

## **NEIGHBORS FOR NEIGHBORHOODS**

February 2009

## CHESTERTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD GOES GREEN

The neighborhood in the vicinity of Campus Avenue has accepted the Town's request to be a model for the Town in going green. We have a long-standing association of proud homeowners who have always placed a high value on maintaining a healthy and sustainable environment.

We have enthusiastically accepted the challenge to do even more as a test case for the Town in implementing "green" practices in the day-to-day maintenance of homes and yards.

We have formed a committee and have studied literature provided by the Mayor. We have prepared and distributed 60 copies of a survey with 30 questions to find out what specific practices neighbors now use or would consider adopting. We evaluated the results and will follow up within a year to determine what behaviors have changed.

We are promoting awareness and becoming better educated by holding monthly speakers and workshops, to which the public can be invited. A number of people have asked for information sessions with experts on various environmentally-sound activities in order to be better equipped to put green practices into practice. Topics include rain barrel installation and effective use of native plant species.

The neighbors have formed a partnership with Kingstown Farm, Home and Garden, Inc., to stock and purchase organic lawn food and eco-friendly products.

Taking the opportunity to widely promote the message, the neighborhood built a float for the Town's Halloween parade on the theme of "Chestertown Goes Green", using live plants, hay, a rain barrel, a solar panel, and signs. All participants wore specially-designed "Go Green" T-shirts, showing everyone that you can have fun going green. Washington college student service groups also participated. The float won first prize in the parade.

"I am thrilled that this neighborhood has picked up the gauntlet to go green," says Margo Bailey. "This is the start of an effort that Chestertown can be very proud of and very grateful for. It's enormously positive," she added.