

# NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ JUNE 2010

## County Planning Director Tours Four Corners with Civic Assn. Reps

By Laura Hussey

On a recent Saturday in May, representatives of the NFCCA, Woodmoor, and South Four Corners neighborhood associations joined Montgomery County Planning Director Rollin Stanley on a walking tour of Four Corners. Stanley, who has led the county's Planning Department since December 2007, instituted the "Walk-about" program to help him become more familiar with

Montgomery County's unique neighborhoods. Over a dozen neighborhoods have hosted the Planning Director since he initiated the program.

South Four Corners invited NFCCA and Woodmoor to participate because we all share common concerns about the impacts of commercial encroachment along University Boulevard.

Edgewood Avenue residents and NFCCA members Laura Hussey and David Rotenstein were among about 10 individuals from the three associations who met up with Stanley in front of the Woodmoor Bakery. The Woodmoor Shopping Center provided a convenient launch point for the 90-minute walking tour, as well as an excellent place to discuss issues of common concern to the three neighborhoods. Woodmoor Shopping Center anchors a viable, walkable commercial district for the three neighborhoods. Rotenstein, a historian, explained that although the mix of businesses has changed over time, the footprint of the Four Corners commercial district has remained constant since the 1930s. Representa-

(continued on page 3)

## Next Meeting on 9 June at FKES

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 9 June 2010, at 7:30 p.m., but *it will not be at the North Four Corners Rec Center* (see story on page 5). Instead, this meeting will take place in Classroom 3 at Forest Knolls Elementary School, located at 10830 Eastwood Avenue, just off Caddington Avenue. Due to school restrictions, no refreshments may be served.

This will be the last meeting until the full membership meeting (when a new Board is voted in) in October.

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 \$10 per household and may be paid at the meeting.)■

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Nearby, inexpensive, fun!

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to use this month's column to thank everyone who helped make the second annual Rachel Carson Meadow Festival such a resounding success. First and foremost, thanks are due to Jim Zepp, who was the major force coming up with ideas and then making them happen. Among other things, he created the snazzy "save the date" bookmarks, got the reusable signs made, and produced the name tags and flier. This event would never have happened without him.

Brian Morrissey was amazing, quickly assembling signposts and a screen for the videos, pounding the signs in, and generally helping from start to finish. Laura Hussey again did a wonderful job with the Pitting of the Pooches. She was assisted by Tiffany Wright and judges Elsa and Aurea Sellmeyer. Laura also worked set-up and take-down.

Dave Rotenstein took photos and fixed an audio glitch in the nick of time; he also helped with clean up. Leah DeLano connected us with the Washington Revels. Having a Revels Festival Day at our Meadow Festival was a major coup. Linda Perlman helped with set-up and collected Association dues.

Fiona Morrissey collected contact information from festival goers so we can stay in touch for future meadow matters. Sarah Stecher, Michael Sellmeyer, and their daughters Elsa and Aurea showed us how to make wreaths and crowns from invasive plants. Sarah and Michael also helped with take-down and cleanup.

Aleks Beltran ran lively soccer drills with equipment provided by Mike Amitay. Catherine Zimmerman explained how festival goers could plant their own meadow, and she videographed the festival. Mike Moylin directed traffic, and John and Betty Hill loaned us some trash cans. Jacquie Bokow created a special web page for the festival.

And, of course, thanks are also due to the exhibitors, the Washington Revels, and the folks who joined in the Revels performance. Montgomery Parks Department provided exhibitor tables. Clearly, it takes a village to put on a festival in our village green.

—Carole Barth

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## NORTHWOOD NEWS

*Northwood News* is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the ~1,490 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  
[nfcca@verizon.net](mailto:nfcca@verizon.net)

Visit Our Website  
[www.nfcca.org](http://www.nfcca.org)

## Casting Call for Kids to Sing, Play

There's an open Casting Call for kids 12 years of age and younger to audition to sing or play "America the Beautiful" on a select night of the Legg Mason Tennis Classic tournament to be held 31 July–8 August 2010 in Rock Creek Park.

The Casting Call will take place on 29 June from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the ESPN Zone, 555 12th Street N.W., in D.C. Multiple winners will be selected. Call 202.721.9500 or R.S.V.P. to [CastingCall@legg-mason-tennisclassic.com](mailto:CastingCall@legg-mason-tennisclassic.com). ■

# County Planning Director Visits

*(continued from page 1)*  
tives of all three neighborhoods made it clear that the walkable restaurants, banks, post office, and grocery stores are valuable amenities to our neighborhoods, but worries about future development decisions need to carefully balance commercial interests with concerns about traffic patterns and encroachment of commercial activity into residential areas.

Another area where the associations share a common interest is transportation issues. Much of the discussion during the neighborhood tour centered on transportation concerns, including walkability and pedestrian safety, traffic congestion and neighborhood cut-through traffic, and developing alternatives to automobile travel that would be safe and convenient for all residents, from students to senior citizens.

From the Woodmoor Shopping Center, the group crossed University Blvd. and Colesville Road and continued west on University past the Post Office and through the Safeway parking lot into the South Four Corners neighborhood. Walking down several South Four Corners streets, Stanley noted how quiet the neighborhood was despite its proximity to the business district, something all three neighborhoods have in common.

As the group walked, residents discussed the diversity of housing options in the desirable close-in Four Corners neighborhoods, including

approximately 4,000 single family homes, town homes, and senior citizen apartments at the Oaks. Stanley asked about property values, the mix of owner-occupied and rental properties, and he noted the quality of the housing stock.

The group dodged traffic to cross University at the marked crosswalk at Brunett Avenue, and entered North Four Corners Park. The crossing underscored for Stanley the safety issues facing pedestrians and cyclists in the Four Corners neighborhoods. Although Stanley does not have direct responsibility for County parks, at several points during the tour he asked about the neighborhoods' access to green space. A walk through the park provided an opportunity to show him a significant neighborhood amenity and to explain some of the concerns North Four Corners residents have expressed over plans to convert the "Rachel Carson Meadow" area of the park into a soccer field.

The group completed the tour walking down Edgewood and Sutherland Avenues. Longtime South Four Corners residents pointed out the streetscape improvements to University Boulevard installed by the Maryland Highway Administration. The tour wrapped up back at Woodmoor Bakery.

Under Stanley's leadership, MoCo's Planning Department is responsible for the preparation of master plans, such as the Four Corners Master Plan. Stanley's staff

*(continued on page 7)*

## NFCCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association meets five times a year, in October, December, February, April, and June. Current officers for 2009-2010 are:

### President

Carole Barth  
10602 Lockridge Drive  
301.593.7863  
[cbarth@mindspring.com](mailto:cbarth@mindspring.com)

### Vice President

Laura Hussey  
10308 Edgewood Avenue  
301.592.0646  
[laura\\_hussey@mindspring.com](mailto:laura_hussey@mindspring.com)

### Treasurer

Linda Perlman  
1203 Caddington Avenue  
301.681.3735  
[LSPerlman@hotmail.com](mailto:LSPerlman@hotmail.com)

### Secretary

Tiffany Wright  
405 Royaltan Road  
301.328.7380  
[wright.tiffany@gmail.com](mailto:wright.tiffany@gmail.com)

### At Large

Ted Daniel  
302 Marvin Road  
301.593.0418  
[ted.daniel@mail.house.gov](mailto:ted.daniel@mail.house.gov)

M.J. Gallagher  
127 Southwood Avenue  
301.754.1301  
[mj.galla@verizon.net](mailto:mj.galla@verizon.net)

Brian Morrissey  
10301 Edgewood Avenue  
301.593.4026  
[merc259@verizon.net](mailto:merc259@verizon.net)

### Editor, Northwood News

Jacquie Bokow  
10603 Cavalier Drive  
301.593.8566  
[nfcca@verizon.net](mailto:nfcca@verizon.net)

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# Eleven County Recreation Centers Still Shuttered by County Council

By Jim Zepp and Carole Barth

At press time, the draft FY11 operating budget contains no funding to reopen the 11 recreation centers which were closed as of 5 April (see the April issue of *NW* for the initial story). The water has been turned off, signs have been posted, and neighbors have been warned by Park Police to report any activity in or around the buildings.

In April, the Northwood Four Corners Civic Association held its last meeting at the rec. center in North Four Corners Park. It was a sad moment, since the Association has been meeting at the log-and-stone building for 40 years.

Residents reflected on all the events which took place there over the years. Second generation residents recalled biking to the park for summer recreation programs when they were kids. Couples remembered dance classes and anniversary parties. No doubt the other affected communi-

ties have similar stories to tell.

Of course, we are told that the centers have been closed as a budget-cutting measure, and there is no question that cuts must be made to the County's operating budget. The Parks Department has pointed out that these centers cost more to run than they generate in rental income. (In itself that is not surprising, since they were not created for generating income but rather for providing a public service.)

What is surprising, however, is just how much the Parks Department says it spends to operate these recreation centers.

First, the Parks Department says it takes 40 person-years to staff the 28 centers (that includes the 11 now closed and the 17 which remain open). How can this be possible for buildings which are only open when they are rented? There is no staff on-site, like you have at a nature center or aquatic facility. Moreover, the buildings are not maintained by Parks staff;

instead Parks spends \$80,000 a year for contractual custodial services.

What are these people doing? Clearly they are not marketing the buildings or creating programs to increase usage rates of the "underutilized" buildings. They are not fixing the problems in the reservations system. They are not working with their colleagues in the other County agencies to consolidate the four separate automated reservations systems that are essentially fulfilling the same function.

Even more surprising, however, is that, after closing more than a third of the recreation centers, Parks only plans to reduce the staffing level (for operating the remaining buildings) by one workyear. One has to wonder, what else in the Parks Department budget just doesn't add up right?

Some residents of Northwood Four Corners feel we can do a better job with volunteers. We are exploring the possibility of leasing the rec. center from the parks department and taking over its operation. This would mean the center would be available again for civic functions as well as locally generated programs. (We have neighbors who could teach ballroom dancing, yoga, and Taekwondo, for starters.) It would also be convenient and affordable to rent for parties and meetings.

If you are interested in helping us pursue this option, contact Ralph Bennett (301.593.6411, [carralben@aol.com](mailto:carralben@aol.com)) or Carole Barth (301.593.7863, [cbarth@mindspring.com](mailto:cbarth@mindspring.com)). ■



*We were allowed to use the Rec Center one last time, during the Rachel Carson Meadow Festival held 16 May (see p. 12).*

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# 5K Fun Run, Hike at Northwood Celebrates Land Restoration in Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail

Saturday, 5 June 2010, is “National Trails Day,” and sponsors of the Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail project will celebrate its completion that day with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a 5K Fun Run and Hike.

Trail project sponsors include Chesapeake Bay Trust (CBT), Northwood High School (NHS), Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), Friends of Sligo Creek (FOSC), Neighbors of Northwest Branch (NNWB), and the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA).

The celebration will start at 10:00 a.m. at Kaplan Stadium behind Northwood High School (919 University Blvd. West). Leaders from each partnering organization will officially open the new green space and the new, nature interpretive Northwood Chesapeake Bay Trail at 10:00 a.m. The 5k run will follow at 10:20 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m., walkers will hike the new trail that connects the school to Northwest Branch Park.

The Georgetown North Face store and Silver Spring Pacer’s store will provide merchandise and gift certificates as door prizes for hikers and runners. In addition, the celebration will have health and environmental education resource and activity tables.

American Hiking Society’s “National Trails Day” is the opportune time to celebrate the completion

of an eight-month project to restore 15 acres of SHA property adjacent to Northwood High School and the Kemp Mill and Northwood Four Corners’ neighborhoods and give these communities new green space for recreation, physical fitness, wilderness watching, and environmental education.

More than 50 years ago, the state purchased this land to potentially build a road on it. A road was not built and instead it became an unofficial community landfill. With the help of a \$7,500 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, 272 community members—227 of them students—have volunteered 675 hours to create and design eight nature interpretive signs, build a half-mile

trail from NHS down to the Northwest Branch Trail, remove 50 pounds of invasive plant species, grow 300 native plant seeds, plant 160 native meadow plants and nine trees, and cleanup 11,000 pounds of trash.

After eight months of dedicating hundreds of hours of work by many volunteers, it is time to celebrate the community’s success in creating a new dual ecosystem park, deciduous forest, and meadow. Please join the community, project’s organizational leaders, and elected representatives in celebrating its success of creating a new green space in Silver Spring.

*[Thanks to Student Trail Stewards for details in this article.]* ■



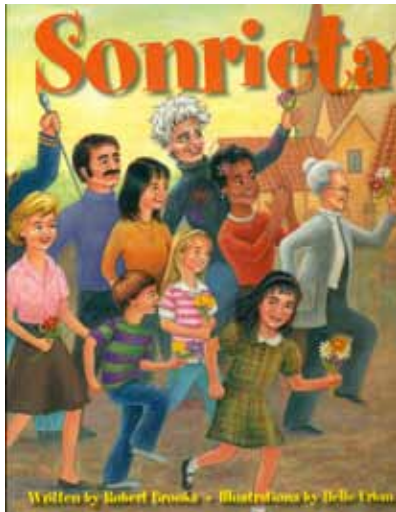
*Volunteers like this student removed tons of trash last fall as a first step in preparing the new trail to the Northwest Branch.*

## Feeling Grim? 'Sonrieta' May Help

By *Jacquie Bokow*

It seems we have another published author in our neighborhood! Robert Brooks, who lives on Margate Road, wrote *Sonrieta*—his first children's book—after it “came to him” during a lunch break while he was living in Mexico City.

The tale is set in fictional Grimly Valley, where smiling is forbidden and the frowning



inhabitants see the colors of the world much paler than they really are. Sonrieta's parents struggle to keep her from smiling, but she is discovered. Sent to the Tower to learn proper grimness, she instead befriends the frustrated artistic “misfits” residing there. Together they discover the magic of smiles, music, painting, dance, and poetry, finally marching into town to free the townspeople from their “grimness.”

*Sonrieta* (derived from the Spanish word *sonreir*, “to smile”) illustrates the power of positive attitude and friendship. The book is suitable for middle schoolers, although my fourth grader declared it “very good.” If you live in NFCCA territory, you can order it directly from the author for a discounted \$10 (301.593.0710 or [robertb@www.mysticjaguar.com](mailto:robertb@www.mysticjaguar.com)). ■

## 20th Annual Spring Creek Cleanup

By *Carole Barth*

After rescheduling to our rain date (Saturday, 1 May), we had great weather for the spring creek cleanup. About a dozen people showed up during the morning to help out. Water levels were low, and there was not much trash. The only large items were tires, which pre-cleanup volunteers had already pulled out of the creek. Therefore, several people concentrated on attacking invasive plants (see article on page 8).

Indeed, it was very tough for Brian Morrissey and me to make our way down the stream channel, since the

heavy snows had bent the multiflora bushes right down into the water. There were sections we literally had to cut our way through.

These work days do make a difference, however. The portion of the stream around the last culvert on Lockridge Drive is greatly improved. It used to be that you couldn't even see the trees for all the porcelain berry. After the crew's hard work at last year's cleanup, however, the trees are largely clear.

Thanks to Brian Morrissey for organizing the cleanup and consolidating all the trash at the end of the day. ■

## Save the Date: Nat'l. Night Out

Once again, the NFCCA will gather to celebrate National Night Out with food and music. It's a great way to combat crime by getting to know your neighbors and building ties between the community and law enforcement.

There's just one snag: with the North Four Corners Park Rec. Center closed, we don't know for sure where we will hold the event. So circle the first Tuesday in August (3 August) on your calendars and watch the list serve for more information.

If you can offer us a meeting space, or you want to help out in any way, call Jim Zepp at 301.593.7863 or email him at [jzepp@mindspring.com](mailto:jzepp@mindspring.com). ■



## Walkabout

(continued from page 3) advises the Planning Board, which then forwards recommendations for approval by the County Council. Planning staff also work with other County and state agencies gathering and analyzing various types of data to help plan for MoCo's future. The three associations will continue to work together to provide input into those important efforts. ■

# The Problem with Invasive Species

By Tiffany Wright

I'm sure many of you have a memory of a beautiful summer day when the sweet aroma of honeysuckle wafted across your face, perhaps during a May weekend at the Rachel Carson Meadow Festival. Because Japanese honeysuckle is an attractive, flowering vine and smells good, many people welcome it in their yards, but it is not native to our area.

Non-native species are those that are introduced—either accidentally or intentionally—into a geographic area in which they did not evolve. Some plants were brought here as groundcover, for their potential medicinal properties, or because they provide attractive landscaping. You may remember the Northern Snakehead fish that invaded a Crofton pond in 2002; it reportedly originated from a live Asian food market. The zebra mussel that has had devastating impacts on the Great Lakes was introduced through ballast water from ocean-

going ships.

No matter the type or the path of entry, non-native species can very quickly shift the balance of the ecosystem into which they are introduced. Of course, not all non-native species are bad; just ask anyone with a domestic cat or dog!

Any species, native or non-native, that spreads aggressively, reproduces quickly, and outcompetes local, native species are termed invasive.

A non-native invasive species can wreak havoc on an ecosystem. One problem with these invasives is that the natural organisms or diseases that keep them in check are not present in the new habitat.

There are many invasive species in Maryland, and they can be plants, animals, insects, and even viruses and fungi. We have quite a number of invasive plants in our neighborhood: the sweet-smelling Japanese honeysuckle, the English Ivy climbing the side of your house or trees, the Bradford pear trees that are



Kathryn Hewitt | Dreamstime.com

*The enemy: garlic mustard.*

so popular in suburbia. There are many other invasive plants that may be less visible unless you travel back into our local parks or stroll along Northwest Branch: kudzu, multiflora rose, mile-a-minute (very appropriately named, by the way), garlic mustard, bamboo, and porcelain berry.

All of these species have the potential to kill off native vegetation, which disrupts the food chain and causes problems for animals who need the native species to survive. So, let's take back our neighborhood by taking some time to clip the bottom five feet from the English Ivy on your beautiful silver maple or along your house. If you're really ambitious, join Montgomery Parks' Weed Warriors program and become trained to tackle the many vines and plants that are taking over the meadow and the North Four Corners Park. To become a Certified Weed Warrior, visit [www.weedwarrior.org](http://www.weedwarrior.org).

For more information on invasive species, visit [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org) or the Maryland Invasive Species Council at [www.mdinvasivesp.org](http://www.mdinvasivesp.org). ■



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*The multiflora rose is considered invasive here in Maryland.*



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4 BR Split Level  
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4 BR Cape Cod  
10620 Eastwood Ave  
Sold Price: \$379,000



3 BR Rambler  
10614 Eastwood Ave  
Sold Price: \$359,900



4 BR Rambler  
1003 Caddington Ave  
Sold Price: \$327,500



4 BR Split Level  
803 Malta Ln  
Sold Price: \$295,000



2 BR Rambler  
310 Ladson Rd  
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Above is a sample of Comparable Recent Sales from the MRIS as of May 11, 2010



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<u>ACTIVE LISTINGS</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Style</u>	<u>Bedrms</u>	<u>Full Baths</u>	<u>Half Bath</u>
1017 Chiswell Lane	\$299,900	Split Level	4	3	0
507 Dennis Ave	\$995,000	Colonial	5	4	0
10512 Edgewood Ave	\$379,900	Split Level	3	2	1
418 Eisner St	\$339,000	Colonial	4	2	1
11108 Foxglove Lane	\$279,000	Split Level	3	2	0
10909 Hannes Ct	\$329,000	Split Foyer	4	2	1
405 Irwin St	\$354,900	Split Level	3	2	0
9 Kinsman View Cir	\$339,900	Townhouse	3	2	2
75 Kinsman View Cir	\$309,500	Townhouse	3	2	1
111 Northwood Ave	\$499,900	Cape Cod	3	2	0
915 Playford Ln	\$325,900	Rambler	3	2	0
918 Playford Ln	\$338,900	Split Level	4	2	1
1105 Playford Ln	\$325,000	Bilevel	4	2	1
136 Southwood Ave	\$469,000	Cape Cod	3	1	1
207 Thistle Dr	\$389,000	Split level	4	2	0
407 University Blvd	\$275,000	Rambler	5	2	0
<u>UNDER CONTRACT</u>					
1122 Caddington Ave	\$295,000	Split Level	4	1	1
1015 Chiswell Ln	\$319,000	Split Level	3	2	0
1024 Chiswell Ln	\$325,000	Split Foyer	3	2	1
316 Irwin St	\$293,900	Colonial	6	3	0
502 Kerwin Rd	\$280,000	Cape Cod	3	1	1
130 Kinsman View Cir	\$649,000	Salt Box	7	2	1
135 Kinsman View Cir	\$359,500	Townhouse	3	3	1
311 Ladson Rd	\$359,000	Cape Cod	4	2	0
10617 Lockridge Dr	\$354,500	Rambler	4	2	0
907 Loxford Ter	\$295,000	Colonial	3	3	1
202 Marvin Rd	\$409,000	Cape Cod	3	2	1
307 Marvin Rd	\$379,999	Colonial	3	2	0
10612 Ordway Dr	\$289,900	Cape Cod	4	2	1
104 Southwood Ave	\$499,900	Cape Cod	4	2	1
415 University Blvd	\$219,000	Rambler	3	2	0
709 University Blvd	\$260,000	Split Level	4	2	1

\*\* Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed \*\*



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# Northwood Lady Gladiators Win Regional Track Championship

The Northwood High School Lady Gladiators are the 2010 MPSSAA 3A West Track and Field Regional Champions, reports Mark Brown, Northwood's Head Track Coach. He says it's been 28 years since the track team won a regional championship, 26 years since any athletic team at NHS has won a regional championship.

The meet was held 19-20 May at Clarksburg High School. Originally thought to have lost by one point, the team was already on the bus to return home when a controversial finish in the 300-meter hurdles was reviewed on video and it was determined Mallory Kea came in 3rd, not 4th.

"As you can imagine," said Brown, "the bus erupted with cheers as they began to unload off of the bus and run onto the track for their victory lap."

The problem was, there were no fans left in the stadium, and all of the other teams went home believing that Clarksburg High School had won!

"We were left to celebrate by ourselves, just as we competed for much of the season—without fanfare," said Brown. "This was the perfect ending to a long two-day meet. It was like a scene from a movie and I could not have scripted it any better if I wanted to."

The team included Carolyn Bruch, Tifani Gay, Sina Ghirma, Elyse Green, Mal-

lory Kea, Morgan Kershner, Darcy Miranda, Blair Morales, Le'Quisha Parker, Zoey Rowley, Yamu Sarr, Vanessa Scretchen, and Naami Wagner.

Northwood Cross-Country Coach Mike Sauter, who lives on Malta Lane, supplied the following details about the girls' performance:

- Le'Quisha Parker and Yamu Sarr had a 1-2 finish in the 100 and Parker's 12.04 this season is the best time in the state for 3A girls.

- Le'Quisha Parker and Carolyn Bruch had a 1-4 finish in the 200 and 'Quisha's 24.31 this season is the best time in the state for 3A girls.

- Yamu Sarr finished 1st for the 400 in 57.95, the 3rd fastest time in the state for 3A girls.

- Mallory Kea was 5th in the 100 hurdles.

- Mallory Kea was 3rd in the 300 hurdles and her 48.33 is tied for 8th fastest in the state for 3A girls.

- Northwood's 4x200 relay team (Zoey Rowley, Yamu Sarr, Vanessa Scretchen, and Le'Quisha Parker, all pictured above) finished 1st. Their 1:43.43 this season is the best time in the state for 3A girls.

- Northwood's 4x400 relay team (Mallory Kea, Le'Quisha Parker, Zoey Rowley, and Yamu Sarr) finished 1st in an amazing 3:57.56, the best time in the state for 3A girls. "Sub-4 for a 4x400 girls [is] stunning!" said Sauter.

- Naami Wagner finished 4th in the Pole Vault at 8'4".



M.M. Bruch

*Clockwise from top left: NHS's Vanessa Scretchen, Zoey Rowley, Yamu Sarr, and Le'Quisha Parker.*

Her 9'0" vault earlier this season is the 5th best in the state for 3A girls.

For photos of the day, visit [http://mocarunning.com/meet.php?meet\\_id=1546](http://mocarunning.com/meet.php?meet_id=1546).

The day "was a roller coaster ride for our team," said Brown. "I am truly proud of what our girls have accomplished when not one person or team in the county or region thought that we could do it, except, of course, for us and you all."

By the time you read this, the team will already have competed in the state meet during the last week in May at Morgan State University.

What's neat is that Naami Wagner is the only senior among these athletes, so the rest will be back to compete next year! Congratulations, girls! Great job. ■

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## 2nd Rachel Carson Meadow Festival: Celebrating A Sense of Wonder in Our North Four Corners Park

By Carole Barth

Our second annual Rachel Carson Meadow Festival was truly a lovely day, in every sense of the word. About 90 people participated during the event. It was clear that (as we've always said) the Meadow can incorporate a wide variety of concurrent activities.

This is because the "rooms" within its landscape provide enough separation so one activity need not disturb another. (Of course, if the County goes through with its plans to destroy the exiting vegetation and natural topography to build a soccer field and 50 car parking lot, this will no longer be the case.) In fact, there were enough activities that we needed to post signs and a map. We used the beautiful logo created by neighborhood resident Aleks Beltran for the signs.



*Sarah Stecher showed festival-goers how to make wreaths and crowns from invasive plants pulled from the meadow.*

In addition to the programmed activities, neighbors picnicked, tossed a football, or simply lounged on the grass in the Meadow enjoying the day.

We also had events in the developed side of the park,

including soccer drills on the existing youth multipurpose field and presentations in the rec. center. Local author Catherine Zimmerman's talk on urban meadows was of particular interest. (Catherine has offered NFCCA members a special deal on her book, so call her at 301.754.1414 if you're interested.)

One of the first events in the meadow was the "Pitting of the Pooches." Even non-dog owners enjoyed watching the competition for "best kisser" and seeing happy doggie grins as dogs and owners socialized.

Exhibitors provided info on the Oaks Senior Living Facility, Friends of Sligo Creek, Neighbors of the Northwest Branch, the Rachel Carson Council, Weed Warriors, Rainscapes, the Northwood Trail project, and Clean Cur-

*(continued on page 13)*



*The Washington Revels delighted the crowd with songs, music, dancing, and skits rejoicing in the coming of spring.*

# Celebrating a ‘Sense of Wonder’ in North FC Park

*(continued from page 12)*  
rents.

The nature art activity—making wreaths and crowns from invasive vines—was the hit of the festival. Young and old alike had fun weaving the vines and selecting leaves, flowers, and berries for decoration. This gave festival-goers an especially appropriate look for “bringing in the May”



*Board Secretary Tiffany Wright shows off the prizes for top dogs in the competition.*



*Brian Morrissey (Edgewood) and Apple won for ‘Best Trick.’*

with the Washington Revels at the end of the day.

Our own Joyce Benson, Michelle Dastin, Darlene McClurkin, and Leah DeLano  
*(continued on page 15)*



*Venus, a Rottweiler mix, lived up to her name when she won ‘Best in Show’ for owner Barbara Boccio (Woodridge Ave.).*



*NFCCA Vice President Laura Hussey happily kept order as MC of this year’s dog show.*



*Judges Elsa and Aurea Sellmeyer have a quick confab before naming Julie Whitcomb (Chiswell Lane) and her shepherd mix Pumpkin as winners in the ‘Dog/Owner Look-Alike’ competition.*



*Canines and their humans walked the enclosure to show their pups’ best features.*

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## Celebrating 2nd Rachel Carson Meadow Festival



(continued from page 13)

*The Washington Revels begin their performance with a Grand Procession, which wove its way throughout the meadow.*

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*The last event of the day was the exuberant May Pole Dance.*

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(continued on page 16)

# Celebrating a 'Sense of Wonder' in North FC Park

*(continued from page 15)*  
joined in the Revels performance. The Revels Festival Day is an amazing process. Volunteers (some of them first timers) are taught songs, dances, and a mummer's play. When you see the final performance, it's hard to believe that everyone isn't an old hand.

It was truly magical, starting with the procession winding through the meadow. In turn, I think being in the Rachel Carson Meadow, celebrating the meadow and the

walnut tree in song and story, added another layer of meaning to these ancient rites for welcoming in the spring.

Once upon a time, people felt they must participate in the changing of the seasons through ritual and group celebration to ensure that the blessings of nature would continue. Today we know that we must constantly participate as advocates and educators to ensure that society's actions don't rob us of those same blessings.

Talking with some of the



*It was a great day for kids, moms, dads, and dogs, too!*



Revels performers, as well as people who came from around the area to see the performance, I kept hearing the same thing. "I never knew this park was here. What a lovely place. Why would anyone want to destroy it?"

In other words, we were celebrating the sense of wonder. As Rachel Carson said, "If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life." And "if a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from

*(continued on page 17)*



*Attendees gathered around the many environmental exhibits.*



*A resident and representative from The Oaks independent living facility for seniors (adjacent to the meadow) had their own exhibit table.*



*One display told all about the woman for whom the meadow was named.*

# Rachel Carson Meadow Festival

*(continued from page 16)*  
 the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in.”

Thanks to the Washington Revels, festival volunteers, and maybe even the meadow fairies, young and old alike rediscovered the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world in our own backyard. ■

Thanks to Carole Barth and David Rotenstein for the many photos of this year's RCM Festival. See you next year!



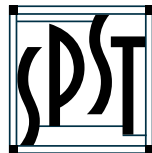
*Aleks Beltran led soccer drills for kids on the all-purpose field.*



*Our neighborhood's Joyce Benson, center above, sang with the Revels. Below, their Mummer's Play shows cold Winter.*



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**SHORT SALES**

Address	Type	BR	Bath	Orig. \$	Sold \$	Seller Subsidy	Net Sales \$
311 Ladson	SF	4	2	\$375,000	\$230,000	\$0	\$230,000
38 Kinsman View	TH	4	3.5	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$5,000	\$245,000
803 Malta	SF	4	2.5	\$339,000	\$295,000	\$9,000	\$286,000

**FORECLOSED HOMES (BANK OWNED/REO)**

*There were no bank-owned homes that sold during this time.*

**“NORMAL RESALES”**

Address	Type	BR	Bath	Orig. \$	Sold \$	Seller Subsidy	Net Sales \$
1003 Caddington	SF	4	2	\$349,000	\$328,000	\$10,000	\$327,000
305 Cavalier	SF	3	2	\$360,000	\$345,000	\$5,000	\$340,000
10614 Eastwood	SF	3	2	\$365,000	\$360,000	\$11,000	\$349,000
10620 Eastwood	SF	4	2	\$380,000	\$379,000	\$11,000	\$368,000
910 Loxford	SF	4	2.5	\$409,000	\$398,000	\$12,000	\$386,000
313 Marvin	SF	3	2	\$430,000	\$415,000	\$0	\$415,000
324 Pinewood	SF	4	2.5	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$14,000	\$461,000

\*\*Some prices were rounded up to the nearest \$1,000. Seller subsidy is money the seller paid towards the buyers' closing costs.

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**Average Home Sales Prices Northwood and Forest Knolls**

	<u>Town Homes</u>	<u>Single Family</u>	
2005	\$353,000	\$432,000	
2006	\$387,000	\$463,000	
2007	\$384,000	\$433,000	
2008	\$300,000	\$375,000	
2009	\$289,000	\$334,000	
*2010	\$272,000	\$359,000	*through 5/13

*This chart includes ALL sales, including short sales and bank-owned homes.*

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# Thunderbolts Offer Baseball Fun

Seeing the Washington Nationals or the Baltimore Orioles requires a long drive and big expenses for parking, eating, and the tickets themselves. If you're looking for an "old-fashioned" baseball game, the Thunderbolts may offer just the experience you're seeking and you don't have to travel farther than the field at Montgomery Blair High School (where the parking is free!).

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts is an amateur, wooden-bat, summer baseball team which plays all its home games at the baseball stadium at Blair (51 East University Blvd., enter off University). Most of its players are drawn from the college ranks.

The team is a member

of the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League. The nonprofit Thunderbolts are funded through ticket sales, sponsorships, merchandise sales, donations, and other fundraising efforts at games.

"It's a great way to see potential future pro baseball players playing both competitively and enthusiastically, in a fan-friendly, family-friendly, and wallet-friendly environment," said a spokesman.

The admission prices sure beat the professional teams: adults are \$5, children under 18 are \$2, and youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in *free*. Season tickets are \$75 per person.

On-field youth activities are held during Thunderbolts

## THUNDERBOLTS 2010 SEASON HOME SCHEDULE

Mon.-Sat. games start at 7:00 p.m.;  
Sun. games start at 6:00 p.m. June 20 doubleheader starts at 5:30 p.m.

DAY,DATE	OPPONENT
Fri. 6/4	Youse's Orioles
Sun. 6/6	Rockville Express
Thur. 6/10	Alexandria Aces
Sat. 6/12	Bethesda Big Train
Sun. 6/13	Herndon Braves
Thur. 6/17	Bethesda Big Train
Fri. 6/18	Baltimore Redbirds
Sun. 6/20	Maryland Cardinals*
Wed. 6/23	Rockville Express
Sat. 6/26	Alexandria Aces
Mon. 6/28	Youse's Orioles
Thur. 7/1	Herndon Braves
Fri. 7/2	Maryland Cardinals
Wed. 7/7	Baltimore Redbirds
Fri. 7/9	Herndon Braves
Sun. 7/11	Youse's Orioles
Thur. 7/15	Alexandria Aces
Sat. 7/17	Baltimore Redbirds
Fri. 7/23	Bethesda Big Train
Sun. 7/25	Rockville Express

\*Double Header



Jeff Lautenberger

*Andrew Richardson from the University of New Orleans pitches for the Thunderbolts during a game last year at Blair.*

games. For example, in past years they have featured two rounds of races around the bases (usually between the fourth and fifth innings), where kids were selected from the stands to participate. There's also a small concession stand where fans may purchase drinks, pizza, hot-dogs, and other snacks

Local business can support the team by sponsoring individual games or purchasing an ad in their season program.

The Thunderbolts also run summer camps for boys and girls ages 8 to 15. The camps are in two locations: Wheaton Forest Local Park (1700 University Blvd. in Wheaton) or Nolte Field (200 Denver Road in Silver Spring). See their website ([www.tbolts.org](http://www.tbolts.org)) for details. ■



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