

Next meeting
Wednesday
February 18, 2009

Scottfield Civic Association Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 21, 7:30 p.m., Gauger School

www.scottfield.org, sca@scottfield.org

Attendees: 12 Scottfield residents, Councilman Dave Tackett, John Collins representing Senator Bethany Hall-Long, Bill Wheatley - CPAW, Corporal Mike Snead - NCC police.

1. **Treasurer's Report:** Account balance \$9,651.68. Full report available online.

2. Old Business

a. Membership drive reached 41.66% participation

- i. 240 members, 316 needed
- ii. Response rate is about 9.5% higher than this time last year

b. New development sign designs sponsored by Bill Oberly

- i. Installation sites have been surveyed and staked; expected completion within 4 months
- ii. Signs are marginally larger than existing signs
- iii. DeIDOT no longer installs signs on islands, but the one at RT 72 entranced will be grandfathered.

1. That sign will be installed running parallel with the island, not across as currently positioned

c. Holiday activities

i. House decorating contest, Saturday, Dec. 20th 7-9pm

1. Judges: Derrick Glover, Mike & Johnston, and Larry
2. Winning homes

- a. 1st Place: Mr. and Mrs. Stant, **6 Scottfield** (\$75.00)
- b. 2nd Place: Mr. and Mrs. Conway, **240 Oakfield** (\$50.00)
- c. 3rd Place: Mr. and Mrs. Ice, **421 Longfield** (\$25.00)

ii. Operation Santa, Saturday, Dec. 20th, deliveries began at 4pm

1. Coordinated by Bob & Roberta Rossney
2. UPDATE: Santa and his trusty helper brightened the evening of 20 children



3. New Business

a. Listening Campaign, www.nccde.org

- i. Due to budget crisis NCC is evaluating services for reduction. Public opinion is being sought to help determine which services have lower value to residents.
- ii. District 11, Kirk school, January 26, 6-8pm
- iii. District 5, Newark Library, March 9, 6-8pm
- iv. Excerpt from the announcement from the CFO for New Castle County:
"After meeting with budget staff this week to review November revenue activity, I have again lowered the FY 2009 revenue estimates for the current fiscal year. General Fund revenues are now projected to be \$16.3 million below the original revenue estimate for the fiscal year of \$159.4 million. This represents a 10.2% revenue loss. RTT is now down close to 50% through November. RTT is now estimated at \$18.6 million for the year or \$13.3 below original budget estimate of \$31.9. The current year general budget shortfall is now estimated to be \$32 million. The original approved budget started with a shortfall of \$17 million. We now have an 18.8% budget shortfall."

b. Neighborhood crime

- i. Concern about an increase in vehicle and home break-ins
 1. Cpl. Snead reports that GPS systems are often the target because owners leave them in plain sight on the dashboard.

2. Some are due to improperly secured windows and sliding glass doors
 3. Recommendations include: stowing GPS under car set, in trunk or in the house. Diligently locking windows and doors, using a 2 x 4 to wedge glass sliders.
- ii. CPAW (Crime Prevention Area Watch)
 1. is expanding to include Claymont and Brandywine Hundred areas
 2. focuses on raising neighborhood awareness and teaches crime reporting strategies
 - a. learning to recognizing criminal activity
 - b. what details to capture (date/time/location/descriptions of people or vehicles)
 - c. how to contact police: non-emergency: 573-2800, emergency: 911
 3. Bill Wheatley is the CPAW central training liaison
 4. 19 Newark communities are currently involved
 5. Gwen Jones is Scottfield's Community Block Watch Captain, 369-1373.
 - a. Call to become a member and learn about training opportunities
- c. Easter Egg Hunt
 - i. April 4, rain date April 11
 - ii. Free for members, \$5 per family for non-members
 - iii. Hann Park
 1. 12:30 community park clean-up
 2. 1:00 games begin
 3. 2:00 egg hunt
 - iv. Checking with Shoprite to borrow Easter Bunny costume
 - v. Team: Sandy McVey, 738-6185, Sherri McNally, Boy Scout Troop 56, Ariel Mutter, Chris Boody, and *anyone else who would like to participate.*
 - vi. Candy-filled eggs are being purchased
 - vii. No hay bales this year
 - viii. Budget set for \$300, Dave Tackett agreed to underwrite a portion through a grant if possible
 - d. Yard Sales
 - i. Discussion raised about timing of yard sales
 1. Should they be the 2nd Fri-Sat in May and October as in past years
 2. Should they be matched to Gauger MOP ale days in September and April
 - a. The spring sale is scheduled for March 28th from 8:30-12:00
 3. Decision to be made by residents at the next meeting
 - e. Street Maintenance
 - i. A request was made to the county to review the street lights and large trees on Postfield
 - ii. Different lighting styles and large trees make the sidewalk very dark. At least 2 neighbors are concerned when walking dogs during early morning/dusk hours
 - f. Feral Cats
 - i. Discussion of feral (wild stray) cat colony forming in woods behind new auto parts store.
 - ii. The SPCA does not pick up stray cats
 - iii. See for assistance: <http://www.forgottencats.org/index.php> 429-0124 or <http://www.faithfulfriends.us/> 427-8514