



AGWG News

**Allanwood - Gayfields - Willson Hills - Gaywoods Estates Civic Association
Fall 2008**

What's going on

Development projects facing budget challenges

Most of you already know that the State has delayed several road projects as a result of budget shortfalls (not unexpected). This includes projects that are integral parts of the ICC infrastructure and will likely affect surrounding communities.

Two other critical projects also put on

hold are the improvements of the failed intersections of Randolph Road/Georgia Avenue and Norbeck Road/Georgia Avenue; both will be significantly affected not only by the opening of

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Keep our Halloween Party tradition alive

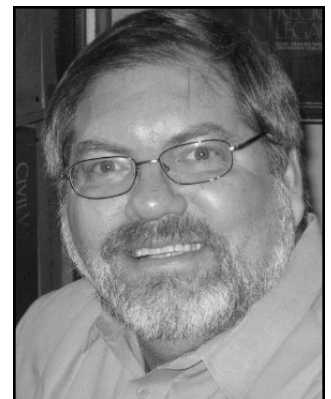
Amy and Mike King have done a wonderful job planning and hosting the Halloween Party over the last several years. Last year, we asked for volunteers to help in this effort. Unfortunately, the response was not as hoped for, but **thank you to those who did step forward.**

Let's keep our Halloween Party tradition alive! On Sept. 25, the Association sent out to the membership another request for volunteers. It's not too late for you to help (see page 6). The AGWG urges parents whose children attend this event to pitch in and help out. If you can assist in any way, please contact Amy King at amyking@mris.com or (301) 467-1877.

AGWG changes its fiscal year from Nov. 1 – Oct. 31 to coincide with calendar year, Jan. 1 – Dec. 31. See article on page 6

President's Perspective: Change we can believe in

Although we are in the midst of a change of seasons, our community now faces many other significant changes, some good and some bad. By early November, the entire community will have access to fiber-optic telecommunication service, which will bring us into the 21st Century and alleviate a history of troubled phone service. In addition, discount initiatives are still available to members.



*Joel Mazelis
President, AGWG
Civic Association*

Upcoming events

- Fall General Meeting**
10/21/08 7 p.m. (Oak Chapel)
- Halloween Parade**
10/25/08 (Triangle)

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AGWG Fall General Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.

Oak Chapel

Layhill Road

Tentative Agenda

Elections -- ICC Construction -- Neighborhood Safety

Crime -- Traffic -- Discount Initiatives

Association 2009 Budget

Telecommunications

Speaker: TBD

Wish to add something? Contact us at

Admin@agwgcivicassociation.org or 301.598.8553.

Local residents' offspring performing swimmingly

Maybe you noticed the June 4 article in The Gazette's Olney edition about Blake High School sending four swimmers off to swim in college. This spring marked the first time in Blake's history that four graduating swimmers went on to swim in college.

Two of those swimmers are our neighbors! They are Alex Kim (Johns Hopkins) and Kelly Murphy (Ithaca College). Prior to 2008, Blake had had a total of nine swimmers and divers go on to swim in college. It's quite exciting and most definitely a challenge for them.

Useful Phone Numbers

State Senator Mike Lenett: 301.858.3151

State Delegate Roger Manno: 301.858.3883

State Delegate Hank Heller: 301.358.3528

County Executive Ike Leggett: 240.777.2500

County Councilman Don Praisner:
240.777.7968

Police (non-emergency): 301.279.8000

Housing Code Enforcement: 240.777.3785

Zoning Information: 240.777.6240

Consumer Protection: 240.777.3636

Building Permits and Inspection: 240.777.6370

Property Tax Information: 240.777.8950

Cable Complaints: 240.777.2282

PEPCO: 202.833.7500

President's Perspective: Change we can believe in

Continued from page 1

By time you read this, service will be restored to local Verizon Wireless users after the Association, State Delegate Roger Manno, Councilman Don Praisner and individual member complaints forced Verizon to appoint an executive ombudsman to implement a temporary solution to restore service and propose a compensation package for those affected parties.

The Board of Directors also amended the Bylaws to simplify the collection of dues (see newsletter story). Finally, the secret is out.

Recently, the Gazette contacted me in preparing a story about our community, one that will highlight the environment that all residents have cherished for decades.

But other changes expected in the immediate future are not so good. ICC construction starts this fall to coincide with the changing weather and road conditions. The State has announced several road project delays that will only worsen traffic congestion. To make matters worse, the State announced delays related to ICC infrastructure that will negatively affect the communities surrounding the toll road. This action has finally caused members of the County Council to speak up and oppose the opening of Section A and offer alternatives to building the

remaining ICC.

Delegate Roger Manno contacted County Executive Ike Leggett to propose a solution to the anticipated increase in traffic volume through our neighborhoods, a critical issue with the ever-growing number of school-age children.

The County Executive's response will be a topic of discussion at our annual meeting. In addition to the traffic problem, the incidents of vandalism in the community and more serious crimes in adjacent areas continue to rise clearly indicating the need for AGWG residents to be proactive if this trend continues as expected.

All these changes reinforce the need for a strong advocate for the community, specifically the AGWG. However, the majority of the board members and officers are getting old. Even I am collecting a pension and have my share of arthritis. What happens when we are long gone? As we see a positive resurgence of young parents and children in the community, we need them to step up and take an active role in the Association to ensure their issues are addressed. All board positions and officers are up for election on Oct. 21. In addition, the Association has several committees always looking for participants. The time commitment is minimal, but the benefits to your family are great.

“As we see a positive resurgence of young parents and children in the community, we need them to step up and take an active role in the Association”

Board members to be elected at annual meeting

Elections will be held at the upcoming Fall Annual Meeting. Nominations will be accepted for all officers and board of director positions.

The board member representing the residents of the Drury area had to resign for health reasons. The Association needs someone to step up and represent this part of the community.

The area has been increasingly affected by crime and traffic issues, both expected to increase with the construction of the ICC.

Please submit nominations to Admin@agwgcivicassociation.org. Remember, you can nominate yourself. For additional information, feel free to contact Joel Mazelis at 301/598-8553.

What's going on

Development projects facing budget challenges

Continued from page 1

Section A of the ICC, but also by several commercial and retail development proposals in the immediate area.

Indian Springs (Poplar Run)

Winchester Homes still plans to break ground this fall, according to its latest statement. Rumors that the land may revert back to a country club are untrue and have no basis.

Layhill Overlook

Planned for the northwest corner of Homestead and Bel Pre, plans were approved and ground breaking will likely occur this spring.

Privacy World

Proposed by JBG for the area adjacent to the Glenmont Metro, work has been put on hold

indefinitely and JBG has withdrawn its rezoning application.

Greenbriar

The proposed housing development (over 380 units on 85 acres) at the intersection of Norbeck and Georgia has been scrapped by Winchester Homes. The latest proposal calls for 256 homes on 31 acres. Their original application has been amended, but no hearing has been scheduled by the Planning Board. The Greater Olney Civic Association had openly expressed concern with the size of the development at the already failed intersection.

The Association wishes to thank Rocky Lopes, President of the Layhill Alliance for his assistance in compiling this information.

AGWG Board of Directors

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renman1@mac.com

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admin@agawgcivicassociation.org
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admin@agwgcivicassociation.org

Economic crunch affects InterCounty Connector

By Ernie Benjamin, Willson Hills

Some ICC opponents hope that the current economic difficulties will lead the state to abandon construction of the ICC. Others hope that the state will halt construction other than completion of part A (I-270 to Georgia). Others hope that the state will at least not open Part A as scheduled in fall 2010, but wait until Parts B (Georgia to 29) and C (29 to I-95) are completed in late 2011. And still others hope the State will compensate for the increased cost estimate by foregoing the Layhill interchange.

My best guess? Waiting and hoping won't stop the ICC. But the fight against this needless toll road goes on, and could possibly limit or end construction.

The state has been forced to postpone sale of the Garvee Bonds necessary to fund construction. Increased cost has forced the indefinite delay of some ICC construction at I-95. And the state has revealed the true cost of the ICC to the community by canceling and deferring other road and transit projects. Some of these delayed projects, like the Purple Line and the Corridor Cities Transitway would have relieved congestion on the Beltway and I-270 as even the SHA admits the ICC will not. Other delayed projects are essential to ameliorate the effects of the ICC.

But so far, only the Prince George's County Council and a minority of legislators have come out against the ICC entirely, and a 5-to-4 majority of the Montgomery County Council still supports construction. Calls to halt Sections B and C have also been unsuccessful to date. Instead, the State appears determined to open A as soon as possible in order to begin collecting toll revenue. Consequently, for at least one year, all eastbound ICC traffic will be dumped on Georgia or on a spur to 28 just east of Wintergate Drive. If, as is likely, Part B is further delayed, then the overload on 28 east of Wintergate will be extended.

Although Delegate Roger Manno continues to try to persuade the SHA to drop the Layhill interchange, the Leisure World lobby has effectively supported the Layhill interchange in

the hope of reducing the pressure on Georgia and 28.

The state has economized, however, by postponing the grade-separated improvements of the intersection at Georgia and Randolph. This means that the southbound traffic dumped on Georgia and Layhill by the ICC will all add to the congestion at the already failed Layhill/Georgia and Georgia/Randolph intersections. Nor is there any sign of progress on the second Glenmont Metro parking structure planned for west of Georgia.

AGWG residents will have noted the only improvement we're likely to see: Layhill Road north of the ICC path has been resurfaced. However, it has not been widened, so this will hardly alleviate either the construction impact or the ICC traffic impact.

I hope I'm wrong, but, if there is a reason to believe that the economic crunch in itself will stop the ICC, I haven't found it yet. I'd also like to think that further worsening of the economy will at least have the benefit of halting this neighborhood-wrecking, fiscally wasteful and environmentally disastrous boon to developers.

I believe that if the ICC is to be stopped, it will require increased organization and action by ICC opponents. The Sierra Club, Audubon Naturalist Society, Coalition for Smarter Growth, and Greg Smith of Community Research as well as various elected representatives and civic activists are continuing the fight. Their new Web site goes up this month and we will add a link to the Association's Web site. Check the Web site or contact Greg Smith [gpsmith@igc.org] to find out how you can help.

AGWG needs team players

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES
to represent the concerns of the residents
to the AGWG Civic Association officers.
For more information, contact Joe Giacalone:
(301) 598-6097 or renman1@mac.com.

Halloween Party volunteers needed now!

We need the following volunteers for the Halloween Party (Saturday, Oct. 25, from 2-4):

Door prizes

Several people to visit nearby merchants and get small door prizes for the party. One resident did this last year, and she has offered to help this year, but it's a bigger job than one person should do. She had a great time doing it last year, and the merchants were very generous.

Pumpkins

Someone to buy 80 small pumpkins and deliver them to the "Triangle" (Gayfields & Tierra) on the day of the party. For many years, we have always gotten a price of \$1 per pumpkin.

Straw

Someone to go to Rels (16300 Layhill Road) and buy 2 bales of straw, and deliver it to the "Triangle" on the morning of the party.

Set up

Several people to help set up at around 1 p.m. on the day of the party.

Clean up

Several people to help clean up after the party at around 4 p.m.

Remove the straw

Someone to take the straw away after the party. It will need to be raked up after the "straw search." This is great if you have planted new grass or good for gardeners.

Donuts & Cider

Someone to go to the Safeway at New Hampshire & Briggs Chaney the morning of the party and pick up the donuts, cider, cups, napkins, eggs and hand wipes, and deliver them to the party.

If you buy something, please save the receipt, and you will be reimbursed. Don't forget – kids can get community service hours for this!

Please contact Amy King at amyking@mris.com or (301) 467-1877 if you can help.

How can I get Neighborhood Watch alerts?

All members who have given AGWG their e-mail address receive these alerts.

How can I find a contractor that someone in our community has used and can recommend or provide?

*Go to AGWGCivicAssociation.org
look under Service Business Referrals.*

Where can I find Montgomery County, State and National contacts?

Go to AGWGCivicAssociation.org and look under Contacts.

Neighborhood News

E-mail list

If you're on the AGWG Civic Association e-mail list, you already know the status of Verizon FiOS installation, the loss of Verizon Wireless Service and the compensation package offered to affected parties, and the five vehicles broken into in the community over two days in September.

Remember, the Association has adopted strict policies regarding the use and protection of personal information. To get on the list, check our Web site at www.agwgcivicassociation.org.

Gaywoods Garden Club

Join the Gaywoods Garden Club for its Annual Holiday Tour of Homes on Saturday, Dec. 6, from noon – 5 p.m. The tour includes 4 – 6 interesting and fabulous homes decorated for the holidays.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased from any Garden Club member or call Kathe McBeth (301.598.8733), Pricilla Parker (301.598.7626) or Bobby MacDonald (301.598.4544).

Verizon FiOS

As mentioned in the AGWG electronic announcements in August, Verizon is installing fiber-optic lines in the community. According to the Briana Cowings of Verizon's external relations, the installation is scheduled for completion by Oct. 31 and activation should occur in early November, at which time residents will receive a package on how to subscribe to FiOS service, a welcome option for phone, TV and

Internet services for the community.

Verizon Wireless

Residents were notified in early September of service problems after the WSSC lowered antennas to paint the Glenmont Water Tower. The AGWG with assistance from Councilman Praisner and State Delegate Manno forced Verizon to appoint an executive ombudsman to resolve this problem. Late last month, Verizon set up a temporary cell tower and agreed to address compensation for those who lost service. However, eligibility for compensation would be available only those individuals who filed a complaint with Verizon Wireless Customer Service. If you are still experiencing service problems or want additional information on compensation contact the association at Admin@agwgcivicassociation.org

Neighborhood Watch Program

If you have been reading the Gazette or receiving Association announcements, you are aware of the increased incidents of criminal activities in the neighborhood and surrounding areas, in addition to efforts to address the expected increase in traffic volume with ICC construction beginning this fall.

More than 20 residents expressed interest in participating on some level in a Neighborhood Watch Program. The Association encourages all of you to attend the Annual AGWG General Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 7 p.m. at Oak Chapel on Layhill Road.

AGWG Civic Association fiscal year changing to match calendar year

The AGWG Civic Association's current fiscal year (Nov. 1 – Oct. 31) caused confusion for some members about whether they had paid their dues or not. To help simplify this situation the Officers and Board of Directors have amended the Association's by-laws to move the fiscal

year to coincide with the calendar year (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31) beginning in 2009. There will no longer a prorated dues structure. Included with this newsletter is the new 2009 Membership Application and a self addressed stamped envelope.

Membership has its privileges

By Joe Giacalone, Committee Chairman

The Membership Committee has been working hard to respond to members' concerns. AGWG members have knocked on your door, called you on the phone, sent you e-mails and spoken to you at social functions to gain your support as an AGWG member and address your concerns. The modification of the Association's fiscal year (see page 7) is one result. Here are some of the other benefits we've been working on for you.

Discount Initiatives

There have been major concerns with the escalating costs for home trash collection, home security systems, home heating oil and home heating propane. The Membership Committee is responding to these concerns. The following "Home Initiatives" do not constitute an AGWG endorsement of services. They only offer the opportunity to subscribe to these services at a discounted or cost-saving rate for members of the AGWG. Any agreement to contract with any of these services is strictly between the subscriber and the service company.

Home Trash Collection Initiative

Hank Males, Project Leader

A significant number of people have taken advantage of the AGWG member discount with Potomac Disposal for their trash pick-up. Rates start as low as \$21 per quarter, and the additional charge for garage pickup service is very reasonable. These rates are locked in until at least August 2009:

Once-a-week curbside collection - \$21.
Twice-a-week curbside collection - \$24.
Once-a-week garage door pickups - \$55.50.
Twice-a-week garage door pickups - \$67.50.
90-gallon containers rented @ \$3 a month.

Potomac Disposal may be reached at 301-294-9700. For full details check the Web site (www.agwgcivicassociation.org) under discount initiatives.

Home Security Systems Initiative

Joan Donoghue, Project Leader

A Maryland-based home security firm, ranked one of the highest in last year's Washington Consumers' Checkbook, came to my home June 2007 to provide an installation estimate. The information that follows was offered during the assessment of my home. Maximum Security has agreed to offer AGWG members the prices in the chart on page 9 for 2009 in the event of multiple AGWG installations. AGWG members will receive the negotiated discounted rate. To participate, contact Maximum and tell them you are a AGWG member. Give the company your street address to obtain the applicable AGWG discount.

Home Heating Oil Initiative

Mike King: Project Leader

Both Petro and Griffith offer three options. The first is a fixed price for the entire year which begins when you commit to purchase oil from that particular company. The second option is a cap and float structure involving a ceiling price and the price can go lower if oil prices decline. The third option is the float option whereby you pay whatever the spot price is on the days they deliver your fuel.

Neither of the companies will extend a price under any of the pricing options (other than the third option) for any period of time. In other words, it changes daily. With the volatility in the markets in general, that is understandable.

Both companies have termination fees, so it is important to be comfortable with the arrangement prior to agreeing to anything. In the case of Petro, they record your voice as a means of documenting the relationship. Once you've committed to one of the pay options, you can't change. Each of the companies also offers several different service plans.

I also determined that some of the offerings are different for new customers and existing

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Home security systems pricing for AGWG Civic Association members

FEATURE	MAXIMUM SECURITY
Activation/disarming with one-touch button	Yes
Alert (verbal) from system when specific door is opened when system is not armed	Yes, +\$40 for verbal-capable keypad
Basement wetness monitoring, cost per wireless sensor	\$100 (\$60 wired)
Closed-circuit camera installation available cost estimate	No
Carbon monoxide monitoring available; sensor cost	Yes, not recommended; \$98
Corporate presence in Washington area since	1978
Discount on cost offered for multiple AGWG installations	10% with five commitments; rebates possible
Door-Window contact sensors, cost each	\$52 wireless
Exterior (yard, deck) security options available	No; wildlife trigger false alarms
Fire detection monitoring option cost	\$90 per sensor
Glass-breakage acoustic listening device (10x12 panes or >), cost each	\$85 wireless, \$65 hardwired
Keyfob device option price	\$68, programmable unit
MONITORING SERVICE	
Cost complications if switch to monitoring service using existing equipment	None
Minimum contract length	0
Minimum monthly fee	\$20
Motion detectors at major points of entry into home or with full-room range, cost each	\$100; pet-immune
Senior monitoring pendent (medical alert) option price	\$65
Signage provided (yard signs and window stickers)	Yes
Siren activation/panic button available on keypad	Yes
Waiting period (avg.) between assessment and installation	10 days maximum; often few days
Installation charge for additional devices after initial installation (wireless components)	\$0 if single/few trips
	Richard Lohfeld 1702 Picadilly Rd, Crofton,MD 301-261-3600

Traffic tales: Leggett responds to Manno

Attached is the response that State Delegate Roger Manno received from County Executive Ike Leggett, addressing current and future traffic volume issues in the community. This issue will be on the agenda at the upcoming annual fall meeting Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Dear Delegate Manno:

Thank you for your recent e-mail regarding traffic operations along Drury Road, Tierra Drive, and Baughman Drive. You have asked the

County to install “Residential Traffic Only” signs, re-install the speed humps on Tierra Drive and Drury Road, and to monitor traffic speed on Tierra Drive. I trust the following information is responsive to your requests:

“Residential Traffic Only” Signs for Baughman Drive and Drury Road

State law does not permit local jurisdictions to implement bans on through traffic on

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Membership has its privileges

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customers. Unfortunately, we can't tell the community much other than to call each of the vendors and work out the best arrangement possible. The cap and float option was the best option at the time I spoke with the representatives but that could change depending on when you establish the cap price.

Home Heating Propane Initiative

Joe Giacalone; Project Leader

Because a number of members requested that we investigate propane prices, we did. I called Suburban Propane, American Gas, and United Propane. Suburban Propane was the only company that replied in writing. Their response, which follows, was received on Sept. 29.

I want to thank you for giving Suburban Propane the opportunity to bid on your neighborhood for propane gas. Suburban Propane has been in business since 1928 and has been operating in Rockville, Md., for over 50 years. We are a large propane company that is located across the United States. Due to our size, we are able to offer many benefits to our customers. Some of them include the following:

Budget Payment Plans

Automatic Delivery

Over 240 years experience

24/7 Emergency Service

We are also introducing a tankless water heater program in the very near future as well. These water heaters burn little to no energy while not in use. Also, you never run out of hot water!

The pricing we are able to offer the community is a fixed differential over our laid-in cost.

Today, the cost for the community would be:

\$0.65 Differential

+ \$1.865 Laid-in Cost

\$2.515 per gallon

This price is based off of the customer owning their propane tank.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to assist.

Thank you,

Brent C. Stubbs

CSC Manager

(301) 251-0606

bstubbs@suburbanpropane.com

Please Note: The price for home heating oil and home heating propane changes daily. The price you get today may drop or rise unless you lock in an annual price.

Traffic tales: Leggett responds to Manno

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roads under their jurisdiction. However, state law does allow a jurisdiction to prohibit through trucks on roads under their jurisdiction.

Simply stated, the public has the right to utilize public roads owned and maintained by the local jurisdiction. Therefore, we cannot install Residential Traffic Only signs on public roadways.

However, we do have a program in place that allows residents to pursue access restrictions that are designed to minimize the amount of non-local traffic using certain types of roads. Examples of methods utilized to achieve this would be turn prohibitions or Do Not Enter restrictions at certain locations. This program is governed by Executive Regulation 17-94 AM, "Through Traffic Volume Access s Restrictions in Residential Areas."

Since such access restrictions will affect all residents in the immediate community, application for access restrictions must come from the local homeowners or citizens association or by petition from 15 percent of the households in the area being proposed for the restrictions. The homeowner's association president can contact the Department of Transportation's (MCDOT) area traffic engineer, Khursheed Bilgrami, at 240-777-6000 to learn more about and pursue this program. Mr. Bilgrami can provide the community representative with a copy of the Executive Regulation.

In the past, we have had similar cases where residents living on a particular road with cut-through traffic issues only wanted to pursue such restrictions provided that the residents of that particular road or community would be exempted from the legal prohibitions. Please understand that any access restrictions would apply to all motorists using the road, including residents. To do otherwise would give the appearance of a government-sponsored gated community and violate the legislature's intent of prohibiting local jurisdictions from banning through traffic on public roads.

Furthermore, the allowance of residential

exceptions would not be successful because of administration, enforcement and compliance problems. There are simply too few transportation and police personnel available to administer these waivers and provide enforcement on a frequent basis every where in the county where residents with similar issues would desire them. Absent a managed permit program backed by frequent police enforcement, motorists would intentionally violate the posted regulations – which would void the stated purpose of those access restrictions and breed disrespect for necessary legal traffic restrictions.

Speed Humps on Tierra Drive and on Drury Road

MCDOT will conduct an evaluation to determine the condition of the existing speed humps along Tierra Drive and Drury Road. Arrangements will be made to carry out the required maintenance of the speed humps as deemed necessary.

Speed Monitor on Tierra Drive

As a result of your request to monitor traffic speed on Tierra Drive near Layhill Road, MCDOT's Division of Traffic Engineering & Operation (DTEO) will deploy a Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART), a portable, self-operating radar and speed display unit that can be used to promote speed awareness.

Thank you for your interest in traffic safety. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to call Mr. Fred Lees, Chief of DTEO's Traffic Engineering Studies Section at 240-777-6000.

Sincerely,

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

**Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywoods Estates Civic Association,
Inc. (AGWG)**

**AGWG 2009 Membership Application
(FY Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2009)**

**YOUR DUES ARE IMPORTANT. YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE QUALITY
OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY JUST WITH YOUR DUES PAYMENT.**

YOUR DUES SUPPORT:

**THIS NEWSLETTER -- OUR WEB SITE (AGWGCivicAssociation.org)
THE EVER-POPULAR HALLOWEEN PARADE
WELCOME WAGON -- MOWING THE TRIANGLE
ENABLES YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION TO BETTER SERVE
OUR COMMUNITY'S NEEDS**

**PLEASE REMIT YOUR ANNUAL DUES -- \$20
(To check on the status of your membership, contact us at
admin@agwgcivicassociation.org.)**

THANK YOU!

**Please make checks payable to "AGWG Civic Association" and mail to
c/o Joseph Giacalone, 15417 Tierra Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906**

Dues	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone #: _____

**The AGWG Civic Association needs you.
SERVE ON A COMMITTEE:**

**ICC -- Membership -- Newsletter -- Web site -- County services
Welcome Wagon -- Public Relations -- Garden Club -- Neighborhood Watch**

Comments, including special concerns or issues you'd like addressed:
