



ASPENWOOD TIMES

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2007

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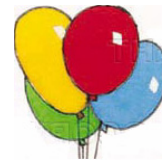
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To join Tower, visit towerfcu.org and apply for membership quickly and easily online. You'll then be eligible to sign up for Home Banking. Membership questions? Call the Member Service Center at **301-497-7000** or **800-787-8328**. Visit towerfcu.org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



Did You Know?

- All e-mails sent to the Management Group are read by the Board regardless of the size of the email?
- Trash and recycling should not be put out before 6 PM the evening before pick up; 6 PM Monday for recycling and 6 PM Wednesday for regular trash. No one wants to look at unsightly trash piles in the middle of the afternoon! Don't dump on Aspenwood by putting your trash out earlier.
- You are welcome to attend monthly Board meetings held the second Thursday of every month. The meetings start at 7 PM.
- You can get current information about the community, including Board minutes and updated policies, by logging on to www.aspenwoodtownhomes.org.

Board of Directors

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Vice President

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Treasurer

Shawn Lamb

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Members-at-Large

Tom Cheche

Joyce Covington

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Amit Sharma

The Management Group

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Or

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Community Tip

Pet owners must clean up after their dogs in order to be law abiding citizens. You may call Animal Control at 410-313-2780 if you have any questions or wish to report a violation. Each violation is subject to a \$25 — \$500 fine.



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Sink Holes in Aspenwood?



Last fall Howard County replaced the “top coat” or the first layer of the asphalt on the main roads within the community. The parking lots within the community belong to Aspenwood and are not part of the county road system. The Homeowners Association is responsible for upkeep of the parking lots. Last fall the Board had all of the parking areas “seal coated”, which provides a light weight tar to maintain a water barrier with protects the asphalt. Seal coating helps to lengthen the life of the top coat of asphalt; much like re-sealing a deck lengthens the life of the wood. During the seal coating process, the contractor identified several areas where the asphalt is badly deteriorating.

Have you noticed any areas that look like the back of an alligator? Those are the areas where the asphalt has been damaged beyond the scope of seal coating. The only way to repair the asphalt is to remove the first layer of asphalt and then assess if any of the areas have damage extending into the second layer or base coat. If the damaged asphalt is not repaired, over time the alligator looking asphalt will eventually develop into sink holes. Repairing the damaged asphalt will be a costly expense to the community. HOA fees have risen only 5% each year, which does not cover the increased cost of electricity, repairs to the sidewalks, drainage work and seal coating of the parking lots. It is necessary to use reserve funds to make the necessary repairs to, or repave the asphalt. Currently, the reserve fund does not have the amount of money necessary to properly repave the parking lots.

Permit Parking Policy Update

In January, after **many** months of discussion and listening to input from Aspenwood homeowners, the Board of Directors approved a permit parking policy, which will provide an opportunity for homeowners to purchase one permit parking pass per household. The policy will be implemented first on Aspenwood Way for a designated period of time, and then carefully evaluated by the Board to determine the policy’s effectiveness in relieving some of the parking concerns expressed by residents. If the policy is effective on Aspenwood Way, it will be implemented gradually on the other streets within the community. While the Board recognizes that the community is divided about the implementation of a permit parking policy, we remain committed to at least trialing a permit parking policy in an attempt to address parking problems across the community.

A few things to keep in mind about the permit parking policy: Purchasing a parking permit is entirely optional. There will be only as many permit spaces as there are permits issued. Each homeowner / house is limited to only one permit. Homeowners purchasing a permit will be permitted to park in spaces designated as permit parking spaces. Permit parking is **not** the same as assigned parking. The permit will not be linked to any one specific parking space, but instead, linked to parking spaces designated for permit only parking. For more details on the actual permit parking policy, log on to www.aspenwoodtownhomes.org and click **Letters/Forms** to locate the policy draft.



TMGA Corner



Parking Courtesy

As a reminder, parking spaces are open to all residents of Aspenwood. We **do not** have individual reserved parking. Parking courtesy among neighbors can go a long way in alleviating some of the frustration over parking. If you have more than one car, please park one of the cars away from the prime parking spaces in front of houses to allow everyone an opportunity to park at least one car closer to their house. If you have visitors, please ask them to park in spots not directly in front of houses. Going out of town for an extended period of time? Why not park your car in one of the spots farther from the houses to allow your neighbors an opportunity to park closer.

Email Updates

Want to help cut association mailing costs? Sign up to receive some correspondence via email. Use the contact form on the Aspenwood website to sign up. Go to www.aspenwoodtownhomes.org, and 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 section.

Drainage Update

The Board is in the process of evaluating the drainage work completed by US Lawns over the last few months. While some of the drainage work was done very well, there are several areas throughout the community that do not meet the standards of the landscape architect who was hired to improve the areas with poor drainage. Board members have walked throughout the community with the contractor for US Lawns and identified a number of areas with unsatisfactory work. The contractor will not be paid until the work is completed in a satisfactory manner. Please contact the Management Group if you are aware of drainage problems in the community.

Painting Aspenwood Orange and Blue?

Have you noticed orange and blue lines on your lawn? Verizon is continuing the process of placing fiber optic cable within the community that was started last summer. No word on the date of completion.



Aspenwoodtownhomes.org

Aspenwood Townhome Association

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