

The State of Stedwick – Annual Report to our residents

by *Michael J. Gronsky, President*

This has once again been both an interesting and challenging year for the Stedwick Homes Corporation.

We completed a large-scale replacement retaining wall project in Forest Brooke. This neighborhood had the original retaining walls from Kettler Brothers (which were 20 years old), and they were coming to an end of their lifespan. We are confident that the new replacement walls will provide years to come for retaining the soil and preventing further erosion to the areas.

We reviewed and revised the Resident Handbook, which is useful for both existing residents and new members to our community. The handbook addresses what happens at our regular board meetings, what committees make up the board, how to understand the assessment payment coupon and parking and trash/recycling information. This handbook is available on the Stedwick section of the Village website, www.montgomeryvillage.com.

We renewed our landscaping contract with J.B. Kline, the company currently responsible for landscaping our community, and also for plowing our streets. This contract runs through December 31, 2018. Having three year contracts allows us to better budget for upcoming years.

Our maintenance committee completed a comprehensive Sign Inventory of each and every street sign, stop sign, No Parking Fire Lane sign, and towing signs throughout the community. We now know which signs are on metal posts and which are on wooden posts. This will assist the committee in making recommendations to the board for signs that need replacement. As always, if you see a missing or damaged sign, please contact the office.

Pupkar Property Maintenance completed tree pruning in our Club Hill neighborhood. The initial schedule had been pushed back due to the winter weather. Neighborhood pruning is done on a scheduled basis, and Club Hill was on the schedule for this year

Although the temperatures have been warmer lately, who can forget the “blizzard of January, 2016” which dumped nearly three feet of snow in this area. We budgeted \$50,000 for snow removal for 2016 and have more than doubled the spending on this line item (\$103,481 to date). Unfortunately, this means less money to put into our reserve accounts at the end of the year. Also, keep in mind that we work on a calendar year budget, so we still have the potential for snow in November and December of this year.

One upcoming item to look forward to is the painting of all the fire lanes in the community. This will take place from the beginning to middle of April (weather permitting). This always gives our neighborhoods a “fresh look”.

Every year, one of my goals is to have an article in every issue of the *Village News*, which is our best way of communicating information to our residents. I am pleased once again to have accomplished this goal. Although I encourage you to read all of the newspaper, as there are interesting things happening throughout the Village, if you read nothing else, please read the “Stedwick Signals” column. I want to especially thank each and every board member who has written columns throughout the year

I would like to thank Larry Denicola, from Clusters II, who is leaving the board this year. Larry has been steadfast in not only providing his insights into his own neighborhood, but to Stedwick as a whole. He has also served as a member on the Government and Public Relations Committee. His dedication and expertise have truly made a difference to all of us as a community.

I'd like to thank all our residents who call or e-mail the Foundation, and especially those who attend board meetings. Remember that you are the “eyes and ears” of your community and you may be bringing important things to our attention, and we truly welcome that feedback and information.

Leaving the Stedwick board as both a member and serving as President, I am confident that the current board members and newly elected officers and board members will serve the community well, and I wish them all the best.