

Park West Pages

Park West Community Association Newsletter - Winter 2012
Additional Information Available at www.parkwestcommunity.org



PWCA President's Message

By Rich Juchnewicz

Every four months I'm asked to write a paragraph for our Newsletter and I always find myself trying to write something new, but I always seem to come back to the same issues; Parties and Parking.

The issues that I get from the homeowners about the parties are the noise, the shenanigans, and the mess. The real simple rule to having a successful party is "respect your neighbors".

Block Captains

The Block Captains have been greeting new neighbors and helping keep our community running! Contact information for block captains:

• **TJ Hanton** / 4827 C'park Rd /
tj@hanton.net / 703.764.1671

• **Fred & Alice Hyre** / 4935
C'park Rd / 703.425.8029

• **Tammi Jackson-Griffin** /
10436 Malone Ct /
jtammi@cox.net / 703.272.7394

• **Laura McGiffin** / 10433 C'park
Ct / laurasnote@cox.net /
703.865.4744

• **Jeanette M. Scheppan** / 4725
Gainsborough Dr

• **Mike Zindler** / 4781
Gainsborough Dr /
zindler@gmail.com /
703.426.0612

For additional information, or to volunteer, please contact the Park West board.

Remember that with the Holiday Season arriving, people are getting in the mood, planning family gatherings and parties alike. Sometimes the party can spill out onto the front stoop and in the crisp fall air, music, laughter and talking travels a good distance, even without the help of refreshments. You may ask "what does he mean by shenanigans"?

What I mean by shenanigans is moving neighbor's yard decorations, damaging other neighbor's property, and party goers who relieve themselves in public. All of these are crimes and should and will be treated as such. Lastly, the mess people leave around on neighbor's yards and around the community. Have a trash can at the front door so they can leave their cans, bottles and other trash in it on their way out please.

Parking is always the same, watch where and how you and your guests park. We have "No Parking Zones" (yellow curbs) that are marked throughout the community. If you are having guests over, it is your responsibility to let them know where the best places are to park. Also, we ask that if you or your guests are parallel parking in the community, the two tires that are against the curb rest on the concrete gutter. The gutters are approximately 24 inches wide and should be easy to reach (Virginia DMV requires you to park within 12 inches). Trust me, the 30 seconds that you take to make sure they're good in a space is well worth it compared to the hour trip out to Merrifield to the Tow Lot.

Pet Etiquette

by Miss Daisy



Winter is in full force in our Park West neighborhood. Now is a good time to review a few safety tips to keep your pet safe and healthy during these cold months.

1. Thoroughly wipe off your dog's legs and stomach when he comes in out of the sleet, snow or ice. He can ingest salt, antifreeze or other potentially dangerous chemicals while licking his paws, and his paw pads may also bleed if not cleaned off well.
2. Does your dog spend a lot of time engaged in outdoor activities? Increase his supply of food, particularly protein, to keep him, and his fur, in tip-top shape.
3. Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.

Find more tips at www.asPCA.org

The holiday season will bring out all types of criminals. Some will prey upon your good nature to steal monies and information from unsuspecting citizens. There are so many reputable charities that seek donations this time of year that the criminals can easily hide in the mix. A few tips for donating this time of year:

- Do research on the charity you to which you intend to donate. Find out how the monies will be used at www.give.org
- Do not provide personal information to charities. This information is often not secured and can easily be stolen and used in identity thefts.
- Do not use credit cards or checks. Use money orders made out to the specific charity by name. This protects your personal information and only allows the charity to deposit the donation.
- Be sure to get a receipt.
- **DO NOT** donate to door-to-door solicitors before gathering more information. Get the charities information and decide after doing some research.
- Follow your instinct, if something doesn't sound right, don't donate!
- If you feel compelled to donate on impulse, such as at business entrances, have your money ready before you get there. Don't dig inside a wallet or purse looking through your cash. Other types of criminals may be watching.



Package and Parcel Theft

A common issue this time of year is the theft of delivered parcels. This crime is generally easily perpetrated and can be difficult to prosecute unless the criminal is caught in the act. A few tips to help deter these types of crimes.

- Request specific drop off times.
- Ask for the parcel to be placed beside the front porch. (Out of view from the street.)
- Pick up the packages at a package store such as a UPS store etc.
- Let a trusted neighbor know you are expecting a deliver and have them keep an eye out and bring it in once delivered.
- Request delivery confirmation emails. This will send you an email when the delivery driver scans the package as delivered.
- Call in any suspicious activity, persons, or vehicles you see milling around the neighborhood. Try to get a detailed description of the person or vehicle.

WHEN IN DOUBT CALL THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER (703) 691-2131!!

Neighborhood Watch



After several years of inactivity, our community is planning to reinstitute its Neighborhood Watch program. In conjunction

with our county police,

Neighborhood Watch involves either driving or walking around the community for just a few hours each month, and reporting any suspicious activities to the coordinator. It also can involve as little as just keeping a careful eye on the pool, tot lot, streets, or other high-traffic areas from your home. As well, just reporting anything unusual or suspicious at all can be of great assistance. Our police provide training for all volunteers, and it's a great way to become active in our community while assisting us to provide for a more secure community. Interested, or want further details?

Please contact Joe Underwood by phone at (703) 323-4710, or by e-mail at parking@parkwestcommunity.com.

For more information, old copies of the community newsletter, community guidelines, Board of Directors contact information, submit newsletter ideas and articles, and to sign up for community email alerts, please visit the website at:

<http://parkwestcommunity.org>

PWCA Board of Directors Meetings

Meetings are open to all, and attendance is encouraged. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm in room 504 at Robinson Secondary School

NO Parking Zones: Obey the Rules Or Face the Fine

Our purpose for having an active towing program is to maintain our travel lanes so emergency vehicles can get through when needed. The presence of snow does not increase the distance that you can park off the curb. As a matter of fact, snow actually puts your vehicle further out into the lane of traffic, restricting the travel lane even more and creating a potentially dangerous situation.

Remember that it is your responsibility, as residents, to make sure you and your guests park correctly. Cars double-parked or parallel parked with both curbside tires not touching the concrete gutter (nominally more than 24 inches from the curb) or parked in areas designated with yellow curbs are subject to immediate towing.

Please be courteous of your neighbor's reserved spaces. Parking in another resident's space without permission is also subject to immediate towing.

Finally, if you are having someone visit your house, you are responsible for notifying them of the community parking regulations. If your car or your guest's car is towed, please call Dominion Towing at (703) 978-7990. If you would like to contest the tow or would like to see the photograph showing the violation, please call or email the Parking Committee Chair, Joe Underwood, at (703) 323-4710 or parking@parkwestcommunity.org between 8:00am and 9:00pm to schedule an appointment.

Trash Reminders

- ~ Use trash cans and black bags ONLY
- ~ Place trash no earlier than 6:00pm Monday or Thursday nights
- ~ Recycling is only picked up on Tuesdays and should be in the proper recycling bins
- ~ All trash not collected must be retrieved by the rightful owner and stored properly until the next collection day



Failure to adhere to these regulations can result in a fine of up to \$50 per incident!

Chili Cookoff

Thanks to the Board, the Pool Chairs, and all the volunteers who helped organize the end-of-the-year chili cook-off at the pool. And congratulations to the winner of the tastiest chili, as chosen by the community. There were games for the kids, plenty of food, and good times with the neighbors. See you next year!

