



The Lamplighter

Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association



Winter 2023 VOL. 9, NO. 1

WWW.SLEEPYHOLLOWWOODS.ORG

A Message from the President

Greetings Neighbors, The year is coming to an end and many of us are preparing for a wonderful holiday season. It is great to see all the lights and decorations around the neighborhood. I hope everyone stays warm and safe while spending extended time with friends and family over the next few weeks. This is the time of year to appreciate what you have and celebrate with those you love. The start of a new year brings new opportunities for us to connect as a neighborhood. We are reaching the final stages of our membership drive for 2024. If you have not already joined or renewed your membership, please email shwcivicassoc@gmail.com to get all the information you need. The \$30 annual dues allow us to maintain the common areas, host social events, produce the neighborhood directory, and so much more. Supporting the civic association is voluntary but also vitally important for our neighborhood to thrive. There is also a need for volunteers to offer their time and support. Multiple open positions need to be filled in 2024 including a membership chair and social chair. We will also be looking for someone to take over our website and the Lamplighter newsletter. If you want to get involved and can take on



some responsibilities, please let us know. For me and my family, 2023 represents the first year of really being active in the civic association. It has been great to meet more of my neighbors and strengthen my relationships with those I already knew. We resumed favorite traditions like the wine & cheese party, the summer picnic, and Oktoberfest. Our monthly meetings were productive and helped us make decisions to move our association forward. There are too many people to thank and recognize here so I will just say THANK YOU to everyone who helped out, stepped up, as well as simply participated over the last year. I have a great deal of gratitude and appreciation for everyone's contributions. We had a great year in 2023 and I know 2024 will be even better!

Steve Zarick
SHWCA President

Volunteers Needed for Top Committee Positions

Are you the type that likes to organize and lead? Or do you prefer offering assistance but not overseeing a project? Are you more social or business minded? Whatever your talents might be, there are always opportunities to get involved with the Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association (SHWCA). As we get closer to the New Year, why not make volunteering in the

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**Next SHWCA Meeting
is Jan. 25, 2024 at St.
Albans Parish Hall
7:30pm**

association one of your New Year's resolutions? We currently have openings for the following committees: Communications, Neighborhood Watch, Social Events and Membership. To discuss participating on committees, or how to run for a leadership position on the SHWCA ExCom, contact Steve Zarick at stevezarick82@gmail.com.

It's Never too Late to Join SHWCA

The final days of our membership drive are coming to a close, and disappointingly, just over half of our usual members joined. Please bear in mind that the dues go toward our recurring expenses—entrance maintenance and gas lanterns, Lamplighter printing and mailing expenses, P.O box rental, SHW website, community sponsored events, and our very useful neighborhood directory. While COVID 19 wreaked havoc 2020-2022, in 2023 we were able to get our events back on track, starting with the Wine and Cheese Party, then hosting the Spring Picnic and Community Yard Sale, and finally the Oktoberfest Celebration. We rely on memberships to cover expenses, and do allow for open enrollment in our membership. If you have not yet joined, please consider doing so. As stated in the President's Message, you can email shwcivassoc@gmail.com for membership information or download the membership form from www.sleepyhollowwoods.org by clicking on the "Membership/Listserv" tab on the website. The form can be mailed to: SHWCA, P.O. Box 384, Annandale, 22003. A special thanks to those that have joined for the upcoming year. The directories should be distributed by end of January.

Deck the Halls and Your House Too!

As you search Christmas tree lots and visit the shopping malls looking for the perfect yuletide decorations this month, don't overlook the opportunity to help make Sleepy Hollow Woods a very festive looking neighborhood through the holiday period. Again this year, SHWCA will be sponsoring a contest for the most attractive outdoor decorations. An anonymous panel of judges comprised of SHWCA members appointed by our association's president will be cruising through the Woods some starlit night after December 15th to determine the winning displays. One criterion certainly will be creativity, others might be simplicity or subtlety, while yet another might be artistic impression. The judges will also try

to not select repeat winners, although the most outstanding displays definitely will not be ignored. In any case, consistent with our tradition, 1st place and 2nd place winners will be chosen, along with two honorable mention medalists. The prizes will be accordingly, gift certificates worth \$50, \$30, and (two) \$10.

Winners will be announced via Sleepynet before Christmas Eve. So, as the holiday spirit comes over you, let it be reflected in attractive exterior displays that will please your neighbors, our entire community, and, of course, our unbiased contest judges. Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to all!

Cleaning Up After the Holidays

There is an easy option for unloading your unwanted items before and after the holiday's via the Fairfax County Special Trash Pick-Up. County residents are allowed five collections per fiscal year (July 1 - June 30) as part of your annual trash service. The County website has guidelines for what is permitted and how to prepare for pick-up. For more information or to schedule a special pick up, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/special-pick-up> or call (703) 802-3322, TTY 771 to schedule a brush, bulk, metal or refrigerant (coolant) collection. Thank you for helping keep our community clean!

Seasons Greetings

The Lamplighter is published by the Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association (SHWCA)

SHWCA OFFICERS (2023-2024)

Steve Zarick.....	President
Anjoly David.....	1 st Vice President
Renee Greenwell.....	2 nd Vice President
Beth Schreiner.....	Treasurer
Debra Becker.....	Secretary
Charles Becker.....	Past President
Jessica Wisniewski.....	Advertising
Mike Wisniewski.....	Archivist
Jim Councilor.....	Covenants
Kim Grutzik.....	Directory
Renee Greenwell.....	Hospitality
Lukas/Rosenfeld/Koczanski.....	Lamplighter
Koczanski/Rosenfeld.....	Website
Don Johnson.....	Neighborhood Watch
Steve Zarick.....	Sleepynet
Vacant.....	Social

FOLLOW US



Like us on Facebook
(SleepyHollowWoods)



Follow us on X (formerly
twitter) (@SHW_CA)

*Like to write? Have something you
want to share with the community?*

Comments, articles, and letters are welcome.
Please contact Tim Koczanski for the deadline.
Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

7 Tips to Prevent Holiday Package Theft

There are lots of online sales everywhere you look and we've all been clicking away to have holiday gifts sent to our homes. Unfortunately, every year our Police Department receives reports of stolen mail packages from around the county at apartments, townhomes and single family homes. Here are important safety tips to help ensure you receive everything you order this holiday season:

#1: Signatures -Require a signature upon delivery. If you can't be home, consider sending your item to a friend's home, if they can be available to sign.

#2: Workplace Delivery-Have the item delivered to your workplace, if permitted.

#3: Pick Up Packages-Some vendors now have package pick-up locations; you have to go there to get your item but it is securely stored. Select in-store pickup versus shipping. You may save on shipping fees by picking up the item yourself! You also can have the package delivered or held at a carrier location, like a UPS or FedEx

facility.

#4: Track Deliveries-Closely track your deliveries. Know exactly which day and around what time it'll arrive. Many carriers offer text and e-mail notifications.

#5: High Tech Monitoring- Use a wireless door monitor that allows you to see your porch. Many services include a wi-fi-enabled camera and motion sensors so you can record video of any activity and speak remotely to visitors at your door

#6: Provide Delivery Instructions- Asking a driver to put your package in a more inconspicuous location around your home may reduce the likelihood of it being seen and stolen

#7: Ask a Neighbor-Keep an eye on your neighbor's home or ask a neighbor to watch for your deliveries. If you're acquainted enough, you could hold the package in your home; or notify your neighbor their package has arrived if you have their phone number or e-mail. **Source:** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/7-tips-to-prevent-holiday-package-theft/>

SHW Community Notes

SleepyNet –SleepyNet, SHWCA's email distribution list, is one of the best ways to get information on community happenings as well as notifications. If you are not currently receiving Sleepynet emails and would like to receive them, please contact Steve Zarick at stevezarick82@gmail.com to get added.

Christmas Tree Recycling–The holidays are upon us! But once the festivities are over and it's time to dispose of your live Christmas trees, the county reminds you to recycle your tree at the curb during the first two weeks of January. Residents can also recycle their live Christmas trees at the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill Complex. Whether setting your tree at the curb or delivering it to one of the county's recycling facilities, please be sure to remove tree stands, lights, ornaments and other decorations.

Sleepy Hollow Woods Market Report



Kim Grutzik 703.851.3942
Your Neighborhood Expert!

Status	Address	Style	List Price	Close Price	Subsidy	Close Date	Beds	Baths	DOM
ACTIVE	6830 Murray Ln	Split Level	\$ 605,000				4	2.5	3
CLS	3715 Forest Grove Dr	Bi-Level	\$ 700,000	\$ 675,000		11/14/23	5	2.5	13
CLS	6710 Capstan Dr	Rambler	\$ 779,888	\$ 735,000		6/13/23	4	3	27
CLS	6810 Murray Ln	Bi-Level	\$ 789,000	\$ 759,000		6/13/23	4	2.5	6
CLS	3907 Forest Grove Dr	Bi-Level	\$ 774,000	\$ 774,000		6/29/23	5	2.5	4
CLS	3725 Ivydale Dr	Rambler	\$ 850,000	\$ 1,005,000		8/31/23	4	3	4

Data is for the
last 180 days

Source: Bright MLS. Information believed to be accurate but should not be relied upon without verification. Information obtained is not exclusive listings of the agent. If your property is currently listed with a broker, this is not intended to be a solicitation of that listing.



Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association (SHWCA)

The Civic Association is a successful and worthwhile activity. If you are not a member, please join! If you are a member, come to the meetings, meet your neighbors, volunteer a little time, and help make Sleepy Hollow Woods an even better place to live.

The Civic Association is a volunteer organization. It was established to protect and benefit the residents of Sleepy Hollow Woods. For a small annual fee, residents can join the association. The association prints an annual directory of members and additionally provides a wealth of other useful information. In order to help defray the cost of publishing the directory, advertisements in the directory are accepted.

Our main functions: Represent the community in various Fairfax County related matters; Publish and distribute the annual directory; Sponsor various community and social activities; Coordinate and provide information to residents through newsletters and other means; Maintain the entrances and sponsor neighborhood improvement projects; Provide a forum for discussion of local issues; Sponsor the Neighborhood Watch Program; and Encourage compliance with the covenant.