

February 19, 2004

To the Editor of the Montgomery Extra:

I read with concern the letter you published regarding County residents' failure to clear sidewalks after a snowfall ("Alert County About People Who Fail to Remove Snow," Extra, Feb. 19). I certainly sympathize with those who must contend with snow- and ice-covered walkways, and I hope those responsible will clean up their acts – along with their sidewalks – in the future. Call 240/777-3785 to report those who fail to clear sidewalks after a snowfall.

But for every snow shoveling scofflaw, there is at least one angel. When it snows, literally hundreds of County residents go above and beyond in helping their neighbors dig out and clean up. That's why I instituted the "SAFE Sidewalks/Golden Shovel" award, to recognize residents who shovel the extra mile to help out their neighbors.

Last year over 100 County residents were nominated for a Golden Shovel award, and we honored 28 outstanding individuals at a County Council session last April. Although we've dodged the blizzard bullet this year – so far – dozens of residents have already been nominated for a 2004 Golden Shovel award. I hope your readers will take a moment to nominate those who've put the Golden Rule to work; nomination forms are available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council.

Sincerely,

Nancy Floreen
*Nancy Floreen, a Democrat, is an at-large Member
of the Montgomery County Council.*