

# THE COVE

Winter 2020

Fort Washington Estates Civic Association

## Latest/Greatest – Association Status

Happy New Year! For those of you who are not aware, last spring FWECA was considering shutting down permanently. Understandably, the Board had reached the point where it was time to pass the torch to new leadership but it appeared there were no volunteers.

Fortunately, at the June 2019 Membership meeting a few members stepped up to continue the great work of the previous Boards. Since that time, the new Board has met monthly to become familiar with FWECA's history, processes, and to finalize plans to continue the move forward. To date, the new Board has drafted a budget, held a Block Captain's meeting, a membership drive, and developed a proposed calendar of events with the hopes of re-energizing our community and promoting more involvement.

Speaking of community involvement, we need your help. More details on how you can be a part of the continued success of this great organization can be found throughout this newsletter. Please contact any Board member to volunteer or pass on any ideas to increase participation. We look forward to a great year!

## Presidents Corner

FWECA Members, in order to move the Association forward with regard to the use of technology to get our message, notices, event activities and meetings to all in a timely and efficient manner, we are going to transition to using members' official email addresses for the distribution of information. You will be receiving a message from the website

## Current Board Members

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## Webmaster

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distribution app via email requesting you notify us of the address you would like us to use in this effort. Especially if it is an email address different from the one you provided with your membership application. It is the FWECA Boards' belief that this process will help us to expedite the information we need to get to you to allow adequate time for you to react to the activity or event. Please be on the lookout for the email and respond accordingly.

## Committees Update

The Association has traditionally chaired six committees: **Beautification, Government & Public Utilities, Welcoming, Communications, Membership, and Special Events Committees**. We are in need of Committee Chairs for each as well as Committee members. The duties of each committee are outlined below:

**Beautification Committee** is responsible for leading the community in enhancement of our neighborhoods. In the past, this committee has been responsible for selecting the FWECA Yard of the Month, and for leading clean-up drives and vegetation planting in communal areas. (*Sandra Stephon, chair*), Carolyn Stevens reported that the Committee is looking at ways to enhance the beauty of our neighborhood.

**Government & Public Utilities Committee** is the FWECA voice for interaction with Prince George's County representatives and utility companies (WSSC, PEPCO, etc). This committee keeps the community up to speed on upcoming projects that will affect us such as sewer and water main repairs, street paving, etc. This committee also serves as the community voice to address residents who are experiencing difficulties in meeting County Codes for the maintenance of their properties. As always, all of us are urged to assist neighbors who are having trouble maintaining their properties and to make them aware of County codes in this regard. The Codes are available at the Price George's County County Click website [https://library.municode.com/md/prince\\_george's\\_county/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](https://library.municode.com/md/prince_george's_county/codes/code_of_ordinances)

**Communications Committee** is responsible for publishing the FWECA Newsletter and

Membership Directory. Additionally, this committee is responsible getting the word out on short-notice events that affect our community.

**Special Events Committee** is responsible for over-seeing community activities such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Movie Night in the Park, community yard sales, Block Parties, etc.

**Welcoming Committee** is responsible for welcoming new families to the neighborhood. In the past, this committee was responsible for developing welcome folders for new homeowners and renters moving into our community.

**Membership Committee** is responsible for increasing/maintaining the number of households in our community that join FWECA.

Currently, 28 of the 345 households in the Cove are FWECA members. This Committee will concentrate on reaching out to get more families on the FWECA roll.

## Community Announcements

### Deer Management

We will be working with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPP-C), Prince George's County Animal Control officials, the Department of Natural Resources, and Fort Washington Park officials to create a viable non-lethal deer management strategy and implementation plan for our community. We would appreciate any information on any deer-related issues such as accidents or other problems (lyme disease) be shared with the FWECA as we present our case to the authorities.

### Giant Food Store Redevelopment

The Giant Food Store at 9580 Livingston

Road, Fort Washington has closed for redevelopment. Once completed the new 42,000 ft site will feature an expanded natural food dept, full-service florist, deli, prepared foods, bakery, seafood and meat departments, full service pharmacy.

### **County Requirement for an Address Number on your House**

Section F)303.3, Premises Identification, of the Prince George's County Housing Code requires each home to have an address number identifiable from the street. An address number is needed so that First Responders can find your exact location in case of an emergency. The code states that buildings shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be in Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inches (12.7 mm).

If a County Inspector notices that an address number is not on your house as previously described, the County Inspector may issue a written Violation Notice (VN) that will be sent to the homeowner. The VN will require remedial action within 10 days. If remedial action is not taken within 10 days, a \$100 fine may be imposed.

### **13210 L'Enfant Drive Update**

In April, 2019 the FWECA President at the time, informed the office of the Director of Permitting, Inspections & Enforcement (DPIE) Prince George's County that the owner of the property at 13210 L'Enfant Drive had not completed the work on the property as agreed to in Consent Order, Civil Case No. CAL 17-01941. The work was originally supposed to have been completed by December 22, 2017. The property owner

was then given until March 26, 2018 to restore the property to its original condition. The owner failed to meet this deadline also. Based on the discussion and presentation at the April 6, 2019 FWECA Board Meeting, the Board agreed to give the owner another opportunity to complete the restoration of the garage according to the design that was approved by the Prince George's County Planning Board. As of the date of this newsletter the owner has taken no actions. On October 21, 2019, the Association received communication from the DPIE requesting input on possible solutions to this matter. At the November 14, 2019 Board Meeting it was decided that the Board would recommend the county proceed with the demolition of the property, an option the County had previously presented. The Board was informed that because of possible litigation there could be delays between 6 months to 2 years before any action is taken. The former FWECA President was tasked with informing the DPIE of the Board's decision.

### **Nextdoor Social Network**

Nextdoor is a social network for neighborhoods and a great place to keep current on local events, announcements, and other information that affects Captains Cove and surrounding communities in MD and VA. Nextdoor is the neighborhood hub where neighbors work together to build stronger, safer, happier communities, all over the world...and, it's free.

You can join and verify in a neighborhood if you:

- rent or own a home,
- own a second home,
- own property where you are planning to build a home, or
- own a rental property in the neighborhood.

Captains Cove currently has 331 neighbors currently active.

Visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com). For more details.

### **FWECA Website**

Captain's Cove has its own website ([www.fweca.org](http://www.fweca.org)) that is open to all residents. Loaded with information directly related to our community, this is a great source for staying abreast of our happenings. Coming soon, the minutes from the recent monthly Board meetings will be posted there.

### **Planned FWECA Activity Calendar**

**Neighborhood Garage Sale – April 2020**  
**Spring Neighborhood Cleanup – April 2020**  
**Block Parties – April/May 2020**  
**Neighborhood Movie Night – May 2020**  
**Neighborhood Mixer with the Pool  
Association – May 2020**  
**FWECA General Meeting – June 2020**