



# Willowood

## The Official newsletter of the Willowood Neighborhood Association

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<http://www.willowood.org>

### President's Message

Greetings Homeowners.

This year we welcome spring a little more gratefully than we have in years past. This winter's record snow fall has left me and probably most of you ready for warm weather and dry ground. I'd like to begin this letter by thanking all of you for your assistance to the community and your neighbors during the large snow falls and a special thanks to those homeowners with snow blowers who worked tirelessly clearing the long driveway flag lots and streets.

Many of you may be asking what the Homeowner Association's responsibility is for clearing the streets in the neighborhood. Part of the HOA's responsibility in the community is to care for the common areas. After a snow fall this would entail clearing the sidewalks along common areas. We also clear the sidewalks in front of county owned land in our association. Howard County is responsible for clearing the streets, and in fact *does not allow* the HOA to do this. As a result of this policy we are at the mercy of the County to clear the streets of snow. The county takes full responsibility for any damage to the streets, curbs, sidewalks and signage as a result of the snow removal. You may have noticed that there is quite a bit of damage to the grass areas along Wesley from the snowplows that passed along there. We have already notified Howard County Highways Bureau and they have come out to repair those areas. If your property suffered damage as a result of the snowplows you can contact them at (410) 313-7450 and they will add you to their list.

As we enter spring this is a friendly reminder that we will be conducting community inspections during April. Some of the items we look for are:

- Mold – usually growing on the north side of the home and can be taken care of with a good power washing
- Foundation – usually needs to be painted every two to three years as a result of fading and the ground settling
- Trim and Shutters – these need to be painted as wood exterior trim flakes and shutters fade with age
- Overgrown Foliage – trimming is needed year round depending on the type of foliage you have growing in your yard

You can be proactive by addressing some of these cosmetic items on your home as soon as the weather warms up. If you elect to do any exterior painting and want to change the color from the original you must submit an architectural request. Forms are available on the website at <http://www.willowood.org>.

## President's Message [cont'd]

In closing I would like to remind you all that our annual homeowners association meeting is coming up on April 22, at 7:30 pm. It will be held at the Elkridge public library. This is a great time for you to meet the board members and to ask any questions or make any comment on any concerns you may have or to run for election yourself. Also, the community yard sale will be May 1<sup>st</sup> with a rain date of May 8<sup>th</sup>. Come out and see your neighbors and make some of their old stuff your new stuff.

Wishing you a great 2010,  
Javier Armendáriz

## Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>
22 April 2010	7:30 pm	Annual HOA meeting at the Elkridge Library (in the meeting room)
01 May 2010	8 am – 12 pm	Community Yard Sale
08 May 2010	8 am – 12 pm	Rain date for Community Yard Sale

## Tips and Reminders

According to *The Washington Post* snow bent evergreens can be gathered back into shape using two or three rings of twine wrapped around the outside. The twine should be removed in early summer.

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 3 pet stations that we maintain for your convenience.

Please look for your trash cans/lids if they are missing. Too many remain unclaimed or end up in the pond areas.

Any exterior change to your house must be approved by the Architectural committee **prior** to the change.

As the weather warms up more children are playing outside so please be especially mindful and obey the posted speed limits while driving through our neighborhood.

## Web Site Email List

We have an email list so that we can send out reminders of important dates and web site updates. You can go to the community web site (<http://www.willowood.org>) and enter your email address to be added to the list. The list is only used for distributing community information.