

Fairwood Community News

Fall 2014

Community Board Members

Interim President - Colleen McFarland *

Interim Vice President - Sara Piechowiak *

Secretary - Louise Mulvey

Treasurer—Karen Kennedy

Newsletter - Celeste Coffelt

Fairwood Board Members – Dan Piechewiak and Judy McCorkill

*Please keep in mind that the Board Member positions are strictly volunteer positions. Any assistance as well as constructive suggestions/concerns are welcome!

* Serving until position is filled. These positions are vacant and in need of a volunteer.

Halloween Pizza Party and Festivities at 5PM on October 31st – BRING A CAN!

Once again all Fairwood children and their families are invited to the pool pavilion for the annual Fairwood pizza party at 5 PM. Come dressed in your Halloween costumes and enjoy some pizza, conversation, community spirit and festivities! After the pizza party at approximately 6 PM (Sunset is 6:09) the children will leave in mass (sort of like the running of the bulls in Madrid!) to trick or treat in the community. Your community dues help to fund this event. **Admission to the Halloween Party event is one (or more) canned food items per person which benefits the local Food Bank.**

Are you getting emails? If you are not on our email list please contact Colleen McFarland in order to get pertinent emails with announcements for upcoming events.

Facebook- Please be sure to “Like” **Fairwood Community Association**) on Facebook to get information on future upcoming events and other pertinent information. Members can also post pertinent information to benefit the community and the residents.

Speed Limit 25 Miles Per Hour! - Please be aware and keep your speed to the posted 25 miles per hour for the safety of all pedestrians, bikers, joggers, skateboarders, and pets. Be alert and slow down for your own safety and that of others! **Watch out for Deer!** Deer are frequently seen crossing roads in Fairwood. They don’t “look both ways” so that means YOU need to watch, be alert, and abide by the speed limit please.

Please Help Our Community by Paying Your Annual \$40 Dues - Dues are due annually in July, however, you can still contribute! To those who have contributed-your participation is much appreciated! We have a total of 63 terrific neighbors who paid for 2014 thus far. Dues are used to cover large expenses such as: park insurance and park maintenance, and also smaller expenses such as the printing of the Fairwood newsletter and light pole decorations. All neighbors benefit from those items. Even if you do not utilize the park, be aware that our property values ultimately benefit from having a safe and well maintained park. Newsletter costs are approximately \$130 year and park insurance costs \$750 year. Rising cost of postage and printing affects the cost of producing the newsletter; therefore, it is only produced bi-annually.

Community Dues, Continued - Your check for \$40.00 can be made out to Fairwood Community Association, and mailed to PO Box 1084 Pasadena, MD 21122.

Park and Pool landscaping - A Huge thank you to Dave McFarland, Jorge and Kathleen Trevino, Mary Milton, and Michelle Ordokowski, who helped immensely in front of the park and in and around the pool area this summer. Thanks as well to Dave McFarland and his daughters for picking up trash throughout the year and to Dave for all the little "extras" that he does around our community!

Christmas Light Pole Decorations - An email and Facebook message will go out when we are ready to put up the annual pole decorations. We appreciate those who give of their time to help with this event. Volunteers are needed on the ground as well as on ladders so don't let that scare you away! Some greens and bows will be replaced and your dues also go towards maintaining these items. Information will be forthcoming.

Christmas Eve Luminaries (Rain Date Christmas Night) - The charge for a set of 20 luminaries (white bags and candles) will still be \$5.00. Luminaries are put out by residents on the evening of Dec. 24th. Rain date for luminaries will be the evening of Dec. 25th. We realize many neighbors have gone to glass jars for and electric candles for safety reasons. Thank you to Jen Canapp and our entire group of hard working candle captains who distribute the sets of candles and bags. Candle captains, please remember to get money back to Jen Canapp in a timely manner. Information will be forthcoming as we near the holidays.

How to Safely Set up Luminaries

1. Sweep and pick up leaves from gutters in street (they are a fire hazard if left near luminaries).
2. While inside your house, turn down the top of each luminary bag 2 times. This gives the bag more stability in the breeze. (You can do this outside, but it takes time so why not keep warm!)
3. Fill each bag with sand or soil. An adequate amount is needed to keep bags from blowing over (1-2 inches per bag).
4. An alternative to sand or soil is to put any sort of glass Mason jar or votive in each bag. Some people save jars all year long and some people buy them and use them over every year. You can use just the jar and no bag but it is the opinion of the newsletter editor that the jar inside the bag gives it a lovely glow and keeps the continuity and uniformity to the luminaries, however that is simply a matter of preference. Depending on the weight of the votive you may still need sand or soil so be aware.
5. Place a candle in the sand, soil, or jar in each bag. Light at dusk and enjoy! Yes this process takes a little time, but you can do some of the prep a day or two ahead and store the bags in your garage or basement.

Santa Clause Will Be Coming to Town Dec. 12th (I know him! I know him!) - That quote is from the movie Elf and I love it so I had to add it, however it is true that we have word from the North Pole and the Lake Shore Volunteer FD that Santa will be coming to Fairwood on the evening of Dec. 12th at 7PM. Interestingly enough, did you know Santa collects canned and non-perishable foods as well that night? I have to say that Santa sure is a great multi-tasker!

Christmas Caroling - Interested in spreading Christmas cheer by singing loud for all to hear? Adults and children are welcome to go caroling on Dec. 24th in the evening. We will meet in front of 8236 Silver Run Court and walk the neighborhood viewing the lights and luminaries while we sing carols. A Facebook message will go out regarding the time to meet. Dress warm!

Fundraising – Louise Mulvey has kindly headed up several successful fundraisers throughout the year. Poinsettia sales last December CPR/AED/First Aid Class, Pampered Chef, and a One Minute Self Defense Class raised roughly \$550 for our community association. Special thank you's go out to Fairwood residents Ellen Hagis and Lannette Gerbick. Ellen Hagis, a certified instructor, taught the CPR class and Lannette Gerbick, a certified instructor, taught the Self Defense class.

Pool and Swim Team - Another safe and successful Fairwood Pool and Swim Team season has come and gone! Dave McFarland was our new 2014 Pool President with Tina Roberto assisting in pool operations. Tina also headed up the Fairwood Summer Swim Team. Dave and Tina along with members of the pool board and a handful of other residents all generously donated MANY hours of time to make the pool season a big success. It takes many hands to help out since this is a HUGE cost savings. Our pool honestly could not function within budget without these volunteers. Kudos to Dave McFarland and his team! Kudos as well to our neighborhood lifeguards who are certified and licensed by Anne Arundel County Dept. of Health in CPR/AED, Lifesaving, First Aid, and Pool Maintenance and Operations.

*Please note that the pool and the community are separate entities and do not share funds. The pool must pay yearly County property taxes just like you do and as you know, they are costly! Fairwood Pool welcomes Fairwood residents as well as families who live outside the Fairwood Community. Pool members may also rent the pool for a party which is an added bonus. Like all pools, Fairwood needs yearly maintenance yet the pool membership fees have remained fairly constant in order to keep the pool affordable. Information for the 2015 season will be shared in the Spring Newsletter.

Help Wanted! Community President and Vice President and Board Members – Colleen McFarland and Sara Piechowiak have worked hard and have served as our President and Vice President and would like to pass their batons. Dan Piechowiak, a Fairwood Board member, has been very involved in the community association and he also is passing his baton. That means we need two or more eager, willing individuals who care about our Fairwood Community enough to step up. The President and Vice President preside over community meetings and assist the Fairwood Board in planning events and making wise fiscally responsible decisions. The president also assists in informing the community of events and news with emails during the year. Fairwood Board members also assist in decision making and share their ideas to benefit the community. The entire Board is a team effort!

More Help Wanted! - Easter Egg Hunt Coordinator - We need an adult volunteer to head up the organization for the 2015 Easter Egg Hunt. This consists of coordinating the gathering of plastic eggs and getting the Easter bunny (and few volunteers) to help you hide the eggs around the park on the day of the hunt. Plus you get the added bonus of sneaking one or two pieces of candy yourself!

Maryland Dept. of Agriculture Mosquito Control – Once again Fairwood participated and benefited from this Dept. of Agriculture mosquito surveillance and control program during the summer which took place weekly June 1 – September. This is a great benefit to all as not all communities are sprayed due to funding restraints, therefore, we are fortunate. If our application does not get submitted on time every year, we lose our spot and a community that has been on the waiting list takes our place. Mosquito spraying helps reduce the transmission of diseases such as West Nile Virus. Celeste Coffelt is the community representative for the mosquito control program.

Community Improvements at the Park – Dave McFarland will need a few willing volunteers in order to keep the park area and equipment safe. The board has approved that some funds will be allocated to park maintenance and any broken and unsafe equipment be removed prior to next spring and summer.

Communication with the County – Dave McFarland has been in communication with the County regarding the house that tragically burned down on Fairwood Drive several years ago. There are many facets to this issue which Dave has followed and has kept the Board up to date. Also, thanks to Dave McFarland who is re-registering our Fairwood Community Association with the County in order to keep our association functioning in accordance with the County. Nothing will change from a homeowner's standpoint. Please note: This does not affect community dues and has no bearing on the cost dues which have been voluntary for well over ten years.

Editorial

Why Become Involved in the Fairwood Community Association? By Celeste Coffelt

Everyone is busy! We are busy with things like children, grandchildren, family, aging parents, school, home maintenance, hobbies, finances, volunteering, shopping, church, and let's not forget leisure activities. Really we all have felt like there just are not enough hours in the day to do all that we want to do. With all the things that some of us have going on in our lives, some of us still make time to help out Fairwood Community in some capacity. Besides those who serve on the Community Board there are many others who do the following: help with clean up and park maintenance; distribute luminaries; decorate light poles; organize events for our children and grandchildren such as Santa, Halloween pizza party, and the Easter Egg Hunt; pick up trash along the road; cut and maintain grassy areas that are not even their property just to keep the community looking well maintained; welcome a new neighbor; organize fundraisers (to raise money for our Association which goes right back into the community in some way); write the newsletter, proofread the newsletter, email the newsletter, and print, assemble and mail the newsletter! My point is not to not make you feel guilty or point a finger, or even boast. It is simply to urge others to get involved!

We need a President, a Vice President and a few good Board Members. The pay is not much (in fact it is nothing), but the intrinsic reward of being involved with your community is great. We welcome others to get involved. Some neighbors who have been actively involved in the community in a huge way have moved in the last year or two and others will be doing so within the next year due to work and retirement. Consider helping and get involved. It is not extremely time consuming since we all do have careers and families. We have a great community! Let's keep it that way!

*** Disclaimer - The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed here do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Fairwood Community and are merely those of the writer.**

Anyone interested in serving on the Fairwood board in any capacity or in serving in any of the other areas mentioned throughout the newsletter, please call Celeste Coffelt and leave a message and your contact number or an email and I will get back to you.

Advertising in the Newsletter- Did you know that those who pay their annual \$40 community dues are entitled to a FREE business card size advertisement in our community newsletter? (Another great reason to pay your annual \$40 dues!)

Silly Trivia Question – What movie is this quote from? "Elves try to stick to the four main food groups: candy, candy canes, candy corn and syrup."