



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

*For Neighborly Assistance During Winter's Storms...*

## **Twenty-Eight Residents Salt Away Golden Shovel Awards from County**

Twenty-eight County residents who rolled up their sleeves and helped their neighbors deal with this winter's snowstorms were honored today by the Montgomery County Council with the first annual "Sidewalks Are For Everyone (SAFE)/ Golden Shovel" Awards.

The winners, chosen from over 100 nominations sent in by County residents, range in age from Benjamin Juarez of Wheaton, 14 years old, to Daniel Harris of Cabin John, 78, who saw his first winter when Calvin Coolidge was in the White House and Babe Ruth was just beginning to hit home runs.

The list includes lifetime County residents, new Americans, and even entire families, like the Steins of Germantown and the Windleys of Silver Spring. The "Lancaster Drive Angels" of Bethesda won recognition for their efforts, as did the "Summerfield Suites Crew" of Gaithersburg.

"This award is intended to recognize those individuals who have gone 'above and beyond the call of duty' in helping their neighbors to clear ice and snow from County sidewalks," said Councilmember Nancy Floreen, the originator of the idea and chair of the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee.

"We all have a civic duty to pitch in and help. Our seniors, our schoolchildren, our disabled community, and those who walk to work or use mass transit depend on cleared sidewalks. It's a matter of convenience and public safety – and a critical piece for improving transportation in the County."

"It's often said that 'everybody complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.' Well, these folks did something about it. They represent the thousands of Montgomery Countians who took on Mother Nature in big ways

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and small -- and made a difference for their communities, “ said Floreen.

“These boys and girls, men and women from all over the County are the Golden Rule in action. We applaud them and all of us should take inspiration from their perspiration.”

Each of the winners was presented with a certificate and a “Golden Shovel” lapel pin.

In April, 2001, the County Council passed into law legislation to require County residents to clear ice and snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of a snowfall, with strong support from seniors, families with schoolchildren, and the disabilities community. Similar regulations have already been in effect for many years in Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park, as well as in Prince George’s and Howard counties and in the District of Columbia.

The complete list of *Golden Shovel* awardees is:

- \* Mr. Terry Bell of Germantown
- \* Gary Clemons of Rockville
- \* Daniel Harris of Cabin John
- \* Jane Hatch of Montgomery Village
- \* Howard Husband of Aspen Hill
- \* Benjamin Juarez of Wheaton
- \* The “Lancaster Drive Angels” of Bethesda
- \* Michael Linder of Silver Spring
- \* Paul Melius of Silver Spring
- \* The Stein Family of Germantown
- \* The “Summerfield Suites Crew of Gaithersburg  
(W. Flores, F. Rovira, M. Lugo & R. Lopez)
- \* The Windley Family of Silver Spring
- \* Arthur & Travis Woehrman of Aspen Hill
- \* Tony Wright of Silver Spring



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