



# Willowood

## **The Official Newsletter of the Willowood Neighborhood Association**

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<http://www.willowood.org>

December 2006

### **President's Message**

Wouldn't it be nice if we could pick and choose the laws that we would be willing to obey? Personally, I would like to ignore the tax code, among other laws. But the repercussions would be staggering. Likewise, we can not ignore the guidelines set forth in our HOA by-laws and covenants. There is a reason each of us chose to live in this development. We liked the idea that we were buying in an upscale neighborhood in a thriving county.

We send out letters warning people about architectural violations as a courtesy. We do not have to do this! These initial notifications cost the violator nothing. Any following notifications cost the offender any and all fees associated with said violation. It is to your benefit to correct the infraction before you incur a fee.

In particular, we have certain exterior color schemes from the different builders in our community. If you choose to deviate from your original colors, your choice must be approved by the architectural committee. If an attempt is made to come close to an original color, the chosen color will probably be accepted. If you do not get approval for a color change, you can expect a letter, and eventually an action by the board if you choose not to comply. We have the right to attach a lien on your property if you choose not to comply. Is it really worth it?

I have the original color scheme given to me by Cornerstone Homes at the closing on my property. I would like to compile the color schemes for each of the other builders (Ryan, Ryland, and Patriot homes). If you have a color chart and would be willing to share it with the architectural committee, I would encourage you to contact me at 410-796-4119.

Please remember that we are volunteers working to keep the value of your housing investment increasing. Please cooperate with us!

Chuck Casey

### **School News**

The county Board of Education recently finished its latest round of school redistricting plans. Starting with the 2007-2008 school year, our neighborhood children will now be attending Mayfield Woods Middle School instead of Elkridge Landing Middle School. Our elementary school (Bellows Spring) and high school (Long Reach) were not changed.

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## Local Zoning News

On May 10, 2006 the county Zoning Board voted to deny the rezoning petition seeking to change the current residential zoning to commercial on the Braun property, which is located directly across from the northern end of Wesley Lane (the southwest corner of the Route 100/103 interchange). However, on June 21st the Court of Special Appeals ruled that the petition for referendum on the "Comp Lite" rezoning bill was not valid. Thus, on July 28th Comp Lite took effect and the Braun property became zoned for commercial development. Several affected homeowners throughout the county are currently challenging the legality of Comp Lite in court, but unless that lawsuit is successful, the Braun property will remain zoned commercial and we can all look forward to increased traffic and noise in the years to come.

## Residential Realty Agent

Property management for the HOA is handled by Residential Realty. We have a new agent handling our community. She can be reached at:

Kate Cornell	
Residential Realty	410-654-4444 (voice)
3600 Crondall Lane, Suite 103	410-654-5666 (fax)
Owings Mills, MD 21117	

## Tips and Reminders

Please walk down the sidewalk adjoining your property. If you are running into tree limbs or bushes, it means others are too! Please trim any vegetation that is hanging over the sidewalks.

Howard County Code requires all homeowners to remove snow from sidewalks adjoining their property within 48 hours after a snow fall.

Please be courteous to your neighbors by cleaning up after your dog(s). If you don't want it in your yard, your neighbors don't want it in their yards and we don't want it in our common areas. We have 2 pet stations that we maintain for your convenience.

Christmas trees can be put out for recycling on our regular recycling days of January 5, 12, and 19, 2007.

## Dates

The HOA annual meeting will be held in early April next year. The specific date will appear in the next newsletter.

We will soon be deciding on a date next year (probably in May or June) for the annual yard sale. If you would like to propose a specific date, please contact Laurie Ramey at [VicePresident@willowood.org](mailto:VicePresident@willowood.org) or at 410-796-6510.