

Election

Special March 2012



ELECTION FOR WARDS I, II, III COUNCIL

MARCH 14th, POLLS WILL OPEN AT 9am

For this election to allow for all citizens to be able to vote.

In accordance with Forest Heights Charter Section 33-34 (c) the Mayor and Council are requiring that the time of voting shall be changed for this election.

Dear Citizens of the Town of Forest Heights

It is sad that another election is fraught with untruths mixed with kernels of truths to distort the facts. Rather than focus on the real issues that face our Town and real plans to help us move into the future. There are those who continue to be the masters of confusion. The issues of the planning and development surrounding our Town will have a impact on how we live, the future of our homes and our Town.

The real issue is while we are repaving, replacing and repairing sidewalks and streets, there are still those streets that we cannot repave until we address the water problem that plague them. Work has begun on Rolph Drive first, because it has some of the most serious problems. These problems cannot have a quick fix, they must be addressed at the source to have long term affect. The cost to completely address these problems are in the neighborhood of \$20 million dollars, which the Town does not have, therefore we are seeking grants rather than burden the Town with a bond.

Real issues are what is happening with the proposed 'Gaming' bill? Will it be at Rosecroft or will it be at National Harbor? What is the cost to the taxpayers? What will be the impact on Forest Heights? I have asked that there be a 2.75% Impact Fee placed in SB Bill #892 for the Town of Forest Heights and need our citizens to call Senator Muse, our State Delegates, County Councilman Patterson and County Executive Baker's office to support this proposal.

Real issues are working to develop a Sustainable Plan as required by state law so that we can continue to receive funding from the State and County.

Real issues are insuring that the Town of Forest Heights is at the table while the plans are being made for the 210 Corridor (Eastover, GlassManor and Forest Heights).

Real issues are while housing assessments are falling, how will the Council handle the short fall of revenue to insure that the residents continue to receive the expected level of service?

The Mayor, the current Council, the Town Administrator, and the Treasurer have worked hard to correct a multitude of mistakes that have been made over a number of years and to update the level of service that our residents receive. I believe that we have done a tremendous amount of work in the past year to Move our Town Forward and I hope that with the support of our citizens that we are able to continue to do so. Please get out and Vote!

Jacqueline Goodall, Mayor

TOWN OF FOREST HEIGHTS

FOREST HEIGHTS NEWS

*****EWCWSS****

Local Forest Heights

Post Customer

PRSWRT STD

ECRWSS

U.S. POSTAGE

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CLARIFICATION

- A start up grant for Forest Heights CDC was budgeted in the FY12 to assist the residents and community. While the original members are the Mayor, the Town Administrator and John Kennedy (a citizen) to begin the process. When fully operational, the board will consist of 9 members - the sitting Mayor, (1) Council Person, citizens and professional members. Any member of the community can be a member of the CDC.
- The Neighborhood Watch is not a social club, it is a committee that falls under the Mayor's Public Safety program and should be operated in such a manner that it provides safety tips and engages the entire community. It has been recommended to look at other successful programs in other towns to model.
- A web master has been hired on a part time basis to keep the Forest Heights web page update and fully operational. When updated it will include all of the Town information.
- The trash contract was an open bid and the awarded contract was negotiated to provide the best deal for the town per the bid documents, which will save the Town residents \$94,000 per year for a total of \$664,000 for the life of the contract.
- Our Police force effective March 14th will be back up to 5 officers and interviews are being done for the 6th officer. Prior to the start of summer the Town will have an active Police Reserve which will assist our full time officers in the evenings and week ends.
- Pepco has provided the Town with the cost of utilizing 10 poles to install future surveillance cameras not only at the entrance, but within the boundaries of the Town. This will reduce the cost of original.
- While any town expects to have lawsuits filed against it in the normal course of business. The Town of Forest Heights has had lawsuits requesting monetary damages in the \$Millions\$ filed by past elected officials, these lawsuits have all been lost in the court of law and now being appealed costing the Town and residents additional tax dollars that could be used to repair the streets or other infrastructure. Each law suit may run up the cost of the Town's insurance. Approximately \$15,000 has been spent in the past year to defend the Town.
- Andrea McCutcheon was suspended by the Council for refusing to provide audit and quarterly reports to the Council. After her suspension questions were raised regarding the management and oversight of the Town's financial affairs.
- Senior Self Abuse is more common than is thought. The National Center on Elder Abuse reports that more than half of the cases investigated by protective service agencies result from some form of self abuse. Know the signs and report it by contacting relatives or the proper authorities. It is our responsibility as town officials, the responsibility of the police department and as good neighbors.

"If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs and blaming it on you...If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you, but make allowance for their doubting too. If you can wait and not be tired of waiting, or being lied about, don't deal in lies, or being hated, don't give way to hating... you'll be a Man, my son! IF, Rudyard Kipling