



FOUNTAIN HILLS BULLETIN



A Newsletter for the Fountain Hills Community Association
Germantown, Maryland

www.fountainhillscommunity.com

FALL 2006



2006 Annual Meeting Approaching

It's time to come out and VOTE once again. As a homeowner, you have an investment in your community. Come out and VOTE on Thursday, November 2, 2006 at our Annual Meeting. Every vote counts!

In order for a quorum to be achieved at the annual meeting and election of Directors held on November 2nd we need at least 10% homeowners (or approximately 89 homes) to participate in this democratic process. We need YOU to make your voice heard!

Should you not be able to attend the meeting in person, return your Proxy/Ballot form (mailed to you separately) as soon as possible!



The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2nd at 7:30 PM

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

The normal meeting date is the 1st Thursday of the month. Join us in the Up-County Government Services Center located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown.

Thursday, November 2 nd , 7:30 PM	Annual Board Meeting and Elections
Thursday, December 7 th , 7:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, January 4 th , 7:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, February 1 st , 7:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting
Thursday, March 1 st , 7:30 PM	Regular Board Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ASPHALT MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Asphalt maintenance including seal coating and re-stripping of parking spaces was completed this past summer for about half of the streets maintained by the Fountain Hills Community Association. Despite a few setbacks and delays, the project was completed without any major problems and the result is a substantial improvement to the Community. Thanks to all affected homeowners and residents for your patience and cooperation during the project!!!

The remainder of the Association's streets, those that did not receive maintenance this summer, are scheduled for work next year. These streets include Tivoli Fountain Court, Rushing Water Way, a portion of Little Star Lane and Autumn Mist Drive, and the alleyways in the "Village" (Cary Acres Court, Conlon Ridge Court, Cornelius Court, Noble Oak Court, Malcolm's Cove Court, Scarlet Mist Court, and Scarlet Mist Lane).

Maintenance for the streets listed above is tentatively scheduled for Summer 2007.



Halloween Safety Tips

For more tips, go to the National Safety Council's website (www.nsc.org).

ONE: Make sure that an adult will be supervising the outing for your children.

TWO: Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.

THREE: Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and **never** to enter a stranger's home.

FOUR: Establish a return time.

FIVE: Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.

FARM FUN



Fall is a beautiful time of the year to visit area farms. The Department of Agriculture lists two farms in Germantown that you may want to consider checking out this season.

* **Butler's Orchard** is located at 22200 Davis Mill Road in Germantown. They have a "pumpkinland," hayrides, bonfire, and even a straw maze that are sure to be fun for everyone.

* **Phillips Farm**, found at 13710 Schaeffer Road in Germantown, offers pick-your-own pumpkins, a corn maze, in addition to a petting zoo.

SUPER MOIST PUMPKIN BREAD

(from www.Allrecipes.com)

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 2/3 cup white sugar
- 2 cups pumpkin puree
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup coconut milk
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 2/3 cup flaked coconut
- 1 cup toasted walnuts, chopped



DIRECTIONS:

Step 1: Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour two 8x4 inch loaf pans.

Step 2: In a large bowl combine the flour, brown sugar, white sugar, pumpkin puree, oil, coconut milk, baking soda, salt, ground nutmeg and ground cinnamon. Mix until all of the flour is gone. Fold in the nuts and flaked coconut. Pour batter into the prepared pans.

Step 3: Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from oven and cover loaves with foil tightly. Allow to steam for 10 minutes. Remove foil and turn out onto a cooling rack. Tent lightly with the foil and allow to cool completely.



Preparing for SNOW



Autumn is officially here but winter is coming and your Association is preparing for the snow. In fact, the contractor used in past years (D&A Dunlevy) will not be returning this year and the Board is currently reviewing proposals from other qualified snow removal contractors for the 2006/2007 season.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1: Snow removal - The most important thing for residents to understand regarding snow **removal** is that the primary objective is to keep the streets and sidewalks passable and safe to navigate. Yes, perhaps the term "**removal**" is a misnomer as removal of snow is not the primary goal and, in fact, is most often fiscally and physically impractical.



2: Letting snow accumulate - It is a generally accepted premise that a covering of packed powder snow is safer and easier to negotiate than a slick covering that may be left when a snowplow has passed over a street. Therefore, under most conditions, it is better to let snow accumulate when residents are leaving or returning home.

3: Three inches - Contractors are typically asked to begin clearing the streets when snowfall reaches a depth of about **THREE INCHES** (3"). If snow is still falling, the contractor is to "**open**" the drive lanes of the streets. This means to prevent the snow from accumulating too much and make ingress and egress possible. This process continues periodically until the snowfall stops.

4: Snow "clean up" - Once the snow has stopped, the contractor will "**clean-up**" the streets and lots. This means to widen the drive areas as wide as **safely** possible considering the conditions of the streets, parked vehicles, etc. Abrasives (sand) would be applied after the clearing process is completed.

5: Sidewalks - The clearing of sidewalks bordering Association common area is usually performed **after** the snowfall has stopped. If conditions warrant, this process may begin earlier, however, this would only be under extreme conditions. Obviously, by beginning to clear sidewalks **before** the snowfall has stopped, it could cost the community twice the expense or more for one snowstorm. **Fountain Hills' homeowners are responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalk in front of or adjacent to their home.** The Association only clears snow from sidewalks bordering *common areas*.



6: Special areas - All communities have unique areas that require special attention. Areas such as **fire hydrants, mailboxes and trash dumpsters** are examples of areas which, if left unattended, may create additional problems such as: the mailman couldn't (or wouldn't) deliver the mail, the fire department couldn't find the hydrant in the event of an emergency or the trash contractor couldn't remove the trash. Management makes every effort to identify such areas and work with the snow clearing contractor to properly address these areas and avoid problems.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

1: Use common sense and caution when navigating sidewalks and streets. Accidents do happen!

2: Allow snow clearing contractors space when they are servicing our roads and sidewalks. For obvious reasons they are most effective and safely executed when there is little or no traffic on the streets.

3: Remember to contact **Montgomery County (240/777-7623)** for snow clearing problems on **Cub Run Way, Fountain Hills Drive, Lake Placid Lane, Noble Oak Drive, Ponsford Place, Poterfield Way, and Scarlet Mist Way** as these streets are maintained by Montgomery County, not Fountain Hills.





Interested in a... Neighborhood Watch?



Commander Evelyn Cahalen of the 5th District Montgomery County Police Department recently gave an informative presentation on neighborhood watch programs at a recent Fountain Hills Association meeting. The Board of Directors is currently evaluating the possibility of implementing a program in Fountain Hills, including assessing volunteer interest in serving on and administrating such a program.

Commander Cahalen (or "Evie" as she prefers to be called) has provided periodic "crime updates" via email to those who attended a previous Board Meeting. Fountain Hills homeowners and residents interested in receiving these updates can contact Evie and request to be included on updates relevant to Fountain Hills. Contact Evie at:
Evelyn.Cahalen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

SUGGESTIONS?

There are four ways you can send your questions, comments, or suggestions to the Association.

1. **Write to:** Fountain Hills
c/o Vanguard Management
P.O. Box 39
Germantown, MD 20875-0039
2. **Email:** wwhitney@vanguardmgt.com
3. **Phone:** 301-540-8600, x3314
4. Place your suggestions in the **Suggestion Box** located by the front door of the pool house.

VANGUARD MANAGEMENT

Main Line	301-540-8600
Community Information	x3052
Manager: William Whitney	x3314
Accounting	x3302
Website	www.vanguardmgt.com

Complaints about Soliciting

Complaints about door-to-door solicitation and distribution of literature (menus, flyers, advertisements, etc.) have recently been received. Montgomery County Code, Chapter 47, has specific guidelines, which vendors must follow that residents who find this practice annoying and disruptive should be aware of.

A vendor, as defined in Chapter 47-1(b) of the County Code, is "any person who sells, offers to sell, or solicits orders for any goods (including perishable foods) or services," door-to-door in a vehicle or on foot on any public street, sidewalk, or public right-of-way. Chapter 47-5 further requires that a vendor's license be "prominently" displayed "on the vendor's person," or "on any vehicle used in vending" while the activity is underway.

What does all this mean for Fountain Hills?

If an unwanted solicitor knocks on your door or distributes advertisements and is *not* displaying a vendor's license, they are breaking the law and the proper recourse would be to file a "non-emergency" complaint with the **Montgomery County Police Department at (301) 279-8000**. Of course, it would also be appropriate before contacting the Police to politely instruct the vendor to immediately leave the community.

Complaints can also be registered with the **Postal Inspection Service** if flyers, menus, advertisements, etc., are placed upon, supported by, attached to, hung from, or inserted into a **mailbox**, as this is a violation of United States Postal Service Domestic Mail Manual 508.3.1.3. The **Postal Inspection Service** office that serves Fountain Hills may be reached at **(410) 715-7700**.

The most effective means to reduce soliciting in Fountain Hills is for individual homeowners and residents to understand applicable laws and to promptly notify the appropriate law enforcement agencies when the activity is observed.