

NORTH FOUR CORNERS NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ APRIL 2023

University Boulevard Corridor Plan Explained at April Meeting

By Sharon Canavan

Come to the next NFCCA meeting on 12 April 2023 to hear from Montgomery County Planning Department staff about the University Boulevard Corridor Plan (UBCP). Last fall, the planning department kicked off its public engagement process for developing the UBCP. The last Master Plan for Four Corners was issued in 1996.

The comprehensive UBCP will affect land use

and zoning recommendations (including allowing denser multifamily housing), transportation infrastructure improvements (pedestrian/bike/public transportation, etc.), and economic development in the Four Corners area. Details about the UBCP planning effort can be found at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities/midcounty/wheaton/university-boulevard-corridor-plan/>. ■

Next Meeting on Wed., 12 April

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 12 April 2023, at 7:30 p.m. ***The meeting will be held in person at Forest Knolls Elementary School as well as virtually.***

To find the access codes for the online meeting, go to the NFCCA website at www.nfcca.org; the codes will be posted the week of the meeting. Items on the agenda include the UBCP (at left) and Seasonal Roots (see page 16).

All residents of the Northwood-Four Corners-Forest Knolls area are invited to attend and express their views. Please note that only paid members of the NFCCA are eligible to vote. (Annual dues are \$15 per household and may be paid at the meeting or online.) ■

Second Neighborhood Yard Sale

Saturday, 6 May [Rain Date 7 May]

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Your Front Yard or Driveway

Too much stuff in your house? Looking for a way to get rid of unwanted items? Closets and drawers overflowing with items that no longer fit? Join us for the Second Annual NFCCA Neighborhood Yard Sale!

Everyone who participates will hold their own yard sale at their own house in their own yard or driveway at the same time on the same day! We had over 40 households who joined in the fun last year! Walk the streets, meet your neighbors, shop the

sales, clear out clutter, make some extra cash! You can also give away free items.

To participate as a seller, use this Sign-up Sheet to register: <https://signup.com/go/uCEykGx>. A map of participating houses will be shared on both the NFCCA website and the listserv. We will share tips for setting up your yard sale, pricing, payment methods, and charities to donate unsold items to. We will put up yard sale signs around our neighborhood.

FMI, contact Karen Donnelly at kdonnelly119@gmail.com or Julie Whitcomb at jwhitcomb209@gmail.com. ■

APRIL

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

WWW.NFCCA.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hola Neighbors. Ema, here. Well, despite the cold weather, we managed to have a few neighborhood events since our last issue. First, a big thank you to Corinne Stephens and Jennifer McGuire Cox, who gallantly led us in an invasive vine removal mission on Lockridge, and all the neighbors who turned out to fight the good fight (page 14). It's unclear who won, but I for one think it looks better (for another opinion, see Carlos De Real's commentary on p. 15).

Second, thank you to all of the neighbors who made chili, and to everyone who showed up to eat chili, at our first neighborhood Chili Cook-Off (page 13)! It was great to see so many of you, and I met many neighbors attending their first NFCCA event! Welcome, and I hope you will join us again! Congratulations to Andrew Fremming of Lombardy who won first place with his flavorful lamb Mountain Man Chili.

As the good weather returns, we are looking forward to seeing our neighbors out and about, so save the dates! We will be holding our next neighborhood All Ages Bike Ride on Saturday, 22 April. All are welcome! There are always a few people who don't actually ride, so if you want to just come hang out in the park with us and have a donut, you are more than welcome. Then, Saturday, 6 May, marks the return of the popular Annual NFCCA Neighborhood Yard Sale. You can find more details in this newsletter (page 1), on the listserv, and on our Facebook page.

We are also excited about the renovations at the Forest Knolls pool, which you can read about on page 11. And don't forget that kindergarten registration is going on now for Forest Knolls and Montgomery Knolls, the two elementary schools that serve our neighborhood. My understanding is that, while you are entitled to register for public school at any time, registering now helps the school system allocate the right number of teachers. Kindergarten orientation is in early May.

Finally, I would like to invite all neighbors to submit articles to the newsletter. Many of you are tapped into various aspects of the community—the pool, PTAs, local businesses—and we would love for you to share updates about anything related to the neighborhood. Please contact Jacquie with your story ideas. We have one more issue in June before we break for the summer until our October issue.

Enjoy the Spring, neighbors!

Communicate!

NFCCA Listserv

To join:

nfcca+subscribe@groups.io
[add "un" to unsubscribe]

To send messages to group:

nfcca@groups.io

Buy Nothing Forest Knolls/North Four Corners/Woodmoor

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/517319962826076>

Twitter: @NFCCAMoCo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfccamoco

Compost Crew: 5-Gal. bucket
@\$20, compostcrew.com ■

NORTH FOUR CORNERS NEWS

The *North Four Corners News* (formerly *Northwood News*) is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the ~1,600 households in the area bounded by Colesville Road (Rte. 29), University Blvd. (Rte. 193), Caddington Avenue, and the Northwest Branch.

Any resident of this area is eligible to join the NFCCA. Annual dues are \$15 per household and may be paid online, at any Association meeting, or mailed to the treasurer.

The *North Four Corners News* is published five times a year—in October, December, February, April, and June. To place an ad or discuss a story, please contact the editor.

Editor

Jacquie Bokow
10603 Cavalier Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301.593.8566
editor@nfcca.org

Visit Our Website
www.nfcca.org

ALL-AGES BIKE RIDE ON EARTH DAY
SATURDAY, 22 APRIL 2023 | 10:00 DONUTS+10:30 RIDE
START AND END AT NORTH FOUR CORNERS PARK
AT EDGEWOOD AND SOUTHWOOD AVENUES
CHECK NFCCA.ORG WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

MENSAJE DEL PRESIDENTE

Hola, vecinos. Ema, aquí. Bueno, a pesar del clima frío, nos las arreglamos para tener algunos eventos en el vecindario desde nuestro último número de este boletín.

En primer lugar, un gran agradecimiento a Corinne Stephens y Jennifer McGuire Cox, que nos llevaron galantemente en una misión invasiva de remoción de vides en Lockridge, y a todos los vecinos que resultaron pelear la buena batalla contra la vegetación invasora en nuestros árboles (página 14). No está claro quién ganó, pero creo que se ve mejor (para otra opinión, puedes leer el comentario de Carlos De Real en la página 15).

En segundo lugar, ¡gracias a todos los vecinos que prepararon chili, y también a todos los que se presentaron a comer chili, en nuestro primer Chili Cook-Off del vecindario! Fue genial ver a tantos de ustedes, ¡y conocer a muchos vecinos que asistieron a su primer NFCCA evento! ¡Bienvenido, y espero que te unas a nosotros de nuevo! Felicitaciones a Andrew Fremming de la calle Lombardy, quien ganó el primer lugar con su sabroso Mountain Man Chili de cordero.

A medida que vuelve el buen tiempo, estamos deseando ver a nuestros vecinos fuera de casa, ¡así que reserva las fechas! Llevaremos a cabo nuestro próximo paseo en bicicleta para todas las edades en el vecindario el sábado 22 de abril. ¡Todos son bienvenidos! Siempre hay algunas personas que en realidad no montan bicis, así que si quieres venir a pasar el rato en el parque con nosotros y disfrutar de una donación eres más que bienvenido.

Luego, el sábado 6 de mayo marca el regreso de la popular venta anual del vecindario de la NFCCA. Puedes encontrar más detalles sobre este número de nuestro boletín, el Listserv, y nuestra página de Facebook.

También estamos entusiasmados con las renovaciones en la piscina de Forest Knolls, que puedes leer en la página 11. Y no olvides que el registro de jardín de infantes está en marcha ahora para Forest Knolls y Montgomery Knolls, las dos escuelas primarias que sirven a nuestro vecindario. Entiendo que, si bien tiene derecho a inscribirse en la escuela pública en cualquier momento, registrarse ahora ayuda al sistema escolar a asignar el número correcto de maestros. La orientación del jardín de infantes es a principios de mayo.

Por último, me gustaría invitar a todos los vecinos a enviar artículos al boletín. Muchos de ustedes están conectados a varios aspectos de la comunidad: la piscina, las PTA, los negocios locales, y nos encantaría que compartieran actualizaciones sobre cualquier cosa relacionada con el vecindario. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Jacquie con sus ideas de historia. Tenemos un número más en junio antes de descansar para el verano hasta nuestro número de octubre.

¡Disfruta de esta primavera, vecinos!

NFCCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association serves for one year and meets every month except July and August. Current officers (until October 2023) are:

President

Mario "Ema" Perez
10608 Margate Road
703.400.9560
president AT nfcca DOT org

Vice President

Julie Whitcomb
1019 Chiswell Lane
301.509.5534
veep AT nfcca DOT org

Treasurer

Sondra Katz
10905 Lombardy Road
301.593.4542
treasurer AT nfcca DOT org

Secretary

Sharon Canavan
10213 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.0487
secretary AT nfcca DOT org

At Large

Jessica Boback
10707 Edgewood Avenue
410.207.5693
jessica AT nfcca DOT org

Sarah Dye
10911 Lombardy Road
703.380.7468
sarah AT nfcca DOT org

John Prochilo
114 Southwood Avenue
978.502.4412
john AT nfcca DOT org

'Raffle Lady'

Fiona Morrissey
10301 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.4026
fiona AT nfcca DOT org

Immediate Past President

Linda Perlman
1203 Caddington Avenue
301.681.3735
ipp AT nfcca DOT org

Ped-Xing Plan Prioritizes Improvements in 4 Corners

By Sharon Canavan

The Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) seeks to increase the comfort level, safety, and accessibility countywide for pedestrians (for the purposes of this article, “pedestrian” includes walkers, bicyclists, scooter riders, etc.). Also, the Montgomery County’s “Vision Zero” goal is to eliminate transportation-related fatalities and severe injuries by 2030 by fundamentally changing how county roads are planned and designed and shifting from maximizing traffic volume efficiency “to ensuring that the transportation system is safe for all, regardless of travel mode.”

The current PMP draft includes actionable, data-based recommendations for determining future pedestrian/bicycle capital investments. The goals are to develop a more comfortable, convenient, and connected pedestrian network while increasing safety. The PMP looked at how pedestrian amenities are designed and constructed, transportation engineering policies, and opportunities for traffic safety education. Some of the recommendations are: allowing more time to cross streets safely; making proactive, data-driven sidewalk construction and maintenance decisions; increasing places pedestrians can safely cross corridor roadways; and increasing Automated Traffic Enforcement locations.

The PMP evaluates specific factors such as the amount and width of sidewalks, as well as the distance

of sidewalks from the road because speeding cars can make walking uncomfortable, the number of driveway crossings, and comfort factors such as shading by trees or buildings. At road crossings, factors affecting pedestrian comfort include traffic control, posted speed limit, number of lanes to cross, median type, and crosswalk type. The PMP noted that “Undesirable pathways are more likely to be along wider, faster roadways like Georgia Avenue or University Boulevard where landscape panels that buffer the sidewalk (if they exist at all) may not be sufficiently wide or have enough soil volume to support the growth of canopy trees.”

The Four Corners area is characterized in the PM Plan as an urban and major transit corridor, because Colesville Road and University Boulevard run along its boundaries. With its many public transit options and high volume of traffic, the Four Corners area is particularly dangerous for pedestrians. Unsurprisingly, the PMP observes that, “Managing vehicle speed is an essential element in creating a high-quality pedestrian environment” and recommends installation of traffic calming measures, crosswalk markings, and other treatments.”

Flash Bus Rapid Transit is already operating on Colesville Road and is planned for University Boulevard. The PMP observes, “As transit corridors such as Georgia Avenue, Veirs Mill Road, and University Boulevard account for 10 per-

cent of fatalities and severe injuries but only 1.3 percent of roadway miles, more frequent protected crossings and lower target speeds are needed on these roads to achieve Vision Zero.” The PMP adds that, “Longer block lengths limit routing options for pedestrians and encourage crossing streets at unsafe places because protected crossing locations are spaced too far apart. Driveways create conflict points between cars and pedestrians.”

The PMP found that 16 percent of severe and fatal pedestrian crashes take place at uncontrolled intersections and 37 percent of severe and fatal pedestrian crashes take place midblock. The Colesville Road and University Boulevard corridors merit more protected crossings to give public transit riders safer opportunities to cross when catching the bus.

In Town Centers with higher pedestrian activity—such as Four Corners—the PMP calls for re-evaluating no-turn-on-red to protect pedestrians, implementing Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) at traffic lights to give pedestrians a head start, and reducing signal cycle lengths to make pedestrian travel more convenient and limit noncompliance when impatient pedestrians cross against the light. PMP also recognizes the need to manage dangerous driving behaviors with greater Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE), such as speed and red-light cameras.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

Pedestrians

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

Areas (BiPPA) program is one of the primary ways that the County Council funds pedestrian and bicycle improvements, such as new sidewalks and 10-foot-wide paths side-paths for both pedestrians and bicyclists, improvements to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, crosswalks, and roadway changes to reduce motor vehicle travel speeds.

The PMP recommends priorities for BiPPA investments in areas with the greatest need. The road from downtown Silver Spring through Four Corners Town Center to Burnt Mills Town Center is designated as one of the highest priority BiPPA areas and this stretch of roadway is proposed to be *funded* in Montgomery County's Capital Budget.

Downtown Wheaton through Four Corners Town Center and east to Long Branch Town Center will receive consideration for improvements next as a Tier 1 BiPPA. Dennis Avenue from Georgia Avenue to University Blvd. and Lockwood Drive from Burnt Mills Town Center to White Oak Town Center are treated as Tier 2 BiPPAs. Arcola Avenue from Georgia Avenue to University Blvd. is listed as a Tier 3 BiPPA. These Tier 1 and 2 projects are prioritized to be undertaken later.

Adoption of the PMP recommendations to prioritize investments and make necessary policy changes will depend on actions by county and state agencies and elected officials

as well as community input. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and Maryland Department of Transportation will also play a pivotal role in making decisions on prioritizing these infrastructure capital projects. Also, the County Council, which must approve the capital budget, will have the ultimate say on these expenditures.

The process for further

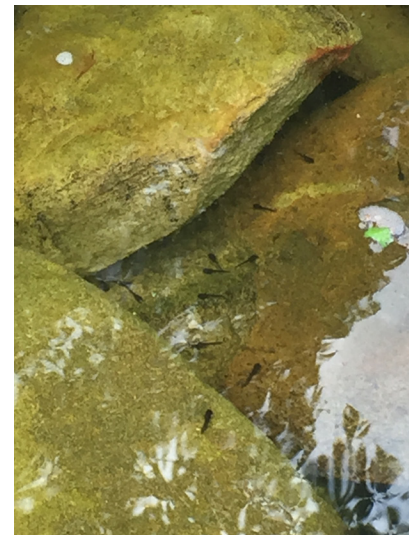
consideration of the draft PMP is already underway. The Montgomery County Planning Board held a public hearing on the Pedestrian Master Plan (PMP) on 23 March 2023 (after the deadline for newsletter articles). For more information the draft PMP can be found at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Pedestrian-Master-Plan-Public-Hearing-Draft.pdf>. ■

Check Out Vernal Pool Life Cycles



Eggs laid in the vernal pool...

To reach the vernal pool along the Northwest Branch, walk onto the NWB Trail from the Lockridge Drive trailhead. Continue straight, leaving the trail as you come to the river. Turn right. You should soon spot the depression that fills in every spring to create the perfect nursery for many Maryland frog species. ■



...turn into tadpoles...



...and result in frogs!

Bicycle Preparation Tips for Spring from the Pros

By Sarah Dye

As we gear up for our first community bicycle ride of 2023, it is definitely time to get out those bikes, dust 'em off, and get them prepared for use in the warmer months ahead. Before hopping onto the seat to take a ride, it is important to make sure your bicycle is in good working condition so that you stay as safe as possible.

Local bicycle shop owners Linda Mack (of Silver Cycles in Silver Spring) and Bruce Sawtelle (of Takoma Bicycle in Takoma Park) are looking out for our safety and have these tips to share about preparing your bicycle for riding in the spring, particularly when it hasn't been used for some period of time.

Sawtelle suggests using the ABC Safety Check:

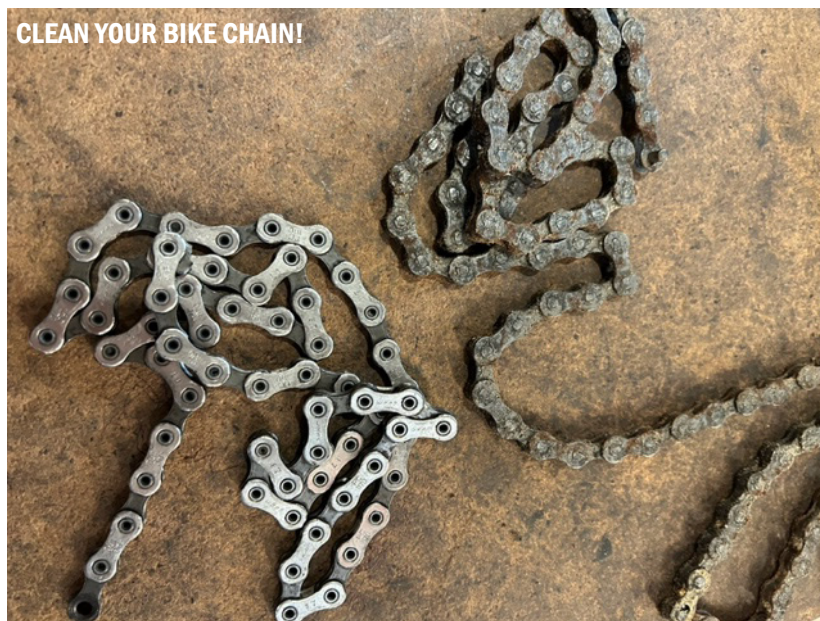
A is for AIR

B is for BRAKES

C is for CHAIN

AIR. "Make sure that the tires are pumped to the correct inflation pressure which is found on the side of the tires," says Sawtelle. Mack adds that the tires can crack when they are sitting on the ground for a long time, and they are more susceptible to pinch flats.

BRAKES. "You want to make sure your brakes work before you do anything," says Mack. Sawtelle emphasizes checking to make sure the brakes are working and can stop the bike. For bicycles that have been sitting for a while, a glaze can form on the brakes, causing them not to work very effectively. One tip



Mack offered was to loosen the brakes and sand the brake pads a couple times with sandpaper to create a rougher surface for the brake to grip the tire more effectively.

CHAIN. Sawtelle says, "Make sure the chain goes smoothly through the track and lubricate if needed." Lubricants reject dirt and keep chains clean. Using bicycle lubricant on the chains can also prevent rust. Mack emphasizes the need to use lubricants specifically made for use on bicycle chains, as other types of lubricants may collect dirt and cause the chain to grind away at the drivetrain. Once that's worn, it can go from a \$25 fix to a few hundreds of dollars when a drivetrain needs to be replaced.

Mack also encourages a thorough check of the shift cables. With lack of use, cables can gum up. Run the bicycle through all the shifting cycles before going out on an actual ride. Notice if there

is any difficulty transitioning from gear to another one. If there is, that may be one sign indicating the need to lubricate or clean the chains. If the problem continues to happen, or can't be diagnosed, bringing your bicycle by a shop is a good idea. Proper maintenance is key.

Many bicyclers do get an annual spring inspection or full tune-up done on their bicycles. "People want an expert to look at it for peace of mind," says Sawtelle. Bicycle mechanics are very technical and it can take a specialist to make sure the gears and brakes are good to go and all the nuts and bolts on the bike are tight to ensure everything runs smoothly for the season. Takoma Bicycle offers tune-up estimates for free.

On the contrary, Mack says, "A lot of times people are afraid to bring the bike in because they think it will be really expensive." This is

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

Bicycles

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

not always the case, and she encourages people to bring their bikes in just to see if there may be any issues they may not be aware of. Mack says her staff doesn't mind if someone brings in a bike and asks the technician to look it over quickly. She said, "We like to do that and keep people riding and keep people safe."

Helmets are also very important to use when riding a bicycle, even if it's just around the neighborhood. Helmets have to be adjusted correctly and fit snugly around the head. This is especially crucial for growing children. Mack says the helmets should not be sitting on top of the

head, they need to be around the head and, if they no longer fit like this, it's time to get a bigger helmet.

During the cooler months of the year, if a bicycle needs a tune-up, a person can often get it back in a day or two. Of course, the warmer season extends this timeline. Mack says, "Once we start seeing temperatures in the 50s or 60s for a solid week, then the bikes come in fast." Major repair timelines shoot up from one day to up to three weeks. Takoma Bicycle stays busy April through October, with peak months being April, May, and June.

If you are going to prepare your bike to ride in our 22 April community bicycle ride, do it today! This way, you should have time to complete

the ABC Safety Check and still have time to get your bicycle into the shop and tuned up if something more extensive needs to be done to prepare it for riding. We want all of our neighbors to have fun and be safe whether off or on the bicycle this year.

Here is the contact information for our local bicycle experts:

Bruce Sawtelle, Owner
Takoma Bicycle
takomabicycle.com
7030 Carroll Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
301.270.0202

Linda Mack, Owner
Silver Cycles
silvercycles.com
8307 Dixon Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
301.585.1889 ■

ANA'S HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

9709 Belvedere Place • Silver Spring

240-353-6751

LICENSED • BONDED • INSURED

NO MORE STRESS
NO MORE HEADACHES
RESIDENTIAL SERVICES
QUALITY CLEANING
EXCELLENT REFERENCES
MONDAY TO SATURDAY
FITS YOUR SCHEDULE
REASONABLE PRICES
RELIABLE
FREE ESTIMATES

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE:

- WEEKLY
- BI-WEEKLY
- TRI-WEEKLY
- MONTHLY

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- ONE-TIME CLEANING
- MOVE IN
- MOVE OUT



Light Pollution and its Negative Impacts on Wildlife, Human Health

By Jennifer McGuire Cox

Thinking of adding lights to your driveway to keep better track of your cars at night? Keeping your porch light on to feel safer around the house? The cost is small and bulbs last longer than ever, so why not? Yet while the introduction in recent years of cheaper light sources—such as LEDs—has made it tempting to use more lighting for outdoor purposes, regular exposure to light during nighttime hours not only hurts wildlife, but also has a negative impact on humans.

The Problem for Wildlife

Artificial light causes several problems for wildlife, especially those animals that are nocturnal (active at night). This includes:

- **Attracting different organisms** (such as moths, frogs, and migratory birds) **to places where they should not be.** This concentration of animals in one location can result in greater predation and mortality. It also results in animals being trapped in the light, exhausting and sometimes killing them. *One billion birds alone are killed EACH YEAR during fall and spring migrations because of building strikes, with the brightest buildings having the highest number of strikes.*

- **Repels many organisms from their normal habitats, resulting in hab-**

itat loss. Frogs, for instance, can't relocate their vernal pool which is now under a bright light. *Light pollution reduces insect visits by 62 percent, which further hurts pollinators already in decline. Moths, which are nocturnal pollinators, especially play an important role as pollinators in the ecosystem.*

- **Changes the day and night patterns of organisms.** This can alter reproductive cycles, not allow enough times for repairs to their bodies, and generally result in the organism not get-

ment formation, leaf shedding, bud dormancy, and behavior of pollinators. In the case of trees, those leaves closest to light sources stay on the longest, sometimes weeks longer, in the autumn months when the leaves of trees change color and fall. This could result in stressed plants and trees, or plants that do not grow properly.

Human Impacts

The damage from artificial light doesn't stop at wildlife. Humans, while feeling safer in locations that are lit, need darkness as well. Humans need dark conditions to produce melatonin, a hormone that is necessary for the body to repair its cells. Serious



ting enough sleep and being lethargic. This could mean they are not as healthy and at greater risk of predation.

In addition to wildlife, exposure to artificial light also impacts plants and trees. Different plants need different photoperiods, or certain lengths of night and sunlight, to grow properly. Increased light exposure impacts pig-

ment formation, leaf shedding, bud dormancy, and behavior of pollinators. In the case of trees, those leaves closest to light sources stay on the longest, sometimes weeks longer, in the autumn months when the leaves of trees change color and fall. This could result in stressed plants and trees, or plants that do not grow properly.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)



You can be strong and fair and proud of how you manage the challenge of divorce. We can help.

We are a Maryland and DC divorce mediation firm. Our mediation team can help you reach a divorce settlement that is financially responsible, emotionally sensitive, and legally binding.

**MEDIATION
OFFICE** of 
John Spiegel, J.D.

We welcome your questions.
Call us at 301-340-1811.

www.mediationoffice.net

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)
sion, and vision problems.

The Rise of LEDs

LEDs (light-emitting diodes) have become widely available and popular over the last 15 years. Their popularity stems not only from their longevity but the fact that they use a fraction of the electricity as traditional incandescent light bulbs. However, not all LED light bulbs are great for humans and wildlife. LED light bulbs in the blue and purple-rich wavelengths have been shown to pose serious risk to the environment and human health, as the longer wavelengths bounce around the sky and atmosphere, appearing brighter to wildlife, possibly even blinding them.

What You Can Do Help

If you must use artificial outdoor lighting, consider the following:

- Keep the light low, mounting the fixture as low to the ground as possible to avoid unnecessary light spread. *Be a good neighbor and don't shine light right into your neighbor's bedroom window!*
- Shield your light fixtures so that the bulb/light source cannot be seen. This cuts down on the amount of glare seen by animals, which results in less chances of them being trapped, repelled, or otherwise impacted by artificial light. Also, make sure the light points down.
- Make sure you're using lights designed for nighttime use. This includes wavelengths in the long range,

such as reds and oranges, as the light will appear dimmer to animals as opposed to other colors. Avoid blues and purples.

■ Don't overdo it on wattage. Use only as much as you truly need. Extra light doesn't necessarily make you safer, as bright glares from lights results in darker shadows and actually makes it harder to see.

■ Rethink your outdoor lighting. Do you really need to have your backyard lit all night, for instance? Can you eliminate any lighting?

■ Do you need to have a light on all night? Can you turn off your porch light when you go to bed in the evenings? Especially consider this during fall and spring migrations to limit bird strikes. ■

Take Advantage of Your Home's Rising Value



Are you a homeowner? It's time to put your increased home value to work for you! Add your dream deck, consolidate bills, pay college tuition, or just use it as a safety net—the possibilities are endless.

Home Equity Line of Credit

Our variable-rate option provides you with a revolving line of credit, giving you the flexibility to borrow what you need, when you need it.

- Affordable payment terms
- Borrow up to 95% of your home's value¹
- Reusable line of credit for home renovations or consolidate debt
- Finance major purchases such as college tuition
- No prepayment penalties or annual fees
- Fixed Rate options are available



Contact me to get started!

Norbert Fichtel, NMLS #1685442

Home Equity Loan Officer

Office: 240-292-5526

Cell: 202-603-1223

nfichtel@lfcu.org



¹Minus first mortgage balance. Certain fees, conditions and restrictions may apply. Home Equity Lines of Credit and Home Equity Loans are secured by your home. If you're paying off an existing real estate loan, the Credit Union does not cover costs imposed by other lenders. If any. Rates and terms subject to change without notice. Loan approval subject to credit evaluation. Lafayette Federal membership required. \$5 minimum balance required to open and earn 2.04% APY (Annual Percentage Yield) on LFCU Checking Account balances up to \$25,000 and 0.025% APY on Checking Account balances over \$25,000. Please visit [LFCU.ORG/2FOR22](https://lfcu.org/2FOR22) for full Checking Account requirements. Rates current as of October 1, 2022 and subject to change without notice. Your savings are federally insured up to \$250,000 by NCUA. LFCU NMLS 464425

Forest Knolls Pool Undergoing Renovations

By Frances Spiegel

If you have walked through Northwest Branch recently, you may have noticed that the Forest Knolls pool is currently undergoing construction. This major repair work, which is being done by Lighthouse Pools, is expected to be completed in April. While some repairs have been made over the years, the pool has not undergone this level of reconstruction since it was built more than 60 years ago. Forest Knolls Pool Board President Jen Ritchotte stated that “the current work was necessary to keep the pool functional.”

The construction project includes installation of a new main drain network, with new piping all around the pool

underneath the deck, as well as a drain system so that the deck itself drains properly. In addition, a new pool deck will be installed, and the pool will be refreshed with LED lights, new tiles, and a fresh coat of paint. The Pool Board is also planning to install new sections of fencing and new pavilions.

Ritchotte indicated that, in addition to this construction, the pool parking lot is also currently being used as a staging area by Pepco and Intren, which are working together to complete a system of upgrades for several streets in our neighborhood. The upgrades include new poles, wires, and services. The pool parking lot is being used for delivery and storage of utility



The old pool was removed.

poles. The project is expected to be completed by May.

The Forest Knolls Pool is a community-owned and -operated outdoor pool on Foxglove Lane, typically open from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It is a membership-based pool of 300 families. The pool is home to the Seahawks swim team, open to pool members ages 4–18, which competes in the Montgomery County Swim League, Division F. Swim lessons are available, but are currently limited to members.

Over the years, the Pool has hosted various events open to the community, including National Night Out, Spring-a-Pool-OOZA, and Oktoberfest. This summer, the pool will again host food trucks in its parking lot, which are available to community members. There is currently a waitlist to join the pool. For more information, visit forestknollspool.com. ■



Workers spray concrete onto the framing already put in place around the newly remodeled deep end of Forest Knolls Pool. The pool is expected to reopen at the end of May as usual.

A real estate experience that's more than just a transaction.

"Natalie and Susan are an amazing team! They are spot on in their knowledge of the market. Their expertise in recommendations for preparing our home for sale is excellent. We had a contract in four days! Communication skills, promptness in answering questions and professionalism are top of the line. Their services include coordination and scheduling of contractors, staging and photography. A winning team! You can't go wrong with Natalie and Susan!"

~Sellers - 920 Malta Lane



Personalized real-time data.

We'll pair our know-how with market metrics to help you achieve your home goals. You can go beyond standard home market metrics with a neighborhood evaluation that is specific to you.

Customization and collaboration.

For buyers, we can curate a Collection based on your home buying needs and wants, bringing together a set of homes in a visual workspace picked just for you.

Insight-driven decision making.

For sellers, our powerful valuation tool informed by live market data, will ensure you set your list price with confidence to sell fast and for a maximum value.

Contact us to get a custom market report and evaluation today!



Natalie Perez / Susan Kirn

M: 301.674.1581
M: 443.465.2912
O: 301.340.8444
natalie.perez@compass.com
susan.kirn@compass.com



Compass is a licensed real estate broker licensed to do business as Compass RE in Delaware, Idaho, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Tennessee, Compass Realty Group in Kansas and Missouri, Compass South Carolina, LLC in South Carolina, and Compass Real Estate in Washington, DC, Idaho and Wyoming and abides by Equal Housing Opportunity laws.

COMPASS REAL ESTATE

First-Ever Chili Cook-Off Nets NFCCA Over \$550



NFCCA Board member John Prochilo leads kids in Simon Says.



It's chili heaven for neighbors above, below, and lower right.



All photos but one by John Prochilo



NFCCA President Ema Perez (right) hands out aprons to participating Chili Masters.



Our Chili Masters (and their families) pose in their aprons.



Invasive Vines Removed Along Lockridge Drive Creek



Forty-eight volunteers worked together to cut 'windows' in nonnative, invasive vines on approximately 60 trees along Lockridge Drive on 26 Feb. A lot of trash was picked up, too.



Ready to get to work!



Corinne Stephens (Thistle) advises volunteers during orientation to 'cut as low as you can' before trimming invasive vines.



Volunteer at a windowed tree.



The crew at work along the length of Lockridge Drive creek.



When grabbing trash, youth can be a definite asset!

19 March 2023 Is That It?

Is that it? Is the gas company done now? I ask because Eastwood is all bumpy. Our Northwood roads were a mess for decades before the most recent paving made them nice and smooth. Now these yellow-vested nincompoops chop 'em up and patch 'em all higgledy piggledy. Neatness counts, people. Someone out there knows whom to call.

3 March 2023 The Battle of Lockridge

Well, we tried.

I, for one, had no idea of the tenacity that our foe could summon. Don't recruits, jacked on visions of glory, usually underestimate the battle ahead? For all the disparaging talk of "invasive species," this was now their home turf and we the invaders.

My certainty of success began wavering instantly. First was the assessment of our inadequate equipment. Then the poor condition of my untrained muscles, adapted through covid and winter and age to little more than holding a book.

My first assault was futile at best. I was instructed by my superiors to admit that the tree I chose to rescue was already dead. Chagrined, I moved on to save a grand maple being over topped by a massive number of vines. I hacked, and I lopped, and I yanked, and I dug. The vines fought back vigorously and with an unanticipated biological weapon. Multiflora Rose thorns contain *sporothrix*

schenckii, a fungus that can spread to the lymphatic system, the joints, the bones, and attack the central nervous system and lungs. One of the many horrors of our enemy flora's arsenal. Within minutes, the intensity of the fight had sapped my strength and I was functioning on reserves of coffee and anger.

Damn it, I thought, commanders need to call in the big guns! Alas, though we could see bulldozers down at Dennis Avenue, that line was not in service. Minutes went by like agonizing hours. Then my comrade went down, outmaneuvered by the tangle

at her feet. I went to her aid and I admit we abandoned our posts but only to seek medical aid. Boy, that shower felt good. Others held their positions to the bitter end. Hurrah to them! Awards of courage are due them for their stout hearts.

Though we may have lost the battle, don't be disheartened, my fellow warriors. We live to fight another day, having learned that a full-frontal assault is ineffective. We shall yet persevere with guerilla tactics. Join the resistance. Our day will come.

[Carlos del Real lives on Margate Road.] ■

Seasonal Roots for Neighborhood

Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association is partnering with Seasonal Roots to bring healthy, delicious food to our community, to support local farmers and artisans, and to raise money to support NFCCA programs and activities!

Seasonal Roots is an online farmers market that delivers "dirt to doorstep" to families in Maryland and Virginia. Each week, the market offers more than 150 items that are all grown and produced locally, sustainably, and ethically. Market items include fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy, baked goods, prepared foods, vegan specialties, and more.

To access the Seasonal Roots market, you sign up as a member and pay an annual membership fee. Through

our collaboration, the fee is reduced by 50 percent, so it's just \$25 for Northwood-Four Corners families! And when you join, Seasonal Roots donates \$20 to NFCCA!

Once you are a member, what you order and when you order are up to you. There is no obligation. You can select exactly what produce and extras you want, skip or pause weekly deliveries, and cancel anytime. Our neighborhood's online market opens Friday at 2:00 p.m. and closes at midnight on Sunday. Orders are delivered on Wednesday.

To join Seasonal Roots and earn a \$20 donation for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association, use promotional code NFCCA at <https://www.seasonalroots.com/nfcca>. (See the next page for more information.) ■

Join Seasonal Roots and Support Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association

Sign-up for just \$25 and NFCCA earns \$20!

Únase a Seasonal Roots y apoye a la Asociación Cívica Northwood-Four Corners

¡Regístrese por \$25 y NFCCA gana \$20!

Montgomery County's Online Farmers Market

Custom Orders. Home Delivered.



Mercado de Agricultores en línea del Condado de Montgomery

Pedidos personalizados.
Entregado a domicilio.

Seasonal Roots' Market Includes:

Local Produce
Dairy
Baked Goods
Gluten-Free
Meat & Seafood
Specialty Bundles
Artisan Fare
Dips and Spreads
Vegetarian & Vegan
Prepared Foods

*Support local farmers
employing sustainable
practices.*

*Know exactly where your food
is coming from.*

*Order online. We deliver
to your doorstep.*



Mercado de Seasonal Roots Incluye:

Producto Local
Lácteos
Productos Horneados
Sin gluten
Carnes y mariscos
Paquetes especializados
Comida artesanal
Dips y Untables
Vegetariano y vegano
Alimentos preparados

*Apoyen a los agricultores
locales que emplean
prácticas sostenibles.*

*Sepa exactamente de dónde
proviene su comida.*

*Comprar en línea. Entregamos
a la puerta de tu casa.*

Support NFCCA

When you join using promo
code **NFCCA** for \$25 (a 50%
savings), Seasonal Roots
donates \$20 to Northwood-
Four Corners Civic Association.
Scan the QR code or visit
www.seasonalroots.com/nfcca



Apoye NFCCA

Quando se une usando el
código de promoción **NFCCA**
por \$25 (un ahorro del 50 %),
Seasonal Roots dona \$20 a la
Asociación Cívica Northwood-
Four Corners.
www.seasonalroots.com/nfcca