

## **Chestnut Hill Annual Picnic and Business Meeting Sunday, June 24, 2007**

Our annual picnic and business meeting was held on June 25, 2007, on the empty lot B-26 owned by Donald and Debra Cooper, which they graciously made available to us again this year. There were approximately 35 Chestnut Hill residents present. We started with the president, Phillip LeBel, welcoming everyone to the picnic and an expression of appreciation to all those who contributed a dish to the event. Once again, we benefitted from the provision of a tent and tables by Roy Caffey, whose son graciously did the installation in time for our gathering. We also were introduced to Mary Louise Dolby, daughter of the late C.C. Calloway, the original developer of the Chestnut Hill, who later spoke to residents on the history of the property.

### **Business Meeting**

We began our business meeting with a moment of silence in memory of Fara Tawes, who passed away this spring. Devoted wife of Preston Tawes, we shall miss her presence in our neighborhood. A donation in her memory on behalf of the Association was sent to Coastal Hospice.

We extended best wishes to Anna Lee Trader, who has been in Peninsula Regional Medical Center for treatment. We welcome our new neighbors, Dean and Valerie Evans, who have purchased the Green home at 30397 Mallard Drive. As with all newcomers, a pdf copy of the directory and bylaws can be downloaded from the website address indicated at this end of this newsletter.

Our treasurer, Barbara White, gave her report on dues paid (and those who have not paid), and in which she indicated that the balance has declined from \$1712.58 to \$1625.53. While our dues participation rates and levels have been relatively constant, increases in the cost of electrical lighting at the entrance and a projected increase in the cost of mosquito spraying point to further declines in our operating balance. At that point, a motion was made to raise the annual dues from \$15 to \$20. Residents at the picnic voted unanimously to adopt the new dues level, effective January 2008.

Our secretary, Margaret McEwan, was in Seattle visiting with her daughter at the time of the picnic, and did not have a report to make. Our Vice-President, Pat Boyle, did note the role of the Association in promoting the yard sale, and in getting information to residents on the status of the Leonard Mill pond chemical treatment.

This spring, the Department of Parks and Recreation of Wicomico County notified residents on the Association that a mandate from the State of Maryland required a reduction in chemical treatment to one-third of the historical level. Rick Konrad, Superintendent of Parks of the Wicomico County Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, organized a series of meetings with residents of various associations of Leonard Mill pond this spring, with the goal of developing a short-term strategy of which areas to treat this pond, and a longer term strategy of an environmental management plan. All residents are welcome to participate in this process. Thus far, John Robinson (30384 Mallard Drive), Tom Longo (30424 Mallard Drive), Sally and Ward Lambert (30412 Mallard Drive), Pat and Joan Boyle (30404 Mallard Drive), and Phillip and Danièle LeBel (30408 Mallard Drive) participated in one or more of the meetings. As Phillip LeBel noted, the health of the Leonard Mill ecosystem affects the property values of all neighbors regardless of whether their homes are on the pond. Rick Konrad will keep residents informed of new developments following the application of treatment this May.

In terms of our yard sale, five households reportedly participated this year. There was some discussion as to whether the response of both Chestnut Hill residents and the community at large was due to the change in date this year or whether there has been a decline in interest. Following this discussion, we decided that we would move back the date of the yard sale to the Saturday before Mother's Day. For 2008, this means that our yard sale would be held on Saturday, May 10, while our annual picnic would be held on Sunday, June 22, the week after Father's Day. We also decided to canvas neighbors at least one month before the date of the proposed yard sale to determine the level of

Discussion was also taken up on the question of the Wertz house. Larry Taylor provided some background information on a contact person in the Wicomico Court house, Pate Matthews. Larry has volunteered to organize a meeting with Pate Matthews and Joe Holloway, our County Representative, regarding disposition of the property. Details of this meeting will be forthcoming.

In addition, as Treasurer Barbara White noted, the cutting of the grass on the shoulder north of the bridge to the truck way station has been haphazard and uneven. Apparently the State Highway Authority is sub-contracting this work to individuals who often use riding tractors that can only cut part of the sloping grass while either leaving the remainder or churning up the soil for the rest. To help maintain a regular and thorough cutting schedule, we urge you to place either a telephone call to the Maryland State Highway Administration - Donnie Drewer, District Engineer at 410-677-4006, or send an e-mail at [ddrewer@sha.state.md.us](mailto:ddrewer@sha.state.md.us) or stop in at 660 West road, Salisbury, Md. to urge immediate action on this issue.

Another discussion turned on the question of the fence behind the properties on Route 13 north. Construction of the fence was originally underwritten by Mr. Calloway with contributions by early residents. Now that the properties have all been sold, responsibility for the fence lies with those owners on whose property the fence abuts. It was suggested that those neighbors consider making a direct appeal to the Maryland Department of Transportation for the construction of a more permanent barrier, given that the present wall is less and less capable of keeping out the noise of trucks slowing down to pass through the weigh station. By copy of this to Gregory Bailey, Gwyn Benny, and Janis Shores, we suggest that they may want to organize such a campaign. A more permanent structure will clearly benefit their properties.

Some additional discussion was given to the question of whether we should apply for concrete street curbing in the neighborhood. A first step would be to determine how much this would cost and then to report this information back to residents. We need a volunteer(s) to help in gathering information on this question.

### **Election of Officers for 2007-2008**

The list of officers elected for 2007-2008 is:

- President – Phillip LeBel (30408 Mallard Drive)
- Vice-President – Jeannette Brown (30392 Mallard Drive)
- Secretary – Preston Tawes (30374 Mallard Drive)
- Treasurer – Barbara White (30275 Mallard Drive)

We thank Margaret McEwan for her service as Secretary for the past four years, and Pat Boyle for his service as Vice-President during this past year. As noted in the minutes of last year's picnic, we have over 100 residents in Chestnut Hill, and have far fewer than that turn up for our annual gathering. Once again, we would like to have increased participation by residents in this fine neighborhood. As Mrs. Dolby reminded us in her account of the history of Chestnut Hill, neighborhood participation in years gone by was much higher than it is today, with neighborhood floats for festivities, square dancing, and luminaries during the holiday season. If neighbors join in participation in the Association beyond the annual dues contributions, maybe we can revitalize some of those events to the benefit of all members of the community. We urge you to provide an e-mail address for purposes of priority communications on issues of importance to: [lebelp@mail.montclair.edu](mailto:lebelp@mail.montclair.edu). We also will be posting a pdf copy of the minutes on our website:

<http://alpha.montclair.edu/~lebelp/ChestnutHillAssociation.html>.