Charlie Pritchard is Gone

By Carole Barth

Charlie Pritchard, longtime resident and former NFCCA President, died Monday, 4 September 2006. Charlie will long be remembered for his tireless advocacy for natural trails and his feisty style of public involvement.

I remember meeting Charlie at the first NFCCA meeting I ever attended. The topic of discussion was proposed "improvements" to Route 29 that would have

INSIDE

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Did you even know there's an award-winning community theater right in our neighborhood? removed the median strip. Charlie described trying to cross the busy road with its short "walk" cycle. He said, as an elderly person, he always packed a snack for the extended time he would spend standing on the median strip waiting for a break in the traffic. The image stuck with me, as did many of Charlie's clever turns of phrase.

Charlie was involved in too many community projects to describe here. Whatever the issue, one thing I always appreciated about Charlie's involvement was that he acted as well as advocated. Charlie became one of the first volunteer "weed warriors" in Montgomery County. He hadn't yet learned to identify many of the invasives, but he did know how to recognize multiflora rose. So one summer. he cleared out all the multiflora between the Lockridge Drive path and the creek from the park entrance to the first small bridge. This was not unusual for Charlie, however. He may have been our oldest volunteer, but Charlie handled one of the biggest newsletter delivery

(continued on page 3)

Next Meeting on 11 October

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 11 October 2006, at 7:30 p.m. at the North Four Corners Rec Center. The Rec Center is located at the end of Southwood Road, just off Edgewood Drive. Items on the agenda include:

- Election of a new board;
- Plans for a memorial for Charlie Pritchard; and
- Updates on the park.
 All residents of the
 Northwood-Four CornersForest 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 \$10 per household
 and may be paid at the meeting. Dues paid at the National
 Night Out in August count
 toward this fiscal year.)

| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----------|
| 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 | 31 | | | | |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | 3 |

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is a season that embodies change. As the natural world prepares for winter, we start a new school year, elect new leaders, and begin a new NFCCA year. Busy as it is, I love fall. Cooler temperatures, a deep blue sky, and the changing leaves lure me back into the woods and garden. Soft, rainy days intensify the pleasure of snuggling up with a good book and a pot of tea. The juxtaposition of beginnings and endings makes me nostalgic and hopeful at the same time.

This fall marks the end of my second year as NFCCA President. During these two years, we have welcomed new neighbors (including Trader Joe's) and started new traditions like the neighborhood pool party. We have also celebrated our neighborhood's history with the Northwood Park 50th anniversary reunion and with newsletter articles on long-term residents. Mostly, we have worked doggedly as a civic association to preserve this delightful community's character.

I want everyone to know that these two years have only deepened my pride in our community. It has truly been a joy to get to know (and work with) so many neighbors. I have also been blessed with creative and hardworking board members and a fabulous newsletter editor. I thank all of you for your commitment to our community. I'm not seeking election to a third term as President, but I expect to stay involved. I look forward to working with a new President and to seeing what's next for Northwood Four Corners.

-Carole Barth

NFCCA's First Pool Party Provided Potluck, Pizza, Plenty of Pizzazz!

By Roxanne Mirabal Beltran

Who are the people in your neighborhood? Well, in our case, it wasn't Ernie or Grover but all of the neighbors who attended NFCCA's first neighborhood "Meet and Greet" Pool Party on July 2. With about 50 people turning up for the event, the greetings abounded, the pizza was a hit, the potluck was incredible, and so was finding a creative place to pin the

provided nametags! People were so inspired by the fun they had that some families even joined the Civic Association on the spot. The power of pizza! The event took place at our neighborhood pool, Forest Knolls, allowing some to discover the gem they have in their own backyards. Even Mother Nature cooperated, providing a beautiful sunny afternoon and marking the end of the event with a resounding thunderstorm.

Aren't you glad you were there? Did you want to be there but had conflicting plans? Want another opportunity to bond with your neighborhood? Then make sure we have more of these occasions by helping to plan or brainstorm some of these great ideas-a Four Corners Outdoor Movie Night, Picnics in the Park, Northwest Branch Neighbor Hike, Fun Run/Walk through our Neighborhood, and/or a North Four Corners Garden Club/Tour. Please contact Roxanne (301-754-3828 or roxmb@ yahoo.com) to help. Such great things can happen when you meet your neighbors!

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the 1,494 households in the area bounded by Colesville Rd. (Rte. 29), University Blvd. (Rte. 193), Caddington Ave., and the Northwest Branch.

Any resident of this area is eligible to join the NFCCA. Annual dues are \$10 per household and may be paid at any Association meeting or mailed to the treasurer.

Northwood 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 jcbokow@earthlink.net

Caddington Speeding Update

By Leon Peace

The NFCCA approved a proposal in June requesting appropriate action to begin the process to install traffic calming measures on Caddington Avenue. Discussion focused on the concern that a traffic study should best be done during the school year to more accurately measure the traffic levels. The previous letter from the Traffic Committee Chairman was returned by the county with the notation that the request should originate from the community association.

Caddington Avenue neighbors report speeds of up to 65 m.p.h. on the street, which posts a speed limit of 25 m.p.h. Speeders reportedly have ignored stopped school buses, killed family pets and wildlife, and generated loud tire and engine noises.

The next steps call for the county to conduct a traffic study. Your input and participation is sorely needed. Please contact Leon Peace at LeonSellsHouses@aol.com.

New Board

A new Board of Directors will be elected at the NFCCA meeting on 11 October. If you would be interested in running, please call Paul Boudreaux at 301.593.5535 to have your name added to the ballot. And thank you for considering this!!

'Pritch' Dies

(continued from page 1)
routes in the neighborhood.
In fact, Charlie seemed to live
by the motto "Go Big, or Go
Home."

As I write this article, we are still awaiting news of the funeral arrangements for Charlie. I hope that Northwood-Four Corners and the other groups Charlie was involved with will be well-represented at his service. Still, many of us who worked with Charlie feel the need for a more personal expression of our appreciation for his life among us.

Therefore, we are encouraging people to remember Charlie with a "gift of trees" through the Tree-mendous Maryland Program. Trees cost \$25 each and 10 trees qualify as a grove. Donors of a grove can specify where on public land they would like the grove to be planted. We will be working with DNR and Park and Planning to get a grove planted along Charlie's beloved Northwest Branch. You can purchase a tree online at www.dnr. state. md.us/forests/treemendous/goftoftrees or you can order by mail with a check or credit card number sent to: TREE-MENDOUS MARYLAND, Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, Tawes State Office Building, E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401. IMPORTANT: Be sure to specify that your tree is in memory of Charlie Pritchard. This way we can accumulate a grove and designate a planting in the Northwest Branch.

NFCCA BOARD

The 2005-2006 Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association is listed below. A new 2006-2007 Board will be elected October 11.

President

Carole Barth 10602 Lockridge Drive 301.593.7863 cbarth@mindspring.com

Vice President

Margaret Hawkins 10205 Lorain Avenue 301.681.0762 margaret.hawkins @nara.gov

Treasurer

Vacant, due to recent move to Baltimore by Michele Frome. Maggie Hawkins is filling in.

Secretary

Beth Ginter 10221 Sutherland Road 301.681.8190 beth.ginter@comcast.net

At Large

John Hill 319 Pinewood Avenue 301.593.7746 johni.hill@verizon.net

Roxanne Mirabal Beltran 10621 Glenwild Road 301.754.3828 roxmb@yahoo.com

Ann Rose 913 Caddington Avenue 301.593.4486 bigalnme2@aol.com

Immediate Past Prez

Vacant, due to the death of Charles Pritchard in September (see story on page 1)



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September 2006

Northwood Real Estate Report

Specialist in Northwood Market

Before you make any move in Northwood, Forest Knolls, or Kinsman Farm, I would be pleased to share my insights with you. Call today for my free Market Analysis.

The Ciment Team has \$20M in Sales in '06

I have the pulse of this market and my listings are selling. Let me help you move onto the next stage of your life, whether buying or selling.

Northwood Settled Properties (June 1, 2006 - September 14, 2006)

| | | | | BA/ | |
|------------------------|------------|-------------|----|-----|-----|
| Address | Sale Price | Style | BR | HBA | DOM |
| 811 Caddington Ave | \$477,500 | Rambler | 4 | 2/1 | 72 |
| 821 Caddington Ave | \$485,000 | Split Level | 4 | 2/1 | 11 |
| 1108 Caddington Ave | \$430,000 | Split Level | 4 | 1/1 | 26 |
| 1407 Caddington Ave | \$515,000 | Split Foyer | 4 | 3/1 | 49 |
| 10610 Cavalier Dr | \$442,000 | Rambler | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 1023 Chiswell Ln | \$450,000 | Split Foyer | 5 | 2/1 | 92 |
| 10612 Eastwood Ave | \$458,500 | Cape Cod | 5 | 2 | 14 |
| 10619 Eastwood Ave | \$435,900 | Cape Cod | 3 | 2 | 59 |
| 10424 Edgewood Ave | \$690,000 | Cape Cod | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| 10611 Edgewood Ave | \$459,000 | Rambler | 4 | 1/1 | 111 |
| 11108 Foxglove Ln | \$415,000 | Split Level | 3 | 2/1 | 16 |
| 119 Kinsman View Cir | \$393,750 | Townhouse | 3 | 2/2 | 31 |
| 311 Ladson Rd | \$399,000 | Cape Cod | 4 | 2 | 27 |
| 316 Ladson Rd | \$345,000 | Rambler | 2 | 1 | 60 |
| 319 Ladson Rd | \$430,000 | Cape Cod | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 10707 Lombardy Rd | \$425,000 | Rambler | 4 | 2 | 67 |
| 11203 Lombardy Rd | \$480,000 | Rambler | 3 | 2 | 10 |
| 1119 Loxford Ter | \$460,000 | Split Level | 4 | 1/1 | 14 |
| 10422 Mountain Quail R | d\$565,000 | Colonial | 5 | 4 | 6 |
| 10709 Ordway Dr | \$396,000 | Split Level | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 304 Pinewood Ave | \$465,000 | Cape Cod | 3 | 2 | 82 |
| 1100 Playford Ln | \$469,000 | Split Level | 4 | 2 | 33 |
| 505 Royalton Rd | \$461,000 | Cape Cod | 4 | 3 | 50 |
| | | | | | |

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Montgomery County Settled Properties (August 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006)

| Subdivision/Area/City | # Units | Aver. Price | DOM |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|-----|
| Aspen Hill | 2 | \$407,660 | 73 |
| Burnt Mills | 5 | \$447,100 | 36 |
| Dumont Oaks | 3 | \$399,667 | 28 |
| Forest Knolls | 3 | \$451,400 | 17 |
| Kemp Mill | 10 | \$530,070 | 59 |
| Leisure World | 22 | \$264,640 | 89 |
| Northwood | 4 | \$434,662 | 71 |
| Sligo | 11 | \$419,344 | 36 |
| Springbrook | 5 | \$681,900 | 149 |
| University Towers | 3 | \$235,167 | 118 |
| Woodmoor | 3 | \$526,000 | 13 |
| Woodside | 14 | \$560,011 | 51 |
| Forest Glen Metro Area | 18 | \$461,143 | 45 |
| Wheaton Metro Area | 7 | \$489,243 | 77 |
| Wheaton Regional Park | 8 | \$500,788 | 38 |
| Bethesda | 94 | \$888,282 | 55 |
| Chevy Chase | 32 | \$987,431 | 30 |
| Kensington | 27 | \$625,220 | 83 |
| Olney | 34 | \$486,464 | 48 |
| Potomac | 67 | \$1.065M | 79 |
| Rockville | 172 | \$523,789 | 60 |
| Silver Spring | 359 | \$432,342 | 50 |
| Takoma Park | 23 | \$486,584 | 41 |
| Zip 20901 | 48 | \$443,749 | 38 |
| Zip 20902 | 71 | \$404,094 | 45 |
| Montgomery County Total | al 1,326 | \$533,420 | 57 |

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#1 Long & Foster Team

College Fair to be Held October 9 at Einstein High

By Pat Cochran

Albert Einstein High School (11135 Newport Mill Rd., Kensington, Md.) hosts the 8th annual College Fair on Monday, October 9, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Browse through AEHS Main Street and speak one-on-one with representatives from colleges and universities from over 90 schools from across the county.

Learn about different majors and fields of study, faculty and staff, extracurricular activities, and what financial aid packages are available. Discover if one of these schools fits your personality, interests, and goals.

This year, some of the schools in attendance are:

- Allegany College of Maryland, Md.
- American University, D.C.
- Ball State University, Ind.
- Bates College, Maine
- Bentley College, Mass.
- Case Western Reserve University, Ohio
- Colgate University, N.Y.
- College of the Holy Cross, Mass.
- Concord University, W.Va.
- Davidson College, N.C.
- Davis and Elkins College, W.Va.
- Denison University, Ohio
- Drew University, N.J.
- Duquesne University, Pa.
- East Carolina University, N C
- Florida Southern College, Fla.
- Fordham University, N.Y.
- Frostburg State Univer-

- sity, Md.
- George Mason University, Va.
- Georgetown University, D.C.
- Gettysburg College, Pa.
- Hamilton College, N.Y.
- Harvard College, Mass.
- Haverford College, Pa.
- High Point University, N.C.
- Hofstra University, N.Y.
- Hood College, Md.
- Howard University, D.C.
- Iona College, N.Y.
- Ithaca College, N.Y.
- Juniata College, Pa.
- Lafayette College, Pa.
- Lawrence University, Wisc.
- Lebanon Valley College, Pa.
- Lincoln University, Pa.
- Manhattan College, N.Y.
- Mary Baldwin College,
- Maryland Institute College of Art, Md.
- Marymount University, Va.
- Middlebury College, Vt.
- Montgomery College, Md.
- Mount St. Mary's College, Md.
- Northeastern University, Mass.
- Northwestern University, Ill.
- Oberlin College, Ohio
- Pennsylvania State University, Pa.
- Polytechnic University, N.Y.
- Purdue University, Ind.
- Sacred Heart University, Conn.
- Salisbury University, Md.
- Savannah College of Art and Design, Ga.
- Simmons College, Mass.

- St. Lawrence University, N.Y.
- St. Mary's College, Md.
- Stevens Institute of Technology, N.J.
- SUNY College at Buffalo, N.Y.
- Swarthmore College, Pa.
- Towson University, Md.
- Trinity College, Conn.
- Trinity University, D.C.
- University of Maryland, Eastern Shore
- University of Mary Washington, Va.
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- University of Maryland, College Park
- University of Massachusetts at Amherst
- University of Miami, Fla.
- University of Michigan, Mich.
- University of Notre Dame, Ind.
- University of Pennsylvania, Pa.
- University of Pittsburgh, Pa
- University of Scranton, Pa.
- Wake Forest University, N.C.
- Washington College, Md.
- Wellesley College, Mass.
- Worcester Polytechnic, Mass.
- Xavier University, Ohio.■

Have you considered serving your community by participating on the NFCCA Board? A current Board member (page 3) will be glad to answer any questions you have. Meetings are once a month, on the second Wednesday.

Think about it!



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BAKER'S RACK for sale. Brass with three glass shelves, 60.5" wide by 77" high by 19" deep. \$250 OBO. 301-593-8566.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE on Saturday, October 22, 9–12, at Forest Knolls Elementary. Call 301-681-0631 for a \$5 table.

LOOKING TO BUY or sell something? Try a classified ad in the Northwood News and reach your 1,493 neighbors for only \$10!

2006 Neighborhood Night Out Can Take the Heat

By Jim Zepp

On Tuesday, August 1st, NFCCA joined with communities across the country in celebrating the 23rd National Night Out (NNO). This event was started as a way to reduce crime by building citizen/police relationships by providing an opportunity for residents to meet each other as well as some of our local police officers.

The hot weather, unfortunately, affected this year's turnout which was about 40 to 50 adults and children. For those who did come, the Rec Center's air conditioning was greatly appreciated.

County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger and Cmdr. Mitch Cunningham, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) Third District, spent time talking with attendees. Joy Patil, the MCPD Third District Crime Prevention Officer, arranged the visit by the police motorcade. Because of the heat, McGruff the Crime Dog did not make

But the Montgomery Department of Public Works and Transportation distributed materials on trash collection and recycling.

this year's event.

Carol Petzold and Mike Lennett, who were both campaigning for the Md. State Senate for our legislative district, discussed state issues with residents. A reporter and photographer from the *Montgomery County Gazette* also stopped by to include our neighbor-

hood in their article about the NNO celebrations.

We would like to thank Liz Sequeira and her son, Philip, for supervising the

children's activities for the fourth year in a row. The ever-popular water balloons were especially appreciated this year. Marion and Jerry Lane contributed the ice for drinks and other residents helped with setting up and removing the trash afterwards.

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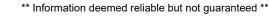
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WHY Call Anyone Else? Northwood Resident and Top Producing Agent

Listings in Northwood/Forest Knolls/Kinsman 5/25/2006–9/15/2006

| <u>Active</u> | List Price | Style | Bedrms | Full Baths | Half Bath | Days on Market |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 827 Caddington Ave | \$465,000 | Split Level | 4 | 1 | 1 | 21 |
| 10700 Cavalier Dr | \$444,990 | Rancher | 4 | 2 | 0 | 44 |
| 1013 Chiswell Ln | \$449,900 | Split Level | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 |
| 1021 Chiswell Ln | \$499,000 | Split Foyer | 5 | 2 | 1 | 29 |
| 312 Dennis Ave | \$487,500 | Colonial | 5 | 2 | 0 | 20 |
| 407 Dennis Ave | \$450,000 | Rambler | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 10707 Eastwood Ave | \$489,900 | Rambler | 4 | 2 | 0 | 18 |
| 405 Kerwin Rd | \$449,900 | Rambler | 3 | 2 | 0 | 25 |
| 425 Kerwin Rd | \$423,900 | Cape Cod | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 11008 Lombardy Rd | \$429,000 | Rambler | 3 | 2 | 0 | 93 |
| 819 Loxford Ter | \$499,000 | Rambler | 4 | 3 | 0 | 29 |
| 830 Loxford Ter | \$515,000 | Colonial | 4 | 2 | 1 | 88 |
| 912 Loxford Ter | \$479,900 | Split Level | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 |
| 110 Snowy Owl Dr | \$549,000 | Colonial | 4 | 2 | 1 | 141 |
| 125 Southwood Ave | \$475,000 | Cape Cod | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 205 Thistle Dr | \$449,000 | Split Level | 4 | 2 | 0 | 7 |
| 215 Thistle Dr | \$499,800 | Split Level | 5 | 2 | 1 | 20 |
| 705 University Blvd | \$499,900 | Split Level | 5 | 3 | 0 | 42 |
| <u>Contract</u> | | | | | | |
| 1121 Caddington Ave | \$449,900 | Split Level | 3 | 2 | 1 | 20 |
| 10432 Edgewood Ave \$525,000 | | Cape Cod | 3 | 2 | 0 | 75 |
| 10610 Lockridge Dr | \$500,000 | Rambler | 5 | 3 | 0 | 22 |
| 22 SOLD Averag | ge Sale Price: | \$461,495 | Average Da | ays on th | ne Marl | ket: 37 |









Watch Out for Plant Pilferers

By Sarah Stecher

On Monday, 21 August 2006, at 1:00 p.m., I noticed a car stop just past my neighbor's house on the 10800 block of Margate Road. There was no homeowner car in either the driveway or on the street. A man got out, went to the door, and knocked. Nobody was home, so he returned to the car. I noticed he had a clipboard in his hand. It seemed odd to me that he stopped there, though. The next thing I saw, he had backed up into the driveway, opened his trunk, and was putting two very nice potted plants into the trunk. The plants were not really visible from the street, although some pots could be seen through the shrubs in the yard. The yard is nicely landscaped.

I called the owner, but could not get through on either work or cell phone numbers.. (We had old numbers... quick, now everyone update contact info with your neighbors!) So I approached the man and said, "I can't help but notice you are putting those plants in your trunk." He was talking on his cell phone, doing his best to ignore me, and he said, "It's okay, I talked to the guy."

I turned and ran back to my house. He lept in his car and drove off. I didn't think to catch his license plate before I went for the paper and pen, and he was gone even as I entered my door, so I missed it.

It appeared to me that he was driving around looking

just for this opportunity, with a clipboard in hand in case someone answered the door. Here are the details I did notice in case anyone else sees him:

- champagne colored, 4-door sedan; generic, clean looking car;
 - Latino male, age 20-25;
- short dark hair (covered by a baseball cap);
 - oval face, soft jaw line;
 - no facial hair;
 - height about 5'10" to 6';
 - full figure, but not fat;
- white t-shirt, dark shorts, both loose and long.

My husband thinks his license may have had a 94 in it, but he didn't get a good look either. I learned a lesson that I'll remember now. Our former neighbor and friend, Leslie Boness, used to walk out with paper and pen in hand anytime there was someone she did not recognize at a house, and she made it very obvious she was noting the license plate number. She would talk with the person, too, but she made sure they knew they were noticed and documented. I'm sure he would not have taken anything if I had thought to do that first!

My neighbor called the police in the evening. She was told to call back later.

[Editor's Note: Obviously, this is considered a low priority for police. We will have to look out after each other when such petty thefts occur. Please keep an eye on your neighbors' homes and make note of any visitors.]

Community Yard Sale 22 October

Our community yard sale is about to happen! Each family is responsible for transporting items to the school and removing anything that doesn't sell. You set your own prices; you keep the proceeds.

- When: Saturday, 22 October, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Where: Forest Knolls Elementary School
 - Fee: \$5 per table/family
- Contact: Beth Ginter at beth.ginter@comcast.net or 301.681.0631 by Tuesday, 10 October 2006.

Please provide us with a brief description of your major treasures so that we can mention them in our advertisements. Signs will be placed along the busy roads a few days prior to the event. Participants should arrive by 8:30 a.m. to set up their sales tables.

Stream Spruce-Up

It's time for our annual fall cleanup of Lockridge Creek. Help keep our community attractive and remove invasive weeds. Come join us at 9:30 a.m. on SUNDAY, 5 November. (Raindate is Sunday, 12 November.) We will start at the Lockridge Drive and Dennis Avenue intersection and work our way into Northwest Branch Park.

Be sure to bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and long pants. FMI, contact Reuven Walder at 301.802.7038.

Progress on Poopers in the Park

By Fiona Morrissey

When the Anti-Poop Action Group got started at the end of April this year, conditions in the park had reached an all-time low. Large hoards of soccer players and their fans would descend on our little park every Sunday from early in the morning till dusk. After they left, the perimeter of the field would be littered with bottles and cans and discarded scraps of food. including chicken bones for our dogs to choke on. And, of course, there would be poop and plenty of it, scattered around the woods and bushes.

The installation of a portapotty in mid-May seemed to improve the situation until the portapotty got into such a disgusting condition that nobody wanted to use it. After I informed the county of this, the portypotty was cleaned once a week.

Through June and July, I and my accomplice, Marion, continued to monitor the park on Sundays to see if the portypotty was being. And it was. On June 4th, 15 people used the facilities in one half-hour period. However, there were still those who preferred to perform their natural functions al fresco. Marion and I did our best to track them down, but quite often when the police arrived, the poopers would have disappeared.

On June 11th, the two of us, along with neighbors Bruce, Rod, and Linda, distributed anti-poop notices in Spanish. At this stage, fewer potential poopers were showing up, thanks to the World Cup.

The following Sunday it rained almost nonstop. But, would you believe it, there were still soccer games going on between downpours. You can only admire such dedication. The field, of course, was in a woeful state. A herd of stampeding buffalo couldn't have done a better job of mashing it up.

On Tuesday July 18th, I met with the police and two officials from the Department of Park and Planning-Ginnie Moxley and Mark Allen. Ginnie and Mark told me that, as a long-term solution, they would try to get the field permitted, to keep track of those who were abusing it. (The police would then have the authority to remove offenders. At present, they can do nothing except politely hand out citations.) Ginnie and Mark also promised to remove the goalposts a.s.a.p.

A week later the posts were down and, since that happy event, Sundays in the park have improved dramatically. The soccer players have gone elsewhere and we've had seven glorious litter-free, poop-free weekends in a row.

Long may this continue! But the so-called "shortage" of soccer fields in Montgomery County could mean that the goalposts may reappear at any time. Should this occur, we will be ready. Poopers beware!

Reveling in the Nearby Silver Spring Stage

By Karen Devitt

Did you know that there is a first-rate, award-winning, community theater right in our neighborhood? The Silver Spring Stage has been presenting professionalquality theater since 1968. Housed in what was once a bowling alley, it sits in the Woodmoor Shopping Center right next to the CVS. The theater can be reached by a leisurely 15- to 20-minute walk, or if you wish, a short drive. There is ample parking. The Silver Spring Stage is all-volunteer and nonprofit. (As a pianist and vocalist, I had the pleasure of performing an hour of Rodgers and Hammerstein music at the Stage in early September as part of its fundraising benefit.)

I urge you to explore this jewel of an artistic resource in our own community. Perhaps your own thespian urges will take over and you'll find yourself auditioning, helping build sets, or selling tickets.

With seven full-length plays per season, an annual One-Act Festival, readings of new plays, and presentations by visiting artists, the Stage has the busiest and most diverse season of any community theater in the Washington area. Original scripts from the Stage's One-Act Festival have received national attention. Part of each sea-

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Stepping Out to the S.S. Stage

(continued from page 10) son is devoted to productions involving new ideas, daring cultural concepts, and social issues.

The Stage's current production, "The Play's the Thing," runs through October 22. It is a "frothy, fun, and festive window into playmaking and young love when a playwright hastily writes a hilarious scene to convince a young composer that his eavesdropping on his fiancée was all merely mistaken as making love to an actor." It was written by Ferenc Molnar with a translation by P.G. Wodehouse.

Other plays to be presented in the upcoming season include "Bus Stop,"

"Visiting Mr. Green," "Dimly Perceived Threats to the System," "The Drawer Boy," "Morning's at Seven," and "Never the Sinner."

A full season subscription (seven plays) can be had for less than \$100. You'd be hard pressed to match that value for your entertainment dollar anywhere in the metropolitan area. Individual tickets are \$18; \$15 for seniors and students. Group discounts are also available. Friday and Saturday shows are at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. The Stage is handicapped accessible. Call 301. 593.6036 or visit their terrific website at www.ssstage.org.

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