

The Montgomery West Homeowner's Association Newsletter

<http://www.montgomerywesthoa.org>

MARCH 2012

Letter from the President

This year I have the pleasure of serving another year as president of Montgomery West HOA. We welcome new board members, Rob Mitkus, Ed Kallas, and Rod Olaya. Our community is able to continue to be managed without the cost of an outside management company with homeowners such as Rob, Ed, and Rod willing to serve for a two year term. I would like to thank previous board members and you as individual homeowners for your time and efforts to make Montgomery West a welcoming neighborhood.

You may have noticed that the construction of the Gaithersburg High School is now visible from 355. This should further enhance our neighborhood's location and our individual property values. One of the goals of the Board is to maintain and enhance our property values, so if you have any suggestions please contact any of the current Board members.

We can report that Montgomery West is financially sound. We ask that all homeowners stay current with paying their quarterly dues to ensure we can meet all our expenditures and avoid further increases in dues.

The board plans to continue with spring cleanup activities and provide small landscaping improvements to our common areas as our budget allows. We remind homeowners who are planning improvements to submit AERC applications for improvements and allow 10 days to receive approval.

As the spring approaches with warmer weather, we encourage you to meet neighbors you may not know. It strengthens us as a community if you know your neighbors. Take the time as you may walk around our neighborhood to stop and introduce yourself to others.

Please let us know of any concerns or suggestions by email on our website or attend any of our board meetings. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
John Patton

Spring Clean-up of Common Areas March 17 (Raindate March 24)

Come join with us as we walk thru our common areas to collect trash and debris. We will meet at Montgomery West sign near the Kinglet townhouses at 10 am. Coffee and donuts provided. Students can earn SSL hours.

"Many hands make light work"

Mark your calendars for May 12 community curbside bulk trash pick-up. Many items picked up, but there are several exceptions (see HOA website for more information). Items need to be at your curb by 7 a.m. Questions? Email us at: info@montgomerywesthoa.org.

Verizon Proposes to Offer FiOS to Montgomery West

Verizon has designed a plan to bring the FiOS service to Montgomery West. The project would involve running the lines throughout our neighborhood in existing right of ways for utilities. The construction would take 3-4 weeks. If you have any questions, please contact the Board or attend our next meeting on March 13. Verizon plans to attend the March 13 meeting to present their plan and answer questions. You can review the letter from Verizon on our website.

Landscaping and Trees

One of our greatest assets in our neighborhood is our beautiful landscaping. Our commitment to landscaping is reflected as our largest budget item. We have a priority to not only keep the grass trimmed and trash picked up but also to trim our trees, replacing dead trees as needed. Each year, we replace about 4-5 trees that have died or have been severely damaged by storms.

Outside of our common areas, most of the property in Montgomery West is owned and maintained by you, as individual property owners. Many of you share the same priority for your property as the Board places on maintaining our common areas. Keeping your property beautifully landscaped requires significant effort in trimming and fertilizing the yard, trimming the trees, and replacing old or dead trees and shrubs. Your efforts will be richly rewarded in the value and the desirability our neighborhood has to all of us who live here and to those who are looking for a new home. We offer a few links on the MWHOA website giving advice on tree maintenance and encouraging you to consider the importance of landscaping.

Neighborhood Watch Training

An increase in theft and drug-related activity was reported in some of our neighborhoods in 2011. Homeowners in Montgomery West have been working with the Montgomery County police to report any suspicious and illegal behavior in the neighborhood. Montgomery County police also offer a 3-night Neighborhood Watch training to residents. Keep an eye on the website for additional information and scheduling.

Trash and Recycling Schedules

Just a reminder that our waste management contractor will be picking up trash the day after the following holidays only, if they fall on a Monday or Thursday: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day. For all other holidays in 2012, trash and recycling will be picked up according to the Montgomery County schedule. Please visit the MWHOA website for more information, including a link to the County holiday collection schedule.

MWHOA Upcoming Board Meetings

March 13, May 15, September 11
All meetings begin at 7:00 p. m.

Visit our website for additional information and dates:

<http://www.montgomerywesthoa.org/index.htm>

Homeowners are always welcome to Board meetings

Your Board:

President	John Patton
Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Rob Mitkus
Treasurer	Ed Kallas
AERC Rep	Rod Olaya
At-large	Michelle Heffner