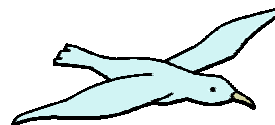


WHITE SANDS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

January - February - March
Volume 9, Issue 1 - Winter 2007



PO Box 57 - 8306 Swallow Lane, Lusby, MD 20657

Phone: 410-586-8201 Fax: 240-235-2781

E-mail: whitesands@wscainc.com

Web Address: www.wscainc.com

Government Support is One Click Away

You've probably heard the old joke, "I'm from the government, and I'm here to help you." While there are times most of us would agree this is a contradiction in terms, government agencies do provide an unlimited variety of free advice, guidance, and information, and most of it is now just a computer click away. Sometimes, however, finding what you need when you need it among the millions of websites that populate the Internet can be daunting.

For those times when you need some help, there is one website you should put on your computer desktop or save in your browser. It's the U.S. government's official web portal: First Gov.gov. The index for this website is located at www.firstgov.gov/index.shtml. The information is arranged by topic and includes consumer guides, family home and community, money and taxes, public safety and law, voting and elections and many, many more.

The website also provides a convenient resource called "Get It Done Online," an alphabetized list of government services you can access from your computer. This resource connects you to more than 100 tasks you can do via computer, including replacing vital records, contacting elected officials, getting or renewing passports, renewing your driver's license, even shopping government auctions.

Perhaps best of all, you can find links to our own state and local agencies. That's at www.firstgov.gov/Agencies.shtml.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness;
only light can do that. Hate cannot
drive out hate; only love can do that."

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Government Support	1
Animal Control Regulations	1
Neighborhood Watch	2
Kids Page	3
A Message from Mattie	4
Covenants Enforcement Update	4
Calendar of Events	Back Cover

Animal Control Regulations

Calvert County Animal Control provides assistance to citizens with domestic animals. The Calvert County Animal Ordinance addresses all regulations set forth in regard to animals; a (*complete*) copy may be obtained from Animal Control. We have included a portion of the ordinance here for your information.

SECTION II – ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY

The Board of County Commissioners of Calvert County hereby designates and appoints the Animal Control Officers, the town police of each incorporated town and the county law enforcement officers to perform those functions provided for in this ordinance.

SECTION IV – DOGS AND CATS RUNNING AT LARGE AND IMPOUNDMENT

- A. Dog and cat owners shall not allow a dog or cat, with or without proper license, to run at large within the confines of any part of Calvert County. Any dog or cat, when off the property of the owner, must be under the control of the owner or an authorized agent of the owner, capable of physically restraining the dog or cat. All dogs must be under control by leash, lead, cord, or chain, when off the property of the owner. Any dog or cat found running at large is in violation of the law and may be deemed a public nuisance and is subject to seizure, detention and destruction.
- B. This paragraph does not apply to dogs being used for supervised hunting, or being professionally trained by a certified agent. This does not allow dogs to enter public or private property without prior consent of the property owner.
- C. The Animal Control Officers are authorized and directed, whenever possible, to seize and impound any dog or cat found running at large. If the Officers are unable to catch an animal running at large that is threatening a human being or another animal, and all other means have been exhausted to capture the animal, they are authorized to shoot or otherwise destroy the animal.
- D. Dogs and cats seized and impounded shall be held for the owner for a period of 72 hours, unless determined by the Animal Control Officer that it is unsafe for the animal to be held. During this period, any dog or cat impounded may be redeemed by the owner or his or her duly authorized representative upon satisfactory proof of ownership and tender of fee in such amount as charged by the Animal Shelter.

(Cont. on page 5)

Neighborhood Watch – A Community Unity Partnership

Becky Hilpipre Chairman

It's a brand new year, and time for us to begin planning for our annual National Night Out event, held the first Tuesday of August each year. This year the event is scheduled for August 7, 2007 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. We have lots of great activities in the works so be sure to keep checking out the website and the newsletters to see what we're planning. Of course, for any event to be successful, we need **VOLUNTEERS!** If you would like to give a few hours of your time, either during the planning stages or on the day of the event, please contact me at becky.hilpipre@wscainc.com. Everyone is always welcome!

Desperately Seeking Block Captains . . .

I'd like to take a moment to remind everyone how important the Neighborhood Watch program is to our community. Not just for the events that we host, but the efforts put forth by our block captains and other volunteers to make White Sands a safer place to live. Unfortunately, we're a little light on volunteers right now and are pleading with everyone to find just a few hours of their time to give to this wonderful program. Many of you may be reluctant to volunteer, because you just aren't sure what's involved with the Neighborhood Watch Program. Well, that's what I'm here for; to educate you and help you decide if this is something you would like to participate in.

What is Neighborhood Watch?

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program designed to reduce neighborhood crime. It is a **citizen group, formed by neighbors** to assist the police in reducing crime. It involves citizens taking responsibility for the neighborhood. It involves citizens becoming alert and attentive to changes in their neighborhood, and taking action before the commission of a crime, or upon observance of suspicious activity. Citizens report crimes in progress or suspicious activity to the police department, being sure to give accurate information.

The objectives of the Neighborhood Watch Program are 1. To reduce crime. 2. To encourage neighbors to work together and watch for suspicious activity in their area. 3. To maintain a system of distribution of educational materials relative to self and property protection and criminal awareness. 4. To devise an effective method of reporting crime or suspicious activity in our neighborhood. To accomplish these objectives, the committee meets regularly to share information and learn from guest speakers about new trends in crimes and how to prevent them from infiltrating our neighborhood, or to remove them if they are already here. All block captains are encouraged to attend all the meetings, but anyone in the neighborhood can come to share and learn with us.

What is a Block Captain

Being a block captain does not require a large commitment or even a lot of effort. In fact, the duties of a block captain are things that most people do for their neighbors already . . . keeping an eye on your neighbors property and the surrounding common areas to make sure things remain safe is the number one responsibility. Others include: A. Being responsible for handing out pertinent materials to residents. B. Contacting homeowners on your block to invite them to meetings. C. Maintaining contact information for your block and making note of those households with individuals who may need special attention during an emergency (such as the ill or the elderly).

See, nothing devastating, or requiring a large commitment of time, it's just being aware of your surroundings, concerned about your community, and willing to share the information with the organizations that can help! It takes all of us to make this program successful, and I'm counting on you to stand up for your community and lend a hand. Please contact me if you would like to discuss volunteering for the Neighborhood Watch program in greater detail. I am always available to talk. You can reach me at 410-231-0985 or becky.hilpipre@wscainc.com. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

CRIME REPORT

And what has been going on in our community? Over the past several months, we have been working with the local police departments to gather statistics on criminal activity here in our community. A summary of the types of calls that have been received by the Calvert County Sheriff's department is listed below. We are using this data to track



trends in the area and learn what types of things we need to keep our eye out for. The goal of compiling this data is not so that we can pinpoint specific homes or individuals, or single anyone out as a "criminal" to be "stalked". It is so that we, as a community, can be aware of what's

going on around us and help to prevent future crimes from hurting our neighbors or ourselves. In fact, the Sheriff's office does not give us the specifics about any calls coming into their office, only the date of the incident and nature of the call. For example, if someone reported a "peeping tom" on XYZ Street, it would alert us to not only keep our eyes out on that street for suspicious individuals who may not belong, but also on the streets in close proximity to XYZ, in case he decided to expand his horizons. It is only through obtaining information like this, and putting it to use in an appropriate manner that we can make the "peeping tom's" of the world know that they are not going to hurt the ones we care about . . . our neighbors and our friends!

CRIME CALL STATISTICS FROM 7/1/06 – 12/27/06

Assault – 5	Animal Complaints - 18
Burglary – 1	CDS Violation - 8
Check Person's Welfare – 21	Assist Sick/Injured - 7
Destruction of Property – 9	Conservator of Peace - 16
Domestic – 22	Disorderly - 28
Eviction – 7	DWI - 2
Fight – 1	Exparta - 13
Hit & Run Accidents – 5	Fireworks - 11
Loud Music – 11	Indecent Exposure - 1
Neighborhood Disputes – 6	MVA – PD - 6
Prowler – 6	Runaways - 4
Search Warrant – 1	Sex Offender Routine Check - 2
Suspicious Person – 9	Police Information - 12
Theft – 16	Suspicious Vehicle - 14
Traffic Complaint – 33	Parking Complaint – 7
Traffic Arrest – 4	Summons Service – 5
Warrant Service – 7	House/Building Check – 55
Trespassing - 3	Kidnapping/Abduction – 2
Other - 27	

Color the Puppy!



RIDDLE

Why do cows wear bells?



Number Blocks

						31
9			3	9		35
	4	8			9	37
	4	5	2			21
		6	8	9		38
	4		4	9	7	30
	6	7	2	3	9	32
32	25	34	21	46	35	44

Try to fill in the missing numbers.
 The missing numbers are integers between 0 and 9.
 The numbers in each row add up to totals to the right.
 The numbers in each column add up to the totals along the bottom.
 The diagonal lines also add up the totals to the right.

Covenants Enforcement Summary
1st & 2nd Quarter FY07

	<u>OPEN</u>	<u>RESOLVED</u>	<u>COURT</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
ACC				
Approval	2	9	1	12
Property				
Upkeep	2	98		100
Trash & Other				
Materials	14	30	2	46
House				
Numbers	4	11		15
Trees		2		2
Vehicles	35	64	3	102
Traffic View				
Weapons				
Farm				
Animals		1		1
Signage		3		3
Holiday				
Decorations		2		2
TOTALS	57	220	6	283

We have submitted 8 cases in the Calvert County Circuit Court for enforcement of the Covenants, Rules & Regulations of the Association. Three of those cases have been heard before the courts and the following results were achieved.

White Sands Drive - violation of trash, debris and an unfinished shed. Court ruled in favor of White Sands, property owner was ordered to reimburse the association for court costs and legal fees in the amount of \$625, and to remove all trash and debris from the property and complete the construction of the shed within 10 days or White Sands could enter the property and perform the work for them at their expense. **The property is currently in compliance.**

White Sands Drive - violation of a temporary structure constructed on the premises. Court ruled in favor of White Sands. **The property is currently in compliance.**

Skyview Drive - violation of trash and debris and untagged vehicles on the property. Court ruled in favor of White Sands, property owner was ordered to reimburse the association for court costs and legal fees in the amount of \$545, and to remove all trash, debris and all but one untagged vehicle from the premises within 10 days, the remaining vehicle was to be covered with a car cover. The property owner failed to comply with the court order and contempt charges were filed, the courts found the property owner in contempt, issuing a fine of \$2500 with 30 days to bring property into compliance or a bench warrant will be issued.

A Message from Mattie

Happy New Year! I know 2007 is going to be a great year here in White Sands.

At the end of 2006, we formed a new committee, the Youth for a Better White Sands committee; and they are hard at work planning lots of fun events and educational activities for the next year. They have suspended meetings due to the early sunset of the winter months, but that doesn't mean they have stopped working. Keep an eye on the message board and the website to see what they will be planning next.

We have also been busy increasing our efforts to enforce the covenants, rules & regulations of the association to ensure the maintenance of everyone's property values. It's a long, hard, uphill battle, and I know that many of you feel frustrated when you receive a letter from me stating a minor violation on your property, yet your neighbors property has been the local junk yard for years. Please believe me when I say that I share your frustration, and please do not think that we are not aware of the problem homes in here. We are, and we are doing our best to bring them into compliance, including taking them to court. Which is why I'm pleased to be able to include in this newsletter our latest success in the Circuit Court. We are publishing this information to show that we are serious about cleaning up White Sands, and we will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that all property owners are treated equally, and that they all share in the responsibility of making this community a great place to live. So if you are unfortunate enough to receive a letter of violation, please comply in a timely manner. It's really in everyone's best interest and will only improve your property values and your pride in your home if you do so.

As you might remember from the annual meeting, we have been working hard on the design of the new administrative building to be constructed near the playground on the corner of White Sands Drive and Sycamore Road. I am happy to report that the site plan has been approved by the county and we are now waiting on our building permit, which should be coming through any week now. We are hoping to break ground in March and we will be sure to notify everyone of the groundbreaking, as it's sure to be a momentous occasion and one we've been waiting for a long time.

Have a wonderful start to the New Year and a safe and healthy winter!

Mattie

Riddle Answer: Because their horns do not work.
 Number Block Answer: (from right to left) 2,7,5,5,2,9,3,7,0,5,5,5,1,5

ANIMAL CONTROL REGULATIONS CONT.

SECTION IV – DOGS AND CATS RUNNING AT LARGE AND IMPOUNDMENT

- E. Dog and cat owners shall not allow a dog or cat, with or without proper license, to run at large within the confines of any part of Calvert County. Any dog or cat, when off the property of the owner, must be under the control of the owner or an authorized agent of the owner, capable of physically restraining the dog or cat. All dogs must be under control by leash, lead, cord, or chain, when off the property of the owner. Any dog or cat found running at large is in violation of the law and may be deemed a public nuisance and is subject to seizure, detention and destruction.
- F. This paragraph does not apply to dogs being used for supervised hunting, or being professionally trained by a certified agent. This does not allow dogs to enter public or private property without prior consent of the property owner.
- G. The Animal Control Officers are authorized and directed, whenever possible, to seize and impound any dog or cat found running at large. If the Officers are unable to catch an animal running at large that is threatening a human being or another animal, and all other means have been exhausted to capture the animal, they are authorized to shoot or otherwise destroy the animal.
- H. Dogs and cats seized and impounded shall be held for the owner for a period of 72 hours, unless determined by the Animal Control Officer that it is unsafe for the animal to be held. During this period, any dog or cat impounded may be redeemed by the owner or his or her duly authorized representative upon satisfactory proof of ownership and tender of fee in such amount as charged by the Animal Shelter.
- I. Any owner not redeeming his or her dog or cat within 72 hours shall be deemed to have forfeited all rights of ownership and the dog or cat becomes the property of Calvert County. The dog or cat shall remain impounded for an additional 48 hours, during which time any person may obtain ownership by paying an adoption fee. Any dog or cat impounded and not redeemed may be destroyed in the most humane manner possible if no one adopts or rescues the animal.

SECTION V – DANGEROUS DOGS

- A. In addition to being licensed, all dangerous dogs shall be registered with the Department of Public Safety. After June 1998, the owner or keeper of such a dog must meet the following criteria:
 - 1. Present to Public Safety proof of public liability insurance in a single incident amount of \$50.00 covering bodily injury to or debt of any person or persons or for damage to property owned by any persons which may result from the ownership, keeping, or maintenance of such animal. The insurance must be in effect when licensing is sought and must remain in effect for the licensing period.
 - 2. Notify the Department of Public Safety of any cancellation, termination or expiration of the policy.
- A. The owner or keeper shall, at his or her own expense, have the license number assigned to the dangerous dog. It must be tattooed by a licensed veterinarian or other person authorized by the County and the tattoo shall be placed on the upper left rear inner thigh of the dog.
- B. All owners, keepers, or harborages of registered dangerous dogs shall display, in a prominent place on their premises a sign easily readable by the public, using the words "Beware of dog." In addition, a similar sign is required to be posted on the kennel or pen of such an animal.
- C. The owner or keeper shall notify the Department of Public Safety immediately if the dangerous dog is loose or unattended, has attacked another animal or human being, has died, been sold, or given away. If the dangerous dog is sold, or given away, the owner or keeper shall provide the Department of Public Safety with the name, address, and telephone number of the new owner.
- D. When the dangerous dog is off the owner's premises it must be muzzled and restrained by a substantial chain or leash not exceeding three feet in length and under the control of a person over the age of 16 who is physically capable of restraining the dog. The muzzle must be made in a manner that will not cause injury to the dog or interfere with its breathing or respiration but must prevent it from biting any person or animal.
- E. While on the owner's property, if the dangerous dog is kept outside the home, it must be confined in a secure enclosure in a manner that it cannot come into contact with human beings or any domestic animal.
- F. In the event that an officer has probable cause to believe that a dangerous dog is being harbored or cared for, in violation of the registration section of this ordinance, the Animal Control Officer will petition District Court to order the seizure and impoundment of the dangerous dog pending an adjudication of the offense. Notice shall be given to the owner within 48 hours of impoundment.
- G. Whoever violates registration or control sections of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined a minimum of \$50.00, a maximum of \$500.00. The fine may be determined by the District Court.
- H. Whoever if found guilty of a second offense of violation of this section shall forfeit ownership of the dog and the dog shall be humanely euthanized in accordance with existing state or local law.
- I. In the event that a dangerous dog attacks a human being or domestic animal, the dangerous dog will be destroyed if in the District Court's judgment: the dangerous dog represents a continuing threat of serious harm to human beings or domestic animals.
- J. Any person found guilty of violating this section shall pay all expenses, including shelter, food, veterinary expenses for identification or certification of the breed of the animal or boarding a veterinary expenses necessitated by the seizure of any dog for the protection of the public and such other expenses as may be required for the destruction of any such dog.
- K. No dog may be declared dangerous if threat, injury or damage was sustained by a person whom at the time, was committing a willful trespass or other tort upon the premises occupied by the owner or keeper of the dog, or was teasing, tormenting, abusing or assaulting the dog or has, in the past, been observed or reported to have teased, tormented, abused or assaulted the dog or was committing or attempting to commit a crime.
- L. All dogs trained or owned by bona-fide law enforcement officers, which are used in performance of law enforcement work, are exempt from the dangerous dog regulation.

SECTION VIII – PUBLIC NUISANCE

- A. Any dog or cat that barks or makes other harsh excessive noises so as to disturb the quiet, comfort, and repose of a member or members of the community as reflected by persons with normal sensitivities to noise, molests or bites passerby, runs at large, chases vehicles, attacks other domestic animals, deposits excretory matter on property other than that of the owner, shall be deemed a public nuisance.
- B. It shall be unlawful for anyone to own or harbor a public nuisance dog or cat as herein before described.
 - 1. The Animal Control Officer is authorized to impound any dog or cat that barks or makes other harsh or excessive noises so as to disturb the quiet, comfort, and repose of a member of the community as reflected by persons with normal sensitivities to noise if:
 - 1. The Animal Control Officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the offensive behavior of the dog or cat has disturbed the peace for two or more consecutive days; and
 - 2. The owner of the dog or cat has been convicted on at least two (2) occasions within the preceding twelve months of owning or harboring a public nuisance dog or cat.
 - 2. Any dog or cat impounded by the Animal Control Officer, pursuant to Paragraph 1 above, shall be maintained at the Animal Shelter until the citation issued to the owner of the impounded dog or cat is brought to trial and the Court orders the return of the dog or cat to its owner. If the owner is found guilty, the Court shall order the defendant to reimburse the Board of County Commissioners for the expense of housing the dog or cat.
 - 3. In addition to imposing the fines provided for in this ordinance, the court may order such equitable relief that it deems necessary to require the owner of the offending dog or cat to abate that activity making the dog or cat a public nuisance.

The White Sands Civic Association, Inc. Newsletter is produced quarterly.

It is dedicated to the improvement of family and community development.

The Association's objective is to set rules and regulations that control standards and maintain quality to protect our property values and our membership.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

WSCA Board of Directors Meeting

2nd Thursday of the Month, 7pm - Administrative Office

WSCA Neighborhood Watch Meeting

3rd Wednesday of the Month, 7pm - Administrative Office

Youth for a Better White Sands Meeting

Meetings Suspended for the Winter

WSCA Administrative Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursday
10AM to 3PM
Community Manager
Mattie Scicchitano



White Sands Civic Association, Inc.

PO Box 57
Lusby, MD 20657



Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage Paid
Lusby, MD 20657
Permit No. 20

White Sands Occupant
Lusby, MD 20657