

NORTHWOOD NEWS

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Corporations May Be Given Naming Rights for Park Facilities

By Carole Barth

MoCo Parks staff has developed a *Proposed Corporate Park Naming and Sponsorship Policy*. The idea is that corporations would pay for the right to put their name on facilities (such as ballfields) within county parks. For example, if “Ginormous Corp.” gave Parks money to maintain the tennis courts in North Four Corners Park, they could then post a sign saying “Ginormous Corp. Tennis

Courts.”

While it would be good to see Parks put more resources into maintaining existing park facilities (as opposed to building more facilities only to increase the maintenance backlog), there are a number of problems with the program as currently proposed.

Confusion as to the Extent of Naming Rights

The title (*Corporate Park Naming and Sponsorship Policy*) leads one to suppose that entire parks may be renamed for corporate entities. One has to read further into the document to understand that the policy only applies to assets within parks and park programs. A clearer title might be “Policy for Corporate Naming of Facilities within Parks.” In any case, the document should clearly state up front that parks will not be renamed for corporations.

Confusion as to How this Policy will Interact with the ‘Individual Naming and Dedication Policy’

Civic groups wishing to honor community leaders already face a steep hurdle (\$2,000 donation) under

(continued on page 2)

Next Meeting Date Changed To Tuesday, February 12th

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held *not* on the usual Wednesday, but on **Tuesday, 12 February 2013**, 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). As usual, items will be raffled off and delicious treats will be available.

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.)■

INSIDE

New Homes to be Built at Brunett, University Blvd. After All4

Second Oldest Home in Neighborhood is For Sale.....5

Asian Adoption Family Support Group Started in Neighborhood ...8

Should We Change the Name of Our Civic Association? Pro-Con...12

Apartment Homes for Independent Seniors at The Oaks14

Two Women Care for Feral Cats in Our Neighborhood.....18

Md. Homestead Tax Credits20

Chabad Montessori Preschool Awarded Lease to North Four Corners Park Activity Building....23

FEBRUARY

					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		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, friends and neighbors. This past year we have seen two of our long-term issues resolved, hopefully in our favor:

1. The rec center is now leased to a Montessori nursery school (see story on page 23). We would like to welcome our new members and hope that the county (MNCPPC) and the school are able to iron out the details by this fall.

2. Rachel Carson Meadow will remain in its natural state for now thanks to our local reps in Annapolis who have blocked funding for the soccer field. The long-term fate of our lovely meadow remains uncertain as we are not sure what the parks people will do next. Hopefully nothing!

Here's to a crisp and sunny winter.

—Brian Morrissey

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To unsubscribe from either, email to groupname-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com. ■

Corporate Naming Rights for Parks?

(continued from page 1)
the Dedication Policy. Parks may lose potential donations from communities which feel there's no way they can compete with corporate advertising dollars. Both policies should briefly describe how potential competition between the two programs will be handled. This conflict resolution should happen early in the process, before citizens actually need to raise the funds. In addition, it needs to be made clear that facilities which have already been named for or dedicated to individuals will not be available for corporate naming.

Potential for Perceived or Actual Conflicts of Interest

The policy's language ("*Naming Rights, Advertising Rights, or Sponsorship Benefits are limited to the promotion or recognition of commercial enterprise and commercial activities that do not impair or conflict with the mission, policies, goals, or operations of*

the Commission, the park system, or designated Park Assets or Park Programs") is insufficient to ensure that conflicts of interest will not occur.

To begin with, this language does not address potential ramifications for the procurement process. For example, what about a ball-field named for the company which supplies artificial turf to Parks? That would certainly appear to give the sponsoring company a negotiating advantage. Similarly, although the policy states that sponsorships do not convey any control of programs, certain sponsorships might result in undue program influences over time.

For example, what if a pesticide manufacturer wants to sponsor the weed warrior program or the community gardens program? Even if the sponsorship doesn't change how the program is conducted, the program could lose credibility. "Greenwash-

(continued on page 3)

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.

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Visit Our Website

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Corporate Naming Rights for Parks?

(continued from page 2)
ing”—using ecological words to sound environmentally friendly—is prevalent in the marketplace and Parks should not appear to be part of that process. The policy also needs to specify that naming/advertising will be removed if the sponsoring corporate entities are found to be bad actors.

Lack of Transparency

Citizens should be able to see sponsorship proposals on the Parks website so they can comment and/or provide relevant information to Parks. In addition, Parks should provide specific, documented information on the costs of the programs, maintenance activities, or facilities potentially being sponsored. Finally, there needs to be transparency for how and where the sponsorship revenue is spent.

Lastly, it would make sense to open up the sponsorship program to nonprofit organizations. Environmental organizations, preservation groups, and other nonprofits with missions that closely align to Parks may want to advertise where potential supporters spend their time.

Moreover, foundations may want to sponsor park programs just as they sponsor public broadcasting programs. For example, a foundation with a mission to bring science to citizens might want to sponsor nature exploration programs.

The proposed policy was scheduled to go before the Planning Board on 31 January. Parks *did* make changes to the policy language based on the public comments they received and are proposing a revised version for approval by the Planning Board at that meeting. Here is a link to Parks' web page on the proposed policy: www.montgomeryparks.org/team/ppp/sponsorship.shtm and here is the link to the staff draft: www.montgomeryparks.org/team/ppp/documents/FINALDRAFTCorporateParkNamingandSponsorshipPolicy11-27-12.pdf.

The updated staff packet for the 31 January meeting can be viewed at: www.montgomeryplanningboard.org/agenda/2013/documents/20130131_CorporateSponsorshipProgram_000.pdf. ■



Only facilities within parks, not entire parks, would be renamed.

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 are:

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New Homes to be Built at Brunett, Univ. After All

By *Jacquie Bokow*

The developer seems to have thrown in the towel. After five years and seven denials for a special exception zoning request to build a day care center on University Boulevard at Brunett Avenue, developer Gilmoure Brunett, LLC—presumably named after the two cross streets bounding the property—has gone back to their original plan to build single-family homes on the property.

The real estate boom had tanked just after the developer had acquired all the required permits and zoning for construction of the five luxury homes, so they decided that building a very large, 150-child day care facility would be a better investment. It's been estimated that the developer spent nearly \$2 million in fees to lawyers and

consultants to secure a special exception request to allow the day care facility, a request that was finally denied (for the seventh time) in November.

According to the realtor's listing, each of the five two-story, 2,780-sq.-ft. colonials will have a fireplace,

garage, full finished basement, four bedrooms, three full bathrooms, and one half bathroom. The listing dated 23 January 2013 stated the homes would be built this year. The broker is RE/MAX All Pro. The list price is \$499,900. ■



An artist's drawing shows how the \$499,900 homes will look.

Planning Has Begun for 2013 RC Meadow Festival

By *Jim Zepp*

Since May 2009, the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association has held a community festival in the Rachel Carson Meadow in the North Four Corners Park. It highlights this rolling meadow area's potential for family and unstructured recreational activities and for enjoying a natural environment in an urban setting.

Among the meadow's key features is its 185-year-old black walnut tree and many natural "rooms" which allow diverse groups of users to pursue different active

and passive recreational activities without infringing on each other. Residents have informally named the Meadow in honor of scientist and writer Rachel Carson, who lived in the Burnt Mills neighborhood and whose last book encouraged parents to instill "A Sense of Wonder" for nature in their children.

This coming Summer, the County Parks Department has scheduled the construction of a soccer field and parking lot that will obliterate the Meadow and create a 26-foot-high

retaining wall in the middle of the park. If the community's continuing efforts to stop this project are unsuccessful, this year will be the last Rachel Carson Meadow Festival.

The past festivals have included participatory performances by the Washington Revels (in which attendees can practice songs and dances or help with making props and culminates with all involved in the performance that closes the day), a fun family dog competition ("The Pitting of the
(continued on page 13)

Second Oldest Home in Neighborhood is For Sale

By Jacquie Bokow

A home for sale on Dennis Avenue is the second oldest house in the neighborhood. Only the Kinsman Farm homestead, built in the 1780s, is older (see the June 2008 issue of the *Northwood News* for details on the Kinsman home). Built in 1890, the Dennis Avenue house is the oldest remaining home in the old Read family farmstead, out of which all of the Northwood Park and subsequent subdivisions were carved (a story on that in a future issue).

Although the number on the house reads “503,” the home is listed by realtors—because of the property’s tax



Jacquie Bokow

The asking price for the six-bedroom colonial—and all three plots—is \$899,900. The original home was built in 1890.

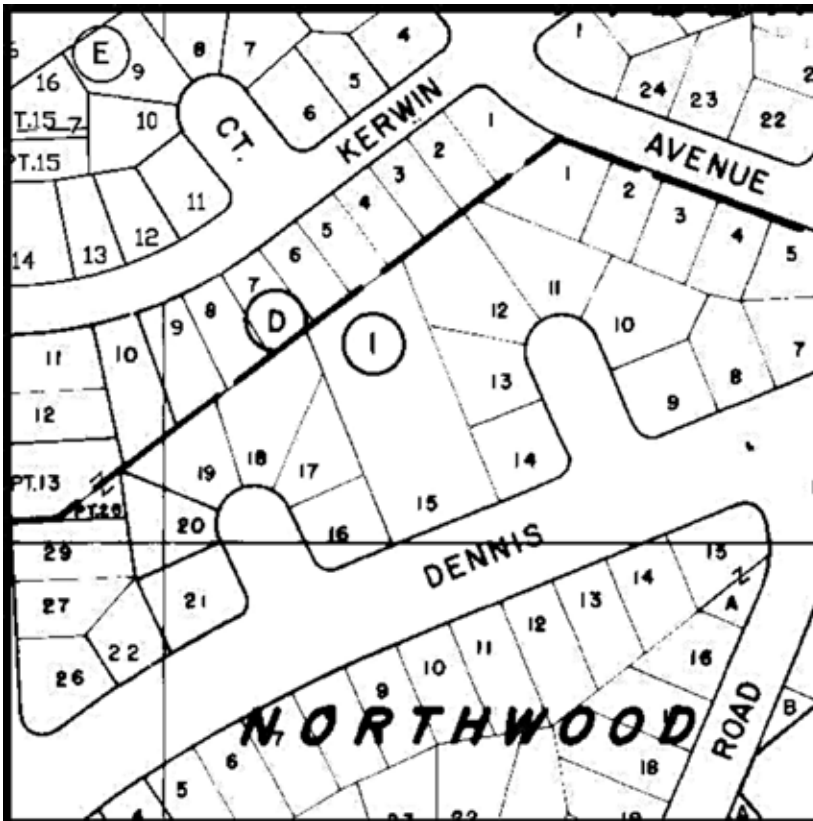
records—as “507 Dennis Avenue.” If you pass the house,

on the first court north of University Boulevard, you’ll see signs posted showing that a “Development Application for Northwood Knolls” as been applied for to the County, which would allow up to five new houses to be built.

The current property covers lots 15, 16, and 17. The plot map at left shows the large size of plot 15, which could easily be subdivided into three normal-sized lots, although all the existing buildings—main house, storage sheds, detached office, greenhouses, gazebo, etc.—would need to be demolished. The property is owned by the Clements family, which owns a local landscaping business.

The colonial boasts six bedrooms and four full bathrooms. The asking price for the house and all three plots is \$899,900.

For more information, contact John Burgess at Realty Executives Premier, 301.476.7700, ext. 206. ■



The Clements property encompasses plots 15, 16, and 17 on Dennis Avenue. Plot 15 is the size of three average plots and could be split into three properties (allowing five new homes to be built), but only if the home now standing is torn down.



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Blair Jazz Band Plays Big Band

The Montgomery Blair High School Honors Jazz Band and the Jazz Lab Band will play at a "Swinging Sounds for Senior Citizens" concert at Sunday, 17 February 2013 (snow date 3 March). From 2:00-4:00 p.m., enjoy the music of

Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, and more!

The concert is free. The school, at 51 University Blvd. E., is handicapped accessible. Student dance partners will be available for the fleet-of-foot! A Coffee House and Bake Sale are planned.



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Asian Adoption Family Support Group, 'Our Asian Kids,' Started by Residents in Our Neighborhood

By Priscilla Holberton

You may have read several announcements that I have posted on our local listserv about our playgroup for families with a child adopted from Asia. In 2006, my husband, Ron Alt, and I started on the journey to adoption. After going to several adoption meetings and conferences, we both determined that international adoption was right for us.

At any one time, there are a handful of countries which are open to foreign adoption; during that time, there were four countries which were open to adoption that we considered, namely: Guatemala, Russia, China, and Vietnam.

We chose Vietnam for various reasons—for me, my friends at my work were mostly Vietnamese; for Ron, he wanted to get a child as young as possible; and for both of us, we love Vietnamese food and thought we could parent an Asian child in a transracial family who would be loved and accepted by our extended family.

At the time, China and Russia had huge foreign adoption programs. We didn't know it then, but China was just about to slow down to an interminable wait (five to six years). But, in the past, there have been thousands of U.S. adoptions per year to U.S. families from China and the wait was met in nine to 18 months after all the paperwork was completed and sent to the country. Here are the statistics for 2006 (from *www.*

johnstonsarchive.net/policy/adoptionstatsintl.html):

Country	U.S. Adoptions
China	6,492
Russia	3,702
Guatemala	4,135
Vietnam	163

Both China and Russia have or had huge family support groups in the area due to the sheer number of adoptions. Vietnam was open to U.S. adoptions from the mid-1990s and closed in 2003; it reopened in 2006. There was a support group in the D.C. area (Families with Children from Vietnam), but most of

the families in this group now had older children; by the time we adopted, the group leaders did not welcome new leadership (me) to help out or to assist in their listserv. It could take three to 10 days to post a message on the group's listserv, which makes it impossible to plan meetings and get-togethers.

Adoption support groups tend to be segregated by country of origin. We adopted from a country with very few U.S. adoptions per year. But many of us met at waiting-parent meetings at a local

(continued on page 9)



Boys who've been adopted from Asia meet others through the 'Our Asian Kids' support group for their local families. At last year's Lunar New Year (Tet/Chinese New Year) party, three of boys are wearing traditional "ao dai," Vietnamese National Dress. Back row: Brian; Front (L to R): Danny, Rafael, Adam, and Luke. (The girls didn't get in this picture.)

Our Asian Kids

(continued from page 8)
adoption agency, the Adoption Center of Washington, in Alexandria, Va. ACW was the first adoption agency in the country to be open to U.S. adoptions of Vietnamese children in 2006 and it was local to us. So that meant there are probably more families who started their adoption to Vietnam with them just because they were local.

After advertising on numerous listservs, I created a group of families of young children adopted from Vietnam and China. I included China because a local listserv (but not the big Families with Children from China) allowed us to join their listserv. At the time, they celebrated one event a year (Chinese New Year) and we participated in that. But even they had to discuss among themselves to allow us to join because our child was adopted from Vietnam, not China.

After a year, a friend convinced me to open up the group to other Asian children, and eventually our group became "OurAsianKids-DC," open to anyone who has a child adopted from anywhere in Asia and welcoming all the children in their family, whether biological or adopted from somewhere else. Our group is online at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OurAsianKids-DC>.

We had our first meeting at Ellsworth Park in downtown Silver Spring in June 2008. We had a pretty large turnout, maybe 15 families

(continued on page 10)

Local Adoption Support Group

By Karen Devitt

A number of years ago, we formed an adoption group at Forest Knolls Elementary School, inviting families with adopted children to get together on an informal basis a few times a year. For a few years, my daughter and I also gave presentations to her class about adoption, reading a storybook about adoption and leading a discussion. The group we formed gradually expanded to include families of younger children from the neighborhood. We met for a few years, usually over a potluck dinner at someone's home, and the bonds we formed have proven to be long-lasting. For our adopted children to know each other and see a kindred spirit has been comforting and empowering to them. We have also been able to share information and resources among ourselves.

One local resource is CASE (Center for Adoption Support and Education), based in Burtonsville, which hosts an adoption "Carnival" every year, and provides year-round activities and counseling to the adoption community. Two specific programs are very effective for school age children: one is W.I.S.E. Up!, a workbook for children ages six to 12 which empowers children to confidently answer a range of questions about adoption and decide when, if, and how to share their story;

the second is S.A.F.E. at School, a manual for teachers, educators, and school counselors which provides strategies to create a positive, adoption-sensitive environment at school.

Our adoption group represented both domestic and international adoption and spanned a wide range of ages. Now that some of our children have moved on to middle school (where we have formed another school adoption group; our principal is an adoptee himself), our Forest Knolls group is in need of new leadership and membership. I would encourage anyone who is interested to reach out to others via the various listservs—Forest Knolls Elementary School, Northwood Parents, and NFCCA—to generate interest and recruit new members. In Forest Knolls Elementary School, we had a great ally in the school counselor, Mrs. Cygnarowicz. One year during November (National Adoption Month), we put on a display of books in the library related to adoption, and my daughter read a piece about adoption on the morning announcements. Also, the PTA was very supportive in letting us advertise our get-togethers in the school newsletter.

For adoptive parents in the community, I highly recommend joining up with others for support and friendship. You'll be glad you did!

Friendships, Support Through Asian Adoption Group

(continued from page 9)
(30-45 people). Our child, Danny, was almost a year old when I started the group and he was probably the youngest member of the group for a long time. Now Danny is 5½ and there are many more children who are younger than he. He was adopted at 7 months, in January 2008.

This is not a Northwood group or even a Silver Spring or Maryland group. We have members from around the beltway. There is a core group of probably nine families who show up most of the time and our children have gotten to know one another. At least half of the families are from Virginia. But there are more than 90 members of the listserv. Some of them have come once or twice, some show up every once in awhile, and some of them never become part of the group. We meet at local parks around the area.

Now that the children are older (most of them are five and six now, with a few older and younger), we have started to meet at more interesting places. The last meeting (January 2013) was at College Park Aviation Museum. It seems like these adoption groups break up when the majority of the kids are eight to 10 years old, so we still have a couple of years for our kid. I guess families get too busy with scheduling weekend activities that it is not possible to participate after awhile. But even after the group is gone, we will still have the connections we have made

with the families we met when our children were young.

Many people sign up to participate in groups like this one, but many never make the effort to go to an event. For the parents who put a high priority on attending the events, we get to have connections with other families who have children adopted from Asia. Most of the adopting parents are White and that makes us transracial families. I wanted my child to know many families like his own.

We have families in our group who have adopted from the following countries: Vietnam, China, Kazakhstan, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, India, Thailand, Taiwan, and Cambodia.

Now that the Adoption Center of Washington is reduced in size, there is no longer an annual Lunar New Year (aka Chinese New Year or Tet) party with them; we have started meeting on our own to celebrate Lunar New Year. Two parents from our group are organizing a Lunar New Year event at a Montgomery County activity building in February.

And there are far fewer children being adopted internationally as different countries close down their foreign adoption programs or find families for orphans within the country. Vietnam was open this last time from 2006-2008. There were found to be too many suspect adoptions from Vietnam. Unlike China, Vietnam had a decentralized (provincial) adoption process and certain provinces were

particularly prone to corruption. There have been many countries which have opened and closed due to corruption in international adoptions.

We welcome new members to OurAsianKids-DC from around the region. It is all about meeting and knowing other families like our own. If you have friends or relatives in the D.C. area, please let them know about our group.

And because each country has its own listserv and group, there is not much information shared between groups. Vietnam has a 1,000-year history of being occupied by China, so the two countries have much in common. Because of the lack of sharing of information, I created a website which tries to share the information with all families with children adopted from Asia. It is called *MyAsianKidDC.com*. I list Asian and adoption events on a general events calendar and have a special page just for Lunar New Year (Chinese New Year or Tet in Vietnam).

All of these events are family events and are enjoyed by children regardless of whether they are born in the U.S. or in Asia. Lunar New Year 2013 is February 10. Local events started 26 January and go on until 23 February 2013. So maybe there will still be some events to see by the time this is published. Danny particularly likes the Lion Dance, which we have now seen dozens of times.

[Holberton can be reached through the contact form at MyAsianKidDC.com.] ■



Barbara Ciment



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Forest Knolls/Northwood Sales in 2012

#	Street Name	Close Price	Seller Subsidy	Style	BR	BA/HBA	DOMP	Lot Sq Ft	Subdivision
426	Belton Rd	\$226,000		Rambler	5	2	4	6,605	Northwood Village
1006	Caddington Ave	\$350,000	\$10,000	Split Level	4	3	51	7,868	Forest Knolls
1104	Caddington Ave	\$360,000	\$7,200	Split Foyer	5	3	14	8,399	Forest Knolls
1104	Caddington Ave	\$215,000		Split Level	4	2/1	42	8,399	Forest Knolls
915	Caddington Ave	\$340,500	\$895	Split Level	4	1/1	5	9,548	Forest Knolls
10711	Cavalier Dr	\$280,000	\$6,000	Rambler	4	2	15	6,700	Northwood Park
10901	Cavalier Dr	\$290,000		Split Level	4	4	51	8,366	Forest Knolls
1002	Chiswell Ln	\$285,000	\$1,000	Split Level	4	2/1	3	11,299	Forest Knolls
1016	Chiswell Ln	\$415,250		Colonial	6	3/1	55	7,500	Forest Knolls
1113	Chiswell Ln	\$350,000	\$4,900	Split Level	4	2/1	3	8,444	Forest Knolls
10312	Colesville Rd	\$336,000	\$11,000	Colonial	3	2/1	96	8,497	Northwood Park
304	Dennis Ave	\$360,000	\$1,300	Rambler	3	2	5	8,151	Northwood Park
314	Dennis Ave	\$479,000	\$6,000	Colonial	3	3/1	88	9,055	Northwood Park
413	Dennis Ave	\$340,000		Rambler	3	2/1	22	12,158	Northwood Knolls
10405	Eastwood Ave	\$317,900		Cape Cod	3	2/1	188	8,117	Northwood Park
10702	Eastwood Ave	\$315,000		Cape Cod	5	2/1	30	6,545	Northwood Village
10710	Eastwood Ave	\$315,000	\$9,000	Split Level	3	2	298	10,652	Northwood Park
10304	Edgewood Ave	\$420,000		Cape Cod	3	2/1	12	9,100	Northwood Park
10305	Edgewood Ave	\$402,000	\$10,471	Colonial	3	2	17	11,250	Northwood Park
10409	Edgewood Ave	\$375,000	\$11,250	Colonial	4	2	242	8,009	Northwood Park
10427	Edgewood Ave	\$402,500	\$7,500	Cape Cod	4	2/1	13	8,253	Northwood Park
10603	Edgewood Ave	\$400,000	\$10,000	Colonial	4	2	16	6,601	Northwood Village
506	Eisner St	\$260,000	\$10,000	Split Level	3	2/1	146	8,276	Northwood Village
10609	Glenwild Rd	\$280,000	\$8,400	Bilevel	5	3	215	10,308	Northwood Park View
102	Hannes St	\$330,000		Rambler	5	3	52	11,315	Northwood Park View
105	Hannes St	\$312,000	\$12,480	Rambler	3	2	9	6,462	Northwood Park View
122	Hannes St	\$225,000		Rancher	5	2	0	11,315	Northwood Park View
243	Hannes St	\$315,000	\$9,450	Rambler	3	2	7	7,340	Northwood Park View
403	Hannes St	\$369,000	\$8,000	Split Foyer	4	3	10	8,040	Forest Knolls
405	Hannes St	\$352,000	\$9,951	Split Level	4	2/1	204	6,240	Forest Knolls
406	Hannes St	\$305,000		Rambler	3	1/1	72	6,011	Northwood Village
405	Kerwin Rd	\$309,000	\$7,708	Rambler	3	2	76	5,721	Northwood Village
501	Kerwin Rd	\$261,500		Cape Cod	5	2	15	6,624	Northwood Village
502	Kerwin Rd	\$389,900	\$11,670	Cape Cod	5	3	40	5,500	Northwood Village
502	Kerwin Rd	\$245,000		Cape Cod	4	3	86	5,500	Northwood Village
112	Kinsman View Cir	\$300,000		Townhouse	4	3/1	144	2,378	Northwood Park View
17	Kinsman View Cir	\$310,000	\$9,450	Townhouse	3	2/2	6	1,500	Northwood Park View
20	Kinsman View Cir	\$306,000	\$6,000	Townhouse	3	3/1	7	1,540	Northwood Park View
32	Kinsman View Cir	\$300,000		Townhouse	4	3/1	9	2,138	Northwood Park View
311	Ladson Rd	\$344,000	\$11,269	Cape Cod	3	2	20	6,244	Northwood Village
10709	Lockridge Dr	\$351,500		Raised Rancher	3	2/1	118	7,653	Northwood Park View
10919	Lombardy Rd	\$325,000	\$9,750	Rambler	3	2	8	9,313	Northwood Park View
11017	Lombardy Rd	\$309,900	\$9,297	Rancher	4	2	418	7,969	Northwood Park View
1136	Loxford Ter	\$320,000	\$6,000	Split Level	4	2/1	64	7,469	Forest Knolls
920	Loxford Ter	\$359,000		Colonial	4	2/1	19	7,350	Forest Knolls
806	Malta Ln	\$415,000	\$10,000	Split Level	5	2/1	41	7,444	Forest Knolls
10707	Margate Rd	\$392,500		Rambler	4	2/1	5	6,000	Northwood Park View
10414	Mountain Quail Rd	\$530,000		Contemporary	3	4	7	8,175	Northwood Park View
308	Pinewood Ave	\$410,000	\$13,800	Colonial	3	1/1	228	8,250	Northwood Park
1102	Playford Ln	\$319,000	\$9,300	Split Foyer	4	2/1	82	7,385	Forest Knolls
411	Royalton Rd	\$280,000		Rambler	3	1	4	6,518	Northwood Knolls
510	Royalton Rd	\$231,000	\$6,930	Rambler	5	2	167	5,900	Northwood Knolls
116	Southwood Ave	\$540,000		Craftsman	4	2/1	51	8,185	Northwood Park
140	Southwood Ave	\$439,900		Colonial	4	2/1	11	10,000	Northwood
140	Southwood Ave	\$257,000		Colonial	4	2/1	273	9,821	Northwood Park
207	University Blvd W	\$225,000		Cape Cod	3	2	9	9,021	Northwood Park
120	Woodridge Ave	\$395,000	\$9,000	Cape Cod	4	2/1	10	9,717	Northwood Park

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What's in a Name? Northwood-4C versus North 4C

*That which we call a rose
by any other name would
smell as sweet.*
—William Shakespeare,
"Romeo and Juliet"

At the December 2012 NFCCA general membership meeting, a motion was made to change the name of the "Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association" to the "North Four Corners Civic Association." The members present at that meeting agreed that the merits of such a name change should be debated over the next several months. If there is sufficient support for changing the name of our civic association, then there will be a vote on the proposed name change this spring.

CON (by Linda Perlman, NFCCA Treasurer, Caddington Avenue)

Our civic association has been known as the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association since it was founded. Similarly, the newsletter has always been called the *Northwood News*. There's no reason to change the name now; particularly as the association's existing name accurately reflects the area the NFCCA represents.

The NFCCA territory stretches from Northwood High School (i.e., Caddington Avenue and Loxford Terrace) to Four Corners (i.e., Colesville Road and University Blvd., W.) and then to Northwest Branch. Northwood High School is the north boundary and Four Corners

is the south boundary of our civic association. These boundaries are reflected in the name of our civic association.

I live over a mile from Four Corners and I do not consider myself part of the Four Corners community (either the north or south portion). I would suspect that the overwhelming number of residents living by or near me also do not consider

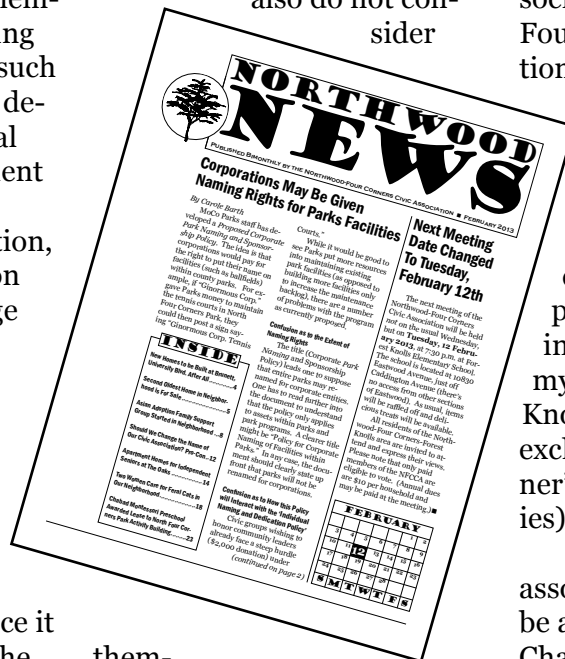
11 (whose boundaries are the same as the NFCCA area) is Forest Knolls Elementary School. Although I would like the civic association name to include "Forest Knolls," I am satisfied as long as "Northwood" is in the name. After all, Northwood High School is behind my house and this newsletter is titled the *Northwood News*.

A change of our civic association name to the "North Four Corners Civic Association" would present a false image regarding the area represented by the NFCCA. Describing the NFCCA area as "North Four Corners" excludes approximately 35 percent of the households in the NFCCA territory (i.e., my neighborhood of Forest Knolls and the other streets excluded from the Four Corner's Master Plan boundaries).

I believe that our civic association should strive to be as inclusive as possible. Changing the association name to "North Four Corners," rather than "Northwood-Four Corners," sends a message that the NFCCA is not interested in the concerns of the more than 521 households located outside of the Four Corners area.

PRO (by Jacquie Bokow, Northwood News Editor, Cavalier Drive)

I often hear people refer to our civic association as the "North Four Corners Civic Association." When I went for training to use County fa-
(continued on page 13)



themselves part of Four Corners. Significantly, neither does the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission: the streets of Eisner, Irwin, Hannes, and Chiswell, as well as the area bordered by Caddington and Loxford are not part of the Four Corners Master Plan area.

My neighborhood is Forest Knolls. The elementary school and swimming pool in the NFCCA territory are named Forest Knolls. The voting place for Precinct 13-

Should We Change Our Civic Association Name?

(continued from page 12)
cilities for our meetings, that is how we were listed by the County. Although I corrected them, I began to think changing our name would make our association more notable and our name more accurate.

The active civic association in the area south of University Boulevard is called the “South Four Corners Civic Association.” The civic association southeast of Colesville Road is called “Woodmoor Civic Association,” so we would not be in conflict with another group.

Our neighborhood encompasses the subdivisions (as called by realtors) of Forest Knolls, Northwood Knolls, Northwood Park, Northwood Park View, and Northwood Village, although I couldn’t say where any of these are actually located. I believe most people think of “Northwood” as the high school. (If they include the territory around it, they would be wrong, as it’s called Forest Knolls after the elementary school, which is not a major landmark to outsiders.) It would be inclusive to call all territories in our neighborhood “North Four Corners.”

When I tell local people where I live, I say “North Four Corners.” On Freecycle-Silver Spring, that’s the location I list for pick-up. They know instantly where I mean. Think about that yourself; where do you say you live when others ask? Isn’t it the “Four Corners” area?

The Four Corners Master Plan is specific to the *inter-*

section of Colesville Road and University Boulevard. The map of the intersection in the Master Plan spreads out a mile in each direction, so it also covers the area south to Sligo Creek and Franklin Avenue. It includes the bulk of NFCCA territory; I guess if the mapmaker had gone that extra half a mile, so to speak (or drawn the map in landscape orientation instead of portrait), we wouldn’t be having this discussion.

Changing our name would not change our acronym; it would still be NFCCA. Our website could remain *nfcca.org*. Our outdoor signs to announce meetings would change, but these are periodically reordered as they break and could be changed gradually without additional expense. New checks would be needed, but perhaps these, too, could be phased in when new ones are ordered.

When the NFCCA began, its territory did not extend to Northwood High School; it stopped at Eisner Street. Another civic association, now defunct, covered the “Forest Knolls” area. With so many subdivisions with the “Northwood” name, it made sense for a small, local newsletter filled with neighborhood news to be called that. But times have changed. Communication has become digital, and quick. Our newsletter has become very well known to people outside our civic association territory. Thanks to the excellent articles being written by residents of our community, it is now a power-

ful expression of our united will to improve our neighborhood, recognize and remember our history, and point out the seemingly never-ending inanity of County institutions. The name of the *Northwood News* would have to change, but folks would no longer think it was a high school publication.

(If the change to the civic association name is voted, perhaps we could have a contest to determine the newsletter’s new name.)

And remember, just because something’s always been one way in the past is no reason it cannot be changed.

[Discussion of the proposed name change will continue at the Feb. meeting.] ■

Rachel Carson Meadow Festival

(continued from page 4)
Pooches”), music and dance performances by residents, martial arts demonstrations, crafts using natural and found items, and exhibits by local environmental groups.

The festival is possible because of residents’ willingness to volunteer their time and talents to make our community better. We are fortunate to have such a beautiful and relaxing natural resource in a very accessible location. If you would like to help with the festival by performing, contributing something, or assisting with activities, please contact me at jzepp@mindspring.com. ■

Apartment Homes in Neighborhood Provide 'A Family Home,' Amenities, for Independent Seniors

By Myriam Lemmerman and
Jacquie Bokow

The Oaks at Four Corners (321 University Blvd., West) has 126 one- and two-bedroom apartment homes for senior citizens who still live independently. Seniors who live there must be at least 62 years of age. Currently, the oldest resident is 97 years old; the majority of residents are in their 90s.

The Oaks was built on the spot where Four Corners Elementary School stood and abuts Rachel Carson Meadow and the children's soccer field behind the North Four Corners Rec Center.

This is a place where seniors feel at home, but there is activism, too. It was the seniors at The Oaks who banded together and contacted Nancy Navarro about installing a crosswalk light on University. Many visit doctors at the medical



The Oaks has 126 apartments for independent senior citizens.

center across the street and residents have fallen while attempting to rush across University Blvd. ahead of oncoming traffic.

Residents at The Oaks have expressed opposition to the installation of a soccer field on the meadow adjoining their home and, at press time, had planned to visit a Montgomery Parks Foundation Bi-county Agency

Committee meeting in Annapolis in late January at the invitation of Tom Hucker to express their disagreement.

Many local organizations help the seniors at The Oaks. Twice-a-week exercise is sponsored by Holy Cross Hospital and a JCC [Jewish Community Center] bus takes residents grocery shopping weekly. Students and

(continued on page 15)



All Photos by Jacquie Bokow

(From left) Mary Jacobs, Mirdza Odins, Nancy Amado, and Jean Langhorne. At right: Margarita Villars, Phyllis Chase, and Alexander Gaskins. The Oaks residents met to hear more about the impending soccer field for Rachel Carson Meadow. They were uniformly opposed.

More About The Oaks for Seniors

(continued from page 14) teachers at Blair High School conduct both Spanish and English Lessons every Tuesday, which give the seniors an opportunity to exercise their memories and have fun. On Friday the residents have another opportunity to interact with these young people, who come to play games and for other projects.

Residents coordinate and decide the activities each month. Besides the usual activities you might expect for seniors—lectures on health topics by medical professionals, blood pressuring screenings by a nurse from Holy Cross Hospital, weekly bingo, meditation (by Mary Bauer, who lives in the neighborhood), chair massage by Angela Orozco of Angelic Hands, monthly



Myriam Lemmerman, Activities Director for The Oaks, stands beside the huge calendar announcing events for the month.

birthday parties—The Oaks has its own choir group, which is accompanied by Dr. Alberto Gamez on piano. The Children's Choir from St. Bernadette's Catholic Church performed during the Christmas Season. The Clarksburg High School

Choir also performed (their Music Director, Evert Williams, is the son of Oaks resident Blanche Williams).

For those interested, the two-bedroom apartments at The Oaks are 725 sq. ft. and rent for \$1,004 per month; the minimum income required is \$23,300. Two sizes of one-bedrooms are available. The 567-sq. ft. apartment is \$765/month and requires an income of at least \$18,000; the Junior one-bedroom is 529 sq. feet and rents for \$641 with a minimum income of at least \$15,000.

There is currently a short waiting list to move in; new tenants are drawn from that whenever there is a vacancy.

For more information, or to share any ideas or talents, contact the office, 301.681.6632 or oaksatfourcorners@comcast.net.

[Myriam Lemmerman is Activities Director at The Oaks.] ■



The Oaks is surprising large. Three levels of apartments (a total of 126) over four wings span the depth of the property.

Workout Strategies for the Cold and Flu Season

Should you workout with a cold? What about the flu? Studies show that a good workout can help reduce stress and help you sleep. It's no surprise that a moderate workout can do some good when you're not feeling well. However, the tricky part for most folks is deciding when to workout and when to skip a day at the gym. Below are my top five workout strategies to keep you moving and (hopefully) prevent the cold and flu.

Tip #1: Know your body and listen to it.

If you have the sniffles and a sore throat, a moderate workout can do you some good. However, a fever along with aches and sweating bouts is something entirely different. If needed, see your doctor to rule out anything more serious; otherwise, take a few days off.

Tip #2: Take precautions at the gym.

Wear clothes that cover your arms and legs and wear weightlifting gloves. You want to create a barrier at the gym and wearing the proper clothing can protect you against germs associated with illness. Use a towel to wipe off equipment after you use it and avoid using the same towel to wipe your face.

Tip #3: Wash your hands often.

This tip is the most helpful, effective, yet overlooked



© Aleksandr Markin | Dreamstime.com

step that can prevent you from getting sick. In fact, studies show that hand-washing works better than hand sanitizer to remove those germs associated with illness in vulnerable areas like school, hospitals, and—you got it—gyms. Wash your hands before your workout and afterwards.

Tip #4: Exercise during non-peak hours.

As much as you might like early morning or late night workouts, you may be putting yourself at more risk of aggravating your cold symptoms or spreading it to others. Workout during less busy times and you'll avoid the crowds and reduce the risk of getting sick.

Tip #5: Lower your workout intensity.

Studies show that there are benefits to working out when you're under the

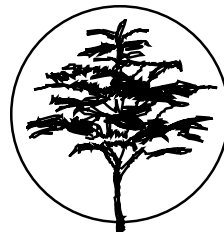
weather: you can increase the amount of oxygenated blood throughout your body. This allows your body to perform and heal better. A little jolt is good for you, but be careful not to overdo it. If you have to run, opt for 20-minute jog versus a 45-minute run. If you're strength training, use lighter weights and higher rep ranges (12-15). Reducing your intensity will still give you great health benefits plus prevent your cold from turning into something else.

[Valerie Merriweather—MHA, ACE, NASM—is Chief Executive Officer of Fitwell Training Solutions, a personal training and wellness company specializing in the health and fitness of busy women. She lives on Playford Lane in the Forest Knolls community. Valerie can be reached at www.fitwellsolutions.com.] ■

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Two Women Care for Feral Cats in Our Neighborhood

By *Jacquie Bokow*

There are folks in our neighborhood who let their cats roam freely; these cats return to their owners for shelter and to eat. A pet cat that has become lost or has been abandoned is defined by the ASPCA as a “stray.” But our neighborhood also has feral cats, which were either born outdoors or are strays that have turned wild in order to survive.

Stray cats are usually tame, comfortable around people (purring and meowing, rubbing against legs), and rely on humans for food. Feral cats (also called “free-roaming”) are quiet and keep their distance. Most are too fearful and wild to be handled. Feral cats are not adoptable and shelters will not accept them. They are not tame. Most feral cats exhibit wild, shy, or frightened behavior. Ferals often live in groups called colonies and take refuge wherever they can find food—rodents and other small animals and

garbage. They will also try to seek out abandoned buildings or deserted cars—or even dig holes in the ground—to keep warm in winter months and cool during the summer heat.

Two women in our neighborhood participate in Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR)—also known as Trap-Test-Vaccinate-Alter-Release (TTVAR)—a method of humanely trapping unaltered feral cats, having them spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies, and releasing them back to the same location where they were collected to live out their lives. These women act as unofficial “colony caretakers,” providing food, water, adequate shelter, spaying/neutering, and monitoring the cats’ health. TNR—promoted by the ASPCA as “a humane and more effective alternative to euthanasia for managing and reducing feral cat populations”—has been shown to be the least costly as well as the most efficient and humane way of stabilizing fe-



Rene Hernandez

Tikka’s clipped left ear shows she’s a feral who’s been fixed.

ral cat populations.

“Blacky is a feral I had been feeding for some years when he showed up in my backyard half dead in the cold of winter,” said Louise Roy (Eastwood Avenue). “I did not think he would survive the week but he did. One afternoon in the summer of 2011, he brought Casper with him and I found both on my back porch. I named him Casper as the antithesis to something that is all white. He was a hellion, hissing at me, scratching me, attacking my shoes, etc. I thought he had brain damage and really did not want to keep him. But Blacky kept bringing him over and they spent hours on the back patio together. That’s when I had Blacky and Casper neutered.”

Perhaps Casper was a stray. “Casper’s bad temper and rude behavior persisted until this past summer when he suddenly decided he wanted to come into the house,” said Roy. “Since then, he has

(continued on page 19)



Rene Hernandez

Spoosie and daughter Tikka relax on Hernandez’s front walk.

Feral Cats

(continued from page 18) made this house his castle, annoying my 11-year-old female cat (Minou, who has been spayed) no end,” said Roy. “Casper has become a surprisingly nice cat who loves to be hugged and will do anything to get a hug. He knows his name and follows commands (most of the time). The only problem is that he eats like a horse, has huge paws, weighs some 15 lb., and is as solid as a brick. His hair is gorgeous and I sometimes think he is a cross between a dog, a bear, and a cat. He seems related to Tikka in some way.”

Tikka is the adult daughter of Spookee, and both are feral cats captured, spayed, released, and now cared for by Rene Hernandez (Belton Road). “I feed them daily and provide fresh water as well,” said Hernandez, who actually is terribly allergic to cats! “I’ve named the mom Spookee, since she gets easily spooked any time she sees me even look at her; she’s all black. Tikka has a white spot on her chest and her left rear paw has two white toes.”

Roy and Hernandez got advice and borrowed traps from local humane organizations.

“Alley Cat Rescue (www.saveacat.org) loaned me two humane traps and taught me how to use them,” said Hernandez. “The two cats were hanging about in my yard; I had been feeding them for a few months. Basically, I put the traps out for a few days and placed their food inside the traps without setting the



Casper (left) and Blacky enjoy the patio at Roy's house.

traps for capture. They ate their food from inside the traps for three or four days. Then one morning I set the traps. Once I trapped them, I brought the cats to a vet [ACR] recommended, who neutered them for free. I donated about \$80 to Alley Cat Rescue for their support, but there was no charge for their services.”

Roy used Metro Ferals (www.metroferals.org). “Besides neutering the cats,” said Roy, “they also gave them a flea treatment, dewormed them, and gave them rabies and FVRCP (distemper combo) shots.”

Both women retrieved the altered cats from the vets, brought them back home, and



Minou now accepts Casper.

released them.

A feral cat that has been altered will have the tip of its left ear removed. Ear-tipping is a widely accepted means of marking a feral cat who has been spayed or neutered; that way, no one will try to alter it again.

Life for a feral cat is not easy. Feral cats must endure weather extremes—cold and snow, heat and rain; they also face starvation, infection, and attacks by other animals. Almost half of the kittens born outdoors die from disease, exposure, or parasites before their first year. If a feral cat survives kittenhood, its average lifespan is less than two years if living on its own. Feral cats which live in a managed colony—with a dedicated caretaker who provides spay/neuter services, regular feedings, and proper shelter—may reach 10 years.

Hernandez tried building an outdoor shelter for them, but the cats never used it; her next door neighbors think the cats may stay under their outdoor shed. Roy says she has never built an outdoor shelter for the cats. “The year we had three snowstorms,” said Roy, “Blacky disappeared for about 10 days between storms and I figured he was buried in snow somewhere, perhaps dead, but one day he showed up again and ate like a horse.”

February is National Cat Health Month, so make sure your cats are up-to-date on vaccines and have had a routine wellness exam in the last year. To find out more about feral cats, visit www.asPCA.org, which provided the facts on feral cats for this article. ■

Clearing Maryland Homestead Tax Credit Confusion

By Linda Perlman

The Homestead Property Tax Credit is a Maryland state law that limits the increase in the taxable assessment of your principal residence, for property tax purposes, to no more than 10 percent per year.

Here is an example of how the homestead tax credit works. (1) assume that your house was reassessed as of 1 January 2013, and that your new phase-in assessment for the first tax year is \$400,000 (new value); (2) assume that your old assessment (base value), as of 1 January 2010, is \$350,000; (3) a 10 percent increase over the \$350,000 base value equals a new taxable assessment of \$385,000; (4) the homestead tax credit would apply to the taxes due on the \$15,000 difference between the \$400,000 new value and \$385,000; and (5) if the tax rate is \$1 per \$100 of assessed value, then your homestead tax credit is \$150 (\$15,000 ÷ 100 × \$1).

In 2007, the Maryland General Assembly enacted a law requiring homeowners to submit a one-time application in order to receive the benefit of the homestead tax credit. Previously, this tax credit was granted automatically if the

property was listed in the assessment records as the taxpayer's principal residence. The application requirement was instituted because some property owners were improperly receiving this tax credit on rental property and vacation homes.

Most homeowners filed the Homestead Tax Credit application shortly after their property was reassessed (in our area, homes were reassessed as of January 2008 and as of January 2011). Homestead Tax Credit Eligibility applications were sent to homeowners along with assessment notices and/or could be completed and filed online. If this was done, then the homeowner does *not* need to file another application. You can check the SDAT Real Property database [dat.state.md.us] for your homestead application status.

If a homeowner failed to file a Homestead Tax Credit Application during this period, then the homeowner was given until 31 December 2012 to submit an application to continue to be eligible for the credit. If no Homestead Tax Credit Application was submitted by 31 December 2012, then the homeowner loses his

or her homestead eligibility and any homestead tax credit on the 1 July 2013 property tax bill. Any Homestead Tax Credit Application filed *after* 31 December 2012 will not be approved until the tax year beginning on or after 1 July 2014.

As a practical matter, the homestead tax credit protects against rising assessments and most assessments in the NFCCA area *decreased* as of 1 January 2011 from the 1 January 2008 property tax assessment. *There is no homestead tax credit when the property value decreases.* For example, my assessment went down as of 1 January 2011, meaning that I did not receive a homestead tax credit on my property tax bill for levy years 2011 and 2012, nor will I receive a homestead tax credit for levy year 2013. Properties are reassessed on a three-year cycle, so properties in the NFCCA area will be reassessed next year, as of 1 January 2014. If the assessed value increases, then the increase is phased-in over the next three tax years.

If you occupy your property as your principal residence and you failed to file the one-time Homestead Tax Credit Application, then you can obtain information online (dat.state.md.us, then click on the Homestead Eligibility Application link) or by calling 1.866.650.8783. Applications filed late will lose their homestead tax credit on the 1 July 2013 tax bill, but will be eligible to receive the tax credit in subsequent years. ■



Since most assessments in the NFCCA area decreased during the last property assessment, there is no homestead tax credit.



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1205 Caddington Ave	\$364,900	Split Level	4	2	0
507 Dennis Ave	\$899,900	Colonial	6	4	0
403 Eisner St	\$429,000	Split Level	3	2	1
204 Marvin Rd***	\$404,900	Cape Cod	4	3	0
414 Royalton Rd	\$339,500	Rambler	4	1	1
207 University Blvd W	\$299,000	Colonial	3	2	0
1012 Playford Ln	\$339,000	Split Foyer	4	1	2

CONTRACTS on the following properties:

206 Hannes St	\$365,000	Rambler	4	2	0
11109 Lombardy Rd*	\$295,000	Rambler	5	2	0
10810 Lombardy Rd*	\$289,000	Split Foyer	4	1	1
857 Loxford Ter	\$349,900	Split Level	3	2	1
10815 Margate Rd*	\$205,000	Split Level	4	2	1
124 Snowy Owl Dr	\$539,900	Colonial	4	4	0
108 Woodridge Ave	\$425,000	Cape Cod	4	2	1

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IMHO: A Matter of Perspective

By Carole Barth

Many of us in Montgomery County feel like our communities are under attack from the County's push to massively increase densities while failing to maintain basic infrastructure and services for existing developed areas. In turn, planners and public officials criticize citizens for being resistant to change. We are admonished to give up our outmoded ideas of neighborhood and embrace the current one-size-fits-all "vision" of the future.

To me, however, it seems that civic activists are *constantly* fighting for change. I think these efforts are not recognized, however, because it is grass roots change (what we want to strengthen and support our communities) versus top-down imposed change (what they think we need). This is especially frustrating when communities are fighting for changes that cost very little money (or that actually save money) while at the same time having to fight boondoggles that cost mega-millions of taxpayer dollars.

So, here are some examples of grass-roots inspired change advocacy from our neighborhood. I'm using our neighborhood as the example because I am most familiar with our causes; however, there are associations and organizations across the county that are fighting for changes.

I would also note that many of the campaigns listed include a strong volunteer component. In other words, we didn't just advocate for

tree plantings; we also bought some trees, planted those as well as ones provided by the County, and have fought to keep them free from invasive vines since.



Our community lobbied to have a Trader Joe's grocery store in our area. The store in Burnt Mills is one of the chain's most successful.

One of our most successful campaigns took place during the development of the Burnt Mills Shopping Center. We surveyed the residents as to which business they would most like to see at the new center, and Trader Joe's was the hands-down favorite. We then began to lobby both the shopping center owners and Trader Joe's. This was not only a success for us, that particular Trader Joe's was recently the chain's "store of the year." (Note to any entrepreneurs reading this, our number two desired business was a premium ice cream parlor, and we're still waiting for one.)

Here is a partial list of our other efforts:

- better access to transit,
- parkland acquisition,

- developing a natural playground at North Four Corners Park,
- traffic calming (speed humps),
- plantings (median, traffic circle, parks)
- pedestrian bridges in Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park
- creation of a vernal pool in Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park
- unified reservation system for County ball fields and other rentals,
- improved management and maintenance of parkland and park assets,
- trail improvements in Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park,
- transit access to nearest senior center and hospital,
- inclusion of urban and village greens in park designs, and
- regulatory and rate changes to improve Pepco's reliability.

The point of all this is that most communities do have ideas for changes they'd like to see, even if they don't have a fully articulated vision for the future. Planners, elected officials, and businesses could gain a lot by consulting residents *before* bringing proposals for public comment. Once upon a time, the master plan process partially served that function with a process built around strong stakeholder groups. Now master plans are rushed through approval containing new zoning codes which haven't even been promulgated. In my opinion, this needs to change. ■

Chabad Montessori Preschool Awarded Lease To the North Four Corners Park Activity Building

By Jim Zepp

The one room, log cabin park activity building in North Four Corners Park (211 Southwood Avenue) was closed by the County Parks Department in April 2010—along with nine similar facilities around the County—as a cost-savings measure. Since then, a group of residents have worked to reopen the building for community use. This culminated with the recent announcement that the Parks Department had accepted the Chabad School, which is currently located in the Kemp Mill neighborhood, as the successful bidder to operate its programs in the park activity building.

A meeting was held on 16 January for community residents to meet with a representative from the Chabad School and ask any questions or make requests about how they would like the building to be used or operated. Rabbi Berel Wolvovsky, the school's co-director, gave a brief de-



Our shuttered North Four Corners Park Activity Building will be leased to a Montessori preschool beginning this Fall.

scription of the school and its plans for the North Four Corners Park activity building. For more information about the Chabad School, please visit their website at www.kmmsprimary.com.

Before the school can begin operating at this location, they must obtain several permits and certifications from County and State agencies, which means a probable Fall 2013 opening, if no major problems occur.

About seven area residents attended the meeting,

including NFFCA President Brian Morrissey, NFCCA Vice President Fiona Morrissey, and NFCCA At-Large Board Member Carolyn Van Dyck. After welcoming the Rabbi and his school to the neighborhood, the desire to have the facility available for community events such as Civic Association meetings was expressed by residents. The presence of the school will also serve as a deterrent to vandalism and other problems in the park.

To help facilitate the approval process for the school to occupy the building, neighborhood resident/former NFCCA President/architect Ralph Bennett has generously volunteered his services to prepare the drawings and related documentation for the building.

Inquiries and comments can be emailed to Rabbi Wolvovsky through their website at www.chabad.org/centers/default_cdo/aid/262384/jewish/Chabad-of-Silver-Spring.htm. ■



The tot playground outside the park activity building would still be available for neighborhood residents visiting the park.

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