

# The Bugle

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## Newsletter for the Avondale Citizens' Association

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Serving Avondale Grove, Avondale Terrace, and North Woodridge

February 2006

### Avondale Citizens' Association General Membership Meeting Thursday, March 16, 2006 7:00 p.m.

(Location: to be announced)



#### Agenda Items Include:

- \* Program & Ideas for 2006
- \* Status of sidewalks, pot holes & other Public Works Issues
- \* Status of Revisions to By-Laws
- \* Liquefied Natural Gas plant proposal status
- \* State Legislation Updates

### WHERE DO YOU REALLY LIVE ??

New neighbors are often confused about the legal divisions of our County and Cities. Many of us are confused about where we live. Some of us believe we live within Mount Rainier (especially on the West side of Queens Chapel Road), or Hyattsville, because this is what our mail reads.

**WRONG !!!**...None of us are officially residents of any incorporated city or town. We live within unincorporated County land. Our taxes are paid to the County, our trash is picked up by the County, our snow removal is performed by the County, and our police service is provided by the County.

This is important to know because, at least for now, the only clout we have is a strong neighborhood association, and the help from our County Council representative, Will Campos.

#### Where Do you Live, cont.

There have been proposals made from time to time to merge our neighborhoods/sub-divisions into our neighboring cities, or perhaps become a legal town ourselves. This is a discussion which needs to be explored in the near future as the challenges to maintain a strong neighborhood only become larger and more plentiful. Whether we become a legal town or joint with a neighboring city, our property taxes will indeed increase.

Perhaps it is worth it; perhaps not. You will have the opportunity to decide your destiny.

In the meantime, however, all residents of our member sub-divisions should understand that we live in "un-incorporated" County territory, and as such, we are on our own. Membership ---active & financial--- in our Association, therefore, is quite important if we are to maintain a positive quality of life.

#### **Positive Stories for Children...**

New line of DVDs developed to provide positive stories/goals by actress/mother. Click on [www.sweetblackberry.com](http://www.sweetblackberry.com)

#### **SEX Offender(s) in the Area....**

Easy website to find out where they live. There is one on Avondale Rd. and other addresses nearby. Click on [www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)



## Talent Search !!!



Volunteers with these and other skills are needed for community projects:

- Musicians
- Grant Writers
- Spanish Translator

If you have a special skill and a little time, please contact us to help. 301-779-6948

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

It is now time to submit your 2006 membership application and dues. The current fees are:

- \$5.00 each resident adult under 55
- \$3.00 each resident 55 and above

Dues are important to finance such events as the annual Avondale picnic, newsletter printings, postage, xeroxing and annual expenses of maintaining the organization as a state recognized corporation.

These dues are also critical for voting privileges and discounts.

Please mail your dues, with the enclosed application sheet to the Association **TODAY**. If you prefer, you may drop your forms and dues off at the following drop-off points:

Ms. Paxton, 4610 Russell Avenue  
Mrs. Ambrose, 2005 Ingraham Street

## Pan-Handlers Moving On ?....

For years, our area has been plagued by a group of drunken pan-handlers loitering at the Queens Chapel Road/Chillum Rd. intersection. Their presence has had several detrimental and dangerous impacts for everyone.

Members of the Avondale Citizens Assoc. Board recently met with the Police Commander. In turn, his staff met with the owner of the liquor store in the shopping center.

Thanks to the voluntary assistance & cooperation of the owner, Patrick, at the Queens Chapel Liquor, the number of pan-handlers has decreased. Please stop in and say "thank you" to Patrick. Please also urge him to keep the pressure up on the vagrants.

## SNOW & LITTER REMOVAL IS YOUR JOB

Please be reminded that it is the legal responsibility of each property owner within our boundaries to not only care for our yards. We are legally responsible for removing litter and snow from walkways in front of our properties. We are also responsible for removing litter from the gutters in front of our properties, so it doesn't migrate into the regional storm drain system. Please keep these areas clear of trash and snow.

FURTHERMORE, bulky trash items should not be put out more than one day prior to the scheduled pick-up. Broken or cut tree limbs and other debris should not be placed in our neighborhood parks and green spaces. Cut these items up, and put them out for the Wednesday/Thursday collection by the County trash contractors.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to keep Avondale/North Woodridge a positive and livable community

## LNG Update...

The struggle has continued to ultimately defeat the proposal of the Washington Gas Company to build a liquefied natural gas processing plant on Chillum Road. On February 10<sup>th</sup>, a 3<sup>rd</sup> day of testimonies was held at the Zoning Hearing Examiner to convince her that this proposal is in violation with County zoning laws. Community representatives, assisted by Avondale's attorney, David Fischer, have consistently poked holes in the information presented by Wash. Gas. The next dates are March 10<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Meanwhile, Delegate Dereck Davis introduced state legislation which made it more difficult for an LNG facility to receive approval in the County, it is passed. The measure is currently being held up in a Montgomery County subcommittee, because the Gas company has alleged that failure to build the plant on Chillum Road will cost Maryland customers an extra \$430 million.

Our civic association in collaboration with the membership of the Washington Gas Watch Alliance is making efforts to counter these scare tactics. It has become clear, however, that a victory in this matter will take many more months, and a great deal of money.

The Association is appealing to each household in Avondale to contribute to this campaign, to help save lives and the value of homes here. **Tax deductible** contributions can be made payable to: the Sierra Club Foundation, and mailed to the Avondale Citizens' Association, P.O. Box 5891, Hyattsville MD 20782.

## **NEW BY-LAWS COMING SOON...**

The legal document governing the Association has not been formally and fully revised in many years. The Board has been working to update the rules and procedures. A new document will be ready before summer.

In the meantime, please be sure that your dues are up to date, so you will have a voice in decision-making.

## **PARKING ON YOUR FRONT LAWN IS ILLEGAL....**



If you need off-street parking, please have an official paved drive-way installed, and avoid expensive fines. Muddy lawns are not helpful to the appearance of our neighborhood.

## **NEW STATE LAWS ARE COMING**

As you may know, our state elected officials convene each year from January through April to consider changes in the laws and budget. We hope to receive an update of these proposals at our next community-wide meeting. These are our State Legislators:

Senator Gwendolyn Britt	301-858-3745
Delegate Rosetta Parker	301-858-3326
Delegate Victor Ramirez	301-858-3326
Delegate Doyle Neiman	301-858-3326

