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Tanterra Today can also be found online at www.Tanterra.com.

Check our website for announcements and other community news!

Please submit all items for publication in the newsletter by the 20th of each month to TanterraToday@hotmail.com.

President's Message

by Curt Barrett

Our Annual meeting was held November 9th at Greenwood Elementary. We had a large crowd of homeowners in attendance, as well as our District 14 Representative Craig Zucker. Several items were brought up for discussion, the highlights of which are presented below.

First, several homeowners voiced their concerns regarding drivers who speed along Heritage Hills Drive. Rep. Zucker volunteered to contact the Glenmont police station and request intervention, the results of which could range from speed traps to installing a speed camera or installing speed bumps. There are several options available, and I will keep homeowners apprised of the feedback and recommendations we get from the police as I receive them.

Rep. Zucker also made known to all that **the State of Maryland has college scholarships available to its residents.** If interested, please contact Craig's office at Delegate.C.Zucker@house.state.md.us for further information.

Addressing HOA business, Tanterra **homeowners unanimously elected the three candidates up for election to the Board** for the next three year term: Associate member Jim Cagely and Tanterra residents Charlie Cook and Aleka Kapitou. The homeowners also approved a motion to allocate all unspent funds this year to the reserve fund. The reserve fund is the Homeowner's Association fund used to pay for major capital improvements (such as bike path or parking lot paving). Glen McEwen then told the group about the progress the Pool Reconstruction is making in preparing the Terms of Reference and Specifications for the procurement of a contractor to reconstruct our pool. **Award of a contractor is expected early next year, with construction to commence in September 2012.**

After the annual meeting, the Board met and re-elected the current officers for another year: Curt Barrett as President, Glen McEwen as Vice President, Charlie Cook as Treasurer and Richard Bertin as Secretary.

Lastly, the power of competition is occurring in our neighborhood for trash collection! One of our residents (Dan Matathias) negotiated a great price from Potomac Disposal, and now, in response, B&B Refuse has offered a reduced price of $27/quarter for 1x/week pick up service. Potomac Disposal is matching B&B's rate of $27/quarter for 1x/week pick up AND offering 2x/week service at $45/quarter! Now you, the homeowner, can decide which service is best for you; Tanterra HOA is not trying to select one company to service the entire community, but rather find the best prices available for our homeowners, and leave the choice up to you. We want to thank Dan for his many hours invested in this cause, which resulted in this savings for our homeowners!

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season and very Happy New Year!

Board Members Present:

- ► Curt Barrett, Pres.
- ► Glen McEwen, V.P.
- Charlie Cook, Treas.
- ► Dick Bertin, Sec'y.

Board Members at Large in Attendance:

- ► Jim Cagley
- ► Dick Cole
- ► Wayne Johnson
- ► Beth Murray
- Glen Wasik

Others Present:

- ► Elizabeth Bialas, HOA Clerk
- ► Alexa Kapatou, GOCA
- ► Ted Karp (Architectural Comm)
- ► Sue Barrett & Lee Ehrlichman

► = Members present & attending meeting

Tanterra Homeowners Association

General Meeting Minutes for October 19, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by President Curt Barrett.

1. **Minutes**. A motion was made by Glen McEwen to approve the minutes of the September 21 meeting as previously distributed (with two minor corrections). Dick Cole seconded the motion. The motion carried and the September minutes were approved.

2. **Treasurer's Report**. Clerk Elizabeth Bialas distributed the current Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement (as of September 30). All but four homeowners have now responded to the billing for the special assessment. The Board reviewed and discussed the draft 2012 budget. Some clarifications and adjustments were made to the draft budget. Dick Bertin moved to approve. Wayne Johnson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. This budget, which will also be publicized on the Tanterra website, includes modest dues increases of $20 per year for homeowners and $10 per year for associate members to meet anticipated expense and reserve needs.

3. **Committee Reports**.

   Pool Committee:
   The geotechnical survey of the pool area has been completed. The reconstruction committee will meet when the survey report is received, and findings will be incorporated into the final plans.

   Architectural Committee:
   There have been complaints about two homes with excessive vehicles and large riding mowers parked in driveways. The Board will consider possible restrictions at a future meeting.

   GOCA:
   Aleka Kapatou, GOCA representative, noted that at the October meeting, there was discussion about church relocation to Olney from Wheaton and Farquhar Middle School relocation for construction. The Board did not approve contributing additional funds to GOCA to support legal challenge to the church move.

   Newsletter, Grounds, Social & Tennis Committees - no report.

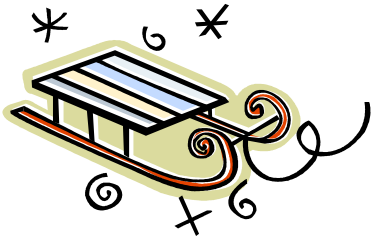
   Welcoming Committee:
   No report. New residents are being welcomed as they arrive.

4. **New Business**: None.

5. **Old Business**: The request received last month for a chilled water fountain at the pool was discussed. Additional information is still required prior to making a decision, and the requester will be asked to assist in researching product availability and cost.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Submitted by Richard J. Bertin, Secretary



Congratulations for the second time this year to our own Lakshmi Kirkire, member of the Sherwood H.S. Debate team, who once again won both of her debates at Walter Johnson !! Way to go Lakshmi!

BROOKSIDE GARDENS HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW

Nov. 25 - Jan. 8 (Closed Dec. 24, 25 and Jan. 2-5)
1800 Glenallan Avenue, Wheaton **301-962-1453**

Weekday hours: 5:30-9 pm (last car admitted @ 8:30 pm)
Weekend hours: 5:30-10 pm (last car admitted @ 9:30 pm)
Prices: $20 weeknights (Mon-Thurs)
$25 weekends (Fri, Sat & Sun)

** To purchase advance tickets for $20 that can be used on ANY evening, stop by the Gift Shop or Visitors Center daily before 4 p.m. 301-962-1448

Now celebrating its 15th year, see hundreds of trees & shrubs donning festive lights, beautifully lit gazebos and displays in the shape of blooming flowers & wild animals. Moving displays too!

Local musicians perform in the Visitors Center Auditorium every evening through January 8 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

Volunteers 16 and older needed! For more info see http://www.montgomeryparks.org/brookside/garden_lights.shtm.

TOBY'S DINNER THEATRE'S
performance of **WHITE CHRISTMAS**

Nov. 10 - Jan. 8
5900 Symphony Woods Drive, Columbia

Don't miss this joyous adaptation of the classic holiday film. Call 410-730-8311 for info on pricing and show times.

GLEN ECHO PUPPET THEATRE

Nov. 25—Dec. 31
7500 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo

Showtimes: Thurs & Fri, 10 & 11:30 am
Sat & Sun: 11:30 am & 1 pm

Enjoy the Puppet Co.'s annual holiday treat, The Nutcracker, with marionettes and larger-than-life costume characters in a delightful and entertaining production for the entire family! For show times and more info, see: http://www.thepuppetco.org/ or call 301-634-5380.

COMMUNITY CORNER

GAITHERSBURG WINTER LIGHTS FESTIVAL

Nov. 25 - Dec. 31
Seneca Creek State Park
11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg
Sun, Tues-Thurs: 6-9pm; Fri & Sat: 6-10 pm

3.5-mile drive w/350 light displays; 60 animated. Large capacity vehicles welcome. **301-258-6310**

SYMPHONY OF LIGHTS

Nov. 21 - Jan. 1 **Open Daily, Hours Below**
Hickory Ridge Rd & Broken Land Pkwy, Columbia

TWO OPTIONS: DRIVE IT or WALK IT! Drive thru the spectacular light display of more than 70 animated and stationary light creations between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. **OR take a leisurely stroll** thru the light show between 4:30 and 5:45 pm. **DOGS ALLOWED on the walk thru Dec. 13!** For more info see http://www.hcgh.org/symphonyoflights or call 410-740-7840.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Dec 2 - 31 **Daily - 10 am - 10 pm**
Mormon Temple 301-587-0144

9900 Stoneybrook Drive, Kensington

Outdoor life-size nativity; 18 decorated trees indoors; performances nightly.

SEE PAGES 4 & 5 FOR MORE HOLIDAY INFO!!

CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM

Dec 10 & 11 **Noon to 5 p.m.**

Agricultural History Farm Park
18400 Muncaster Road, Derwood
301-670-4661

Come and enjoy the holiday spirit on the farm:

- Turn of the century decorations
- Children's activities
- Free live Christmas music & caroling
- Free hot cider & ginger cookies
- Free hayrides (weather permitting)
- Homemade baked goods for sale

For more info visit www.AgHistoryFarm.org

LOCAL TREE FARM + FAMILY/FRIENDS = LOTS OF FUN!

Finding the right tree for your holiday celebration is often an important part of the Christmas tradition, whether it be combing the local nurseries or garden center for a pre-cut tree or finding one along a country road to cut down like grandpa used to do. Well if you're in that latter crowd, you may be very pleased by the number of family owned tree farms in our area that are lots of fun to visit! Below is a partial listing of the closer tree farms in our area; for a wider selection of farms in the Baltimore, Central Maryland and D.C. area, go to www.pickyourownchristmastree.org. *PLEASE — CALL AHEAD* to confirm hours of operation, attractions, tree availability, etc.

BUTLER'S ORCHARD **301-972-3299**
22200 David Mill Road, Germantown
Owner/Operator: The Butler Family
www.butlersorchard.com

Cut your own trees from acres of carefully groomed Douglas & Canaan Fir and White Pine. **What makes this tree farm special**: a huge country market where you can buy preserves, fruits & vegetables and fresh-made apple cider, and wreath decorating!

301-865-3515 **GAVER TREE FARM**
5501 Detrick Road, Mt. Airy
Owner/Operators: Mike & Lisa Gaver
http://www.gavertreefarm.com

Open Nov. 25-Dec. 23, 9am-5pm
Choose from over 50 acres of beautifully shaped trees or choose one from their pre-cut selection. Barn w/wreaths, hot chocolate & refreshments for sale.

Homestead Farm, 15600 Sugarland Road, Poolesville **301-977-3761**
Owner/Operators: Ben and Maureen Allnutt http://www.homestead-farm.net

Scotch Pines up to 10 ft. Also, farm-made wreaths and roping, jam, jellies, honey and a selection of mixes for your holiday needs. Roping and wreaths are made fresh daily on the farm. **What makes this tree farm special**: The Allnutt family has farmed in Mont. County since 1763, when James Allnutt purchased 746 acres by the Potomac River. Homestead Farm consists of 230 acres from that original purchase.

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Potomac $3,000 per month

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MARY KERR'S DECEMBER Timely Tip

Holiday Toy Drive
I will be collecting new, unwrapped toys to be distributed locally to needy families. Drop off donations to Re/Max Realty Centre or call me for pick up

RE/MAX Realty Centre, Inc.
301 774 5900 office
Each office independently owned & operated
3300 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd., Olney

Olney HOME FOR LIFE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Olney Home For Life (OHFL) is a new, recently formed non-profit organization created to provide voluntary, no-fee services to seniors and disabled residents in the Greater Olney Area. The goal is to provide these residents in need the ability to remain in their homes for as long as feasible by utilizing a volunteer-based, neighbor-to-neighbor support network.

The first phase of support - no-fee transportation - is planned to begin January 2012. Volunteers will be needed to provide transportation to and from medical appointments, grocery shopping, religious services and community events. Most service requests will involve a scheduled pickup at the requestor's home, assistance with escorting the resident from their home and into the volunteer's vehicle, transport to the destination and help with escorting the requestor into the building/facility, and pick-up and return to the requestor's home. To make this support available, OHFL is seeking volunteer drivers that:

Have and maintain a valid driver's license
Have a registered and insured vehicle
Are 18 years or older.

In addition, volunteers will be asked to submit three letters of reference. There is no minimum commitment of hours or trips required, so volunteers can participate as their schedule allows.

Interested individuals should contact Olney Home for Life at 240-406-9209 or email info@olneyhome forlife.org. Additional information and applications are available at www.OlneyHomeForLife.org.

Your Efforts to Help OHFL's Neighbor-to-Neighbor Support Network are Most Appreciated!

ELLICOTT CITY FIRE STATION HOLIDAY TRAIN GARDEN **410-313-2036**
4150 Montgomery Road, Ellicott City
Dec 3-Jan 1: Wed-Fri 6:30-8:30pm
Sat/Sun 11am-8:30pm
Located just off Rt. 29 north of Columbia, you won't be disappointed by this fabulous train display! The best I've seen around, this display is a Winter Wonderland filled with festive snow scenes from cityscapes & towns to county fairs & the North Pole! And best of all, it's **FREE, but *donations suggested***, as these firemen spend almost a month getting this gorgeous surprise ready for all to enjoy! **Toy Drive Dec. 3-Dec. 23**

SANDY SPRING MUSEUM TRAIN & DOLL SHOW
17901 Bentley Road, Sandy Spring
Dec. 6 - 11 Open Daily
$5/adults, $3/children

FREE HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 11 from 3-6 p.m.
Come enjoy the fun with an afternoon of music, light refreshments, silent auction and doll house raffle! For more info call 301-774-0022 or visit www.sandyspring museum.org.

THE DECEMBER LANDSCAPE GARDENER

MARK D. UHL, Horticulturist

By the time you read this, most landscape related tasks will have been completed. If the weather should remain mild, we may still have a thing or two to do.

Now that you are finished with the mowing, make sure to change the oil (on 4-stroke mowers), either — drain the gas and run the mower to remove fuel from the carburetor — or add fuel stabilizer to the last tank full and run the mix into the carburetor, leaving the fuel mix in for the winter, remove the spark plug, put a couple drops of oil in the spark plug hole, pull the starter cord to distribute the oil, set the piston close to the top of the cylinder, replace the spark plug loosely, and sharpen the blade. A little effort now will really pay off when you get out the mower next spring, add gas and it starts on the 1st, pull.

Deciduous plant material can be planted throughout the winter as long as the soil is not frozen to the extent that it can not be worked. Shade trees can benefit from being in the ground ready to go with the first warm weather of spring. They will grow existing roots during mild weather through the winter and will initiate new roots early in the spring

Winter is a great time to prune plants which do **not** flower in early Spring. Selective cutting of branches just above the node (branch intersection) and inside the structure of the plant is best. Prune to a natural shape, a little research will show what that shape should be for your particular plant, thinning and reducing the size, if needed, in an overall uniform pattern.

If you didn't put fertilizer on the lawn in November, the lawn will benefit from making an application now as opposed to waiting until spring. (Provided ground is not frozen solid.) Roots will absorb the nutrients now and in the early spring, when it may be difficult to get onto the lawn due to wet conditions. Spring fertilizing is not recommended as it promotes the elongation of the leaf blade (you mow grass more often) and does not substantially thicken the density of the turf.

During the Winter, you may want to plan and design for the Spring 2012 planting and growing season by going to garden shows and glancing through seed catalogs; they are full of helpful ideas and new possibilities!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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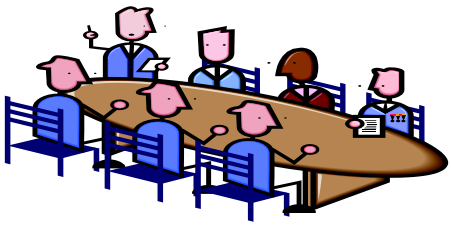

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Vice President	Glen McEwen	(2012)	fivemcewens@msn.com	301-570-3586
Treasurer	Charlie Cook	(2014)	Charlie.iii@verizon.net	301-774-8059
Secretary	Dick Bertin	(2013)	RichardBertin@verizon.net	301-774-7926

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Glenn Wasik	(2012)	301-774-5020	Jim Cagley	(2014)	301-570-1475
Dick Cole	(2013)	301-774-6534	Aleka Kapatou	(2014)	301-774-4624
Wayne Johnson	(2013)	301-774-1906			

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Welcoming Committee	Jodie Siarkas	jsiarkas@comcast.net	301-774-2117

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Ads are due by the 20th of the month

Upcoming Board Meetings

December 14 ♦ January 18 ♦ February 15

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. and are held at the Shed by the Pool

OVER THE HOLIDAYS …

Make Travelling Easier by Using BWI and Amtrak

DON'T FORGET THE CONVENIENT PARKING AND SHUTTLE SERVICE JUST SOUTH OF OLNEY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON! To help facilitate connections along the ICC, the County has started a new bus service just south of Olney to the BWI Airport and BWI MARC/Amtrak Rail Station. There are 14 trips offered daily each way, on the hour every hour, from 4:18 a.m. until 10 p.m.

On the eastbound trip, buses leave the Norbeck Park & Ride lot on Rt. 28 between 4:18 a.m. and 5:18 p.m. every hour. There are 248 spaces available at the Norbeck lot where you can leave your car overnight - *for free !* The bus makes ONE STOP in Burtonsville, then heads straight for the airport and MARC/Amtrak Rail Station afterwards. (To access the Norbeck Park & Ride, head south on Georgia Avenue, make a left onto Rt. 28, and the lot will be the first driveway on your left a few hundred feet from Georgia Avenue.)

On the return (westbound) trip from BWI MARC/Amtrak and BWI A/P, buses leave starting at 9 a.m. and run through 10 p.m. - and at a cost of just $5.00 each way (only $3.20 for seniors!) - you'll save on parking and gasoline expenses in just one day! Discounted 10-trip and monthly passes available.

For details on the Commuter Bus #201 ***(and for info on buses from the Norbeck Park & Ride lot to DOD/Ft. Meade)***, **call 410-539-5000 or 1-866-RIDE-MTA**, or go to http://www.mtaiccbus.com/ for schedules and times. For general information, please visit www.mta.maryland.gov.

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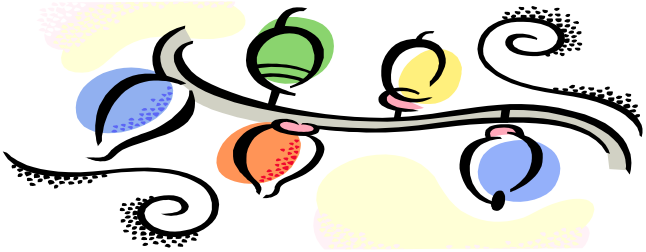
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