



SPRING 2015

Woodland Hills

# NEWSLETTER



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[www.WoodlandHillsMd.com](http://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  
Fax: 301-258-8362

**\*\*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.\*\***

## Please Consider Making Household Donations

In recent months there has been an increase in the number of residents dumping household items on common areas outside of the scheduled date for monthly bulk pickup. This results in an unplanned expense for the association.

If you have unwanted household items that you would like to get rid of, please consider donating them to a charity, rather than placing them on the curb in the community (outside of the scheduled bulk pick up date – see page 2).

While there are numerous options in our area, below are a few to consider:

**Interfaith Clothing Center (ICC)** – Visit [www.iworksmc.org/interfaith-clothing-center/](http://www.iworksmc.org/interfaith-clothing-center/) for more information.

**American Veterans (AMVETS)** – Visit [www.scheduleapickup.com](http://www.scheduleapickup.com) for more information.

**Salvation Army** – Visit <http://satruck.org> for more information.

**Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation** – Visit [www.purpleheartpickup.org](http://www.purpleheartpickup.org) for more information.

Please help those in need while keeping our neighborhood clean.

## Mark Your Calendar

**The Woodland Hills community yard sale will take place on May 30, from 8:00am – 2:00pm.**



## **Bulk Recycling Pickup**

Residents are reminded that bulk recyclable materials should be placed no sooner than the night before our scheduled ***monthly*** pickup day on the first Tuesday of each month.

Residents who dump unwanted household goods, furniture, paint, etc., detract from the beauty of the community. As well, 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.

### **Dumping leaves or other lawn waste also is prohibited**

If you have leaves that you cannot recycle into your own landscaping, bag them in recyclable yard waste bags and leave for recycling pickup every Tuesday morning.

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. If leaves are piled against trees, this may lead to root rot. 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.

## **Neighborhood Watch Reminders and TIPS**

*Simple security measures every Woodland Hills resident can and should take . . .*

- ✓ Be sure to keep your homes and vehicles locked and secure any valuables out of sight.
- ✓ Leave your home's outside lights illuminated through the night.
- ✓ Report street light problems to Nick Chomycia at [chomycia@verizon.net](mailto:chomycia@verizon.net).

## **Woodland Hills Bulk Recycling Dates**

**May 5 ~ June 2**  
**July 7 ~ August 4**  
**September 1 ~ October 6**  
**November 3 ~ December 1**

### **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, and 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:** No routine recyclable items; no regular household refuse; no contractor debris; no household hazardous waste; no propane tanks or tanks under pressure; no motor vehicle parts (including tires).

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](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recycling) or call the Department of Public Works at 301-258-6370.

## **Important Reminders:**

**Architectural Review Committee (ARC)** - Before making any exterior changes/updates to your home including windows, siding, shutters, etc., you must submit for approval through the ARC. Alteration request forms can be found on the Woodland Hills website, [www.woodlandhillsmd.com/architectural.html](http://www.woodlandhillsmd.com/architectural.html) or contact Peggy Toland at 301-258-7711.

**Vehicles/parking** – All vehicles parked in the community must have current in-state tags and be driven out of the community regularly. No commercial vehicles are allowed to park in the neighborhood overnight. Any vehicle parked in violation of the WHHOA's Rules and Regulations will be ticketed and towed. When parking your vehicle(s) use no more than two spaces in front of your home. If you have neighbors with small children and/or a disability, please be considerate in allowing them to park closest to their home. When guests are visiting your home, please encourage them to park in overflow parking (in an island near your home, on Wake Forest Drive, near the pool, etc.).

**Street/block parties** – Contact Peggy Toland, property manager, at 301-258-7711, at least one month in advance of the planned party date to begin the approval process.

**Pet licensing** – All dogs and cats four months of age and older must be continuously vaccinated against rabies and licensed annually. For more information please visit <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/animal-control/pet-licensing>.



### **Kids and Bike Helmets: The Right Fit**

Bike helmets are not optional equipment. A helmet is your last line of defense in an accident - never ride without one! Helmets have been shown in studies to reduce the risk of head injury by 85 percent and the risk of brain injury by 90 percent. Children are 14 times more likely to survive a bike crash when wearing helmets.

Each year in the United States, approximately 250 children die in bicycle-related accidents, and about half a million are injured in bicycling accidents. Although it's estimated that 75% of the serious injuries could have been avoided if a helmet had been worn, only about 20% of the children in the United States wear helmets.

#### ***Here are some points to consider when fitting a bike helmet on a child:***

- The helmet should sit on the child's head so that the front rim is just above the eyebrows. Use the two finger rule - leave about two fingers width between the eyebrows and the front of the helmet. If the helmet rests on the back of the head, the forehead, nose and chin will be exposed.
- Before buckling the chin strap, have children shake their heads from side to side. Helmets should generally stay put. If they move excessively, they're too big and won't protect the head no matter how tightly the chin strap is pulled. The straps should be joined just under each ear at the jawbone.
- When the chin strap is buckled, children should be able to open their mouths and feel the helmets press firmly against the top of their heads.
- Buy a new helmet. Helmets that have suffered even a single fall or have been exposed to heat for a long time (i.e., kept in the trunk of a car) lose the cohesion that keeps the helmet intact during impact.



## **Neighborhood Safety Tips for Parents**

Unfortunately no neighborhood is completely immune to crime. Follow these tips to help keep your family and your neighborhood safe.

- **Know where your children are.** Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check in or be home.
- **Help children learn important phone numbers.** Have your children practice reciting their home phone number and address, and your work and cell phone numbers. If they have trouble memorizing these, write them down on a card and have them carry it at all times.
- **Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood.** Do you want them crossing busy roads? Are there certain homes in your neighborhood that you don't want your children to go to?
- **Get to know your children's friends.** Meet their parents before letting your children go to their home. If you can't meet their parents, call and talk to them. Ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.
- **Choose a safe house in your neighborhood.** Pick a neighbor's house where your children can go if they need help.
- **Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists.** Role-play talking out problems, walking away from fist fights, and what to do when confronted with bullies. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.
- **Work together with your neighbors.** Watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another.

Visit <http://www.npc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety/neighborhood-safety> for more information.

## **2015 Pool Season**

The swimming pool opens on Saturday, May 23, for the 2015 swim season.

The community will host an Open House at the pool on May 24 (rain date will be May 25). Join your neighbors for food, educational exhibits, and swimming pool fun!

Your pool membership card application is enclosed in this mailing along with the application checklist.

## **Clean Up After Your Pet**

In recent months there has been an increase in the number of pet (specifically dog) owners who are not properly cleaning up after their pets. This is not only a nuisance, but it also poses a serious health hazard to residents.

Pet waste is considered raw sewage and can contain harmful bacteria and parasites that can be tracked into your home and infect you, your family, and even your pets. Every time it rains, thousands of pounds of pet waste left on the ground is washed into storm drains that may lead directly into our streams, causing pollution in our waterways.

**What Can You Do?** Every pet owner plays a part in preventing water pollution in our watersheds. Responsible pet owners pick up after their pets, both at home and on public land. Carry disposable bags and pick up pet waste when out on walks, in your yard, or in a park. Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging and sealing the waste and depositing it in a trash can or pet waste receptacle. Do not place it in a storm drain or leave it on the ground. Woodland Hills has three dog waste stations, complete with bags, located in the community. Please take advantage of these stations when walking your dog.

**IMPORTANT:** Pet owners who do not properly dispose of pet waste may be subject to fines for each offense. For more information please call MC311 or visit: [www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311). To report offenders, please contact the City of Gaithersburg's Animal Control Office at (301) 258-6343.

## **Woodland Hills Community Wildlife Buzz**

Milkweeds are great pollinator plants as well as the host plants for such butterflies as the Monarch. Throughout the community we have two types of milkweed—the Common Milkweed which is the monarch favorite because it has the most toxic compounds which make the caterpillars taste bad to their predators. The other milkweed we have is the Butterflyweed—the least favorite of the monarch caterpillars because it has the lowest toxicity in its leaves. However, it's a nectar source for other butterflies and adult monarchs. Milkweeds for the most part are also deer resistant. When you are out walking the community this summer notice the Butterflyweed across from the pool which has orange blooms. The Common Milkweed is scattered throughout common areas and blooms in the heat of the summer with a pinkish bloom.



## **Spring Gutter Cleaning Service**

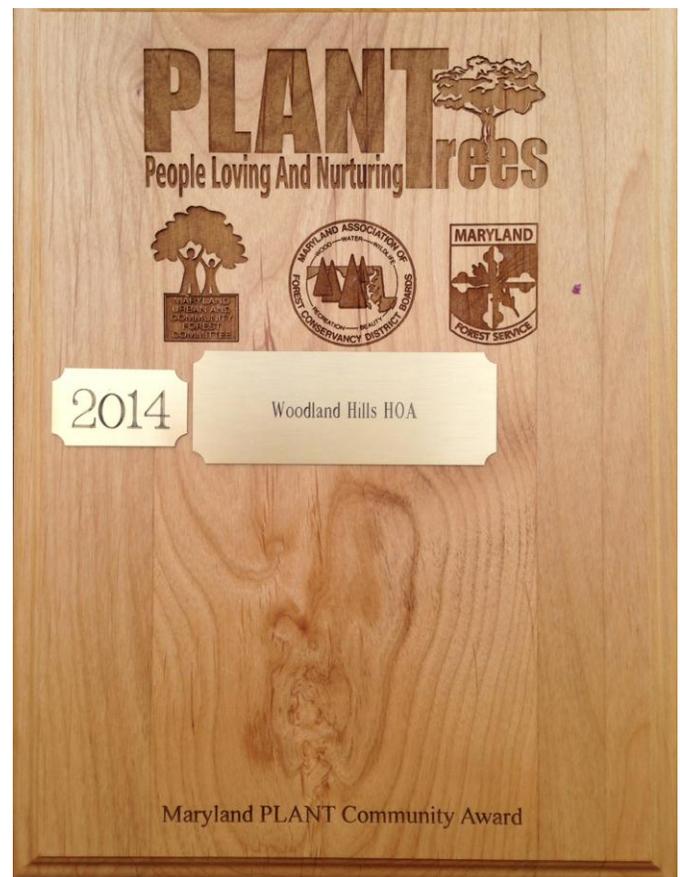
North Landscaping (Woodland Hills' contracted landscaper) is once again offering gutter cleaning services at a group rate for Woodland Hills residents.

Work is expected to take place May 28 and 29, weather permitting. North will blow leaves off of roofs (leaves will land in yards where the resident will then be responsible for them) and will hand clean the gutters. They will also spot check for problems with the gutter/downspout system and provide a summary of recommended repairs. All of these services will be performed for \$30.

If you are interested, please complete the form (enclosed on the back of the annual meeting notice), make your check payable to "North Landscaping" and deliver to Pam Sonnevile at 314 Wye Mill Court by May 22.

## **Woodland Hills Receives GOLD Award**

The Maryland Urban and Community Forest Committee, of the MD Association of District Forestry Boards in partnership with the MD Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service presented Woodland Hills HOA with the Gold People Loving and Nurturing Trees Award for 2014. The Gold Award is for development programs that are pursuing activities in addition to lower level awards; with events and a Community Forestry Program (i.e. Greening Committee) with the intent to improve the overall health of their trees and forests.



## **Volunteers Needed**

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](mailto:peggy@communityassn.com) or any of the directors, listed on the front page of this newsletter.

## **Community Wildlife Group Seeking Applications for Garden Certification**

Woodland Hills is now registered on the National Wildlife Federation website (NWF.org) and the Community Wildlife Group continues to work for certification. Homeowners can help by certifying their yards or gardens. It's easier than you might think. Go to the NWF website to begin the simple online application process ...

<http://www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certify-Your-Wildlife-Garden.aspx>

Woodland Hills currently has 15 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. If interested in joining the Community Habitat group, receiving information on creating habitat and/or volunteering, please contact Pam Sonnevill at [pamsonnevill@verizon.net](mailto:pamsonnevill@verizon.net).

## **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](mailto:president@woodlandhillsmd.com) with your new neighbor's name (if you know it) and address information. We'll be sure to drop by to welcome them to the community.



## **Keep Updated! Join the Listserv**

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

Please subscribe to the Woodland Hills listserv by accessing our web page ...

[www.WoodlandHillsMD.com](http://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 recycling them.

If you would rather not receive the *Gazette*, please contact the circulation department at 301-670-7350 or [circulation@gazette.net](mailto: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
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
WSSC	301-206-4002