

NORTHWOOD NEWS

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

Special Exception Requested for Child Day Care Center on Brunett

By Linda S. Perlman

Have you been wondering what is planned for the vacant lot on University Boulevard at Brunett Street, across from Rachel Carson Meadow? This 37,987-square-foot lot was formerly the site of a single-family residential house that also was used as the dental office of William T. Strahan. In May 2005, Dr. Strahan sold the property at 220 University Blvd. West to Dianne Kay for the sum of \$860,000. Ap-

proximately seven months later, in December 2005, Dianne Kay transferred ownership of the property to Gilmoure-Brunett, LLC, a limited liability company which appears to have been formed, owned, and controlled by members of the Kay family.

The property is zoned R-60 (one-family residential), which permits a child day care facility only by special exception. The property is a square-shaped lot located on the south side of University Boulevard West (Md. Route 193), the east side of Brunett Avenue, and the north side of Gilmoure Drive. The adjacent properties are also in the R-60 zone, with single-family detached houses to the south and east and the Nichiren Shoshu Buddhist Temple to the west. The commercial district of Four Corners, at the University Blvd. and Colesville Road intersection, is approximately four blocks, or 1/4 mile, to the east of the property.

The first plans for the property involved the construction of five custom-built homes with the grandiose-name of "Estates at Four

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Next Meeting On 8 December

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 8 December 2010, at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Knolls Elementary School. The school is located at 10830 Eastwood Avenue, just off Caddington Avenue (there's no access from other sections of Eastwood).

Items on the agenda include a presentation by two YMCA staff—including the new Executive Director—on the discount folks who live in NFCCA territory receive (see story on page 5).

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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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My husband, David, and I were saddened to learn recently that one of our elderly neighbors has passed away during the summer without our noticing. We had formed a tenuous bond with the gentleman, Elmer, over our common love of dogs. Although a stroke had made it difficult for Elmer to carry on normal conversation, his interest in our dogs—and through them, in us—transcended those difficulties. I was touched by how much we were able to share with few words.

Elmer's passing (or, more pointedly, the fact that it took several months for us to realize that he had passed) reminded me how much I value the sense of community and neighborliness that we manage to share in this neighborhood, in spite of our hectic and overscheduled lives. It also reminded me of my responsibility to contribute to it.

There is no recipe for community. Each of us contributes in his or her own way. The point is, if I may borrow a cliché, as a community, we are greater than the sum of our individual lives. That sense of community exists only because of people who do the little things.

For us, the sense of community started soon after we moved in, when our next door neighbors brought over cookies AND Milkbones for the dogs! I was so touched by their thoughtfulness and knew we had made the right decision to buy in this neighborhood. A few years later, several dog-loving neighbors helped us track down one of our dogs which had escaped when I absent-mindedly sent dogs out when the gate was open. Even after the dog was safely home, I got phone calls and people knocking on my door to make sure she was home safely.

And I can't tell you how heart-warming it was when a police car showed up at our house early one Sunday morning because a neighbor had noticed a white van that appeared to be taking too much interest in our house. (The van was our newspaper distributor, who had come out because we had complained that the newspaper had not been delivered, and he was looking for the lost paper.)

It is healthy to react when something seems "wrong" to you—to be concerned about petty crime, to be annoyed at politicians wasting our money while declaring that we can't afford to keep port-potties in our parks. These days, our neighborhood email list is filled with people venting about these concerns. But it is also exceedingly healthy to take responsibility for doing what you can to improve the situation. Our neighborhood creek cleanup is just one of the great examples of how we in this neighborhood work together to make a difference.

But making a difference doesn't have to be "organized." For example, there have been calls for a neighborhood

(continued on page 3)

Join One or Both Of the NFCCA's Two List Serves

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Northwood Parents List Serve

- Subscribe (send an email to): northwoodparents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- Post a Message (you must subscribe first): northwoodparents@yahoogroups.com ■

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the ~1,485 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
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Visit Our Website
www.nfcca.org

SHA Projects on University Blvd.

This year, the Maryland State Highway Administration has had four road projects along MD 193 (University Blvd) from Connecticut Avenue (MD 185) to I-495 (Capital Beltway). Here's a status summary as of 12 November.

The first project is along MD 193 from MD 185 to MD 586. The scope of work included patching, grinding and resurfacing the existing roadway, ADA ramp upgrades, signal work, repair and/or replacing existing inlets, concrete median, curb and gutter, cleaning pipes, and restriping. This project was completed in the late summer.

The second project is along MD 193 from MD 586 to Arcola Avenue. This project is under construction; the contractor is working on ADA and signal task items. The scope of work is similar to the first project and it is scheduled to be completed, weather permitting, by the end of this year.

The third project is along MD 193 from Arcola Avenue to US 29. This project was recently advertised and the SHA anticipates initiating construction activities early next year. The "Notice to Proceed" was scheduled to be issued to the contractor on 15 November 2010.

The fourth project is along MD 193 from US 29 to I-495. The project scope includes patching, grinding and resurfacing the existing roadway. This project is being administered by our Maintenance Office and scheduled to be resurfaced by next sum-

mer 2011. This project is on schedule.

For more information, contact Claudine Myers, Chief, Engineering Systems Design Team, District 3, Maryland State Highway Administration (9300 Kenilworth Ave., Greenbelt, Md. 20770); tel: 301.513.7467; E-mail: cmyers1@sha.state.md.us; Website: www.marylandroads.gov. ■

President's Message

(continued from page 2)

Crime Watch, but I am convinced that we can be just as effective individually as any organized crime watch would be. A great example is my neighbor calling the police when something looked amiss. Get to know your neighbors, when they are home, exchange phone numbers, know their kids.

Years from now none of us will have any memory of the day we got all our errands done or made the house spotlessly clean, but we will remember the personal connections we make and the sense of community we share. I will miss Elmer and am saddened that I got so caught up in my own busy life that I missed an opportunity to enrich both our lives by letting him and his family know that I had appreciated getting to know him a little.

Join me in making a resolution for 2011 to contribute what I can to neighborliness and community.

—Laura Hussey

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 2010-2011 are:

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If You Live in NFCCA Territory, Get a YMCA Discount

By Jabari Reaves

The NFCCA has a “corporate wellness partnership” with the YMCA. This means that all residents from NFCCA territory who join the Y receive 10 percent off the monthly dues and the Joiner Fee is only \$50 (usually between \$50-\$100). *But we are waiving the Joiner Fee for the entire month of December.*

With the membership at the Y, you will have direct access to the following:

- Free Initial Wellness Evaluation;
- Free Equipment Orientation (we’ll show you how to use all our equipment);
- Over 60 wellness classes per week (FREE, including Cycling, Yoga, Step, Kickboxing, etc.);
- Dry Sauna;
- Year-Round Indoor/Outdoor Pools;
- 2 Cardio Training Centers;
- Tennis Courts;

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(before 10% discount)

- **Youth** (Individual, age 13-17)/\$37
- **Young Adult** (Individual, age 18-22)/\$49
- **Young Professional** (Individual, age 23-30)/\$52
- **Adult** (Individual, age 31-64)/\$72
- **Family 1** (One adult with children*)/\$82
- **Family 2** (Two adults with or without children*)/\$97
- **Senior** (Individual, age 65+)/\$52
- **Senior Couple** (Individual, age 65+)/\$72

*Children 17 or under, or full-time students age 22 or under, in one household

- Circuit Training Equipment;
- Free Weight Room (meaning the weights aren’t attached to a machine, like the

kind the woman in the photo is using); and

- Reduced pricing for Youth programs and swim lessons.

Members have full access to the facility during business hours (Monday-Friday: 5 a.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday: 6 a.m.-8 p.m.).

Here are a few of the YMCA programs that might interest you:

- **Active Older Adults:** Silver Sneakers, Instructional Classes, Fitness, and Health and Wellbeing Seminars;
- **Aquatics:** Learn to Swim, Water Aerobics, Recreational Swimming, Aquatics for Arthritis, Fitness Swimming, Summer Movie Nights, Scuba, Aloha Splash Parties, and Birthday Parties;
- **Family Life:** Family Activities; Parent and Child;
- **Child Development:** Child Care; Infant/Toddler; Preschool; Before and After School.
- **Teens:** Jr. Lifeguard Training; Youth and Government.
- **Camping:** Day Camping (traditional and specialty);
- **Environmental Education:** Teen Adventure Prgrams.
- **Leadership Development:** Board and Committee



Dmitry Shironosov | Dreamstime.com

Training; Develop Leadership Skills in Youth; Youth and Government; Volunteer Training.

■ **Sports and Skill Development:** Adults Sports; Gymnastics; Youth Sports Leagues, Recreation, and Instruction.

■ **Health Enhancement:** Cardiovascular Fitness and Strength Training, Mind and Body Fitness, Personal Training, Wellness and Healthful Living Practices, Youth Fitness, Ballet Studio, Martial Arts, Spinning Program;

■ **International** (new in 2011): International Youth Exchanges (summer), Learning Second Language in Action, and Sumba Aerobics.

Right now there are 32 residents from NFCCA territory who have taken advantage of this monthly saving on their membership. And if you join during December, you’ll save even the reduced \$50 Joiner Fee.

[Both Reaves, the Membership Director, and Julio Orellana, the new Executive Director, will be at our December meeting. YMCA, 9800 Hastings Dr. (301.585.2120, www.ymcadc.org).] ■

Officer Doug on the Law on Drinking in Public

By Douglas J. Miller

[Officer Miller responds to a list serve discussion on a group of teens repeatedly drinking alcohol and becoming rowdy at Belton and Lockridge Roads during nice weather.]

Drinking alcohol in public is illegal, technically. We have a latitude to enforce these and all laws. For those who want real specifics, or just for curiosity, here are the charges:

■ Article 2B-19-202(a)1, Drinking on Public Property (sidewalk, park, etc.)—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine.

■ Article 2B-19-202(a)2, Drinking in a Shopping Center Parking Lot—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine.

■ Article 2B-19-202(a)3, Drinking in a Retail Parking Lot—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine.

■ Article 2B-19-202(a)4, Drinking in a Parked Vehicle (on any of the above, including public street)—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine.

■ Article 2B-19-301(b)1, Possession of an Open Container in a Shopping Center Parking Lot—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine.

■ Article 2B-19-301(b)2, Possession of an Open Container in a Retail Parking Lot—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine.

■ Article 2B-19-301(b)3, Possession of an Open Container in a Parked Vehicle—Criminal Offense: \$100 fine

CR 10-100 to CR 10-120 are the civil violations (possession under age 21, etc.). A big one we enforce is CR 10-117, where an adult (some-

one over the age of 21) has furnished alcohol to people under 21. That's a \$2,500 fine for the first offense and \$5,000 for a second offense and judges do hammer the fines. Parents are allowed to let their own kids drink for personal or religious reasons in their *own* homes, but they have no right to provide alcohol for their children's friends. But usually our presence and a simple warning to take it inside is enough to end it. Plus it's not illegal to drink on your property unless you are under 21.

It seems as though things are handling themselves well. I would suggest, as most people are doing, to be neighborly and address the topic with the family. Do it at normal hours if it's more comfortable. If you are nervous or worried about personal safety, then call the police.

As I said before, when you call 911 or the nonemergency number (301.279.8000), your calls get ranked by seriousness. Obviously, assaults, robberies, etc., get preference and noise complaints and drinking in public are the lowest priority. Every night is different, so our response times will be different. Weekends are usually busy because everyone is out enjoying themselves and/or getting into trouble but that can be any night. For example, on any given night, two very serious calls have the potential to tie up the majority of the district (dealing with the bad guys, giving aid to victims, looking for

remaining bad guys, processing the crime scene, etc.). We all care but sometimes we just can't get to the problems until they are gone. Keep calling though. We have people who look for trends. If a particular neighborhood or street has an increased call volume, then they sometimes notify the officers who adjust their patrols.

Common sense goes a long way of solving most problems. Take care.

[Miller is an Patrol Officer with the Montgomery County Police Department, stationed at the Silver Spring District. He lives in our neighborhood and can be reached at douglasjmilleryahoo.com.] ■

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Special Exception Requested for Child Care Center

(continued from page 1)
Corners.” The downturn in the housing market ended the “estate house” plans for the property and the former Strahan house-dental office was demolished in 2008.

The property owner, Gilmore-Brunett, LLC, is now proposing a child day care facility on the property that will serve up to 120 children and employ 25 staff members. The day care operations will be handled by “Childway,” which operates three other child care centers in suburban Maryland. Gilmore-Brunett, LLC, plans to construct an approximately 6,430-square-foot, one-story building on the property. In addition to the building, there will

be a 20-space underground parking garage, 25 surface parking spaces in the front of the building facing Gilmore Drive, an approximately 8,000-square-foot outside play area, and various landscaping and sidewalk improvements. Vehicular access to the child care center will be through a new driveway located on Gilmore Drive, with a right-turn-only exit driveway on Brunett Avenue.

Three freestanding signs, one sign on each of the three street frontages of the property (*i.e.*, University Blvd., Gilmore Dr., and Brunett St.), are proposed to advertise and identify the day care center facility. This is in excess of the standard number of one

permitted freestanding sign for a single lot in a residential zone and will require a sign variance to be granted subsequent to approval of a Special Exception.

Section 59-G-1.2.1 of the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance sets forth certain general conditions for the approval of any special exception. These are findings that must be made, in addition to specific findings for a child day care facility use in Section 59-G-2.13.1 of the Zoning Ordinance. Section 59-G-1.2.1 specifies the standard for evaluation of applications for a special exception as follows:

A special exception must not be granted without the
(continued on page 11)

Zoning and Special Exceptions

The Zoning Ordinance, adopted by the Montgomery County Council, defines and describes various zones and specifies the land uses that are permitted in each zone. Zoning establishes standards for the development and use of land in each zone, which limit density, location and height of buildings and structures, required setbacks from property lines, and other requirements.

Each zoning category specifies the uses of property that are permitted as a matter of right in that zone, such as a single-family residence in the R-60 Zone, and which uses of property are permitted by special exception. A special exception is a use of property allowed in a given zone if certain standards and conditions are met. A “child day

care facility,” such as the proposed Childway child care center in South Four Corners, is an example of a land use allowed by special exception in the R-60 Zone. The applicant—Gilmore-Brunett, LLC—applies for a special exception to the Board of Appeals. The Montgomery County Planning Board technical staff then reviews the application and issues a staff report to the Board of Appeals with the staff’s recommended conditions.

If the requested special exception has major impacts or is controversial, as here, then a hearing is held before the Montgomery County Planning Board (the Planning Board hearing on the special exception for the proposed child day care facility is currently scheduled for 16 December 2010). After the case has been heard by the Planning Board, the Planning Board sends a letter to the

Board of Appeals setting forth the Planning Board’s comments on the proposed land use and its staff recommendation on the special exception application. The recommendations from both the Planning Board and its staff are advisory. A Hearing Examiner in the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings (OZAH) then hears the special exception case (the OZAH hearing on the special exception for the proposed child day care facility is currently scheduled for 7 January 2011) and compiles an official report for review by the Board of Appeals which issues the final decision on the special exception application. Any decision of the Board of Appeals may be appealed to the Circuit Court within 30 days of the effective date of the written decision.



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Sold Price: \$328,000



3 BR Rambler
408 Hannes St
Sold Price: \$320,000



4 BR Split Level
1000 Loxford Ter
Sold Price: \$300,000



3 BR Townhouse
9 Kinsman View Cir
Sold Price: \$300,000



4 BR Split Level
1132 Loxford Ter
Sold Price: \$289,900



4 BR Split Level
311 Irwin St
Sold Price: \$285,000

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Real Estate Sold Homes
Northwood and Forest Knolls
 (July 1, 2010 – Nov. 15, 2010)

SHORT SALES

There were no short sale homes during this time period.

FORECLOSED HOMES (BANK OWNED/REO)

Address	Type	BR	Bath	Orig. \$	Sold \$	Seller Subsidy	Net Sales \$
1132 Loxford	SF	4	2	\$287,000	\$290,000	\$7,000	\$283,000
418 Eisner	SF	4	2.5	\$339,000	\$290,000	\$0	\$290,000
1000 Loxford	SF	4	2.5	\$325,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
10612 Eastwood	SF	5	2	\$263,000	\$302,000	\$5,000	\$297,000

“NORMAL RESALES”

Address	Type	BR	Bath	Orig. \$	Sold \$	Seller Subsidy	Net Sales \$
520 Kerwin	SF	3	2.5	\$299,000	\$265,000	\$0	\$265,000
311 Irwin	SF	4	2.5	\$300,000	\$285,000	\$0	\$285,000
9 Kinsman View	TH	3	2 + 2	\$330,000	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
1105 Playford	SF	4	2.5	\$339,000	\$307,000	\$0	\$307,000
207 Thistle	SF	4	2	\$390,000	\$328,000	\$10,000	\$318,000
408 Hannes	SF	3	2	\$360,000	\$320,000	\$0	\$320,000
316 Irwin	SF	5	3	\$439,000	\$425,000	\$12,000	\$413,000
111 Northwood	SF	3	2	\$510,000	\$480,000	\$7,500	\$473,000
308 Marvin	SF	4	3	\$485,000	\$450,000	\$600	\$484,000
104 Southwood	SF	4	2.5	\$550,000	\$497,000	\$10,000	\$487,000

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

NORTHWOOD/FOREST KNOLLS/KINSMAN VIEW YEAR-TO-DATE STATS

Home Sales from January 1, 2010 – November 15, 2010

	#	Average Net Sales Price	Lowest Sales Price	Highest Sales Price
Short Sales	3	\$254,000	\$230,000	\$286,000
Bank Owned	10	\$281,000	\$209,000	\$309,000
Normal Resales	34	\$360,000	\$250,000	\$487,000

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Day Care Center Special Exception

(continued from page 8)
findings required by this Article. In making these findings, the Board of Appeals ... must consider the inherent and non-inherent adverse effects of the use on nearby properties and the general neighborhood at the proposed location.... Inherent adverse effects are the physical and operational characteristics necessarily associated with the particular use, regardless of its physical size or scale of operations. Inherent adverse effects alone are not a sufficient basis for denial of a special exception. Non-inherent adverse effects are physical and operational characteristics not necessarily associated with the particular use, or adverse effects created by unusual characteristics of the site. Non-inherent adverse effects, alone or in conjunction with inherent adverse effects, are a sufficient basis to deny a special exception.

The Land Planning Report (August 2010), prepared for Gilmoure-Brunett, LLC, in support of a special exception application admits that the proposed child day care facility will have the “typical inherent effects common to a day care facility, such as weekday traffic, building mass, outdoor play area(s), a concentration of youth and education/care-taking staff, parking, and occasional evening events....” The report admits no identifiable adverse non-inherent effects on nearby properties.

Child day care facilities are also subject to special exception specific standards

and requirements pursuant to Section 59-G-2.13.1 of the Zoning Ordinance. These requirements include, but are not limited to, submission of a site plan showing the location of all buildings and structures, parking spaces, driveways, loading and unloading areas, play areas, and other uses, and the provision of landscaping and screening to protect surrounding properties from any adverse impacts resulting from the special exception use. In order to approve a special exception for a child care facility, there also must be a finding that “the use is compatible with surrounding uses and will not result in a nuisance because of traffic, parking, noise, or type of physical activity.”

Section 59-G-2.13.1(b)(2) further requires that a child care facility for 31 or more children in a single-family residential zone must be located on a lot containing at least 500 square feet per child. Here, the Childway Center proposes to serve a maximum of 120 children and the property has an area ratio of 316 square feet per child. This 500 square foot area requirement may be reduced to not less than 250 square feet, per child if the Board of Appeals finds that: (1) the facility will primarily serve children of an age range that require limited outdoor activity space; (2) the additional density will not adversely affect adjacent properties; (3) the additional traffic generated by the additional density will not adversely affect the surrounding streets;

and (4) there are adequate provisions for the drop-off and pick-up of students.

The South Four Corners Citizens’ Association (SFCCA) represents residents of the area proposed for the Gilmoure-Brunett, LLC/Childway child care facility and SFCCA has voted to oppose the special exception application. As the NFCCA area is adjacent—across University Boulevard—from the proposed child care facility, the NFCCA Board voted to support the SFCCA’s opposition to the granting of Special Exception S-2781 for a child care facility.

The reasons advanced by SFCCA for opposing Gilmoure-Brunett, LLC’s application for a child care facility special exception application (S-2781) include the following:

- The property is too small for the proposed child care facility use. A commercial day care center with up to 120 children and 25 staff in a 6,430-square-foot building, with a 20-space underground parking garage, 25 space surface front parking lot, and 8,000-square-foot outside play area is simply too big for this location.

- At 6,430 square feet, the proposed child care facility building is not in scale with the surrounding residential houses. The building footprint is approximately eight times the size of the adjoining and confronting houses. The building itself is larger in square footage than many of the surrounding residential lots. The density and scale of the proposed development are not in harmony with the resi-

(continued on page 13)

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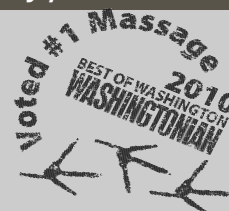
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Day Care Center Special Exception

(continued from page 11)

dential character of the neighborhood.

- Although the property adjoins University Boulevard, the sole entrance to the day care facility is proposed to be on Gilmoure Street, a residential street. This will require all vehicles accessing the day care center to leave University Boulevard, a major roadway, and enter via residential neighborhood streets.

- Increased nonresidential traffic from a commercial day care center is not compatible with the character of a quiet residential neighborhood and threatens public safety and quality of life. Traffic in the Four Corners area is congested and it is already not easy to get in and out of the neighborhood streets. The proposed child care facility will increase the volume of traffic on residential neighborhood streets, increase noise and pollution, and decrease pedestrian safety and access. The applicant's proposed modifications to adjoining streets (such as curb bump outs and road chokes) do not address the core problem of introducing significant new nonresidential traffic onto neighborhood streets.

- The applicant's request to reduce the 500-square-foot requirement per child to accommodate a 60 percent increase in the number of children served is an operational non-inherent adverse effect of the approval of the special exception application. The increase in children allowed to be served by this child care facility, if the special excep-

tion application is approved as submitted, mandates a much larger building, staff, and parking than if the applicant were required to provide an area ratio of 500 square feet per child. The increase in children served by the facility will increase the volume of nonresidential traffic and adversely affect the health, safety, and general welfare of residents of the surrounding streets and neighborhoods.

The Petition of Gilmoure-Brunett, LLC, for a Child Care Facility Special Exception, Case Number S-2781, is tentatively scheduled to be heard before the Montgomery County Planning Board on Thursday, 16 December 2010, in the auditorium at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910; telephone 301.495.4605 (check the Planning Board agenda at www.montgomeryplanningboard.org for the exact date and time). A second scheduled hearing is before a hearing examiner of the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings, on Friday, 7 January 2011, at 9:30 a.m. in the Second Floor Hearing Room of the Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850; telephone 240.777.6660 (e-mail ozah@montgomerycountymd.gov for information). NFCCA members are encouraged to sign up to testify at these hearings or to submit letters of support or opposition to the case (reference: S-2781, Gilmoure-Brunett, LLC, Child Care). ■

Forest Knolls ES Is Now 'Green'

Students at Forest Knolls Elementary School planted more than 20 trees (as well as bushes and wildflowers) to reforest part of the schoolyard, transformed an empty courtyard into a butterfly garden so that second graders could watch the life cycle of a butterfly firsthand, raised rainbow trout from eggs and released them at Little Seneca Creek, and used electronic waste to create "robot sculpture" art—activities which led to the school being certified in June as "green" by the nonprofit Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE). FKES was the 34th out of the county's 200 elementary, middle, and high schools have won the designation.

The MAEOE program requires that environmental issues be incorporated into the curriculum. In addition, schools must make "eco-friendly" changes in buildings and grounds, and document their progress. Activities fall into categories such as energy conservation and recycling, waste reduction, habitat restoration, and water pollution prevention. ■



Attention, Avid Readers! Swap Your Paperbacks

By Laura Hussey

Do you have shelves stuffed with books that you've read, but don't want to keep around? Or worse, stacks of books piling up because the shelves won't hold any more? I make good use of the public library, but I have been convinced for years that the books in our household are multiplying while we are asleep. At the same time, there are still books I want to read but can't get from the library for one reason or another.

If this sounds familiar, maybe you will benefit from a web service I learned about a couple of years ago called PaperbackSwap.com, or PBS for short. When you sign up at PBS, you have an opportunity to post books that you are willing to swap, as well as a wish list for books you would like to receive from other members—all for free.

So how does this work? Let's say I have a book I no longer want. Once I create an account on PBS, I can "post" the book to my bookshelf, or account, using its ISBN number. Once you have posted ten books, you receive two "credits" to use for requesting books from other members, each good for one book (paperback or hardcover). Fans of "books on tape" can participate as well; audio books cost two credits each.

Other PBS members can search available books the same ways you search an online card catalog or bookstore—by title, author, subject—and when they find a book they want, they may



request it from the PBS member. That member is notified by email and, if they "accept" the request, they mail the book to the requestor and mark it mailed in their account, all through a very simple process that PBS manages. You can even buy postage and print a mailing label on it through the PBS website! A typical book costs between \$1 and \$3 to mail using media mail rates.

When the book is received, the requestor logs in to his or her PBS account and marks it received, and the sender's PBS account receives one book credit from the requestor.

PBS has lots of other really convenient features. For example, a member can create a wish list: a list of books that he/she would like to request if a member posts them. Then, when one of your wish list

books is posted, PBS generates an email notifying you and giving you 48 hours to request the book. If you don't respond, or if you decline the book, PBS will notify the next person in line on the wish list for that book, or put it into the general inventory. You can even choose to have PBS automatically generate the request for you if one of your wish list books is posted.

PBS is a great green option. It took me a little while to catch on to the fact that most PBS-ers re-use padded envelopes for mailing PBS books, but now, when I receive a book that I have requested, I carefully open the envelope so that I can reuse it the next time I receive a request.

Happy green reading! ■



311 is Montgomery County's phone number for non-emergency government information and services. For emergency calls, residents should continue to call 911. A new website is available 24/7 at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311.

Phone Numbers for MC311

- In Montgomery County, call 311
- Outside of Montgomery County, call 240-777-0311
- The TTY number is 240-773-3556

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Website:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311



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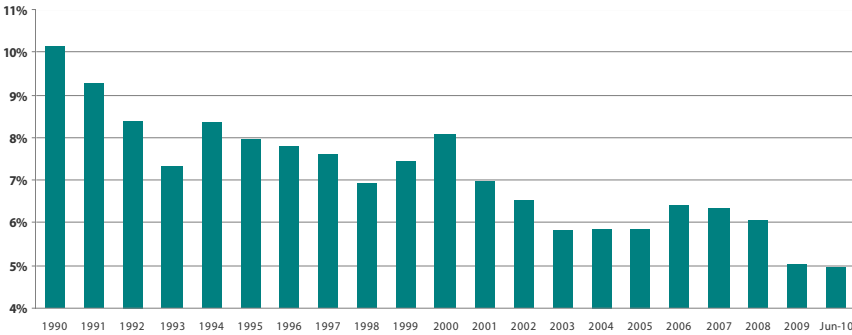
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Federal Reserve Rate History 1990 - Present (Conventional 30-Year Interest Rate)

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Book Your Next Event at the New Civic Building

You may have seen the new Silver Spring Civic Building which opened in July, but did you realize you can reserve rooms there for your next party? The brochure states the building is “perfect for your wedding, bar/bat mitzvah, special occasion, meeting, or conference.”

The Silver Spring Civic Building offers seven different meeting spaces, ranging from a small conference setting for 32 people to the Great Hall that can accommodate up to 800 guests. The Great Hall is ideal for personal celebrations



Personal & Small Enterprise Rates (County Residents)

[First Amount is M-Th a.m./p.m. & Fri until 5p.m.; Second Amount is for Fri after 5p.m. & Sat/Sun/Hol.]

Great Hall [\$250/\$400 per hour] (FULL, 64' x 79' (5,046 sf); ceiling height: 27 ft.)
CAPACITY: Reception: 800, Theatre Seating: 590 (480/w riser), Banquet style: 320, Conference style: 320-400

Great Hall [\$125/\$200 per hour] (HALF, 64'x38' (2,432 sf)) CAPACITY: Reception: 100

Atrium [\$40/\$45 per hour] 23'x79' (1,817 sf)
CAPACITY: Standing: 100-120, Conference style: 60-90

Large Activity Room [\$45/\$50 per hour]
Ellsworth: 50'x27' (1,350 sf). CAPACITY: Reception: 120, Classroom: 80
Spring: 31'x46' (1,426 sf). CAPACITY: Reception: 120, Classroom: 70

Fenton (upstairs): 43'x27' (1,161 sf). CAPACITY: Reception: 106, Classroom: 70

Small Conference Room [\$30/\$35]
Ellsworth divided: 25'x27' (675 sf)
Colesville (upstairs): 24'x27' (648 sf). CAPACITY: Reception: 32-60, Conference style: 20-30

Courtyard [\$30/\$40 per hour] 50'x20' (1,000 sf)
CAPACITY: Reception: 30-45; Up to 30, wooden chairs and tables. Lighted. Indoor access only.

Gallery [price not available] 44'x 27' (1,188 sf) Reception: 105

NOTES: Add one hour before and after event for set-up and clean-up costs for special events and Great Hall use. Four-hour minimum applies to special event use or when additional staff is required. (Check online for other rates and additional staff charges, etc.)

and parties, banquets, performances, corporate conferences and large presentations, and can be divided for events requiring more flexibility. When your meeting breaks, relax outside. In addition to interior space, guests can enjoy the private courtyard and adjacent Veterans Plaza. Veterans Plaza is a large open space (15,200 sq. ft.) for outdoor ceremonies, concerts, festivals, movies, and other public events.

A 249-sq. ft. Warming Kitchen—with warming ovens (no cooking on premises), microwaves, ice maker, refrigerators, and “ample counter space”—rents for \$20-\$40 hour.

The address is One Veterans Place (corner of Ellsworth and Fenton). To rent a space for your function, contact: Mindy Williams, Scheduling Coordinator, 240.777.5315; e-mail: Mindy.Williams@montgomerycountymd.gov. ■



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1307 Caddington Ave*	\$320,000	Split Level	5	4	0
10901 Cavalier Dr*	\$325,000	Split Level	4	4	0
507 Dennis Ave	\$995,000	Colonial	5	4	0
10603 Edgewood Ave	\$465,669	Cape Cod	4	2	0
1001 Loxford Ter	\$425,000	Split Foyer	4	2	1
1007 Loxford Ter	\$409,900	Split Level	4	2	1
10610 Lockridge Dr*	\$299,000	Rambler	5	3	0
900 Malta Ln	\$299,000	Split Foyer	4	3	0
136 Southwood Ave	\$450,000	Cape Cod	3	1	1
140 Southwood Ave*	\$325,000	Colonial	4	2	1
201 University Blvd W*	\$350,000	Cape Cod	5	3	0
407 University Blvd W*	\$269,900	Rambler	5	2	0

CONTRACTS on the following properties:

1109 Caddington Ave*	\$269,999	Split Level	4	1	1
1015 Chiswell Ln*	\$319,000	Split Level	3	2	0
10420 Edgewood Ave	\$449,900	Cape Cod	3	2	1
405 Irwin St	\$315,000	Split Level	3	2	0
11209 Lombardy Rd	\$374,900	Rambler	4	2	1
918 Playford Ln	\$335,000	Split Level	4	2	1
308 Timberwood Ave	\$330,000	Rambler	5	2	0
601 University Blvd W**	\$295,000	Cape Cod	4	3	0
709 University Blvd W*	\$260,000	Split Level	4	2	1
107 Woodridge Ave**	\$359,900	Cape Cod	3	2	0

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** Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed **



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NFCCA Community Telephone Directory



ANIMALS

MoCo Humane Society
(stray dogs/cats, animals in distress, 24/7)

240.773.5960

Pet Licensing

240.773.5933

Wildlife Nuisance Problems
(birds in attic, groundhogs under porches, etc.)

1.877.463.6497

COUNTY

Government Information and Service Requests

311 (or 240.777.0311)

TTY (for hearing impaired)

240.773.3556

MoCo Consumer Affairs

240.777.3636

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Governor Martin O'Malley (D)

410.974.3901

Senator Barbara Mikulski (D)

202.224.4654

Senator Benjamin Cardin (D)

202.224.4524

Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D, 8th District)

202.225.5341

Maryland State Senate & House District 19 (as of 1/12/11)

Sen. Roger Manno

Del. Sam Arora (D)

Del. Bonnie Cullison (D)

Del. Benjamin Kramer (D)

301.858.3485

County Exec. Ike Leggett (D)

101 Monroe St., Rockville

240.777.2500

MoCo Council

100 Maryland Ave., Rockville

240.777.7900

[Check next issue for phone numbers of incoming elected officials above.]

CRISIS CENTERS

Abused Persons Crisis Line (24/7)

301.315.4673

Child Protective Services
(report suspected child abuse or neglect 24/7)

240.777.4417

Partner Abuse Crisis Line (24/7)

240.777.4673

Poison Help Hotline
(emergencies or questions)

1.800.222.1222

Rape/Sexual Assault

Victim Crisis Line (24/7)

240.777.4357

Suicide Hotlines

1.800.SUICIDE

1.800.273.TALK

For Most MoCo Listings, Call 311



FIRE

Fire Non-Emergency

240.777.0744

Fire Code Enforcement

240.777.2457

Volunteer Fire Depts.

#1, 8110 Georgia Ave.

240.773.4701

#16, 111 University Blvd. E.

240.773.4716

HOSPITALS

Holy Cross

1500 Forest Glen Road, S.S.

301.754.7000

Washington Adventist

7600 Carroll Ave., Tk. Pk.

301.891.7600

LIBRARIES

Automated Renewal

240.777.0007

Silver Spring

8901 Colesville Rd.

240.773.9420

Wheaton

11701 Georgia Ave.

240.777.0678

White Oak

11701 New Hampshire Ave.

240.773.9555

MOTOR VEHICLE ADMIN.

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White Oak (Full Service)

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8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Sat

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Randolph Road)

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NEWSPAPERS

Baltimore Sun

410.332.6000

Washington Examiner

202.903.2000

Washington Post

202.334.6100

Washington Times

202.636.3000

Gazette

301.670.2565

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311

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Weekends (call police non-

emergency line)

301.279.8000

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Phone Directory, continued

PARKS

Emergency in the Parks
301.949.3010
Park Police Nonemergency
301.949.8010
Report Broken Playground
Equipment
301.670.8080
Reserve Picnic Sites/Ballfields
301.495.2525

POLICE

Emergencies 911
Nonemergencies
301.279.8000
3rd District/Silver Spring
301.565.7740

POST OFFICES

Silver Spring Finance Ctr.
8455 Colesville Road, Ste. 3LL
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
301.608.1305

Silver Spring Main Office
8616 Second Avenue
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sat
301.608.1300

Woodmoor Branch
110 University Blvd., W.
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Sat
301.754.2714*
**Don't bother calling as they
only hang up on you.
(Passport Services, 9:00
a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mon-Fri, by
appointment, 301.593.6487)*

Wheaton Branch
11431 Amherst Avenue
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sat
*(Passport Services, 10:00
a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon-Fri, by
appointment)*
301.929.7831

RAT COMPLAINTS

240.777.3986

SCHOOLS (PUBLIC)

MoCo Public Schools

301.301.6277

MoCo Board of Education

301.279.3617

Forest Knolls Elementary

10830 Eastwood Avenue
301.649.8060

Eastern Middle

300 University Blvd., E.
301.650.6650

S.S. International Middle

313 Wayne Avenue
301.650.6544

Montgomery Blair High

51 University Blvd., E.
301.649.2800

Northwood High

919 University Blvd., W.
301.649.8088

SNOW REMOVAL

MoCo Roads
240.777.ROAD (7623)
State (Numbered) Roads
301.948.2477
*[Note: During a snowstorm,
no plowing begins until there
are three inches of snow on
the streets.]*

SENIORS

Senior Resource Line
240.777.3000
MoCo Aging & Disability
Resources Unit
240.777.3000
Senior Mental Health Services
240.777.3990
State Office on Aging
1.800.243.3425

STREETS & SIDEWALKS

*To Report Problems with
Road Signs, Potholes, Stuff on
Roads, Trees Pruned, etc.:*

■ MoCo Roads
240.777.6000
■ State (Numbered) Roads
301.948.2477 OR
1.800.543.2515
MoCo Leaf Collection
240.777.7623

TRANSPORTATION

Ride-On Bus (MoCo only)
311
Metrobus
202.637.7000
Metrorail (Subway)
202.637.7000
MARC Train
1-866-RIDE-MTA
Amtrak
1-800-USA-RAIL

Utilities

Electricity

Potomac Electric Power Co.
202.833.7500
Power Outage
1.877.737.2662

Water & Sewer

Washington Suburban
Sanitary Commission
301.206.9772
Emergencies (24/7)
301.206.4002

Gas

Gas Leaks Only
703.750.1400
Washington Natural Gas
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