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Vice President
Val Schlorff
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Secretary
Sally Rosenberg
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Treasurer
Pat Jenkins
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October 2003, Vol. 8, No. 4

**ANNUAL MEETING FOR 2004 OFFICER ELECTION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2003 at 7:00 PM
DEKALB SCHOOL OF THE ARTS - MEDIA ROOM
2415-B NORTH DRUID HILLS ROAD**

At the upcoming annual meeting, Jessica Hill, DeKalb County Extension Agent, will discuss "How to Improve Your Curb Appeal" and other helpful tips for your home and landscape. Commissioner Judy Yates has also been invited to discuss the DeKalb Greenspace Bond Issue, and how it will help our community to improve our parks. In addition, we will hold our annual election of officers. Our bylaws require us to present a slate of officers one month before the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee, appointed by the Board, consists of Virginia Smith, Chairman; Margarete Tigges; and Bo Koonin. They have submitted the following slate:

Proposed Nominees
Steve Bighouse, President
Flo Wolf, Vice President
Traci Lanford, Secretary
Steve Jenkins, Treasurer

At the annual meeting, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. The new officers will take their positions on January 1, 2004.

In other news, we welcome two new section representatives. Charlene Shikany will replace Harriet Koonin, who is moving. Charlene will represent Section 6 on the Board. Roy Fass is replacing Rod Gary, who moved. He will be the representative from Weatherstone on the Board.

A last bit of information from your four officers: we wish the new officers well and know they will continue the great MHA organization. It is unusual for four officers to stay on the job for two years in any volunteer group, so we would like to brag about our accomplishments. At the beginning of 2002 we set up our priorities---street cleanup, new directory, membership drive, neighborhood watch and code compliance. We followed through on these and multiplied our goals.

Street cleanup - we began by having all the streets swept with a mechanical sweeper. In 2003, we had all our entryways cleaned by hand.

New directory - we published a new one for 2002 and are ready to print the 2003 version.

Membership drive - a huge success. We now number 135 with 13 new members from Weatherstone. Our largest membership ever.

Neighborhood watch - for 2003, we installed two new chairpersons and an e-mail alert system to get the word out faster. We have all 23 Block Captain positions filled.

Code compliance - despite the DeKalb county's lack of personnel, etc., we have pursued their help to improve some problem areas.

Not only have we reached our goals, we have reached beyond them with the following extra events/issues to bring our organization forward.

Neighborhood Watch Nightout - 76 people attended our eight stations to talk with their neighbors.

Annual Block Party - great success with 86 adults and many children attending.

Flags - a flag chairman handles distributing and repairing flags.

Rezoning issues - worked on rezoning with Torah Day School, Intown Community Church, and the Arnold property at Toco Hill that we have pursued for a park (more on this issue later).

Newsletter - changed format to four pages and sent out electronically by e-mail.

Website - our webmaster created a fantastic site with a lot of useful information.

Electronic e-mail list - with the help of our "email administrator," 150 names are set up to be activated in minutes by Neighborhood Watch, the president, and the newsletter editor.

Weatherstone - embraced the new residents into MHHA and set up a Section Representative and Block Captains to include them in all our activities.

Thank you all for helping to make our neighborhood a great place to live! --Linda, Val, Sally, and Pat

UPCOMING POLITICAL FORUM

The North Druid Residents Association is having a political forum on Tuesday, October 21, at 7:00 p.m. at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral ballroom at 2480 Clairmont Road. We are all invited. Commissioners who have committed are CEO Vernon Jones, Gale Walldorff, and Judy Yates. Four members of the House of Representatives will attend – Doug Teper, Kathy Ashe, Pat Gardner and Nick Moraitakis. Here is your chance to meet the people who affect your day-to-day affairs.

THE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY--A HAWAIIAN LUAU--SEPTEMBER 14

Traci Lanford, our chairperson for this year's party, really showed us how to throw a big party. Over 86 adults and many children attended. Our oldest attendee was 92 year-old Robert Kraus and the youngest was 10 month-old Hannah Brown, who had all this going on in front of her home. From the DeKalb Fire Department came two Station One Fire Engines, including the hook and ladder. From Station 21, the famous fire rescue dogs showed their talent. Keep DeKalb Beautiful brought information and brochures. We had three tents, in the event of rain, to protect our precious picture exhibits. The food was fabulous and plentiful. Prizes and leis were given out. Many thanks to all the hardworking crew and Traci!

The best things about the party were contained in a note by Kay Turner, who has lived at Merry Lane and Pine Tree Circle for 53 years. *"...Merry Hills Helpers, The Merry Hills party was outstanding and couldn't have been better. You all had so many activities of interest for all ages attending, and I couldn't help but notice the happy faces and friendliness and warm fellowship among all the many attending. I felt this wonderful and caring togetherness brought the neighbors much closer together and was a strong caring and binding and accepting friendship among the adults and numerous children attending--all were so happy. Thanks for all you've done--all the planning, all the hard work, care and love you put into this fantastic party. The Lord even held off the rain until you cleaned everything up. Wasn't that great! Love to all, Kay Turner"*

TOCO PARK/COMMONS UPDATE

On September 23, we presented our sixth statement (three statements to the DeKalb Planning Commission and three to the DeKalb Board of Commissioners) regarding the Arnold property at Toco Hill that we hope to develop as a park. For the third time, the rezoning was deferred for a full-cycle. The family who inherited the property has a proposal from a bank to lease it for 20 years, but it must first be rezoned from residential to commercial. Our Commissioners are working with the Greenspace program, the bank, the family and lessors of the shopping center. We will continue to press for the property to be developed as a park.

KITTREDGE PARK EXPANSION PROPOSAL

There is a lot of interest from our Commissioners (Gale Walldorff and Judy Yates) in upgrading some District 2 parks that are underutilized because of lack of size, age, local interest, activity opportunities, etc. With money from the Greenspace Bond fund, there is now funding for improvement work. Commissioner Yates is especially interested in Kittredge Park located down Kittredge Park Road behind Adams stadium. The expansion will take time. We are somewhat encouraged after meeting with Tina Arbes, the Greenspace Coordinator. There is available acreage belonging to nonprofit groups, which could possibly be leased for further expansion.

FIRE DAMAGES KREISBERG HOME ON HOLLY LANE

On September 26, a fire started in the basement of Dawn and Michael Kreisberg's home and did extensive damage to the home.

NEW MHHA MEMBERS --WEATHERSTONE

Michael & Suzie Gill, Wembley Court
Robert Farrimond, Wembley Court
Fred & Kathy Howard, Wembley Court
Scott Ewing & Nicholas Lodge, Wembley Court
Jonathan Sacks, Wembley Court
Brian Shride & Brent Clayton, Wembley Court

NEW MHHA MEMBERS

Betsy & Carl Spruill, Holly Lane
Mark Benson & Stacy Scully, Merry Lane

NEW NEIGHBORS

Angela & Arvis Nantz, Christmas Lane
Erik & Kelly Flynn-Muller, Merry Lane
Evan & Mike Jacobs, N. Holly Lane
David & Amanda Copeland, Holly Lane
Bill Litchfield & Vere Fisher, Merry Lane

CONDOLENCES

Dr. Sadell Sloan passed away Sept. 19 after a long illness. She is survived by two sons, a daughter, and her husband, Dr. Alan Sloan.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Listed below are the crimes occurring since the last newsletter:

- A break in on Holly Lane occurred on a Tuesday morning to mid-day with no one at home. The burglars entered the locked home with a baseball bat, ransacking the home for valuables. Among the missing items was a laptop computer. The police were notified immediately.
- A dog was stolen from inside a fenced yard on Merry Lane.
- In August, drugs were confiscated from a home on Jody Lane (three houses from the Holly Lane intersection). The tenants were evicted and jailed.

In addition, Pat Jackson, the creator of the 18-year-old Neighborhood Watch program in DeKalb county, retired in early October after 30 years of service with the police department. Ms. Jackson helped develop 400-500 neighborhood watch programs, including Merry Hills, over the course of her career.

NEW TORAH DAY SCHOOL OPEN

The new buildings at Torah Day School, 1959 LaVista Road, were open to the public on August 27 for a grand opening before the school started classes the first week in September. Many of the teachers and administrators live in Merry Hills. The following are teachers: Rabbi Mordechai and Naomi Cohen, Rabbi Aaron and Rivki Eichorn, Michal Donowitz, and Rabbi Shimon Feigenbaum. The following are in administration: Rabbi David Kapenstein, Executive Director; Kay Fink, payroll; and Leslee Morris, administrator.

WILD ANIMAL TRAPS AVAILABLE TO RENT FROM ANIMAL CONTROL

Recently a raccoon was spotted in the neighborhood by a resident. Because the resident's domestic animals were acting strangely and raccoons do carry rabies, we rented a wild animal trap from DeKalb Animal Control (404-294-2996). This humane trap can be rented for \$10 for 10 days. Animal Control brings it out, sets it up, baits it, and returns to take away any animal caught. The raccoon is still at large.

INTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE

Intown Community Church is building a new education building in back of their sanctuary at 2059 LaVista Road. In about two weeks they will begin cutting down major trees, removing houses four and five on Houston Mill Rd., (counting from LaVista, they own all five), and building a construction entrance onto Houston Mill Road. They have received all their permits from the county. We expect heavy traffic disruption in this already impacted area.

SECOND ANNUAL TOCO COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE—SUNDAY--OCTOBER 26 9AM-4PM

Plan to stay at home and sell your stuff. This sale was a big success last year. The sponsor does all the work. Register to participate by noon on Oct. 13. For more information, call 404-728-4465 or visit marc@marcgoldin.com.

MERRY HILLS HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

Your section representative is your neighborhood contact for any comments or problems.

Section # 1: 1252-1330 Merry Lane, 1235 Christmas Ln., 2002-2066 LaVista Road & 2178 LaVista Rd
Representative: Steve Bighouse
section1rep@merryhills.com

Section # 2: 1331-1413 Merry Lane, 2771-2801 North Druid Hills Road
Representative: Tom Ingram
section2rep@merryhills.com

Section # 3: 1246-1341 Christmas Lane, 1724 and 1725 Pine Tree Circle
Representative: Arlene Gross
section3rep@merryhills.com

Section # 4: 1348-1448 Christmas Lane
Representative: Traci Lanford
section4rep@merryhills.com

Section # 5: 1722-1755 Reindeer Drive, 1708-1798 Holly Lane
Representative: Shirley Brickman
section5rep@merryhills.com

Section # 6: 1260-1402 Holly Lane
Representative: Charlene Shikany
section6rep@merryhills.com

Section # 7: 1406-1519 Holly Lane, 2487-2515 North Druid Hills Road
Representative: Flo Wolf
section7rep@merryhills.com

Section # 8: Weatherstone Townhomes
Representative: Roy Fass
section8rep@merryhills.com

GARBAGE AND YARDWASTE SCHEDULE

- November 11, Veteran’s Day: Tuesday/Friday garbage pick up will be Wednesday/Friday.
- November 27-28, Thanksgiving Holidays: Tuesday/Friday garbage pick up will be Tuesday ONLY. Thursday yardwaste pick up will be Wednesday.
- December 25, Christmas Day: No change in garbage pick up. Thursday yardwaste pick up will be Wednesday.
- January 1, 2004, New Year’s Day: No change in garbage pick up. Thursday yardwaste pick up will be Wednesday.

OFFICERS

President: Linda Billingsley
president@merryhills.com

Vice President: Val Schlorff
vicepresident@merryhills.com

Secretary: Sally Rosenberg
secretary@merryhills.com

Treasurer: Pat Jenkins
treasurer@merryhills.com

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Zoning: Margarete Tigges
zoning@merryhills.com

Neighborhood Watch:
Rosa Landers
neighborhoodwatch@merryhills.com

NW Assistant: Sarah Duwell
neighborhoodwatch@merryhills.com

E-mail Administrator:
Steve Jenkins
mailinglist@merryhills.com

Newsletter: Lauri Trainor
newsletter@merryhills.com

Webmaster: Flo Wolf
webmaster@merryhills.com

Flagman: Larry Gilger
flagman@merryhills.com

NEWS OF INTEREST

- The Emergency Beacons given away at the Neighborhood Nightout are available from the manufacturer for \$9.95, including shipping. Call 1-800-449-6537 or visit their website at www.emergencybeacon.com.
- The \$949,000 Milani mansion is now having open house at 1279 Christmas.
- Go see the beautiful red maples at Mason Mill Park on McConnell Drive, east of Clairmont. Value-Jet planted these 110 trees as a memorial to the people killed in the Florida plane crash. It is a great place for dogs, kids, seniors, walkers, runners, etc. Enjoy!
- A clean up of the entryways is in the works for the winter months.

Have an item for the MHHA Newsletter? E-mail to newsletter@merryhills.com by January 1, 2004.