

Parkwood

Residents Association - Spring 2011 Newsletter



Your PRA dollars at work. This is the new entrance sign at Beach Drive and Franklin St that was erected this winter.

Letter from the President

Bailey Condrey, PRA President

The Maryland Delegation has persevered, and with the assistance of allies in Congress, they have secured \$300 million in federal funding to address infrastructure needs at military bases in Maryland, Virginia and Texas. What is unclear at this point is how the money will be disbursed to these bases with BRAC-impacted military hospitals.

County Executive Ike Leggett said, "We owe a great debt to our Congressional delegation for their very hard work and leadership in securing these urgently needed BRAC funds." "Congressman Chris Van Hollen and Senators Barbara Mikulski and Ben Cardin took the lead and worked hand-in-hand to move this funding through both houses of Congress. I also want to commend Bethesda's good friends, Congressman Bill Young of Florida, the late Congressman John Murtha of Pennsylvania, and Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, whose selfless devotion to our men and women in uniform is well known, particularly at Walter Reed and Bethesda Naval hospitals." The region should also praise the work of the BRAC Implementation Committee and the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors. (continued)

Kensington & Vicinity Sector Plan Reminder

EMAIL: MCP-CHAIR@MNCPPC-MC.ORG your comments on the plan

ATTEND THE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

WHEN: 4/28 at 6:30 PM @ Planning Board Hearing Rm, 8787 Georgia Ave, SS

WHAT: Agenda item 8: www.montgomeryplanningboard.org

Learn more: Montgomery County Planning Board Town of Kensington & Vicinity Sector Plan Update site:

www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/kensington/

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 3rd, 7:30 at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School

Letter from the President

(Continued from cover)

The Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations bill just approved by Congress includes funding to pay for transportation projects in communities with BRAC-impacted military hospitals. The fund will be administered by the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), a Defense Department agency that assists BRAC-impacted communities. Communities with BRAC-impacted hospitals include Bethesda; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; and San Antonio, Texas.

Hopefully the funding mechanism will not just allocate funds in a three-way split as our region would still need roughly \$110 million just to reach the level of funding necessary to build the infrastructure improvements that have been finalized at the intersections surrounding Bethesda Naval. This federal funding, however, will go a long way toward setting shovel-ready projects in motion.

All BRAC-related construction on the Navy campus has been fully funded, but until now the federal government had not properly funded the cost of adapting Bethesda's roads, transit network or pedestrian facilities to accommodate this dramatic growth.

While our elected officials deserve our sincere thanks, I would be remiss if I led you

to believe that it's everything we need. The State, County and Federal governments still need a boatload of money to fully pay for the infrastructure improvements already on the table. We need funding to pay for the pedestrian tunnel from the Medical Center Metro, under Rockville Pike, to access the Naval hospital, eliminating the at-grade crossing. In a perfect world for veterans, we need funding to move the Navy's fence line along Route 355 back about 30 to 40 feet in places, to accommodate a commuter and transit bus drop-off lane, providing ready access to the base.

We've made progress in the right direction, and there is light at the end of the tunnel, but as of today, a lot of work remains to be done on securing all of the funding that these projects truly require. Not to be a "nattering nabob of negativism," but we are still going to endure a

great deal of gridlock, before things get better. The press releases that have been issued on this subject offer a great deal of sunshine, but I wanted you to know that skies remain partly cloudy, with a chance of inclement weather.

Beautification Committee Update - (PRABC) Activity Report

Gail Dalferes Condrey, Chair, Beautification Committee

Mark your calendar! On Saturday May 7, join your neighbors for the Wildwood Bench unveiling ceremony/celebration. We will plant in the morning hours (10-12) and have a pizza party in the afternoon (12-2). Start your Mother's Day celebration early and be one of the first to see the new bench and where it will be installed.

2011 Parkwood Residents Association (PRA) – Membership/Renewal Application

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ To join the listserv, go to www.parkwoodresidents.org

Enclosed: ___ \$10 annual dues (payable to: PRA) ___ \$_____ donation to Beautification Committee (optional)

Send to: Kitty Stone, 4313 Clearbrook Lane, Kensington, MD 20895

(PRABC) Activity Report(from page 1)

In January the PRABC reported the completion of the Parkwood entrance sign project. Thanks to community support, in addition to these signs, plaques have been purchased to denote the areas maintained by your PRABC donations and the bench purchased for the garden at Wildwood and Saul. Labels are ordered for each Dogipot dispenser to instruct dog walkers on bag replacement.

During the May 3 PRA meeting we will discuss proposals to purchase a bench for the Kensington/Parkwood Elementary school and if this is approved, whether to include a plaque on that bench. We will also review the spring and early summer planting schedule and the plants purchased for new and existing garden areas. Donations of plants from your yard are always welcome.

Information regarding PRABC activities is shared quarterly in this newsletter and in between via the Parkwood Residents e-mail list serve (ParkwoodResidents@yahoo.com). If you are not a member of the e-mail list serve but are interested in receiving PRA Beautification Committee updates send me an email or give me a call so I can include you in future PRABC project notifications. I hope to see you soon!

Bethesda Naval BRAC Update

Bailey Condrey, PRA President

As the county ramps up efforts to address the impacts that we will all face from the opening of the National Naval Medical Center in September 2011, the web site that provides timely information on these issues,

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac

will receive a face lift. The revamp will result in a more user friendly interface for people looking for information.

In the meantime, however, this article provides a number of links to bring newcomers up to speed and provide solid information on works in progress. For those unfamiliar with the project, this video clip from Montgomery Planning gives a good overview of the complexity of the project:

<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/brac/>

For up to date information on individual projects and the overall time line for traffic disruptions check out these links:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-projectsupdate-040511.pdf>

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/disruptionstimeline-041111.pdf>

The State Highway Administration will also be providing updates on its projects in a similar

fashion. The "Projects-at-a-Glance" section of their site can be accessed at:

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp

Ideas and suggestions for dealing with BRAC-related traffic can be submitted at:

<http://www.bethesdatransit.org/BRAC.shtml>

Also of note, the County Council will get a briefing on the Bus Rapid Transit study that was conducted. The briefing will be in early May. At least two of the proposed routes impact the Medical Center area. Watch the County Council website for more information.

Once the new website is rolled out, individuals will be able to sign up for updates and information. You can also always call 311 with questions or concerns. Your message will be directed to the appropriate person.

If you have questions or concerns for the Navy, please use the BRAC hotline: BRAC Construction Hot Line: 301-319-BRAC (2722): The Hot Line, which is posted on the NNMC web site, allows the community to contact NNMC and express concerns about day-to-day issues related to construction, including safety, noise and other factors that might negatively impact the quality of life for those who live and work near the NNMC campus.

Thanks for staying informed. The next BRAC Implementation Committee meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the BCC Regional Services Center.** Again, check www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brac for more information.

Montgomery County Proposes Real Property Tax Increase

Update provided by: Bailey Condrey

"Montgomery County Notice Of A Proposed Real Property Tax Increase. The County Council of Montgomery County proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2011, the estimated real property assessable base will decrease by 3.5%, from \$169,745,213,874 to \$163,879,162,300.
2. If Montgomery County maintains the current tax rate of \$0.699 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will decrease by 3.5% resulting in a \$41,003,701 reduction of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of decreasing assessments, the real property tax rate could be increased to \$0.724, the constant yield rate.
4. The County is considering increasing its real property tax rate above the constant yield tax rate.

The County proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.736 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.7% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$19,665,499 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at **1:30 PM on April 26, 2011 at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland in the Council Office Building in the 3rd floor hearing room.** The hearing is open to the public.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 240-777-7900 for further information.

Also, the County Council e mail is county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Proposes Rate Increase

Update provided by: Bailey Condrey

WSSC Commissioners transmitted to the Montgomery and Prince George's County Executives a proposed FY12 capital and operating budgets that include an 8.5 percent rate increase. The increase would add approximately \$5.05 per month to the average residential customer's bill.

Votes are expected to be taken on the proposal by the councils in May. The Commissioners will then vote on the new rates that would take effect July 1, 2011.

Any Parkwood resident with additional information is encouraged to post it to the community list serv.

Membership and Treasury Report

By Gerald Sharp, PRA treasurer

So far this year, 214 Parkwood residents have sent in their \$10 annual PRA membership dues and in many cases made additional donations to the PRA Beautification Fund. Collections so far total \$2140 from dues and \$1665 in beautification donations, a total of \$3795 for the months of January, February and March. This compares to yearly totals of \$4950 in 2010, \$5225 in 2009, \$4753 in 2008, and \$2971 in 2007.

If you haven't yet paid your 2011 dues, please send your check for \$10 to Kitty Stone.

Currently PRA holds \$9330 in our ING bank account and \$3106 in our Wells Fargo checking and savings accounts, a total of \$12,436.

PRA funds support the listserve, beautification efforts, the newsletters, and miscellaneous membership and other administrative costs for the organization. We will be discussing the PRA budget for 2011 at the upcoming meeting of PRA members in May.