

BENNINGTON *Crier*

Board of Directors and Officers April 2002- March 2003

President:

Wanda Harich

Vice President

David Lorms

Treasurer:

Mel Karlinsky

Secretary:

Steve Bentley

Board Members:

Nathan Dietrich

Jason Estock

Geovanny Fallas

Dave Morton

Norm Sugar

Association Administrator

Patricia Campagnoli

Committee Chairpersons

Architectural Review:

Shelly Ward

Landscaping:

Mel Karlinsky & Wanda Harich

Clubhouse:

Brenda Mitchell

Grounds/Maintenance:

Lance Wright

Pool:

Tony DeLisi

Welcoming:

Lynn Zainfeld

Communications:

Greg Mott

Neighborhood Watch

Shelly Ward/Laurie Potter

Playground

Pam Homan

March/April 2002



A sure sign of spring is the return of the Ice Cream Truck to the neighborhood! Drivers, watch out for running kids when you hear the familiar music.

Bennington Community Association

29 Goodport Lane

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

(301) 977-3376

Email: BENNINGTONCOMMTY@aol.com

Web address: www.BENNINGTONCOMMTY.ORG

Administrator's Office Hours

Mondays 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Wednesdays 10:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m.

Or by appointment

Deadline for the next Crier: Friday, May 17, 2002

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Letter From the President:

Bennington's Annual Meeting

Attendance at this year's Annual Meeting was strong, however, the Board has become aware that a communication error may have prevented several residents from attending. I wanted to take this opportunity to apologize for the confusion in regard to the date of the Annual Meeting. This year, The Crier unfortunately published the incorrect date for this meeting and that several residents planned according to the date in the Crier. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that this may have caused you. Each year, Bennington sends an official letter to each of its homeowners with the date of the meeting and an Agenda. The date on that letter was correctly stated as Wednesday, March 13, 2002. **In the future, please regard the date on this official letter as the meeting date.**

The Board is well aware that the Annual Meeting is one of the best opportunities to voice your opinions and concerns in regard to Bennington, and the Board greatly appreciates the advice and suggestions generated at these meetings. As with Board Meetings, we encourage residents to come and take an active part in this community. As a self-run community, our residents are our greatest assets.

If you have any questions or concerns that were not addressed at this meeting, whether you were able to attend or not, please take some time over the next few months to attend a regularly scheduled Board Meeting. These meetings occur the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the clubhouse. If you know in advance that you will be attending, please call the Administrative office and let us know.

If you are unable to attend a meeting and would like the Board to address a specific issue, please contact the Administrator either by phone, email or in writing.

Once again, we greatly apologize for any inconvenience this error may have caused you. We value your participation and look forward to seeing you at the next Board Meeting.

Wanda

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Welcome to new board members Nathan Dietrich, Jason Estock, Geovanny Fallas, Dave Morton and Norm Sugar. The board also has a new Vice President, David Lorms, and a new secretary, Steve Bentley, both who served on the board last year. The community appreciates your willingness to donate some of your time and energy to keeping Bennington a great place to live! Thanks also to outgoing board members Samuel Harris, Gerry Bouffard, Maggie Gifford and Richard Crow for your dedication over the past year(s).

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board meets the second Tuesday of every month at the clubhouse. The next scheduled regular board meeting will be **May 14, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.** Residents are welcome and *encouraged* to come.



Home Owners Associations Dues

The latest payment of Homeowners Association dues was due **January 1st 2002**. Please pay if you have not already done so. Payment may be placed in the mail slot on the clubhouse door or mailed to the Association address found on the front page of the newsletter. You can use the coupon in this newsletter if unable to locate yours. If you have questions or concerns, call the Administrator at the Bennington office at 301-977-3376. The next payment will be due on **April 1st, 2002**.

If any homeowner did not receive their payment coupons for 2002, please call the office at 301-977-3376 and leave a message with the bookkeeper.

Got Cables?

As spring arrives, we are beginning to notice more exposed cable wires throughout the Community. These exposed cable wires present a hazard to residents and our landscaping company. So, if you notice any exposed wires near your home, please contact the Administrator at benningtoncommty@aol.com or 301-977-3376. Please include a detailed description of the wire location and color.

Are You Up to Date?

Are you a new resident?
Has your phone number or email address changed?
Have the names on your mortgage changed?

Please update Bennington's Administrative

Office by email, fax, or letter to ensure you get any important documents we may send out. Thanks!

Pet Owners:

Please remember that it is your responsibility under state, county, and local laws to clean up after your pets. If you use the trash bins located throughout the community, all animal waste must be bagged and sealed--local laws prohibit our garbage service from emptying cans containing loose animal droppings because of the associated potential health hazards. Let's all pitch in to keep our community safe and clean for everyone to enjoy!

Next Bulk Pick-up is Friday, May 3rd

Bulk Pick-Up is the first Friday of every month. Items may be placed outside for pick up the evening before. Remember, NO paint cans, tires, batteries, items in plastic bags or whole cardboard boxes (flattened only). For more information by telephone, call Division of Solid Waste Services Customer Service Line, 240-777-6410 weekdays.

Friday Is Always Recycling Day

Recycling is every Friday. Recyclable items include cans, glass, and plastic bottles (numbers 1 and 2). Also, newspapers and mixed paper placed in **paper** bags only. Corrugated cardboard boxes must be broken down flat. Twigs must be cut and bound in bundles no larger than 18 inches in diameter and no longer than six feet. Leaves can be placed in brown paper bags and left at the curb with regular recycling materials. For more information by telephone, call the Recycling Hotline, 301-590-0046, weekdays, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Notes from the Administrator's Desk

It looks like spring is finally upon us. I hope you are all able to get out and enjoy the wonderful weather.



Bennington has exciting news this spring. Joan Falcao, a brand new Bennington resident has volunteered her time to update the website. I have already been amazed with her enthusiasm and desire to create a highly functional information tool for the whole community to enjoy. She has already posted some updates and is eager to make it as current and functional as possible. If you haven't visited us recently, pop online sometime this week and stop in at www.BenningtonCommtty.org. Thanks Joan!

In addition, spring is the perfect time to complete those much-needed repairs on your home. Be looking out for Architectural Review letters arriving soon. Make special note of the completion dates for repairs on your home and respond accordingly. Remember the ARC exists to help kept Bennington looking beautiful and keep those property values in Bennington on the upswing. Please do your part, it helps ALL of us!

Finally, you may or may not have known, I accepted another position for a few weeks last month, but decided to come back to Bennington because it really is a great place to work. So, if you notice a short blip in service, I apologize for any inconvenience. I am back and as delighted as ever to handle your questions, requests and concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Patricia

Bennington Community Association
29 Goodport Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Your Address:

Due Date
4/01/02
AMOUNT DUE

\$192.00

AMOUNT PAID

\$ _____

This payment will cover the 2nd Quarter Dues, from **April 1st 2002 through June 30, 2002**. Please enclose this stub with your payment.

Note: These payments go to the Bookkeeper. Please do not include notes to the Administrator with payment. Send those in a separate envelope.

Committee Reports

Landscaping Committee

Chairpersons: Mel Karlinsky and Wanda Harich

The Landscaping Committee is having a workday on **Saturday, April 20** to spread soil, put down grass seed and spread straw. If you would like to join this fun, hard working group show up with your rakes and shovels at Wanda's house, 28 Darby Court, at **9:00 a.m.** We plan to work until 12:00 Noon. If you can't make it Saturday but would like to join the group another time please contact the Community Administrator at 301-977-3376 or by email.

Urban Growth Committee

Chairperson: Linda Gore

WORK BEGINS ON NEW GAITHERSBURG MASTER PLAN--SPECIAL CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO THE CASEY TRACT (also known as the site for Parklands)

The City of Gaithersburg is reviewing its Master Plan. The Master Plan is the blueprint for how the city should develop over the next twenty years. The City Council has been holding work sessions on the Master Plan; one will focus entirely on what citizens would like done with the Casey Tract (also known as the site for Parklands). The date of this meeting is not yet known, but will be announced soon. You will be alerted about this meeting through your Bennington Urban Growth Committee.

If you would like to be on the Urban Growth email list, email Linda Gore at lindagore@juno.com; if you would like to receive phone updates, call her at 301-990-7168.

Welcoming Committee

Chairperson: Lynn Zainfeld

You may call the Community Administrator at 301-977-3376 and leave a message with the address of the new residents.

Playground Committee

Chairperson: Pam Homan

Lights in the Tot Lots?

We are considering putting lights in the upper and lower tot lots since we are always trying to make Bennington a safer place to live and enjoy. We want YOUR input on this subject. Please email any of your concerns or comments to BenningtonCommtty@aol.org Attn.: Dave Morton.

Come visit the upper tot lot and try out the brand new equipment!



Bennington Crier

March/April 2002

Pool Committee

2002 pool season is upon us! The pool will be opening on Memorial Day Weekend.

We have selected another new company to manage the pool, Community Pool Service. We have seen them at other pools during swim meets they seem to manage those pools well. Hope we receive the same service. This year any concerns and complaints, you as the pool owner will be able to contact Community Pool Service directly. Their number will be posted.

We have also installed security cameras around the perimeter of the clubhouse. It is recorded surveillance 24/7. Hopefully this will reduce vandalism to your pool and surrounding areas.

Information regarding sign up for the pool and your passes will be distributed within the next few weeks. Dues must be current to receive passes. There will be no exceptions. Any concerns about your dues, please contact the bookkeeper at 301-977-3376 ext. 5.

Hoping for a great season and thank you.

Clubhouse Committee

Chairperson: Brenda Mitchell

The community clubhouse, located at 29 Goodport Lane, is available to residents to use for birthday parties, exercise classes, as a meeting place for clubs, mom/tot play dates, or any other type of gathering. As always, the use of the clubhouse is free if your Home Owners Association dues are current.

Communications Committee

Chairperson: Greg Mott

Calling Crier Volunteers!

Have you enjoyed receiving the *Crier* to keep you posted on Community events? Have a few hours every other month to lend a hand? Want a chance to hone your writing skills? Ellie Bouffard, who has heroically served us over the past 2 years, is moving to Vermont at the end of June, so we need some new volunteers. We are looking for people willing to write 1 article every other month. These articles/sections include Currant Events, Committee

Notes, What's Happening in Gaithersburg, and much more. Responsible High Schoolers with good writing skills may be able to use this as community service credits.

Please call or email the Administrator if you would like to help keep the *Crier* going and Bennington connected!

Web Site "Lives" Again

We have a new Web Master, Joan Falcao, for the Bennington web site so look for those pages to start showing up-to-date information about the community. The web site can be extremely useful to the community if it contains current information about upcoming events, meetings, board meeting minutes, swim team schedule, and other such information. It can also help foster a sense of community if it contains photos of recent events and life around Bennington. But again, volunteers are needed! We would love to receive digital images of swim meets, board meetings, children playing at the tot lots, beautiful flowers blooming in a yard... We also need some other web "experts" who can lend technical expertise. Please contact the Administrator if you would like to lend a hand and be sure to visit the web site at www.BenningtonCommt.org

Clubhouse Committee

Chairperson: Brenda Mitchell

To reserve the clubhouse, fill out a Clubhouse Request Form (available from the web page) and leave it at the clubhouse along with a \$50 refundable security deposit or simply call the Clubhouse voicemail at 301-977-3376 ext. 2 and leave a message including, name, address, day and evening phone numbers, and reservation date. We will respond as soon as possible. To allow processing time, we require at least two weeks notice in advance of the date you'd like to use it. To avoid any problems, please wait until you receive approval to plan your event at the Clubhouse. Approval will be within a reasonable amount of time (approx. five business days).

If anyone is interested in being part of the Clubhouse Committee, call Brenda at 301-670-1244.

Swim Team Gears Up For a Great Summer!



Swim team is a great way for children and parents to enjoy the summer, get to know neighbors, and foster a sense of community in Bennington. See the details below.

Swimmers: Any child 5-17 years old can participate.

Sign-Up: Sunday, June 2nd 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the clubhouse. Come sign up and meet Shelley Ward, Bennington Whales Coach.

Meets and Practice: Meets are every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning from June 3rd – July 26th. Special Mini-Meets, Relay Carnival and Invitationals may take place on other nights.

Cost: Parent Participation is the only cost. We need volunteers to time swimmers, write ribbons, bring baked goods or food to sell at meets, organize Swim-A-Thon (our largest annual fund raiser), and much more. Please remember that Parent Participation is required, not optional.



Look for more information coming soon to your home!



NEWS and FACES AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The new tire swing in the upper tot lot is a favorite among the kids.



Kindergarten and Head Start Registration

Brown Station Elementary School is holding its annual Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, May 16, 2002 to register students for the fall. Maryland law requires that all children who will be five years old by December 31 enroll in kindergarten, attend an approved day care program, or file for a one-year exemption. Please call Mrs. Tuscano at 301-840-7172 to register for an appointment time.

Family Service Workers will also be at Brown Station on Thursday, May 16th to register students for the fall. For more information, please contact the Head Start Office at 301-230-0676.

Letter from a resident:

Dear Bennington Crier Staff,
I have just had a very negative experience with a local plumber and thought that I might save some of my neighbors a little grief. Marty Pawtowski of Econo-Rooter came out to my home then proceeded to inflate his labor prices from our phone conversation then at least tripled the supplies charge, had to be asked to clean up after himself before he left including sewage soaked rags, and was generally not a real pleasant person to have in my home. He got over on us because we were in a tight spot but don't make the same mistake we did. I feel that you would be wise to steer away from Econo-Rooter.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Timeshare for rent: Condo in DelRay Beach Florida for rent. The dates are June 22-29, 2002. Large, 2-bedroom condo, on the 3rd floor (sleeps 6). Many amenities: large kitchen, 2 large bedrooms, 2 full baths, beautiful balcony overlooking the ocean, 2 pools, hot tub, basketball courts, game room. Laundry facilities on the premises. For more information, call Jill or Tony DeLisi at 301-258-9147.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Looking for a reliable company to do your home repair and improvements?

Call **Velasco & Sanchez Associates, Inc.** for a free estimate. Roofing, general carpentry, plaster/drywall repair and finishing, painting, finished basements, power washing, Installation of brick or paved walkways and patios, yard clean up, and house cleaning. Call 240-994-1519 OR 240-632-0021. Bonded & Insured. **Owner is a Bennington resident.**

Roofing & Carpentry Service

MHICL #31269

Frederick B. Depp, (recently relocated Bennington resident)

Shingle roof replacement, Sheds, Fences, Decks (Licensed & Insured)

(301) 916-0196

Looking to sell or buy? Place a free ad in the next Crier. You can e-mail classified ads to BENNINGTONCOMMTY@aol.com



NEWS FROM THE CITY

Mother's Day Brunch set at Kentlands Mansion

Back by popular demand, the City of Gaithersburg is hosting a special Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday, May 12, 2002, at the [Kentlands Mansion](#), 320 Kent Square Road. There will be two seatings: morning from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The cost for brunch is \$17 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens (55 and older), and \$10 for children less than the age of 10.

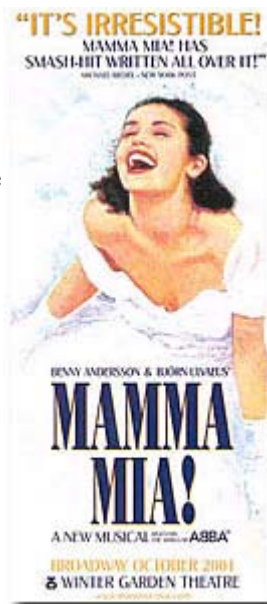
Reservations are required, and seating is family style with six to eight at a table. The Mansion does not have high chairs or booster seats. For more information please contact achoate@ci.gaithersburg.md.us or 301-258-6425.

Register now for NYC trip to see Mamma Mia

Registration is underway for the City of Gaithersburg's trip to New York City to see *Mamma Mia* on Broadway on **November 2, 2002**.

Cost for the trip that includes motorcoach transportation, boxed breakfast, time to shop and sightsee, a dinner stop on the way home, etc. is \$189 for City residents and \$195 for nonresidents.

The bus will leave the Activity Center at 6 a.m. and return there at 11 p.m. on November 2. This program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Maryland State Arts Council.



For more information call Sarah Messier at 301-258-6350 X129.

Children's Baby Bazaar returns June 1

Vendors are sought for the City's Children's Baby Bazaar that will be held **Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.** at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center.

There will be 100 vendors selling new and used items. The cost per space is \$20 for City residents selling used items and \$25 for City residents selling new items. Nonresidents selling used items are charged \$30 and nonresidents with new items have a fee of \$35.

For more registration information call Sarah Messier at 301-258-6350

Outdoor Flea Market will be June 8

The City of Gaithersburg will host an outdoor flea market on Saturday, June 8 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Admission is free to the public, and everyone is encouraged to come and shop the booths of 65 vendors selling new and gently used items. March weather will be out in force, so don't take the chance by staying outside. Come inside and find something truly unique at the indoor flea market.

Vendor space is available to both residents and nonresidents. Residents selling used items pay \$20 for vendor space, and \$25 for new merchandise. In addition, Nonresidents are charged only \$25 to sell used items and \$30 for new.

For more information, please contact parksrec@ci.gaithersburg.md.us or 301-258-6350.

The City of Gaithersburg offers many other great programs and services for its residents. Make sure you check out their website at www.ci.gaithersburg.md.us