

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS—September 2009

CONTRACTS—Charlie Challstrom

Trash/Recycling Contracts – Montgomery County Sanitation (MCS) -- One missed pickup reported on September 24: 409 Sixth Ave, nine bags of yard waste missed, picked up later after contacting Brian Shumaker. Next Special Collection: Saturday, November 7, and notice was sent to MCS.

Leaf Collection and Disposal Contract – Kathy Lehman sent a formal letter of acceptance of proposal and notice to proceed to U.S. Lawns. Collection of leaves will begin on or about October 31.

ROADS AND WALKWAYS—Charlie Challstrom

Ridge Road Speed Humps – As requested at the Town Council meeting, I evaluated Ridge Road speed humps, originally installed by Concrete General in 1999, but flattened during 2006 paving project done by E&M Asphalt (now out of business). The speed hump most compromised is nearest 204 Ridge Road. Options identified:

- 1) Add asphalt to existing hump – we can add to list being compiled for pavement patching.
- 2) Rumble strips on side of hump – approx \$250 for materials – does not slow traffic, noise!!
- 3) Rubber speed hump – two 3-foot sections & end caps, approx \$400 for materials, lag bolt installation, designed for 15 mph speed, must evaluate if pavement flat enough for installation.

Street Light Update – We have confirmation the Town is receiving a \$5,000 allocation from U.S. Dept of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, coordinated by the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA). This funding is intended to help reduce energy consumption. Anticipating Dept of Energy support, we proposed a demonstration of 21 new street lights in Town. Deborah "Smitty" Smith is working to find a location where we can view an example of: Kim Lighting's WARP9[®] LED 3500K Type II 88-watt fixture. Examples of other LED lights can be seen in and adjacent to new Universities of Shady Grove parking garage near the intersection of Traville Gateway Drive and Darnestown Road. Technical assistance from MEA and Pepco is needed to move ahead with our street light demonstration.

SHADY GROVE SMART GROWTH PROJECTS—CHARLIE CHALLSTROM

I represented the Town at the September 16 meeting of the Smart Growth Initiative Advisory Committee. The meeting included presentation of a "cost-neutral" rationale for Smart Growth projects with a spreadsheet of the property acquisition costs (\$156 million), planning design construction costs (\$256 million), and offsetting proceeds from disposed properties (\$218 million). The financial plan also included an additional offsetting "credit" (\$176 million) representing general obligation funds already planned or programmed earlier within the 6-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP). Representing these CIP funds as a credit and therefore the Smart Growth projects as "cost-neutral" is potentially misleading for elected officials and the public, by almost \$200 million. Of particular interest to the Town, the above property acquisition costs included \$3.2 million to acquire the 5-acre Roberts Oxygen property (Parcel 743) adjacent to our Brown Street residents.

FORESTRY & BEAUTIFICATION—Georgette Cole

The three test reforestation enclosures in the East Woods are well underway. Long Fence installed the fences on Friday September 25. I've ordered the Maryland Tree-mendous trees we'll need. Jim, assisted by Joli McCathran and Carol Uhlendorf, will be picking them up in Burtonsville on October 22. The Forestry Committee and the Woods Group are co-sponsoring a volunteer work day on Saturday, October 31st. The enclosures will be cleared of non-native plants and the new trees planted. We are also considering a spring planting from the John S. Ayton State Tree Nursery using the tree tubes now stored in the Maintenance shed.

I am working on six trees outside of the forest preserves. I purchased four from the Stadler fall sale which will be installed by Stadler and the Forestry Committee on October 27. The other two are existing trees that will be moved to locations where they will be able to reach their full size unimpeded. A Tricolor Beech near the old community garden will be moved to the west side of the tennis courts where an oak recently came down. A cryptomeria now on Grove Avenue will be moved to the east side of the soccer field.

PLANNING COMMISSION—Georgette Cole

The Planning Commission met on September 2.

344 Ridge Road---Val and Terry Arnold came to ask the Planning Commission's advice after the house was denied a wall check by Montgomery County due to setback violation.

103 Brown Street---It was recommended that they be given 30 days to comply with the original plans for connection of the home to garage once they receive the Mayor's letter.

115 Chestnut Ave---the front steps extend 9 feet into the front setback which is allowed by our ordinances.

There was some discussion of the progress in the joint PC-HPC meetings. I had submitted some language on driveway permits form Montgomery County for the PC to consider. We also discussed this. I believe their opinion was that driveways and, by extension, parking are too thorny an issue to be tackled at this time.

PC/HPC Work Sessions: The fifth work session was held on September 23 and a sixth is scheduled for October 28.

LAKE COMMITTEE—Marida Hines

All is well and there is nothing to report

RECREATION COMMITTEE—Marida Hines

The Recreation Committee is currently sponsoring; The 1st Annual Bluestoberfest on October 3rd, Drawing Classes on Wednesday nights; Mousetrap's 11th Concert Season.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL—Ted "Kelly" Ventresca

Attended the September Maryland Municipal League meeting with Charlie and Carol, and will now be attending the monthly meeting and December dinner.

WEB SITE–Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

Bill Saar has been very responsive in getting items posted to the Town website. There was a problem with a virus on some documents on the website, but Bill was able to correct that quickly.

PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS–Ted “Kelly” Ventresca

A volunteer effort is planned for October 10 to distribute a half load (approx 70 cubic Yards) of mulch; approximately 13.50 per cubic yard will be delivered (five years ago, approximately 140 cubic yards were delivered). There are already five volunteers signed up for the effort. We will not use the back hoe and will use wheelbarrows. I had recommended hiring day labor staff, but believe there may be a liability issue.

MAINTENANCE—Joe Clark

See forwarded list from Jim Fletcher.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT—Joe Clark

This message was sent to the Town by Officer Tillary, the Montgomery County Police Community Liaison:

In order to assist citizens in reporting crime, the Montgomery County Police Department has created a new online reporting system for residents to report crimes of a non-emergency basis. Starting September 21st, members of the public who are victims of the following crimes will be able to use a new application called On Line Citizen Reporting. By going to our MCP web site users will file reports and supplements (with no suspects) regarding:

- Theft (under \$10,000.00)
- Theft from Autos
- Identify theft
- Vandalism, Vandalism to Vehicle
- Tips
- Lost property

When a user fills out the report, that information will be emailed to our Telephone Reporting Section, soon to be called the Citizen Reporting Section. They will review the information and ensure it contains all the required fields. If it does not, it will be rejected. Once the appropriate information is submitted the user will receive a copy of the report and a case number. Tools within the system will help us identify false reports or those who frivolously attempt to file reports.

This system is in use in hundreds of agencies throughout the country and it is anticipated that this will help reduce some of the calls for service that officers respond to and free up the officers for true emergency calls. I have included the link below:

<http://stag.coplogic.com/agency/MdMontgomeryCountyPd/start-report.html>

Also, as the fall/winter season approaches, it would be a good time to notify people about locked houses, cars, and nothing left out that might invite theft.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE—JOE CLARK

There is another meeting set for October 22 at the Town Hall. This work is not so easy as to say “you all come.” For a variety of reasons—work, time, lack of a burning issue(s), no good contact list, or lack of cooperation from those contacted—this is going to be a long slog. That does not in any way mitigate its importance and Paula and I will continue to do the field work to get something to happen. It will probably take a full year before we have anything like an umbrella group formed.

I attended the Shady Grove Alliance meeting on September 22. They indicated interest in coming to the October meeting.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION—Sylvie Favret

No report.

McCATHRAN HALL—Sylvie Favret

No report.