



COMMUNITY NEWS

Together Strengthening Our Community

Summer 2007 Edition

ERIC OLSON -DISTRICT 3 PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the honor of representing you on the Prince George's County Council. I wanted to get this newsletter out during my first six months in office to introduce you to my staff – a strong District 3 team to serve you. I hope you will contact my office with any questions, concerns, or if there is anything I can do at the County level to help improve our neighborhoods.

I am committed to strengthening neighborhood quality of life through more effective code enforcement, revitalization of commercial areas, involving and empowering communities, protecting our environment and working to improve schools and public safety.

Since my swearing-in at the beginning of December, my staff and I have been tackling a host of concerns in the district and laying the groundwork for an ambitious agenda in the months ahead. More details on my staff and my agenda can be found in this newsletter.

Eric

Eric Olson
Council Member, District 3
(301) 952-3060
EOlson@co.pg.md.us

2007 Legislative Year Committee Assignments for Council Member Olson

- Vice-Chair, Transportation, Housing and the Environment Committee
- Health Education and Human Services Committee Member
- County Council Liaison to the Prince George's Municipal Association
- Representative to Prince George's County Conference and Visitors Bureau.
- University of Maryland Community Engagement Board of Advisors
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
 - Transportation Planning Board
 - Intergovernmental Green Building Group Technical Committee
 - Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee



Council Member Eric Olson, joined by his family, is sworn onto the Prince George's County Council.



Council Member Olson tackles visual blight on one of his walking meetings by removing illegal signage on East-West Highway.



District 3 high school students receive certificates from Council Member Olson during the "Student Shadow" Day.



From left to right: Thomas Mayah, Council Member Eric Olson, Wanda Brooks, Patti Pounds and Dannielle Glaros

My staff has a strong commitment to the goals of ensuring safe, clean neighborhoods, and revitalizing our commercial areas and they bring a wealth of experience and dedication to their work. Most of my staff are longtime residents of the district. You can reach us at 301.952.3060.

Dannielle Glaros **Legislative Aide**

Dannielle handles my legislative work, land-use, economic development, and grants. Most recently, she was deputy town administrator for the Town of Riverdale Park. Her background is in policy and land-use, and prior to working in municipal government, she served as Associate Director of Smart Growth America, a national non-profit organization. She also worked as Deputy Chief of Staff in Governor Glendening's Office of Smart Growth. Dannielle is a resident of District 3, living in

Riverdale Park. She can be reached at dmglaros@co.pg.md.us.

Wanda Brooks **Constituent Services Aide**

Wanda serves as an advocate for residents on issues related to County agencies – helping to get code enforcement inspectors to focus on problem properties; serving as a liaison with County police on non-emergency concerns; communicating with the Department of Public Works and Transportation on road maintenance and litter; and assisting residents in need of social services. She is a long-time civic activist in the West Lanham Hills community, and has lived in District 3 for over 22 years. Wanda has served as an officer of the Annapolis Road Inner Beltway Alliance (ARIBA), which focuses on revitalization of the Route 450 Corridor. Wanda can be reached at wjbrooks@co.pg.md.us.

Thomas Mayah **Citizen Services Assistant**

A recent graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a dual degree in Economics and Music, Thomas assists with citizen concerns, school initiatives and special projects. Thomas grew up in New Carrollton and attended Glenridge Elementary School, Charles Carroll Middle School and Parkdale High School – all located in District 3. He now lives in Beacon Heights, which is also in District 3. Thomas can be reached at tsmayah@co.pg.md.us.

Patti Pounds **Administrative Aide**

With over 25 years of experience working for Council Members, Patti serves as my office manager, scheduler, and receptionist. She has made our transition into office seamless and we are grateful to have her knowledge and expertise working for the people of District 3. Patti can be reached at ptpounds@co.pg.md.us



Council Member Olson reviews legislation during Council Session.



Community Initiatives

I have had a strong and busy start to my first months on the County Council. Here's a small snapshot of some initiatives I have championed and will continue to work on during this legislative year.

Pawn Shop Legislation

My first legislation focused on stopping pawn shop proliferation in the county. It prevents any new pawn shop from opening in the county and establishes a process to decrease the number of pawn shop licenses over time. Now, no neighborhood will need to fear a pawnshop opening up next door. This legislation was aimed at accomplishing several goals — neighborhood quality of life, commercial revitalization and crime reduction. Prince George's County Police note that between \$600,000 and \$1 million of stolen goods were recovered last year from county pawn shops.

Neighborhood Quality of Life

As Vice-Chair of the Council's Transportation, Housing and

Environment Committee, I am delving into the issues that affect neighborhood quality of life including the enforcement of property code violations. I am actively working with the Director of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), Charlie Wilson, on property maintenance, better storm-water management, and other concerns.

My staff and I have driven through our District with property inspectors on numerous occasions. More than 500 violation notices have been issued for unregistered cars, litter, poor property maintenance and other infractions. We are committed to cleaning up our neighborhoods. We are also working with the Department of Public Works and Transportation to more effectively tackle the visual blight of unsightly, illegal signs that litter our roadways. Please contact us at 301-952-3060 if there are property maintenance issues, roadside litter, or similar problems in your neighborhood.

Quality Revitalization and Transportation

I am focused on revitalizing major commercial corridors—Route 1, Kenilworth Avenue, and Annapolis Road while also concentrating on thoughtful transit-oriented development at the College Park and New Carrollton Metro Stations. In the fall, the county's planning department will be working with

citizens to complete the development plan for the New Carrollton Metro as well as a portion of the Annapolis Road corridor. The department will also be working with Templeton Knolls, Riverdale Park and Riverdale Heights on a strategy for improving the Kenilworth Avenue corridor between Carters Lane and River Road. I've also been assisting transit officials with the Purple Line, which will knit our community together with a light-rail system between New Carrollton Metro, Riverdale Park, College Park, University of Maryland, Silver Spring, and Bethesda.



Council Member Olson walks through the Glenn Dale Community with constituents.

Walking Town Meetings

Since April, my staff and I have been in the community on Saturdays meeting and walking with residents and listening to local neighborhood concerns. We will continue these community walks until we visit every neighborhood in the district. If we have not visited your neighborhood yet, keep your eyes out for an announcement in your community newsletter or a letter from us in the mail.

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**Eric Olson
Council Member
District 3**

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Assistance For Home Repair



Prince George's County offers financial assistance to rehab single-family homes for residents with limited financial means. Amortized and deferred loans, along with combination loan programs are available for those who qualify.

More details on the Single Family Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program can be found by calling (301) 883-5570.

Free Smoke Detectors

This spring our community lost a dear neighbor and civic activist in a fire in Riverdale Heights. Residents may obtain free smoke detectors from our Fire Companies through the Fire Services Bureau at 301.583.2200. Please do not delay in getting your free smoke detector. It could save a life – maybe yours.



District 3 Email List

Interested in keeping up-to-date on various opportunities/activities in Prince George's County? Then, join the District 3 email list. Email Thomas Mayah at tsmayah@co.pg.md.us and we will send regular, quick updates on items that we would love to share with you. We will not, however, bombard you with emails!



Child Neglect

Several children were recently found neglected and living in filth in a New Carrollton basement.

Please call police if you suspect neglect or abuse of children in our community. Also, a fund has been set up for the "Topton Street Kids" by the West Lanham Hills Volunteer Fire Department at the Commerce Bank at 8211 Annapolis Road, New Carrollton, MD 20784.

Call 301.459.3413 for the details.

Additional Important Numbers

Requests for New or Improved Street Lights	301-883-5650
Requests for Speed Bumps on County Streets	301-883-5600
Voter Registration	301-430-8020
Mosquito Control	301-927-8357
Snow Removal	301-350-0500
Police District 1 (University Park, College Park, Riverdale Park, Riverdale, Beacon Heights, West Lanham Hills, New Carrollton, Landover Hills)	301-699-2630
Police District 2 (Seabrook, Lanham, Glenn Dale)	301-390-2100
Board of Education	301-952-6308
Department of Aging	301-265-8450
Prince George's Community College	301-336-6000
Department of Environmental Resources	301-883-5810
Department of Public Works and Transportation	301-883-5600
Prince George's County Planning Department	301-952-4314
Prince George's Parks and Recreation	301-699-2407
Free Smoke Detectors	301-583-2200
Free Guides:	
Homeowner's Guide to Property Maintenance	301-883-5810
Guide to the Permit Process	301-883-5810
Park and Recreation Guide - classes for children and adults	301-699-2407

Interested in Becoming More Involved In Your Community?

Here are a few ways to get started:



Join the Community Partners Program

The Department of Public Works and Transportation is looking for residents to serve as their eyes and ears by becoming volunteer inspectors. Help the department by identifying problems such as snow and ice removal before they become major community concerns. Contact Susan Hubbard at 301-883-5600 for more information.

Join a Neighborhood Watch Program

Help the police by reporting suspicious activity. Find out more about your local neighborhood watch by contacting Kim Lugo, Police District 1 at 301-699-2630 or Lt. Terence Sheppard, Police District 2 at 301-390-2141.

Coordinate a Neighborhood Cleanup

You supply the volunteers and gloves and the Department of Environmental Resources will provide a dumpster for a neighborhood cleanup. Contact Valerie Watson at 301-574-5870 to coordinate.

Join or Start a Citizen Association

Working together with other members of your community can help your neighborhood more effectively advocate your concerns. Contact Wanda Brooks at 301-952-3060 to find out about your local citizen association or for assistance in starting one.

Coordinate a Gorgeous Prince George's Event

In the fall, beautify your community with trees, shrubs and flowers. In the spring, organize a neighborhood cleanup. The County will provide many of the supplies and materials for these events including the plants and gloves. Contact Joyce Beck at 301-772-4880 for more information.

Volunteer With Your Local School or Senior Center

Many Prince George's County organizations are looking for volunteers. To find your perfect fit, please reference the 'Important Numbers' above.

-----Please Keep For Reference-----