



March 18, 2009

Dear Adopt A Road Participant:

Here's information to help you in your volunteer work!

▲ ASSIST YOUNG AAR VOLUNTEER WITH PROJECT TO KEEP PARKS CLEAN

Ben Lewis, an Adopt A Road volunteer who routinely cleans Falls Chapel Way in Potomac, has come up with an initiative to reduce litter in the county's parks. He'll be working with the Park Service to publicize the need for groups using the parks to clean up litter from their activities before they leave the park. He'll also be advising the Park Service of problem areas so their staff can conduct cleanings. Ben would like your assistance in **reporting to him any park areas that might about your adopted road segment and be prone to litter**. Contact him at benlewis96@gmail.com.

▲ CELEBRATE EARTH DAY – APRIL 2009 The Montgomery County Volunteer Center supports and celebrates **Earth Day** throughout the month of April. Volunteers can make a difference by participating in projects with parks, nonprofit agencies, community groups, local government, or in your neighborhood! Check the Volunteer Center website at montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteer to view the latest listing of planned events and to look for contacts and organizers in your area. Or call the Volunteer Center at 240.777.2600. **Plan Your Own Project**. Remember that the Adopt A Road program guidelines encourage you to schedule a major roadside cleanup each spring, so here's your chance to register it with the Volunteer Center to be a part of their Earth Day celebration and **receive a certificate of recognition** from the Center for your group!

▲ STATE OFFICIAL REPORTS ON ROAD CLEANING COSTS The Keep Montgomery County Beautiful Task Force had an informative discussion with newly designated **Assistant District Engineer for Maintenance, Vernon Stinett, Jr.**, at its February meeting. The group discussed many of the issues Adopt A Road volunteers grapple with when they're out cleaning the roadsides. Topics included litter pick-up, mowing procedures to avoid shredding litter, creation of a State-wide anti-litter hotline, and replacing damaged landscaping in the right of way. Mr. Stinett reported the Maryland State Highway Administration on average spends \$1.6 million a year on roadway sweeping, litter pickup, and debris removal along State roads located in Montgomery County. Contact us for info on the Task Force.

▲ MORE SPRING CLEAN-UP NEWS Litter Enforcement Week is March 28th thru April 4th. Littering and dumping are against the law. Police departments around the region are cracking down on these unlawful actions during this weeklong commemoration. Litter and dumping ruin communities, lower property values, deteriorate quality of life, and are harmful to wildlife. People caught littering can end up paying a \$250 dollar ticket—and even more for illegal dumping. Also, visit the Alice Ferguson Foundation's website at trashfreepotomac.org to register for their **Potomac River Watershed Cleanup** on April 4th.

If you have any questions or comments on the program, contact us in the Community Outreach office at 240.777.7155, mcdot.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov, or the address below.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Pogue
Community Relations Manager