

OCGS / Newsletter

Old Court / Greenspring
Improvement Association, Inc.

March 2015

Current OCGS Officers

Ron Diener, President; Valerie Binder, Vice President; Joanne Warres, Treasurer; and Larry Carton, Secretary

DUES PAYMENTS and NEWSLETTERS

Our current treasurer is Joanne Warres as noted above. If you pay dues by online banking, please make sure you have updated Joanne's name and address as her predecessor has moved out of state. OCGS tries to send out a printed newsletter twice a year (Mar. & Sept.) to all residents in our area. Every March newsletter asks residents to voluntarily pay annual dues of \$50. I (the secretary) apologize for the lack of a September newsletter, or even a post card, in 2014. I failed to get one together due to illness.

OCGS was established when Baltimore County did not require HOA's for new developments, and before HOA dues were made mandatory. Thus OCGS does not "require" dues payment and can only ask for voluntary payments to help maintain the area our association represents. People ask: "Why should I pay dues? What does my association do for me?" Our website includes a 40 year history of accomplishments. Since most residents have not lived here that long, the following is a brief 15 year highlight:

- There are 2 high-rises of 36 units each at Beth Tfiloh adjacent to Old Court Road (OCR) rather than 8 high-rises.
- The property across from Beth Tfiloh does not have 300 new houses. At present there is a limit of 100 units on this property should it be developed.
- The cell tower is located on State Highway property at the beltway entrance instead of on the corner of OCR and Greenspring.
- How about the 8 house and holding pond development requested for the 4 build-able acres on the south side OCR east of Springbriar Lane? Read our previous newsletter for details.
- Then there was the big one, which saved half our members \$1,800 each when the city water line was extended along OCR around 2002. The County decided to extend the existing water line east from Hambleton to just past Springbriar, and to extend the line to all side streets, even though the majority of residents had voted against this. The County neglected to include the cost of cut-in connections for most residents at the time pipe

was to be laid which meant that, when a homeowner wanted to hook up to the waterline, an additional \$1,800 fee would have been required. OCGS notified every affected member in time to appeal this oversight, and these connections were put in when the pipe was laid. Not bad for a \$50 annual investment.

- Do you like cars speeding on Old Court Road? OCGS was one of the groups that requested life-saving traffic-calming devices at Beth Tfiloh and adjacent to Park School along with blinking lights.
- OCGS is a member of the Pikesville-Greenspring Community Coalition Inc. (PGCC), and PGCC is part of a coalition supporting the upgrade of our area's public schools. I have shared many e-mails about our schools. Many OCGS residents have children attending our schools. Even if you don't have children attending our public schools and wonder why you should care, let me remind you that the desirability of homes in this area (sale-ability and resale value) is greatly affected by the quality of our schools. Families with school-age children who are considering a move into our "desirable" association area take local schools into account when deciding where to live.
- Legal fees are expensive. And our volunteer time is precious. Dues go to support these fees and our membership in PGCC, Inc. They pay for mailing this newsletter, and they support our activities in support of our neighborhood. -This is why we ask for dues.

If you have not paid dues in the past, please do so this year.

2015 OCGS Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 15, 2015** beginning **7:30 pm** at the home of **Ron Diener, 10 Glencliffe Circle**. Please RSVP your attendance by email to OCGSHOA@aol.com.

Annual meetings are generally held in April. All homeowners are invited to attend, but only paid members may vote on the election of officers and expenditure of funds. Our officers are elected at this annual meeting. Any paid member can be an officer. Please join us. Take part. You live here.

Tax Exempt (IRS 503(c)(4)) Status

OCGS has formally been reinstated as a 503(c)4 tax exempt organization. Basically this makes little difference to OCGS tax liability, but it should help with certain perks such as reduced rates when renting County property or deductibility of donations from friends and organizations

OCGS NEEDS THE SUPPORT OF EVERY HOMEOWNER IN OUR ASSOCIATION AREA



Welcome to our newest neighbors. We encourage you to join with us in helping maintain the Old Court - Greenspring area, and we invite you to participate in local affairs. If you would like to join in OCGS activities, please contact OCGS at <OCGSHOA@aol.com> or phone 410 486-6420 and ask for Larry Carton (Secretary).

E-mail Address Update

Help us keep in contact with you. Please provide your e-mail address and contact information below. Due to the high cost of mailings, all updates, notices, and time sensitive information will be communicated by e-mail to email address suppling members only. The two Semi-annual Newsletters are mailed to all OCGS residents.

OCGS and PGCC Websites

OCGS is a founding member of the Pikesville-Greenspring Community Coalition, Inc. (PGCC) which consists of 17 neighborhood associations. Both groups have websites which include contact information for county, state and federal websites. In addition, the OCGS website has a running blog and many items of interest to our area are commented upon, including accident reports, proposed developments, past newsletters, and assessment information.

OCGS - http://www.pgccinc.org/OCGS (NOTE-OCGS is in CAPITAL letters.)- See Newsletters, Association Boundaries, history, and more.

PGCC -- http://pgccinc.org - See the Greenspring East-Pikesville Community Action Plan (CAP).

2015 Annual Membership Dues - \$50.00*

Please complete and return this information with your check. Check number is _____

*2015 Dues are payable any time after receipt of this newsletter.

Name _____

Residence Address _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Check box if this is a new e-mail address.

A PDF copy of the newsletter is available for download on our website < http://www.pgccinc.org/OCGS/>

If your mailing address is different from your residence address, please provide this below:

Mailing Address
(Please include ZIP CODE) _____

Please note this NEW MAILING ADDRESS!!!!

Checks should be made payable to: OCGS, Inc., and mailed to
OCGS, Inc., c/o Mrs. Joanne Warres, Treasurer
2910 Old Court Road
Pikesville, MD 21208