

NORTH FOUR CORNERS NEWS

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Council Passes Safe Streets Act

By Sharon Canavan

On 19 September, the Montgomery County Council passed Bill 11-23, The Safe Streets Act, clearing the bill for signature by Marc Elrich, the County Executive. This step supports Vision Zero goals to prioritize road safety by making improvements to eliminate serious and fatal crashes throughout the County by 2030.

Bill 11-23 requires the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to prepare a “safe

routes to school infrastructure review” following any vehicle collision with a pedestrian who was walking, biking, skating, or riding a scooter to or from school. A report must recommend how to address deficiencies in engineering or traffic control/operations, along with recommended steps for appropriate corrective actions and crash reduction countermeasures and increased outreach and education programs.

The bill requires installation of a leading pedestrian interval (LPI) “at every crosswalk of County-owned signalized intersections located (1) in a downtown area or in a town center area, and (2) at the closest intersection within 1,300 feet in each direction of the access point of a school, park, rail, library, bus rapid transit station, or community center frontage.” An LPI gives pedestrians a “head start” of three to seven seconds to proceed into the crosswalk before a traffic light turns green. This allows pedestrians to “... establish their presence in the crosswalk before vehicles have priority to turn right or left.”

Route 193/University Boulevard is a County road, so LPIs will be required for the

Next Meeting on 11th of October

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 11 October 2023, at 7:30 p.m. **The meeting will be held in person at Forest Knolls Elementary School as well as virtually on Zoom.**

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 **election of a new Board for 2023-2024.**

All residents of the Northwood-North 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.) ■

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Halloween Parade and Block Party on Margate Road

Save the date! The Halloween Parade is back on Sunday, 29 October, at 4 p.m. Again a section of Margate Road will be partly closed to traffic for the festivities so wear your Halloween costume, gather your friends and family, and take a stroll over to Margate Road for our annual parade. We will march down to Lockridge Drive to the beat of the congas, tambourines, wooden spoons, and pans. There will be games, a pumpkin race, fire pits, and a communal table to share snacks and refreshments neighbors wish to bring.

Make sure to check the NFCCA listserv, www.nfcca.org website, and www.facebook.com/NFCCAMoCo for updates and announcements. ■

Desfile de Halloween y Fiesta de Barrio en Margate Rd.

¡Marca tu calendario y no te pierdas el Halloween Parade el domingo 29 de octubre a las 4 p.m.! Nuevamente, una sección de Margate Road estará parcialmente cerca del tráfico durante las festividades, así que ponte tu disfraz de Halloween, reúne a tus amigos y familiares y dé un paseo hasta Margate Road para nuestro desfile anual. Marcharemos hasta Lockridge Drive al ritmo de congas, panderetas, cucharas de madera, y sartenes. H abrá juegos, una carrera de calabazas, fogatas y una mesa comunitaria para compartir bocadillos y refrigerios que los vecinos deseen compartir.

Consultar el Listserv de NFCCA y www.facebook.com/NFCCAMoCo para obtener actualizaciones y anuncios. ■

Communicate!

NFCCA Listserv

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[add "un" to unsubscribe]

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NFCCA Deals!

Buy Nothing Forest Knolls/North Four Corners/Woodmoor

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

Compost Crew: 5-gal. @ \$22, 12-gal. @ \$29, compostcrew.com

Seasonal Roots: Sign up @ \$25, seasonalroots.com/nfcca

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

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Visit Our Website
www.nfcca.org

Best Places to Live for Families

Fortune Magazine ranked Silver Spring #3 in its list of 50 best places for families to live. *Fortune* analyzed 1,900 cities, towns, suburbs, and townships across the U.S. in search of the best places to live for families. Silver Spring's quality schools, diversity, public transit options, the arts and entertainment district, and small businesses were highlighted as reasons for its top ranking on the list.

First on the list was Cambridge, Mass.; second was Portsmouth, New Hampshire.

The top ten rankings are:
#4: Tualatin, Ore. (15 miles S.W. of downtown Portland)
#5: Middletown, Del.
#6: Olathe, Kan.
#7: Eastvale, Calif. (19 miles from Riverside, 45 miles from downtown L.A.)
#8: Wellington, Fla. (16 miles inland from W. Palm Beach)
#9: Greenburgh, N.Y.
#10: Fitchburg, Wisc. (just outside Madison)

Only other location close by: #18: Alexandria, Va.

[fortune.com/well/ranking/best-places-families] ■

Forest Knolls Bike Bus

NFCCA's first bike bus to Forest Knolls Elementary rode on the morning of Friday, 15 September, and what a good time it was! Approximately 30 kids and adults took on the morning bike ride through the neighborhood to school in time for class on a beautiful fall-like morning. Our first bike bus featured coffee and delicious donuts courtesy of the great Woodmoor Pastry Shop and a portable corral that was set up with the help of KHA and the FKES staff so the kids could lock their bikes at school. Friends from Sligo Woods also joined the bike bus to get to school with us, and we even had FKES 4th (and 2nd) grade teacher Mrs Smith on board of the music bike playing songs along the ride!!

The response from the kids and adults was very positive and so encouraging that the bike bus will ride again!

Join the Bike Bus Whatsapp group chat if you wish to participate on future rides. ■

**Use the envelope
attached to this
issue to pay your
NFCCA dues or
pay them online at
nfcca.org. Only \$15
per household!**

**BOARD ELECTIONS will be held
at the 11 October 2023 meeting
(see page 1).**

El Bicibus a la Escuela F.Knolls

El primer Bicibús de NFCCA a la escuela primaria Forest Knolls marchó por la mañana del viernes 15 de septiembre y fue super divertido! Aproximadamente 30 niños y adultos realizaron el paseo matutino en bicicleta por el vecindario hasta la escuela a tiempo para clase en una hermosa mañana casi otoñal. Nuestro primer bicibus incluyó café y deliciosas donas, cortesía de la gran pastelería Woodmoor Bakery, un corral p que se instaló con la ayuda de KHA y el personal de FKES para que los niños pudieran asegurar sus bicicletas en la escuela. Amigos de Sligo Woods también se unieron al bicibus para llegar a la escuela todos juntos ie incluso tuvimos a la maestra de cuarto (y segundo) grado de FKES, la Sra. Smith, a bordo de la bicicleta musical con música durante el viaje!

La respuesta de los niños y adultos fue muy positiva y tan alentadora que el autobús en bicicleta volverá a viajar!

Únase al grupo chat de Whatsapp de Bike Bus si desea participar en futuros paseos. ■

FKES Bike Bus
WhatsApp Group



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:

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Safe Streets Act

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

traffic lights in the Four Corners intersection, because this intersection is both near Montgomery Blair High School and the bus rapid transit stations located nearby. In Woodmoor, LPIs will be required at nearby signalized intersections. Similarly, LPIs will be installed at the traffic lights along University Boulevard going towards Wheaton. The Royalton Road entrance to North Four Corners Local Park is approximately 1,100 feet from the Dennis Avenue traffic light (the “main” entrance is over 1,500 feet), so whether an LPI is installed at Dennis may depend on how “access point” is defined by MCDOT. LPIs will be required for the traffic lights at Caddington Drive and Arcola Avenue, because Northwood High School and Forest Knolls Elementary School are both within 1,300 feet. U.S. Route 29/Colesville Road is State-controlled; therefore, no LPI will be mandated by the bill at Southwood Avenue.

The bill also requires installation of “no right turn on red” signs in downtown and town center areas. Even though the Four Corners intersection is both very busy and complex, this area is not considered a Town Center as codified in Section 49-31 of the County Code.

MCDOT can exempt specific intersections if the department determines that a “no right turn on red” restriction or an LPI would impair public safety. If MCDOT makes exemptions, it must send an annual report detail-

ing the rationale or evaluation buttressing its determination to the Council.

Finally, the bill requires the County Executive to prepare an annual report detailing plans to increase automated traffic enforcement. The plan should describe the goals and strategies to detect infractions with red-light and stop sign cameras as well as speed monitoring devices. This plan should specify the recommended number and type of automated enforcement cameras necessary to achieve appropriate levels of enforcement and traffic safety,

as well as an implementation timeline and a funding estimate for the target number of cameras and devices.

The conversation about improving pedestrian safety and addressing traffic safety will continue to be on the Council’s radar screen. Concepts addressed in The Safe Streets Act are also elements of the Pedestrian Master Plan, which the Council’s Transportation and Environment Committee will continue to consider in ongoing Work Sessions.

[Canavan lives on Edgewood Avenue.] ■

‘Hallowheel’ Bike Ride 28 October



Our third and last ALL AGES Bike Ride of the year is almost here, and it’s our most fun ride: The Hallowheel Bike Ride is on Saturday, 28 October 2023, at 10 a.m.!

No need to RSVP, just grab your bike, dress up—if you want—and come to the park. We will meet at North

Four Corners Park (211 Southwood Avenue) for complimentary coffee and donuts from our friends at The Woodmoor Pastry Shop. See our website for details and a route map. ■

**Lea Sobre el Paseo en Bicicleta
Hallowheel Para Todas las Edades en
Nuestro Sitio Web www.nfcca.org**

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Letter to the Editor

Why Can't We Talk About Our Religions With Each Other?

Earlier this year, I posted an announcement about my church's Easter Services and Easter Egg Hunt. I was asked to stop submitting announcements about religious services because some neighbors had complained.

I struggled with the request not to publicize religious services. I'm not asking anyone to convert. The newsletter editor suggested I submit an opinion piece.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, ours is one of the most diverse counties in all of the United States and our local elementary school reflects that diversity as well:

	MoCo	FKES
White	40.6%	32.6%
Hispanic/Latino	20.5%	38.9%
Black/Afr. Amer.	18.1%	16.2%
Asian	15.4%	5.3%

Diversity includes culture, food, art, language (39 are spoken in our county), and religion. According to *keepmontgomerycountymoving.com*, we have the largest Jewish population in the State. Additionally, we have representation from Islam, Hindu-

ism, Buddhism, Sikhism, and various other Eastern Religions. Take a drive north on New Hampshire Avenue and you will see no less than 30 different houses of worship! So why can't we share this part of ourselves within our small community? It is part of who we are! If we can't share this part of ourselves with our neighbors, no wonder we have so much discord in our country right now.

Posts about religious services or community events at houses of worship are invitations to our neighbors to join us in a community event. Yes, some worship services and congregations are closed to outsiders and those would not be advertised on the listserv. However, my church and many others are open and would enjoy having visitors. Houses of worship have also been community centers; most have Social Halls that are used by Scout troops, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, group therapy sessions, meditation groups, grief counseling, yoga classes, and the list goes on and on! Personally, I have attended Sikh,



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Quaker, Jewish, Unitarian, Protestant, and Catholic services. I enjoy learning about other cultures and spiritual practices.

If we can't talk about our spiritual practices in a civil manner on a community forum in one of the most diverse communities in the country, what hope do we have for our nation?

—Alison Petersen, Margate Road ■

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My Ever-Expanding Front Yard Vegetable Garden

By Anna Olsson

I can't remember not being a gardener. Both of my grandmothers grew up on farms and took their love of growing things with them to their suburban homes in and outside the small town of Borås, Sweden. I am named after their mother and grandmother, who were also named Anna, and, in addition to my name, they also gave me my love for nature and gardening.

Wherever I have lived, I have found space—even if just in the form of a few pots on a balcony—to plant seeds and grow things. And so, when we moved to the Forest Knolls area in the summer of 2020 and I found myself with a sunny front yard, I couldn't help myself. It started with a 2×8-foot raised bed placed on top of the grass, surrounded by about ten large pots and a few stakes with netting wrapped around it all. That first year, I grew tomatoes, basil, and hot peppers (photo at top right).

When it became clear that I would keep working from home for a while as we approached 2021, and after learning how resourceful the neighborhood deer are in figuring out how to get to those delicious greens, I decided to expand and put in a higher fence. And so, in the early spring of 2021, I began cutting and digging out countless small, manageable squares of the lawn, added four 4×4-foot raised beds, and surrounded it all with an eight-foot deer fence with a small arbor gate as the entrance (photo at lower right).



June 2020

The first year of Olsson's garden in June of 2020, above.



June 2021

By June 2021, Olsson had added four 4×4-foot raised beds to her garden and protected it with an eight-foot deer fence.

It turned out this project would be the main way in which I got to know many of my neighbors, as they walked by and curiously asked what I was working on. Having all this new space meant I could grow more things, and so I

did.

It was an amazing experience, but also an experiment through which I learned what works and what doesn't, but mainly how to coexist with nature and let it do its

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Front Garden

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thing. That includes coexisting with wildlife of all sizes. One morning in the early fall I found a 4-foot hole in the fence and all of my strawberry plants and swiss chard chomped to the ground. All in all, though, the 2021 season gave us many meals and many new friends and, by the end of the season, I was addicted and wanted more, so in early 2022 I started planning yet another expansion of the garden.

By now I had realized how therapeutic spending time out there is—from planting the seeds, to watering, to pulling weeds, to harvesting, and everything in between. This time I wanted to be more creative, so I bought cedar planks and started to design my own raised beds. Just as I was about to start the project, I injured my Achilles tendon and found myself in an orthopedic boot for the next seven weeks. I have always been known to be stubborn, but this challenge became the true test, as I decided the injury was not going to stop me. I sat on the ground, my booted leg sticking out in one direction, while cutting out more grass squares, one at a time. Everything took longer this time. But—one small step at a time—I got it done.

The result was an additional 110 square feet of garden, with a new 4×8-foot raised bed and a terraced, three-level, three times 3.5×3.5-foot raised bed, plus an area with a small birdbath in the middle (photo above).

This time I tried more



Olsson's garden with terraced beds blooms in June 2022.

new things, including fennel, beans, and spaghetti squash, the latter of which became the most amusing thing to watch, as it found the most intricate and creative ways to grow upwards and sideways in a quest for more sun. Beside that, a signature crop—and the tallest of all—has been the sunchokes, reaching up to 15 feet in height with a sea of yellow flowers every fall, while hiding underground the most delicious and nutritious tubers ready to be dug out and devoured through the winter and into the next spring. They have an amazing force, with which they cracked open the raised bed they grew in two years in a row.

How can one not love nature! Over the last three years, my garden has given us so much more than just a wonderful harvest: new friends, exercise, fresh air, wildlife encounters, resilience, therapy, and more than anything: lots and lots of joy.

[See Olsson's garden in

person on Loxford Terrace. Timelapse videos of the first two seasons of her garden (with season three coming this December) can be viewed at Anna's Garden: 2022 Edition (https://youtu.be/oKoV_VROz8o) and Anna's Garden: 2021 Edition (https://youtu.be/uL_rYzttm00).] ■

Don't Forget to Pay Your Dues!



The Silver Spring and a Lost Photo

By Ken Hawkins

Last year I bought from an eBay seller in Kansas an old photo that showed two men in front of a somewhat ornate entry to a house. On the back was a single handwritten line: “Silver Spring, Md.” Sadly, it was lost in the mail and, although I acquired from the same seller a fine ca. 1950 aerial of the area, sent under separate cover, I thought the house photo was gone forever.

Francis Preston Blair (1791–1876) came to Washington, D.C., in the 1830s at the invitation of President Jackson to edit a newspaper

for Old Hickory’s party, the Democrats, and became a member of Jackson’s “Kitchen Cabinet.” In the 1840s, he was scouting the Maryland countryside north of the capital for a country estate. His horse strayed away and, in following it, he came upon a mica-inflected stream, located on the perfect spot. He built his country estate there, including a large Gothic Revival house, named it the Silver Spring, and soon acquired added property nearby for his family.

While his son Montgomery’s nearby house was



The Silver Spring country house built in 1842 by Francis P. Blair. Cabinet photo, circa 1895, showing son-in-law Samuel Phillips Lee at the top of the steps of the house he had retired to with his wife Elizabeth Blair Lee in the 1870s. She grew up there. Courtesy Ken Hawkins.



The center of downtown Silver Spring, Maryland, view north and east over Georgia Avenue at the line with the District of Columbia. The remaining Blair estates are outlined in white at the upper left. M. Blair’s house at this location was demolished in 1958 for apartment towers and a small shopping center. The location of his father’s earlier house was near the small triangle of land to the southeast of the parcel shown, which is the location of the old Silver Spring, today’s Acorn Park. Commercial aerial photo circa 1955. Courtesy Ken Hawkins.

burned to the ground in 1864 by Confederate raiders, F.P. Blair’s house survived (as did his downtown abode, today’s Blair House). He retired to the Silver Spring estate in the late 1850s and remained politically active, holding court at his rural retreat: he and others founded the Republican Party there and Lincoln often visited the house. After Blair died in 1876, the property went to his only daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, navy officer Samuel Phillips Lee, who also kept a house next to the Blair House in Washington. Elizabeth Blair Lee was close

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

HISTORY CORNER(S)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

friends with Emily Beale, visited the Beales' house in Four Corners, and counted among her Lafayette Square neighbors Edward F. "Ned" Beale. The Lees made Silver Spring their country home until their deaths late in the century. Their son, U.S. Senator Blair Lee, called it home in the 1920s. The house stood southwest of the corner of today's Kennett and Newall Streets until 1954.

There's a fair amount known about all the above people and happenings but history can obscure the past more than it sheds light on it. Only a handful of photographs of F.P. Blair's Silver Spring survive. A full sixth months after I had given up the "Silver Spring, Md." photo for lost, it arrived in the mail. The image, in a handsome cabinet mount, sheds light on the above corners of history. The mansion's glass-covered porch on the driveway side is shown, with its distinctive twin dormers above. The man at the doorway appears to be Samuel Phillips Lee—who incidentally served in the U.S. Navy while his third cousin, Robert E. Lee, led the Confederate insurrection—near the end of his life in 1897.

I don't know how these two photos ended up in Kansas, but I'm glad they're back in Four Corners where their owners and friends once lived.

[Hawkins holds a Ph.D. in history and lives in Northwood Park.] ■

Mobile Bike Shop Returns

By Ema Perez

Bike Werks is coming back to our neighborhood Friday, 13 October, at 9 a.m. Carl and Marty from Bike Werks are set to return to our neighborhood with their friendly mobile bike shop for a day of bike repairs in our community.

Bike Werks will bring the van/shop and set the tent in my driveway (10608 Margate Rd). Carl and Marty are professional bike mechanics and carry a number of parts in stock (in their vans) and they can do it all—from fixing a flat; replacing that rusty chain; adjusting gears, brakes, and wheels; full tune ups; and even assembling your bike.

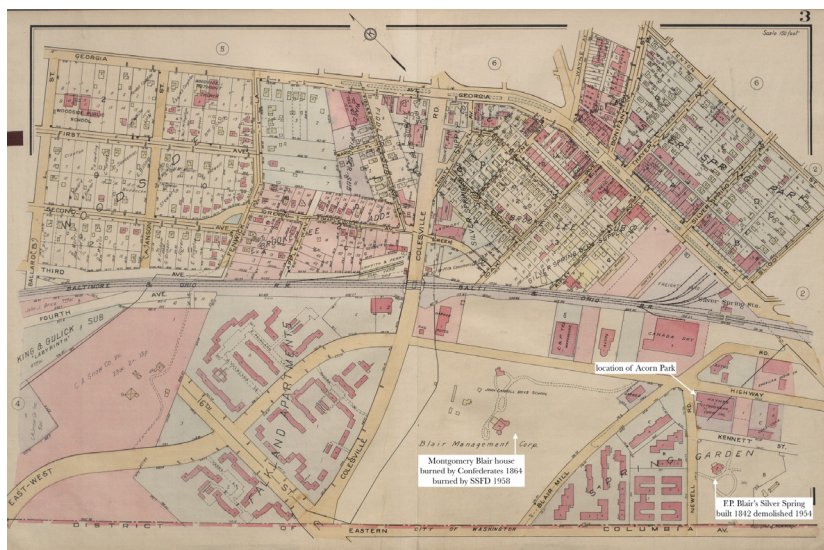
Check out bikewerks.com for all services available and prices. (Carl will not charge the \$25 trip charge for this special event.) ■

El Taller Móvil de Bicicletas

Para Ema Perez

Bike Werks regresa a nuestro vecindario el viernes 13 de octubre a las 9 a. m. Buenas noticias para nuestra comunidad ciclista y para aquellos vecinos y amigos que necesitan reparaciones de bicicletas. Carl y Marty de Bike Werks están listos para regresar a nuestro vecindario con su amigable taller móvil de bicicletas para un día de reparaciones de bicicletas en nuestra comunidad.

Bike Werks traerá la camioneta/tienda y colocará la carpa en mi driveway (10608 Margate Rd). Carl y Marty son mecánicos de bicicletas profesionales y tienen partes para bicicletas en stock (en sus furgonetas) y pueden hacerlo todo. Consulte bikewerks.com para conocer todos los servicios y precios. ■



1948 Klinge Atlas of Montgomery County Maryland (Volume 1, Plate 3). Map showing the locations of the Blair estates and houses in 1948, shortly before their demolitions.

Courtesy Montgomery County Historical Society.

Fairland/Briggs Chaney Master Plan Developed

By Sharon Canavan

This article highlights a handful of the major planning recommendations included in the Fairland and Briggs Chaney (FBC) Master Plan (the Plan), which focuses on development over the next two decades for a narrow band that runs north along Columbia Pike/U.S. Route 29 from Industrial Parkway to Greencastle Road (see map online). The Plan envisions the development of “Community Gateways and Activity Centers” that have a more compact building footprint, with mixed-use centers as well as adequate transit service and safe pedestrian and bicycle routes. The plan emphasizes expanded housing and shopping choices, community gathering spaces, as well as a healthy community food system with grocery and dining destinations, farmers’ markets and community gardens, and efforts to highlight cultural and historic landmarks.

The Plan encourages more new housing units to help meet the County’s overall housing goal of an additional 41,000 housing units by 2030. Although the Plan notes that housing in this area is relatively affordable when compared to the county overall, it observes that many households in the plan area are cost-burdened (spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing) and recommends that, “As properties redevelop, Montgomery Planning and Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs would

work with the applicants through the development review process to replace the naturally occurring affordable housing units with income-restricted housing at a mix of incomes attainable to a range of households.”

The Plan recommends a number of zoning changes through a Sectional Map Amendment, which ultimately would need to be approved by the County Council. This Plan represents one of the first opportunities the Planning Department has to implement its “Thrive Montgomery 2050” vision; that is, encouraging increased housing density by allowing “creative housing options including personal living quarters and/or micro units; ‘missing middle’ housing types such as tiny houses, cottages, duplexes, multiplexes, and small apartment buildings; shared housing, cooperative housing, co-housing, live-work units, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to help meet housing needs and diversify housing options.”

On the transportation front, the Plan observes that U.S. Route 29 is the third busiest road in Montgomery County (after I-270 and I-495), which serves as a main north-south link. Intersecting MD 200 (the Intercounty Connector) and Briggs Chaney Road offers east/west connectivity. The plan recommends further enhancement of Flash Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service between Burtonsville and Silver Spring with dedicated median bus lanes. The Plan also calls for studying the

feasibility of “road diets” to reduce the number of lanes on arterial roads, including Briggs Chaney Road, Fairland Road, East Randolph Road, and Old Columbia Pike. Another idea for study is installation of roundabouts at signalized intersections along Briggs Chaney Road.

The Plan encourages more compact, walkable new development by emphasizing living, shopping, employment, and gathering opportunities at key Community Gateways and Activity Centers, designed to be served by high-frequency, rapid bus service.

The Plan identifies the following districts: Columbia Pike Corridor, Main Street Corridor, and Residential Neighborhoods.

In the Columbia Pike District, the Plan envisions redevelopment of the campuses currently occupied by Verizon and the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists “for potential commercial and/or residential infill development, or as a major mixed-use, neighborhood-serving Activity Center with a significant housing component, to be retrofitted with or to replace the existing buildings on the properties.”

In the Old Columbia Pike/East Randolph area, the Plan sets out the possibility for infill development or redevelopment to create one or two new Activity Centers that could bring new shopping, services, housing, and other amenities to this section. The Plan envisions a higher-density,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

FBC Master Plan

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

mixed-use development of the corridor along Briggs Chaney Road between Old Columbia Pike and MD 200, featuring new urban-style development on both sides of Briggs Chaney Road with building frontages that will face the street and include pedestrian amenity areas. A good example of urban-style development is Pike and Rose, where housing, office, and retail uses are mixed together in a relatively tight Activity Center.

Further north, the Main Street District foresees “an enhanced ‘main street’ corridor on Briggs Chaney Road as a Primary Focus Area for future urban-style development.” The Main Street District will include properties located along Briggs Chaney Road between Old Columbia Pike and the Intercounty Connector (MD 200), as well as properties along some roads leading to Briggs Chaney Road, such as Automobile Boulevard, Castle Boulevard, and Robey Road. If Montgomery College decides to build an East county campus, the Plan suggests that the Briggs Chaney Auto Sales Park or the Verizon properties, if available, could be suitable.

Full details on the Plan can be found at <https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/FBCMP-Planning-Board-Draft.pdf>. ■

Call 988 for Help! Dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or just 988 to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline



NFCCA Halloween Decoration Contest

It's been a few years since NFCCA held a Halloween Decoration contest and this October we want to try a new approach. Entering is easy. All it takes is (1) snapping a picture of your decorations and (2) posting your entry on Facebook (okay, okay...Meta) as a comment under the Halloween Decoration Contest photo on the NFCCA Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NFCCAMoCo>. If you are not a Facebook user, simply email your photo to halloween@nfcca.org and it will be posted for you. Photos must be posted by the 29th of October.

There are three categories

for this contest:

- Spookiest
- Fall Festival
- Best Jack-o'-Lantern

How will we choose the winners? This NFCCA contest requires audience participation!

The photos with the most “reactions” 🗳️👍👎😂😭😱😬 in each category will be the three winners (in case there is any confusion, the contest judges will determine which category a photo fits in, but, theoretically, this should be obvious). Please “vote” only once in each category (Spookiest, Fall Festival, Best Jack-o'-Lantern) for a total of three votes per household. ■



REMINDER: You must stop for school buses that have their lights flashing and stop sign extended. Do not pass around a stopped school bus. It's Maryland law! Thank you for keeping our neighbors safe!

RECORDATORIO: Debe detenerse ante los autobuses escolares que tienen las luces intermitentes y la señal de alto extendida. No pase alrededor de un autobús escolar detenido. ¡Es la ley de Maryland! ¡Gracias por mantener seguros a nuestros vecinos!

NFCCA Summer Activities 2023

By Julie Whitcomb

It has been a busy and exciting June, July, and August with lots of great activities from NFCCA. Many of the wonderful happenings took place at North Four Corners Park located in our neighborhood!

- All-Ages Bike Ride, Summer Party Edition
- Plant Swap
- Casual Soccer every Tuesday at the Park

- Thunderbolts Baseball Community Game Night
- Shakespeare in the Park
- Women's World Cup Watch Parties at Four Corners Pub
- Sunday Morning Qigong at the Park
- National Night Out at Forest Knolls Swimming Pool
- CommUnity Walks on the Northwest Branch Trail

We're looking forward to a festive fall filled with fun! ■



National Night Out fun in August at Forest Knolls Pool.



Photos by Sandra Katz Unless Otherwise Attributed



A MoCo police officer briefs participants at NFCCA's first CommUnity Walk along the Northwest Branch Trail.



Many families enjoyed "Parks and Ale" at the Park in May.



Part of the "Bike Bus" to Forest Knolls Elem. on 15 September.



President Ema Perez (with Tbolt fan Carrie Ewachiw) threw out the first baseball at the Thunderbolts' NFCCA Community Night in July.



THE DEL REAL DEAL

16 June 2023

A Public Service Announcement

Here's some good news I just discovered. Kids no longer need a license to have a lemonade stand. We can thank the Aarie family of Montgomery County which fought a \$500 fine, and possibly 90 days in lock-up, when their kids tried to sell lemonade during the U.S. Open in 2011. This event garnered national attention and was reported even in *The Wall Street Journal*. The result was House Bill 0052, which was submitted to the Maryland House by Neil Parrott.

We have an entrepreneurial child on Margate Road of whom we expect great things. He combines hypersonic energy and curiosity with confidence and sociability. From an early age, maybe three years old, it was a fre-

quent game for him to have a pretend store in his little play house. He would "sell" us cookies and candies and delight in getting a penny or a quarter. I tried to give him an IOU once, no luck there. Some years later he became our best customer at our yard sales. The removal of this obstacle is designed for him.

It is good to consider that laws that seem so reasonable at first can result in unintended consequences. This is the problem with what are often presented to us as common sense laws. Of course, food safety is important, but really, lemonade? It is frequently forgotten that, at the end of the day, rules will be enforced with fines or worse by regulators who have little consideration or power to apply the very common sense that is the justification that the regulations claim.

I'm looking forward to our little friend, Isidore, becoming the next Northwood Park tycoon.

28 May 2023

Greetings

How do you do? Hello. Hey. High five. Fist bump. Head nod. Notice anything? Our greeting behavior is trending toward nonexistence. We have just returned home from our southwest vacation. There we met surprisingly large numbers of foreign travelers: France and Spain and India and Japan and, of course, other parts of the U.S. I noticed a difference in these world travelers. The French, for instance, have not dropped the double kiss-kiss in favor of a forehead slam. The Spanish still are doing it, too. It starts with the right cheek first, by the way, so go to the left. The Indians and the Japanese are still bowing, albeit to different degrees. But many Americans are getting near to grunting and calling it a day.

Coming home to our neighborhood, however, the greetings were effusive, heartfelt, and plentiful. Interesting. Is this a case of the exception proving the rule? I think not. I believe that we may have lucked into an exceptional neighborhood and that our genuine caring for each other can be the antidote to the current trend. So, greetings to you all and, though we had a spectacular time, we are glad to be back.

[Carlos del Real lives on Margate Road.] ■

More Summer Pix



Part of the large attendance at Shakespeare in the Park in July.



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