

Park West Pages



Park West Community Association Newsletter - November 1, 2007

Additional Information Available at: www.parkwestcommunity.org

President's Message

By Rich Juchnewicz

On November 15th, we will be holding our Park West Community Association Annual Meeting. Not only is this your opportunity to hear from the Board about what has happened over the last year, but what is planned for the future of our community. There will be time for any questions that you may have for the Board.

And speaking of the Board, I know every year we ask for help, and this year is no different. We have nine positions on the Board and five committees. And we have the same six people working these same areas for the past four years. Not an easy math problem to solve.

I've tried everything to get people to get involved, from asking, begging, and even trying to make people mad enough to join to change things. Seems the Community has a high tolerance. Now, that's not to say that I haven't gotten assistance by way of input from several community members and that has been greatly appreciated. But that's only a handful out of 270 homes. Once again - the math does not add up. So if you're interested in helping out in any way, please contact me by e-mail, phone or even regular mail and we'll figure out where you can fit.

We accomplished a major parking lot re-sealing and striping project this past summer, giving the community a good face-lift needed maintenance. So now that you've seen it, what do you think of the new parking boxes? This is one instance where you *don't* "think outside the box"! Real simple - keep all four tires inside the white lines, just like you should park anywhere else, still trying to park as close to the curbs as possible (within 24 inches). And where we did not paint the boxes, to avoid having the main roads to look like runways, you still need to parallel park with the two curbside tires on the concrete gutter (a 24 inch target). And as always, the new, bright yellow curbs are no parking zones, easy to spot now.



Neighbor to Neighbor

Dogs in Park West: Residents' Comments

Win-Win Situation Sought

Recently, concerns over unleashed dogs in the community have surfaced, leaving dog owners and non-dog owners alike somewhat unsure of the community rights and responsibilities of those who own pets.

In an attempt to clarify these rights and responsibilities, a group of community members has already met two times and will continue to meet in order to come up with some possible suggestions that would address the concerns and meet the needs of all members of our community. We would like to invite other members of the community to join us in the discussion so that we can come up with a win-win situation for everyone.

In addition to clarifying the rights and responsibilities, issues currently under discussion include: the safety of all community members and pets, the establishment of a designated area and time for a dog play group, the proper disposal of waste, dog obedience and training, and the appointment of a liaison to the board for those who have concerns about pets in the community.

The group plans to present its ideas and gather more feedback at the annual meeting on November 15th, and through canvassing the neighborhood to hear people's concerns and ideas. We will also be meeting again as a group in the next few weeks. If you are interested in participating in any way, or simply offering feedback, please contact either **Elizabeth Bernard: ohhs1985@gmail.com** or **Skip Thompson: skipthompson1@cox.net**.

Park West Annual Meeting

November 15 - 7 p.m.

Robinson Secondary Cafeteria

Lawn Mowing Services

**Mowing, mulching, weeding,
edging. Gutters cleaned.
Call Jose 703-928-7732
OTTELLC@hotmail.com**

Sidewalks are for Pedestrians *Keep Trash Off Sidewalks*

When putting out weekly garbage, please be considerate of your neighbors who must use the sidewalks getting around the community, especially those who have to board a bus in the early hours of the morning.

Be sure to keep trash from obstructing the sidewalk on pick-up day (Tuesdays and Fridays). Larger items require advance arrangements with our trash company.

Also, when driving in the neighborhood, please observe the posted speed limits of 15 and 25 mph to minimize the possibility of hitting your neighbors and students who are walking about the neighborhood.

Already there have been several "near misses" at STOP signs, and failing to yield to pedestrians who have been forced to walk in the roadway due to sidewalks obstructed with trash.

Remember: Pedestrians have the right of way...not garbage!



A Special Tree in Kings Park West

A rare American Chestnut tree has been discovered living in our community by a group of arborists dedicated to the preservation of this species of tree.

PWCA has given these experts the approval to collect blossoms for pollination with the hope that enough genetic material will be collected to preserve the genes of this hearty survivor.

For more information, contact Debbie Fialka, a member of the American Chestnut Society, through her web site: drfialka@mac.com.

We hope to soon have this tree in a protective surrounding with a card attached that tells its story.



Pets and Park West *County Animal Control Rules Apply*

Since its inception, the Park West Community Association has followed the Fairfax County rules and ordinances regarding animal control.

Additional community rules can be found in the Park West

Community Association's "Covenants and Restrictions", Article VI, Section 6(b).

Unrestricted dogs are not allowed in Fairfax County. A dog running at large is a dog which is roaming, running or self-hunting off the property of its owner. Any dog found to be running at large can be impounded.

Residents who observe an unrestricted dog, whether it is aggressive or not, should call the police non-emergency number 703-691-2131, and an animal control officer or police officer will be dispatched to the scene.

Impounded animals are either returned to their owner or taken to the Animal Shelter. Owners are subject to fines up to \$250.00 for allowing their dogs to be unrestricted and similar fines if the dog is not current on their rabies inoculation or County Dog License, which are required after the dog reaches 4 months of age.

Cleaning up after your pet is *always* required. The owner of any dog should remove immediately the pet's waste from any property in our subdivision, including common areas (refer to the Fairfax County "pooper scooper" regulation found at the website address listed below). Pet owners who violate the County's pooper scooper law may incur a fine up to \$250.

For more information, go to: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/legal.htm, and visit the PWCA community website at: www.parkwestcommunity.org.

Home Improvement

**Painting, drywall, carpentry, bath & kitchen,
remodeling, plumbing, electrical.**

Small jobs welcome. Licensed & Insured.

Call 703-250-0868

OTTELLC@hotmail.com

What's Wrong With This Picture?



White trash bags are **NOT ALLOWED**.

Trash must be placed to the curb in heavy-duty **black** or **green** trash bags or in covered trash cans only.

White bags draw crows and squirrels, who tear open bags, and create a mess. It is unsanitary, and unsightly - and your neighbors get stuck cleaning it up.

Trash days are **Tuesday** and **Friday** only. Trash may be put at the designated pick-up areas **no earlier than 6 p.m. the night before trash pick-up**.

Trash violators will be fined for each violation!



Community Guidelines

PWCA Rules Always Available At
www.parkwestcommunity.org

Everyone who lives in Kings Park West is responsible for complying with the rules.

The Community Guidelines provide important information including:

- ✓ Maintenance Requirements (paint, storm doors, windows)
- ✓ Schedules and information on Trash and Recycling
- ✓ Parking Rules & Policy
- ✓ Pet Rules
- ✓ Noise Rules
- ✓ Landscaping Requirements
- ✓ PWCA Board of Director contacts and summary of committee functions.

Community rules are always available at the PWCA website: www.parkwestcommunity.org If you have any questions, contact any member of the PWCA Board.



Making Exterior Changes?

If you're planning any changes or improvements to your home – including installing a satellite dish, changing storm doors or windows, painting, deck, fence and shed improvements, or landscaping – you need approval from the Architectural and Control Committee (ACC).

See the PWCA website (www.parkwestcommunity.org, *Rules & Regulations and Community Information*), or email the ACC chair at acc@parkwestcommunity.org for more information.

Community Forum with Supervisor Sharon Bulova Held October 2

Fairfax County Supervisor Sharon Bulova hosted the fourth community forum October 2, 2007, bringing together county government leaders, George Mason University staff, residents, and police to discuss issues of common interest to the University and neighboring communities. Delegate David Marsden also attended.

Among the issues discussed was the plan for a new University hotel/conference center. The project calls for a six or seven-story, 150-room hotel and conference center along Route 123 on the western side of the University's eastern campus.

Sitting on 3.5 acres, the conference center will occupy 20,000 square feet and will have a restaurant that will seat 150-175 patrons. The project, partially screened by trees, will include a right turn in and right turn out entrance to the university on Route 123 and surface parking lots to the south.

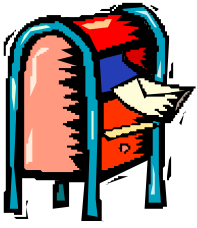
GMU Vice President for Facilities Tom Calhoun said the University would set up public meetings to ensure citizens can have input to the project, though Calhoun said most of the impact would be campus-centered. The conference center, hotel and restaurant will be available to the county and the public.

Other topics discussed included the turn lane under construction on southbound Roberts Road at Braddock, which is scheduled to be completed by March of 2008.

Based on community opposition, and traffic flow analysis which showed the intersection to be clearing adequately with each signal cycle, a northbound right turn lane on Roberts Road is not currently considered necessary.

For More Information, go to the PWCA website at: www.parkwestcommunity.org

Where Have All the Mail Boxes Gone?



It isn't your imagination. Mail boxes are becoming harder to find.

The increase in digital communication including email has reduced the volume of first class mail, causing the US Postal Service to remove many community mail boxes.

According to a February, 2007 *Baltimore Sun* story, the US Postal Service has removed more than 42,000 mail boxes since 1999.

Park West residents accustomed to dropping mail in the USPS box near the Giant at University Shopping Center were disappointed to see a notice about its impending removal.

Park West residents still have the opportunity to send mail without a trip to the Post Office since some PWCA community mail boxes contain mail drop slots on the side.

For those that do not have a drop slot, our letter carrier will pick up outgoing mail left inside a resident's slot.



The PWCA Board of Directors can always use another pair of hands. Monthly Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at Robinson Secondary School Room 504.

Meetings are open to everyone.



ROOF REPAIRS
ASPHALT SHINGLES
CEDAR SHAKE
SLATE
STORM DAMAGE
Siding & GUTTERS

RE-ROOFS
METAL ROOFS
ARCHITECTURAL
SHINGLES
BARNs &
OUTBUILDINGS

703-496-0129

540-439-7001



Avoid A Tow: Remember Parking Rules in Snow

The first snow may just be a few weeks away, so it's a good time to remind residents that parking rules do apply in the snow.

Generally, the plows do their best to plow away from parking areas. When the plows do push the snow up against the curbs, we ask residents to please take a shovel and clear the curb so you can park as close as possible.

Remember that it is your responsibility to make sure your guests park correctly.