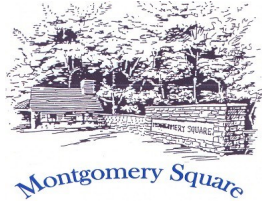


Newsletter of the Montgomery Square Citizens Association



www.montgomerysquare.org

Winter 2019

MSCA, Inc. — Officers & Chairpersons

Bob Gross, President and CEO
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Steve Schuck, Vice President
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Jane Acri, Secretary
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David Grossman, Treasurer
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Membership—volunteer needed!

Web Site — volunteer needed!

Patrice Ju, Social Chair
202-870-9857, Patrice.yao@gmail.com

Vasilia Contos, Block Party Coordinator
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Meraj Rahimi, Roads and Safety
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Mike Leshner, Education
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Michael Simon, Improvements
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SAVE THE DATES — 2019!

ANNUAL MEETING with Guest Speaker

*Monday, May 20th, 7:30-9:00 PM.
Room 112, Beverly Farms ES.*

ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Great way to have a yard sale at your home and get advertising at no charge. Two sale dates. Saturday, June 1st, 9:00-12:00, and Sunday, June 2nd, 12:00-3:00. Pick one or both. Sign up by emailing your address and sale date(s) to Steve prior to May 29th. SchuckGroup@longandfoster.com

Message from the President

Happy 2019! Here's an update on last year's accomplishments and plans for 2019:

Advocacy As you may know, Washington Gas embarked on a huge project a few years ago to move the gas meters from inside to outside the homes on the south side of Montgomery Square and to replace the main gas line running under the street. That project is now finished and, due to MSCA's efforts, it included the complete repaving of all the south side streets. On the north side, WSSC is working on water main installation and when the weather warms up, they will be reinstalling above-ground bypass pipes and will then install permanent household connections to the new water main. WSSC says to expect the construction to last well into 2019. WSSC will then repave the streets after the work is done. At the next annual meeting, we plan to form a group to lobby the County to repave all the streets on the North Side, not just those where work is being done. If this issue is important to you, please come to the meeting—we will need your help. In two years, WSSC also plans to replace the main waterlines on the south side and dig up some of the streets that were just repaved (e.g., a significant portion of Devilwood and Jubal Early). WSSC will also be replacing a pipe that runs under Montrose Road. MSCA will do its best to make sure that those streets are restored back to the condition they were in. Information and updates on these projects can be found on the MSCA website. Please take a look.

Recently, I attended a "listening session" at Churchill High School sponsored by our new County Executive – Marc Elrich. I suggested that he consider building a pedestrian bridge/bikeway over I-270 at Montrose Road, which would connect the bike path on Montrose Highway with any future bikeway planned for Seven Locks Road (a Seven Locks Bikeway remains in the Master plan!) He seemed receptive to that and asked that I get back to him on it. Plans are underway for a major highway renovation to 270 and the Beltway. To learn more about this go to: <https://495-270-p3.com>. We plan to invite a speaker from the Maryland DOT to address this issue at the May 20th MSCA annual meeting. Please plan to attend! This is a project that will affect all of us, for better or worse, for years to come.

Tree Planting Program We started the program in 2013. See our website for information, including photos of trees earmarked for our neighborhood. Due to MSCA's efforts, the County has now planted over 200 trees along the curbs in Montgomery Square! Almost all of these are of a flowering variety and we hope that our streets will eventually look as nice as those in neighborhoods like Kenwood, MD. While tremendous progress has been made, several gaps remain. Please consider applying for new trees using the enclosed form. Present and future homeowners will appreciate your efforts to beautify the neighborhood and increase our tree canopy.

(Message Continued.)

New Social Chair I am pleased to announce that Patrice Ju (Devilwood) has volunteered to be MSCA's social chair! She is originally from Chicago and has been living in downtown Bethesda for many years. Her family includes her husband and two young kids. She works full time as a management consultant helping federal agencies with their HR and organizational challenges, and has planned large scale events for various community organizations. Patrice is also an administrator for a local online Facebook group called the Bethesda Rockville Potomac Moms, which has over 6,000 members. Please come to the May 20th Annual Meeting to meet Patrice and share your ideas with her for social events and gatherings.

Block Party Last October's Community-Wide Block Party was a resounding success. Many thanks to Vasilia Contos, her wonderful helpers, and all who participated. Over 150 neighbors attended, and one neighbor commented that the breezy fall weather and festive atmosphere reminded her of the approaching holidays and good things to come! With that in mind, Vasilia and Patrice will be planning another Block Party extravaganza (DJ, games, etc.) for 2019.

Yard Sale Despite much planning, coordination, and hard work, the 2018 Yard Sale was rained out, but that will not let us down for 2019, and we will be sponsoring another yard sale on June 1st and June 2nd. Details under Save the Date.

Traffic Calming We have been working with the police department to help with getting drivers to slow down on Postoak Road and other areas in the neighborhood.

MSCA Website Our website is chock-full of information relevant to our community. Please check it out as it covers many items not mentioned in this newsletter.

Dues Please return the attached form with your dues. The dues and information form is used to update the community directory and email lists. Last year we collected around \$11,000 but due to increases in the cost of landscaping and other services we only have about \$700 left in our treasury. Dues help pay for landscaping our main entrances (our biggest expense by far), social activities, limited entranceway wall repairs and painting (the walls are actually owned by property owners), insurance, website, newsletters and the directory. Board members and other helpers volunteer their time and do not get paid. Thank you to all of those households who paid their dues last year and thanks to those who will do so for 2019.

All the best, *Bob Gross*

Montgomery County Services — Please call 311 to report pot holes, request replacement recycle bins, ask for bulk trash pick-ups, report street light outages, report housing code violations, etc. You can also make service requests online at: MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/311

Be a Good Neighbor — Life is busy, but taking time to Be a Good Neighbor helps make Montgomery Square a great neighborhood to live in which is good for all of us and it also helps property values.

- Introduce yourself to neighbors.
- Check in with neighbors & find ways to help.
- Be careful driving around the neighborhood.
- We love our dogs, so please help others love them by cleaning up after them & making sure they aren't causing a nuisance.
- Keep your yard and garden tidy.
- Consider home improvements, such as new paint, siding, windows, roofs, driveways, and walkways. Repair, replace, or remove broken light posts and worn-out basketball hoops. Remove tree stumps.
- Powerwash unsightly green slime from the siding on the outside of your house.
- Alert your neighbors to community events.
- When snow is coming, try to get as many cars as possible in the driveways to make plowing easier. Clear your sidewalks within 24 hours of the end of a snowstorm.
- Discourage thieves and lock your cars.
- Be aware of your surroundings and your neighbors as well.
- Call 911 if you see any suspicious activity.
- Call 311 to get the County to help.

Recent Parking Laws Reminder from Montgomery County Police — Just a reminder that in some neighborhoods vehicles are parking too close to the intersection, thus minimizing sight lanes and making it difficult to observe vehicles or pedestrians in close proximity. It is unlawful for a vehicle to be parked within 35 feet of an intersection; 15 feet of a fire hydrant; within 5 feet of a driveway; 20 feet of a crosswalk and within 30 feet of a stop sign. It is also unlawful to park on the opposite side of the street with left wheels to curb unless it's a one way street. It is imperative that emergency vehicles have the space necessary to turn into all areas of the neighborhood. Montgomery County parking laws can be found in Chapter 31 of the Montgomery County Code.

MSCA Membership — Various board members have been serving the community for many years, and it's time for others to join the fold and take on leadership responsibilities. Please come to the May 20th meeting and let us know of your interest! Everyone's help, support, and participation are much appreciated!