



# ASPENWOOD TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2006

## HAPPY 2006

### Water Issues—Update

Now that the holiday season is behind us, it is back to business for the Aspenwood Board of Directors. The Board's top priority continues to be the water drainage issues throughout the community. A landscape engineer has examined the community and is currently drawing up plans and solutions to address the problems. Once the plans are completed, the next step will be to select a contractor to make recommended changes / corrections throughout the community. Though there is no specific timeline, work should begin by this Spring in the worst of the areas with drainage problems.



### Are You a Law Abiding Pet Owner?

Pet owners are responsible for immediately removing excrement deposited by their pets on property that is not their own and disposing of it in a sanitary manner. Call the Animal Control Division, 410-313-2780, for information.

When domestic animals are not confined on their owner's property, the county requires that they be on a leash or properly restrained and under direct control of a responsible person.

Pet owners must remove an accumulation of defecation from their own property to prevent annoying odors.

Violations of Animal Control Laws are subject to civil monetary penalties ranging between \$25—\$500.00, criminal penalties, including incarceration, pet impoundment, and/or mandatory appearances before the Animal Matters Hearing Board.

Any citizen who has personally observed a violation of any provision of the Animal Control Laws can file an affidavit (sworn statement) and report the violation. Please contact the Animal Control Division at 410-313-2780 if you have any questions or wish to report a violation.



### Report Suspicious Activities

According to Howard County Police Statistics, crime is on the rise in all of Howard County. Police are asking for your help. Please report suspicious persons, events, or any situation that appears questionable. Anytime someone or something "just doesn't seem right", that's when YOU need call police. Protecting citizens and property is their job, so don't think you are bothering them with a call. Consider what could happen if you do not act! Police will need to know: What happened? When did it happen? Where did it happen? Was anyone hurt? Contact Howard County Police Non-Emergency, 410-313-2200, and 911 if an emergency.

### Board of Directors

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### Community Tip

Wrapping your water heater and the pipes that extend from it can reduce heating costs. Decreasing the thermostat setting by four degrees can also lower heating costs.



## TMGA Corner

### Spring Property Maintenance & Upkeep Inspections

Spring property maintenance and upkeep inspections will resume Spring 2006.

Maintenance of all structures and landscaping located on homeowner property such as decks, fences, gardens, shrubbery, and trees will be inspected. Siding, windows, sidewalk entry ways, hand railings, and the entire home exterior will be inspected for proper maintenance and aesthetics (discoloration, peeling paint, cracks, etc.).

All exterior modifications and changes from the original developer design will be noted and researched to ensure that modifications received prior ARC approval. Please help by keeping your homes, especially the front, clear of debris and unnecessary items.

If you receive a notice from TMGA, please comply with it as quickly as possible. If for some reason you cannot comply, please notify TMGA or bring the issue before your Board of Directors... we think you will find them quite reasonable and understanding.  
Thanks!



## Fence Update

The temporary ban on new fences in Aspenwood has ended. According to the landscape engineer, increasing the amount of space under fences will alleviate some of the water drainage problems. It would benefit the community if 3–4 inches were cut from the bottom of existing fences that rest on the ground. The engineer noted that some yards have drainage problems because low standing fences dam the water and prevent it from flowing as it should.



After walking the community with the landscape engineer, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) included the following in the ARC guidelines: Townhome fences must be three, four, or six feet in height, and board-on-board. Single family home fences must be three or four feet in height and board-on-board. All fences are required to sit between three inches and four inches above the ground. If pets create a need for a lower clearance, a wire mesh is permitted, with approval, at the very base of the fence. Maintenance and cleaning out leaves, etc. from both sides of the mesh are the fence owner's responsibility.



**Aspenwoodtownhomes.org**

### **Aspenwood Townhome Association**

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