

NEWS YOU CAN USE

COLLEGE GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2009

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Watch out for pedestrians!
School is back in session.

Community Meeting September 22nd

You are invited to attend our College Gardens Civic Association Community Meeting September 22nd at 7 PM in College Gardens Elementary School. These meetings provide an opportunity for you to hear about what's happening in our neighborhood as well as creating a forum for our community members to give voice to issues of concern.

Representatives from the City of Rockville will be present to provide updates and answer questions regarding construction at College Gardens Park and the latest news regarding access to Montgomery College from Princeton Place.

Access to Montgomery College

At the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year, Montgomery College (MC) instituted a smoking ban on their campus. Students, faculty and staff who wished to smoke were forced to find locations off-campus to do so. MC recommended that they go to Mannakee Street or Hungerford Drive, but many students used the gate at Princeton Place to congregate and smoke in our neighborhood. Our neighbors on Princeton Place soon complained about the increased noise, traffic, and trash.

That was the beginning of a problem that has continued to plague our neighborhood ever since. Conditions reported by the residents of Princeton Place continued to degrade in spite of any efforts by MC to discourage activity there and neighbors complained of rude, intimidating and potentially illegal activity; at times fearing for their safety.

At our November meeting, the Civic Association voted that MC should "rescind or modify" their no-smoking policy. It was also voted to create a task force to unite with other Civic Associations throughout the county that were similarly affected by the new smoking ban in order to pressure MC to change their policy and, if necessary, appeal to County and State officials. Unexpectedly, no other communities were similarly affected by the smoking ban at Rockville or other campuses. (continued on next page)

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