



ASPENWOOD TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter

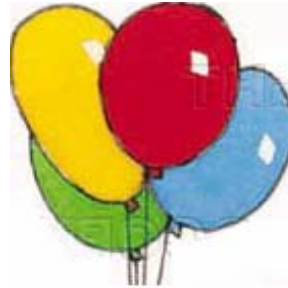
Fall 2006

How Do You Spell Success.....

Q U O R U M! We are thrilled to report that we made quorum for the 2006 Annual Meeting — the first time out. The turn out was by far greater than it has been in at least four years. It was a good time of social interaction for some, as well as an opportunity for homeowners to express concerns and get answers to questions about the community.

Whether the great dinner or concerns about the community prompted you to attend Aspenwood's Annual Meeting, the Board is glad you were there.

In the coming months, please check out www.aspenwoodtownhomes.org to keep up to date with what is going on in your community! Click **Meeting Minutes** to keep track of monthly Board Meetings. See you next time!



BECOME A MEMBER OF TOWER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

See the Difference a Credit Union Can Make

As an Aspenwood Homeowner's Association member, you are eligible to become a member of Tower Federal Credit Union. Tower offers all of the benefits of a full-service financial institution, including the convenience of online Home Banking, eStatements and free Bill Payment. Take advantage of Tower's free checking, debit card, direct deposit and low-rate auto, mortgage and home equity loans.

Transfer Your High Rate Credit Card Balances to Tower's Gold MasterCard[®]

Transfer your high rate loans and credit card balances to Tower's Gold MasterCard and save with a low, fixed 10.9% APR and no annual or transfer fees. The same low 10.9% rate applies to all purchases and cash advances, too. Plus, receive a 1% rebate on all purchases—credited each month to your credit card balance.

Become a Member Today

To join Tower, visit towerfcu.org and apply for membership quickly and easily online. You'll then be eligible to sign up for Home Banking. Membership questions? Call the Member Service Center at **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328**. Visit towerfcu.org for branch and ATM locations near your home or work.

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Community Tip

For a small cost, owners / residents can obtain either a motion detector or a timer for existing exterior lights. Either item can be purchased at Home Depot and used to keep your property lit at night.

Per Howard County police, your best deterrent to vandalism is a well lit community.



You are **NOT** like all the others --
so why should your website be?

No cookie-cutters, just creative and effective design and development to meet your individualized goals and needs.

info@mtvernonmedia.com



Reach 266 Homeowners at Once!



Well, indirectly that is; let them know what goods / services you have to offer. Do you work for a company or organization that would advertise in the Aspenwood quarterly newsletter? Know of any small business in need of more exposure with little cost? An ad would be about the same size as the one above for **Mt. Vernon Media**, and would be at very low cost. How low you ask? Well for exposure to 266 homeowners, and inclusion on the Aspenwood website, advertising cost is only \$55.00 per issue (\$45.00 per issue when paying for at least two issues at once, in advance) for non-residents / businesses for calendar year 2007.

And, if an Aspenwood homeowner who owns a business, home-based or otherwise, the advertising cost, for the same exposure, is only \$35.00 per quarterly issue (\$25.00 per issue if paying for at least two issues at once, in advance).

Know of a business that is interested? **Want to get rid of those nuisance flyers, from realtors and whomever else, that litter our community.** Tell them to check out www.aspenwoodtownhomes.org to see a sample of a recent newsletter. Click **Newsletter** to see a color sample in PDF format. Contact The Management Group Associates (TMGA) by using the online form, or call 301-948-6666 if interested in advertising in upcoming newsletters.



The More You Know...

Ever wonder who to call when a street light is out in Aspenwood or on Vollmerhausen Road? Though you can call TMGA for the lights in Aspenwood, it would be quicker to call BGE directly. They will ask you for the ID number that is on the light pole, which is the same information you would need to give to the Aspenwood property manager. And, if it is a light on Vollmerhausen Road, you should not call TMGA. Rather, you must call BGE directly.

To report a street light outage, please call 800-685-0123. Once connected, press #1, then press #5. You will be connected to someone who will ask for the ID number located on the pole. If obtaining the ID# is not practical, you should be prepared to give enough specific information to make it easy for a work crew to know which light is out.

On another note, you can expect to see a few more street lights in the community in the near future. BGE will be installing new lights for the community, and may even install lights on Vollmerhausen Road for the county. Stay tuned.



If You Call Them....

Have you noticed an increase in the amount of vandalism in the community? Do think we need to solve the problem before it gets any worse? Do you think a regular police presence would make a difference? Well if your answer is yes to these questions you are not alone. The Board response is likewise yes.

So, to ensure the Department knows we need community, we as a commu-
How you ask? Easy, we tell frequently and consistently!
loitering on common area
See a kid destroy the Aspen-
car gets vandalized, call



No matter the vandalism or mischievous offense, call the police and report it. But remember, Do Not use 911 unless there is an emergency. **The non-emergency number for our area is 410-313-3700.** Or, if you have questions, you can email the Office of Public Affairs at policeliasion@co.ho.md.us

Howard County Police a police presence in the nity have to let them know. them! And we do so fre-
Observe a group of teens property, call the police.
wood sign, call them. Your them. Someone slashes

The police department cannot know we have a problem unless we tell them that we have one. Concerned they might not have the man power? Well the only way for them to get the manpower is for communities like ours to let them know that there is a need for more manpower.

Another way to help increase the police presence in Howard county is to ensure that elected officials know it is a need and that it is important to you, the VOTER!

TMGA Corner



Special Assessment

Drainage Repair

Finally! Once and for all! Done! Completed! As of October 2006, all drainage problems on common areas of the community have been repaired. That is, all that were reported to, and known by the Board. US Lawns did some of the drainage repair work in the spring, and the remainder of the work was completed in October.

Along with completion of the work, the Association finally saw an end to the drainage problems that have plagued Aspenwood for years. With drainage no longer being a major problem, the Board can now focus on other Aspenwood needs such as landscaping and more lights in the community. And, as US Lawns is the new landscaper for Aspenwood, TMGA and the Board obtained their written guarantee for the work as long as they are the landscapers for the community. How about that for a good deal!

Trash Reminder

Please remember that trash should not be put out until 6 PM on Wednesdays. Also, please make sure that you do not block the path to mailboxes when putting out trash. On Monday nights, the same applies for recyclables — items should not be put out before 6 PM, and you should be sure to leave a clear walking path to the mailboxes.



As mentioned in a recent letter, the current deficit to the Reserve account will remain for now. There were not enough homeowners who participated in the Annual Meeting (via proxy or in person) to even call for a vote on the subject. According to the Association documents, a two-thirds majority is required in order to pass a special assessment. That means 178 owners would need to vote yes for the motion. But as the Board expected, 178 homeowners would not vote yes for the special assessment.

It was the goal of the Board to at least communicate to owners what is necessary for the financial health of the community as determined by an independent audit. That goal was accomplished. It is up to the community to respond to the professional assessment and recommendation of the auditors.

Email Updates

In an effort to cut mailing expenses, TMGA will be sending some correspondence via email beginning in 2007. Anyone interested in receiving correspondence via email, need only to use the contact form on the Aspenwood website. Go to www.aspenwoodtownhomes.org, then click **Contact**. Simply enter 'email' in the message section in order to submit your email address. If you want TMGA to use a different email address than the one you send from, please enter it into the message sec-



Aspenwoodtownhomes.org

Aspenwood Townhome Association

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