



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

APRIL EDITION

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Message from the Mayor</i>	1
<i>Council President's Message</i>	2
<i>Maryland Tax Preparation Program</i>	3
<i>City Wide Clean Up</i>	5

City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Latasha Gatling
(At Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

AT Large Council member

Kelly Porter

**Acting City Administrator/
Treasurer**

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings all,

The nation surpassed the 50% mark March 30 – half the nation has returned their census form. The Census Bureau is challenging all communities to achieve a higher rate in 2010 than they did in 2000. Nationally, our goal is to "beat" the

2000 Census rate of 72%.

In 2000 Seat Pleasant's participation rate was less than 70%. We have as a goal at least 80% participation. Unfortunately, Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence is WAY behind. According to the Census as of March 30th the participation rate for Seat Pleasant was 44%, the state of Maryland, 51% and Nationally, 50%. Fairmount Heights was at 42%, Capitol Heights, also 44%, Glenarden, 44%, Bowie, 52%, and Upper Marlboro 51%. People continue to complain about what we don't have, but their inaction and lack of civic engagement is preventing resources from coming to our community.

I want to urge each of you to fill out your forms if you haven't done so already. If you have, **thank you** but encourage your neighbors to do so as well. We held an event March 27th at City Hall trying to encourage people to participate. The attendance was sparse. We must encourage more civic engagement. Don't wait until a crisis occurs to get involved, that is reactionary. We need proactive citizens and residents to get involved and be a part of the process. There is US \$400 Billion on the table. Surely, we should get some of that money back into Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence.

CITY HOSTS DESIGN MEETING FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR HIGHWAY GATEWAY PROJECT

On Wednesday April 28th, 2010 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at the Activity Center located 5720 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway in Seat Pleasant, the City will be sponsoring the first of two major economic revitalization and community design meetings of the Martin Luther King Jr. Highway corridor between Eastern Avenue and Addison Road. Coined as the Gateway Destination District Initiative, it is building off the success of the Sub-region 4 Master Plan. The City is seeking to create a specifically targeted long term visionary redevelopment plan. The plan will stimulate new economic and real estate development activities for a mixed-use, commercial and residential viable, pedestrian orientated town center, and main street district. Seat Pleasant residents and stakeholders are strongly encouraged to participate in this significant community development event that will be the foundations for reshaping a new economic history for the Seat Pleasant area. We hope to see a significant turnout of our citizens at this momentous event.



GREETINGS FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy Spring Seat Pleasant!

As we move into the spring season, let us not forget the work that remains ahead. A few reminders for this spring season...CENSUS, and TAXES. By now, each household should have received a Census 2010 form to complete. Please complete this form and send it back. It is imperative that each resident within the City of Seat Pleasant is counted to ensure that we receive all of the resources available to us. Also, if you have not yet filed your taxes, please remember to place the correct tax code (1721) when completing your tax form.

It is wonderful to serve the residents of "A City of Excellence" as you are truly excellent. I want to give a BIG THANK YOU, to you for your endless support for the Bond Bill to renovate the Feggans Center that we submitted to our Senator and Delegates in Annapolis. The hearing was held on Saturday, March 13, 2010. Again, thank for your support through prayer, telephone calls, letters, etc. Mayor Grant, Councilman Raynor, Councilman Hardy, Councilwoman Stephenson, Councilman Porter, and I were joined by a remarkable group of residents. I would like to extend a special thank you to: Jacquie Battle, Barbara Stewart, Amanda Feggans, Elsie Marshall, Eugene Kennedy, Charles Ruffin, Wilhelmina Evans, Gladys Pendergraph, Dorothy Johnson, James Wright, Michael Stephenson, Angela Scott, Pamela Boone, Anissa Alston, and Michael Alston for taking the journey to Annapolis on a Saturday and in the rain. I must also thank our dedicated staff Robert Ashton, Dashaun Lanham, Phillip Scott, and Tim McNeil for coming as well. I would be remiss if I did not inform you of the hard work that your state Senator Nathaniel Exum did in making us one of his top priorities for Bond Bills this legislative session in the Senate. Also, Delegate Joanne Benson for sponsoring our Bond Bill in the House of Delegates, Delegate Michael Vaughn for co-sponsoring the Bond Bill, and Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard for her endless support. The Council is truly honored to serve such a wonderful City and to have the support of such wonderful leaders in Annapolis.

In conclusion, as we gear up for the warm months let us remain safe and continue to support one another. We look forward to seeing each of you at our Public Meeting held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall. In addition, we are entering our budget season, and will hold forums for citizens. As always, we will keep you informed of the dates and times of the budget meetings. Again, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at 301-336-2600.

Sincerely,

LaTasha C. Gatling

Council President

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council has passed the following legislations for the Month of March 2010

Ordinances:

O-10-05 Amendment of the FY2009-2010 Budget City Clerk Capital Outlay

Copies of the legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk.

THE STATE OF MARYLAND INCOME TAX PREPARATION PROGRAM

It is worth pointing out that according to the State of Maryland's Office of the Comptroller currently only 45,688 residents in Prince George's County participate in this program. An additional 6,800 Prince George's residents are eligible for the Homeowner's Property Tax Credit. The State of Maryland's Income Tax Preparation Program is 100% supported by the State of Maryland.

The State of Maryland will provide residents with assistance in preparation of Federal and State Income Tax Returns. The Maryland Income Tax Preparation Program is a State funded program, where the State of Maryland provides technical assistance to taxpayers in preparing their federal and state income taxes. This program was initiated in 1994, was originally limited to persons age 60 and older and with disabilities. In 1999, the program was expanded to individuals of all ages.

Locations in Prince George's County where you can get assistance in preparing your Income Taxes are listed below (offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.):

Landover, Maryland

Taxpayer Assistance Program
8181 Professional Place Suite 101
Landover, Maryland 20785-2226
301-459-9195

Upper Marlboro, Maryland

Prince George's County Courthouse
14735 Main Street Room 083B
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-9978
301-952-2810

You can also email your tax questions to the State of Maryland Taxpayer Assistance Office at: taxhelp@comp.state.md.us. If you have any questions, please contact Robert L. Ashton, City Treasurer at 301-336-2600, extension 2236.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

DON'T BE A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT BY POLICE CHIEF SAMUEL PRUE

Over the past ten years, identity theft has become one of the fastest growing crimes. It is a serious crime. From the loss of monies in bank accounts, to the unauthorized purchases on credit cards, the troublesome impact on a victim's credit history, identity theft can be devastating with oftentimes lasting effects on the victims. However, there are a few steps you can take to protect yourself from identity theft. Below are just a few simple and easy steps that will make it hard for perpetrators to steal your identity:

- Don't give out your social security number except for governmental purposes and only when absolutely necessary.
- Check your credit report regularly to detect credit cards that you did not apply for and other discrepancies.
- Monitor your credit card bills for suspect charges
- Buy a shredder and shred all papers before tossing them in the trash

(continued on the next page)

(IDENTITY THEFT con't.)

- Don't carry extra credit cards or checks on your person
- Don't print your social security number on your checks
- Don't give your credit card numbers to strangers
- Don't give personal information over the phone unless you initiated the call
- Don't place credit card payments in your mailbox for pickup, deposit them in a U.S. Mailbox or at the Post Office
- Use a name other than your mother's maiden name as a security on your credit card accounts
- Guard your identity as you would any other valuable asset

Below are suggestions if you suspect that you have been the victim of identity theft:

1. Contact the fraud departments of any one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file. The fraud alert requests creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making changes to your existing accounts. As soon as the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert, the other two will automatically be notified to place fraud alerts, and all three credit reports will be sent to you free of charge.
2. Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Use the ID Theft Affidavit located at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/> when disputing new unauthorized accounts.
3. File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that may require proof of the crime.
4. File your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC maintains a database of identity theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigations. Filing a complaint also helps to provide more information about identity theft and identifies the problems victims are having in order to better assist them.



PRESCRIPTION DRUG CARDS STILL AVAILABLE

Free Prescription Discount Cards are still available. The cards have been made available through a partnership between the National League of Cities and the City of Seat Pleasant made possible through a collaboration with CVS Caremark. Residents can save up to 20% at more than 59,000 participating pharmacies across the country. The card can be used anytime a prescription is not covered by insurance. There are no fees, no restrictions and no limits on how often the card may be used. Residents may obtain a card at City Hall located at 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland. You must be a Seat Pleasant resident with a limit of one card per household. Cards available while supplies last.

FROM THE OFFICE OF CODE ENFORCEMENT



During the month of March, the Code Enforcement Department sent notices to inform citizens of Seat Pleasant about properly registering out-of-state vehicles within the State of Maryland. The notices were sent due to the high volume of out-of-state tags on vehicles on private property in Seat Pleasant. As a new resident of Maryland, you must register your vehicle within 60 days of moving into Maryland. If you delay beyond 60 days, you will not be eligible for a tax credit or for any titling tax paid in another state, and may be subject to a citation for having an out-of-state registration. Please contact your local MVA to insure that you follow all guidelines to properly obtain registration in the State of Maryland.

SEAT PLEASANT RENTAL PROCEDURES

The City of Seat Pleasant requires that all persons within the City who are renting their homes obtain a rental permit from the City. The fee is \$100.00 annually and your property is subject to inspection by the Code Enforcer.

A WORD FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The City recently purchased a new piece of heavy duty snow plowing equipment. The purchase is part of a replacement program in the Department of Public Works to replace old and outdated equipment. After the record snow storm that occurred in February, it became apparent that new equipment was needed in the event of heavy snowfall, therefore the City moved forward to purchase equipment better suited to heavy snow removal.

As spring approaches, the Department is now gearing up for the:

CITY'S ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP

Clean up will be done by wards. The schedule is as follows:

May 29th - Wards I and II

June 5 - Wards III and IV

June 12 - Ward V

Services involved include:

Derelict cars removed

Trash and Debris picked up

Overgrown lots cut

Bulk trash items removed

Vacant buildings boarded with strategies for corrective action

Criminal elements identified and addressed

Due to increasing costs, residents will be limited to 3 bulk items:

1 Large item per household (example: sofa, refrigerator)

2 small items (chair)

Vehicles (Tires only), maximum 2

For more information contact the Public Works Department at 301-336-2600.

CITIZEN'S FOR PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC) AND THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the term Neighborhood Watch? Is it residents holding walkie talkies and marching around the streets? Or do you see your neighbor standing on the corner with a clipboard taking notes of everything going on? The Neighborhood Watch (NHW) Program is none of these things. It is simply a program where neighbors watch out for each other during the workday, evenings, vacations, or any other time. Have you heard about the recent crimes in which all four tires are being stolen from cars - in broad daylight? NHW can help prevent this type of situation. Its purpose is to create an alert neighborhood by using simple crime prevention methods. The program works through the mutual aid of neighbors watching the property of other neighbors. This has several advantages, including the fact that criminals know that nosy neighbors live on your block. An alert neighbor recognizes the strangers walking on your street and the unusual car on the block. The interested neighbor sees the person who goes into your backyard and tries to steal your lawnmower .

Believe it or not, you are most likely involved in a NHW Program already. Your street would be even better, however, if you have an organized way of insuring the safety of yourself, your precious family, and your property. This year is Seat Pleasant's time to get organized and get involved. An active community is a strong community. If you are interested in forming the NHW Program on your block, let us know - we will help! Feel free to email CPAC at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com or send a message to us via City Hall at (301) 336-2600.

Stay tuned next month for information on engraving your property!

NEWS FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT COMMUNITY CORPORATION

SPCDC BOARD ELECTION

The following officers were elected at the Seat Pleasant CDC's board meeting held on March 6th - New officers: Mr. Lloyd London (President), Dr. Phyllis D. Hines (VP- Programs), Mr. Brian K. Shivers (VP- Admin.) & Mr. Antonio Deans (Treasurer). Congratulations to them. If you would like to join, call us.

HOUSE FOR SALE AT 500-71ST ST Gorgeous 4BR, 2BA all-brick Rambler w/hardwood floors. Full walkout basement w/full bath, family room, laundry/storage room & possible 5th BR. Off-St parking, large backyard w/patio. Kitchen upgraded! All stainless steel digital GE appliances with a ceramic tiled kitchen and bathrooms. A must see! Down payment and closing costs assistance, plus you might qualify for a \$30,000 mortgage buy down! *(no interest, no payment if owner occupied) For more information or an appointment, call today! Pat Downtin, 240-463-3033/301-249-1600.

\$\$\$ SPRING FIX UP MONEY \$\$\$ WITH OUR OWNER-OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM

The Seat Pleasant CDC has partnered with Housing Imitative Partnership to offer a "0" Interest deferred loan that doesn't have to be re-paid until your home is refinanced or sold. Call 301-324-2470 and apply today.

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WISH TO
CONGRATULATE

ALL ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL
AND COLLEGE GRADUATES FOR 2010



GOOD JOB!



Latasha Gatling
Council President



Eugene W. Grant
Mayor



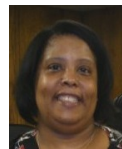
Kelly Porter
At-Large



Elenora Simms
Ward I



Darrell Hardy
Ward V



Aretha Stephenson
Ward II



Reveral Yeargin
Ward III



Gerald Raynor
Ward IV

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

BY REVERAL YEARGIN

“Moments Like These”

Nothing can stop your tears when they are for real, some of the best cries are over our loved ones
 When you love somebody you put your heart into it, and in the heart lies many emotions
 Those emotions are attached to more than just people, they come along with everything in this world
 Christians get emotional over having another place to call home, but in heaven, there are streets of gold and gates of pearl
 Some people cry over the good times , others cry over the bad, we all should have a good cry every now and then

“Moments Like These”

Anytime there is a gift with our name on it, it can and will bring us unspeakable joy
 What’s in the box and when can I open it? There is nothing greater than the suspense of waiting
 You could be the best of friends but that person could still get you the wrong gift
 They missed the right color, fit or preference, because they went overboard in trying to please a choosy person
 Thank God for receipts and the return policies, now when the recipient is unhappy they can return the items

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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Seat Pleasant Day is Coming!

On Saturday, May 1st, 2010, the City of Seat Pleasant will be hosting its Annual Seat Pleasant Day at Goodwin Park. There will be entertainment, food, crafts, informational booths, and activities that will appeal to people of all backgrounds and ages.



The day begins with a ceremony at 9:30 a.m. at Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road Seat Pleasant, Maryland, followed by a parade and then activities in Goodwin park (located at 311 68th Place) between 12 noon and 5:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed!

Come join the fun!

If you have any questions regarding Seat Pleasant Day or wish to volunteer, please call City Hall at 301-336-2600.