Board committee? What are my options, and who should I contact?

Volunteers are welcomed and needed for the Grounds, Architectural, Community Affairs, Neighborhood Watch and Wildlife Habitat committees. Contact property manager Peggy Toland by e-mail at peggy@communityassn.com or any of the directors, listed on the front page of this newsletter.

Who do I call for snow removal?

The City of Gaithersburg is responsible for clearing snow from our streets. Woodland Hills contracts snow removal on common sidewalks after significant accumulation (2 inches). Each individual resident is responsible for clearing the walk to his front door and his car(s) and parking space(s). Snow removed by residents must be piled onto that resident's lawn or onto open common grounds or islands. Snow must not be cleared into unoccupied parking spaces or piled in front of other resident's cars or sidewalks.

Who should I call to remove a tree blocking the road or a common ground tree that fell on my house?

If a tree is blocking the road call Public Works at [301-258-6370](tel:301-258-6370) Monday through Friday from 7:00am – 4:00pm. After hours call the nonemergency number at [301-279-8000](tel:301-279-8000).

If a common ground tree fell on your house you can call any tree company of your preference as long as the company is licensed and insured. The HOA uses Mead Tree for removal. If you want to use Mead, the phone number is [301-854-5990](tel:301-854-5990).

Who do I call to report a power outage?

If there is a power outage at your home please report it to PEPCO at (877) 737-2662.

People are soliciting products at my door. Is this allowed?

No. We have a posted prohibition to this activity as you turn onto Travis, coming up the hill. However, keep in mind that there are exceptions to this rule. For more information, please contact the City of Gaithersburg.

I moved here from another state. How do I transfer a motor vehicle registration and how long do I have to register my car?

Typically, all you need is the signed title, a vehicle inspection and a check for the taxes owed. You have 60 days to register your vehicle in Maryland. For more information visit <http://www.mva.maryland.gov/faqs/#47>.

There are children playing in the road and they struck a vehicle, what should I do?

Call the police non-emergency number, 301-258-6400, to report. In order for the police to assist, you should be able to identify the children, at the very least by house number.

Woodland Hills Community Wildlife Buzz

Woodland Hills is registered on the National Wildlife Federation website (NWF.org) and the Wildlife Habitat Group continues to work for certification. Homeowners can help by certifying their yards or gardens. The simple online application process takes about 5 minutes. Go to the NWF website to begin--<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx>

Woodland Hills currently has 14 certified garden habitats and needs a minimum of 20 community-wide in order to have the community certified as a wildlife habitat by the NWF.

Wildlife Value: Asters support 112 different species of moths and butterflies. White wood asters **are good in dry shade (see them behind Wye Mill Ct. and along the retainer wall at High Timber Ct)**. The aromatic asters are planted at the corner of Carlsbad Dr./Tanyard Hill Rd. and Wildpark Ave. Look for their purple blooms with yellow centers to start blooming the end of September on into October.

Please DO NOT Dump Unwanted Leaves!

If you have leaves that you cannot recycle into your own landscaping, bag them in recyclable yard waste bags and leave them for recycling pickup every Tuesday morning. Generally from the last week of October through the last week of December, the City of Gaithersburg collects loose leaves from the curbs. You may deposit unwanted leaves from your yard at the curb for City pickup during this time.

Although we leave many leaves on common grounds to replenish nutrients, maintain moisture and help prevent erosion, **dumping leaves from private lawns and gardens onto common ground is prohibited**. Excessive leaf piles will not break down naturally over the course of the year. As a result, excessive leaves piled against trees may lead to root rot. Root rot results in tree decline, increased maintenance costs and, eventually, tree removal and replacement. Excessive dumping also leads to avoidable work for our lawn maintenance contractor and expense to the community.

Dumping of leaves, landscape materials, construction materials, fencing, etc., onto common ground also is prohibited by City Code 18-4(a) and punishable by up to a \$500.00 per day fine from the City of Gaithersburg.

Working Safely at Home

Increasingly, businesses are allowing employees to telecommute and offices are standard in many homes. These home offices are equipped with the latest technology and other expensive equipment. It is important to secure yourself and your equipment when working from home.

Safety tips:

- Install solid doors and good deadbolt locks on all exterior doors—and use them.
- Hang window treatments that obstruct the view into your office. You don't want to advertise what equipment you have.
- Consider installing motion-sensor lighting that will come on if someone is walking around your home.
- Keep bushes and trees trimmed so that you can see into your yard and neighbors can see your house.
- Install a wide-angle viewer in the door of your home office if it is detached from the main house.
- Look into an alarm system. A basic system can be purchased for less than \$100, plus a monthly monitoring fee.
- Keep a cellular phone handy.
- Review your insurance policy—almost all policies require an extra rider to cover a home office. In the event something does happen, you want to be covered.
- Mark your equipment with identification numbers and keep an updated inventory list (with photos, if possible) in a home safe or a bank safe deposit box. It's a good idea to keep back-ups of your work in a secure, separate location as well.
- Use the same caution with deliveries as businesses do. Anyone making a delivery to your home office should be properly identified before you open the door. Do not let the person enter your home.

Source: <http://www.ncpc.org/resources/files/pdf/neighborhood-safety/working%20safely%20at%20home.pdf>



Keep Up to Date! Join the Listserv

In order to quickly disseminate news or information on items affecting our community, we provide a community listserv.

Please subscribe to the Woodland Hills listserv by accessing our web page, www.WoodlandHillsMD.com and click on the “News” button. A link is provided directly to the subscription page for the listserv. Forms, minutes, governing documents and contact information also can be found on the Woodland Hills web site.

Recycle or Cancel Unwanted Newspapers

Each week, the *Gazette* newspaper is delivered to our neighborhood. Even though you may not have requested the paper, the community needs your help clearing the papers from the sidewalks and parking spaces and properly recycle them.

If you would rather not receive the *Gazette*, please contact the circulation department at 301-670-7350 or circulation@gazette.net.

Unfortunately, you may find this is a task you must repeat. Until delivery stops, please pick up your papers and recycle them.

Important Community Numbers

Gaithersburg City

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Animal Control | 301-258-6343 |
| after hours/Emergency | 301-379-8000 |
| Neighborhood Services | 301-258-6340 |
| Planning & Code | 301-258.6330 |
| Police Station | 301-258-6400 |
| Police-Community Services Office | 301-258-6168 |
| Public Works | 301-258-6370 |

Montgomery County and other services

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Montgomery County Police Gaithersburg/ | |
| Montgomery Village | 301-773-5700 |
| PEPCO | 202-872-3432 |