

NORTHWOOD NEWS

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NFCCA Hosting District 19 Delegate Forum on April 11th

By Samantha Jones

Election season is now in full swing! Many groups around the area have hosted or are planning to host candidate forums. There have been a number of County Council and County Executive candidate forums, but a dearth of forums for District 19 Delegate candidates. To remedy this, the NFCCA is hosting a District 19 Delegate Candidates Forum on April 11th during the neighborhood

meeting. The event is scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m. and will take place at Forest Knolls Elementary School (10830 Eastwood Avenue). All District 19 residents are encouraged to attend.

The Maryland General Assembly is divided into two houses: the House of Delegates and the State Senate. As the lower house in the state legislature, the House of Delegates has 141 Delegates representing 47 legislative districts across the Free State. District 19, where the NFCCA is situated, has three delegates. Our current delegates are: Bonnie Cullison, Maricé Morales, and Ben Kramer. Both Del. Cullison and Del. Morales are currently running for re-election for their seats; Del. Ben Kramer is running for the State Senate.

In total, there are 11 people running for three delegate seats in District 19 (eight Democrats and three Republicans). With a packed race, it is hard for local residents to get a chance to meet and talk with each candidate. The NFCCA is hosting the delegate candidate forum so that neighbors can meet each

Next Meeting on Wed., April 11th

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 11 April 2018, 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 Avenue).

The meeting will be run as a forum for candidates running this year for Delegates for District 19 in the form of "speed dating"; see the story at left for details. You can also register to vote at the meeting.

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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WWW.NFCCA.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Recently I took a tour of the Washington National Opera studio in Takoma Park. In one room a worker was dipping cloth into a huge dye vat, while in another area a group was busily working on elaborate masks and hats. Seamstresses were working with expensive brocades that cost hundreds of dollars per yard, while row upon row of costumes hung in storage—and on the back wall there were enough shoes to make Imelda Marcos jealous. The tour was an eye-opening peek into the unseen effort that goes into a stage production and gave me a greater appreciation for the hours and hours of invisible work that contribute to the success of a spectacular show.

Not to pat ourselves on the back with so much force that it would TKO Mike Tyson, but the NFCCA board and volunteers who work behind the scenes do a lot to make our community a better place to live. This newsletter is delivered to your doorstep by volunteers. Our above-and-beyond editor, Jacquie Bokow, has worked on the newsletter for 18 years; she also maintains the website, nfcca.org.

The dynamic duo of Jim Zepp and Carole Barth are a force to be reckoned with in civic activism. Former NFCCA President and long-time board member Ed Levy keeps his finger on the pulse of local politics. A relative newcomer to our community, Kevin Harris, has spent way too many evenings away from his young family attending Bus Rapid Transit meetings and he recently testified at a county council meeting to express concerns about a new study to look at placing BRT in the route 29 median, which could potentially disrupt traffic patterns in Four Corners (see his testimony on page 7). Kevin has also been instrumental in making sure that the soccer field in our neighborhood park is being maintained (witness the field renewal efforts that are underway). Laura Hussey made sure that the parks department tweaked drainage and improved trash removal. Fiona Morrissey with her raffles, quizzes, and Trader Joe treats makes our membership meetings a bit more fun.

Then there is the quiet blocking and tackling that go into making an organization run smoothly and efficiently. Sondra Katz, with a hefty assist from Linda Perlman, revised the NFCCA bylaws. Currently, an effort is underway to develop an operating manual that will make it easier for current and future board members to keep NFCCA activities on track. We are in the process of developing a Welcome Kit to help new members of our community settle in. And soon you will be able to check on the website (by address) to see if your membership dues are current.

Looking forward, special thanks go to Samantha Jones for putting together the upcoming Candidates Forum; we have had an amazing response. Ten of the 11 candidates who are running for District 19 delegate will

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Communicate With Neighbors

NFCCA Listserv

To join: nfcca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
[add "un" to unsubscribe]

To send messages to group:
nfcca@yahoogroups.com

Nextdoor/Northwood-Four Corners

<https://nextdoor.com>; enter your street address; choose "Northwood-Four Corners."

Twitter: @NFCCAMoCo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfccamoco

Park [on FB]: NFCCAPark ■

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.

The *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

www.nfcca.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

join us on Wednesday, April 11th, at 7:30 p.m. in Forest Knolls Elementary School. We are trying out a more interactive format and will be breaking up into smaller discussion groups. Candidates will move from one group to the next, which will offer an opportunity to ask questions and get a better feel for the candidates' positions on issues you care about than you might get from listening to speeches.

Sam has also played an instrumental role in building out and managing our social media presence. To find out about the latest and greatest happenings in our neighborhood, you can now stay connected on the Friends of North Four Corners Park Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NFCCAPark) or on Twitter @NFCCAMoCo.

Although the current board and our volunteers are active and engaged, there is a point where we reach our bandwidth. At the last gen-

eral membership meeting, a speaker from the Kemp Mill civic association asked if NFCCA would be interested in joining their Village to provide volunteer assistance to seniors in the community who need help with chores, errands, transportation, and medical appointments. With the recent spate of car break-ins, we have been asked about organizing a Neighborhood Watch. Others have expressed an interest in putting on more social activities like block parties or a creek clean-up at Northwest Branch.

We think all of these are fantastic ideas, but there are limits to what we as Board volunteers can accomplish. That's where you come in. Attend our general membership meetings. Help us establish our positions on important issues and our priorities for future projects. Take some time to volunteer to help us make Northwood Four Corners an even more excellent community!

—Sharon Canavan

Meet the Candidates For District 19 Delegate

'Speed Dating' Format! Speak to Each of Them!

**At the NFCCA April Meeting
Wednesday, 11 April 2018
Begins Promptly at 7:30 p.m.
Forest Knolls Elementary School
10830 Eastwood Avenue
(off Caddington Avenue)**

Free | Plenty of Parking | Treats & Raffles, Too!
See Further Details on Page 1 | Register to Vote at the Meeting

NFCCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association serves for one year and meets every month except July and August. Current officers (until October 2018) are:

President

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301.593.0487
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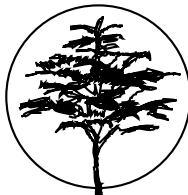


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Co. Exec. Candidates Forum on Equity, Immigration

By Lisa Rimmert and Laura Hussey

On Sunday, February 25, several hundred Montgomery County voters showed up at Northwood High School to hear from candidates for the Office of County Executive. The forum, the first of its kind in recent history, focused specifically on issues of racial equity and immigrants' rights in the county. Although Montgomery County prides itself on its diversity and as a welcoming place for immigrants, little progress has been made in advancing equity for people of color here over the past 40 years.

A large coalition of nonprofits are working to change that, and, given the monumental shift in the makeup of Montgomery County government that will result from the enactment of public campaign financing and term limits, the coalition focused a spotlight on the seven candidates vying for the county's highest office. Twenty area nonprofits cosponsored the forum (a full list is available at <https://www.facebook.com/events/532945973745999/>). Neighborhood resident Lisa Rimmert was directly involved, representing Impact Silver Spring.

The Maryland primary election is June 26 and, in Montgomery County, the primary is usually decisive because of the balance of party affiliation in the county. You must be registered to vote (with a party affiliation) by June 5 in order to vote in the primary.

Some clips of the forum are available at: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/surj-mocomd/videos/> and you can read more about it at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/montgomery-executive-candidates-talk-immigration-racial-equity/2018/02/25/41212ffc->

[1824-11e8-b681-2d4d462a1921_story.html?utm_term=.cb893b8ec7a5](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/montgomery-executive-candidates-talk-immigration-racial-equity/2018/02/25/41212ffc-1824-11e8-b681-2d4d462a1921_story.html?utm_term=.cb893b8ec7a5) and <http://www.mymcmedia.org/county-executive-candidates-express-support-immigrants/>. [Rimmert lives on Playford Lane; Hussey, who lives on Edgewood Avenue, is on the NFCCA Board.] ■

District 19 Delegate Forum 4/11

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

candidate and discuss their platforms in a more personalized setting.

The forum will have a "speed dating" structure where each candidate will meet with a small group of attendees for an allotted time, and then move on to meet with another small group after that time is up. At the beginning of the forum, attendees will be split into small groups, and then one candidate will address each group at a time. That's right: the candidates will come to you to hear your questions and concerns! This structure ensures that all attendees will hear directly from each candidate, and be able to engage each candidate in discussion.

The following candidates have affirmed they will attend the forum:

■ Brian Crider (Democratic candidate; www.delegatebrian.com);

■ Charlotte Crutchfield (Democratic candidate; www.voteforcharlotte.com);

■ Helen Domenici (Republican candidate; no website

listed);

■ Marlin Jenkins (Democratic candidate; www.marlinformaryland.com);

■ Del. Maricé Morales (Democratic candidate; www.maricemorales.com);

■ Dave Pasti (Republican candidate; www.pastifordelagate.com);

■ Martha Schaerr (Republican candidate; www.marthafarmaryland.com);

■ Vaughn Stewart (Democratic candidate; www.vaughnformaryland.com);

■ Carl Ward (Democratic candidate; www.votecarlward.com); and

■ Jade Wiles (Democratic candidate; www.wilesfordelagate.com).

Please plan on joining us for what promises to be an exciting night of democracy and local politics! If possible, please arrive a few minutes early as the forum will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

As a reminder, Primary Day is June 26th and Election Day is November 6th!

[Jones is an at-large member of the NFCCA Board; she lives on Glenwild Road.] ■

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Kevin Harris Testifies at Bus Rapid Transit Hearing

[The following is the testimony of Kevin Harris in a hearing on the County's proposed Bus Rapid Transit system held on 27 February 2018 before the County Council.]

My name is Kevin Harris and I'm a resident of Silver Spring. I've been a member of the Route 29 BRT Advisory Committee for three years. I have a Masters in Community Planning and served as a Senior Planner for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I have also had excellent experiences with BRT systems, notably in Bogota, Colombia, visiting my wife's family.

But the hard truth is: one size does not fit all. Each potential site for a BRT system corridor has its own unique characteristics that need to be carefully evaluated. The current debate where one is placed into either a "pro" or "anti" BRT box oversimplifies complex transportation planning issues and is antithetical to an informed debate.

A careful evaluation of Route 29 has already occurred. I participated in an advisory committee with the State for three years and their experts concluded that they could not recommend BRT. But this study wasn't good enough for our County Executive because he, and many others, only support studies that provide them with the answers they want. The County Executive, without the knowledge of the citizens he chose to advise him, hired a hand-picked contractor named Sabra-Wang to deliver

the answer that he wanted: BRT was right for Route 29.

The truth of the matter is that there is no unbiased data that supports the proposition that the current or future proposed BRT proposals will reduce either congestion or transit travel times. What we have is an expensive, poorly planned mish-mash of bus on shoulder and bus in mixed traffic. It is transportation planning that is as dull as a butter knife.

The public transportation solution that best fits the transportation and congestion challenges facing Route 29 is MetroExtra. The initial capital cost for implementing MetroExtra would be 10% of the cost of BRT and deliver riders to the same stations, along the same routes, at the same speed, without eliminating local bus service or incurring \$21 million more in debt.

Millions of dollars have been spent on studies. Montgomery County is in a fiscal crisis; we face a \$400 million deficit over the next six years. You have the choice to recognize fiscal reality, tighten our belts, and still deliver excellent public transit by partnering with WMATA to implement MetroExtra. What we should not do is take out the County's credit card to pay for expensive transit solutions that are not backed by any supporting data. The County's growing debt burden may force the County to sacrifice investments in education, affordable housing, and many of the social programs we hold dear, including sup-

port services to seniors and low-income and immigrant populations.

At a time when we're facing a \$400 million dollar shortfall over six years, we should be looking for ways to provide service at the highest level in the most cost-effective manner, not redesigning highways through political proclamations. The taxpayers are tired of watching the Council whipsaw back and forth on this issue. They deserve better. Implement MetroExtra. You can save the taxpayers a ton of money and provide excellent bus service at the same time. It's a win-win.

[Harris lives on Edgewood Avenue and serves on the NFCCA Board.] ■



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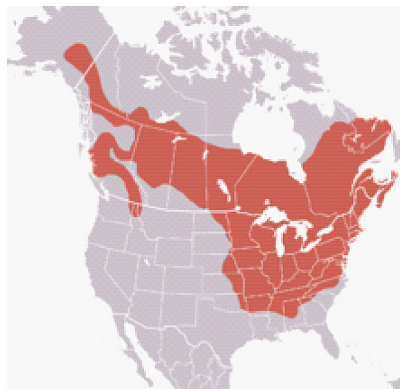
Have You Spotted Our Neighborhood Whistlepig Yet?

By Jacquie Bokow

I didn't know what the animal was that was crawling up the steps beside our house. At first I thought it was a beaver, but its tail wasn't flat. Then I realized, even though I'd never seen one before: it was a groundhog. I've since seen it—more than once—crossing Lombardy Road near Lockridge Drive around dusk.

The groundhog (*Marmota monax*, to be precise) is basically a giant ground squirrel. It's also known as a woodchuck, land beaver, woodshock, groundpig, whistlepig (for their tendency to emit short, high-pitched whistles to alert others to danger), whistler, thickwood badger (to differentiate it from the prairie badger), Canada marmot, monax, moonack, weenusk, and red monk.

According to National Geographic, the name woodchuck doesn't have anything to do with wood. It's thought to be a corruption of the Native American words wejack, woodshaw, or woodchoock. It may have its roots in the Algonquian (or perhaps Narragansett) name for the animal: wuchak, which meant "the



Groundhog habitat in North America



THE FAMOUS TONGUE-TWISTER:
How much wood would a woodchuck chuck
if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
A woodchuck would chuck all the wood he could
if a woodchuck could chuck wood!

digger.”

Young groundhogs are called “chucklings.”

Groundhogs are skilled at both climbing and swimming, which helps them to escape predators.

A groundhog burrow is complex. It is usually in a wooded or brushy area and is dug below the frost line so it remains at a stable temperature well above freezing during winter. This burrow can be up to 60 feet long, with multiple exits, several levels, and a number of chambers, including one used as a “bathroom.” It surprises me that whistlepigs can make homes in our neighborhood at all; I’ve found clay so hard only six inches under the grass that it looks like solid brick. That whistlepigs have such strong claws they can dig three feet

down through that is remarkable.

Woodchucks are basically loners, keeping fairly solitary for most of the year and only getting together to breed.

Groundhogs are diurnal (active during the day) from spring to fall. Most activity occurs during the early morning and early evening hours, when they emerge from their burrows to find food.

In the wild, groundhogs live three to six years; in captivity, nine to 14.

Groundhogs are true hibernators, going into a dormant state—in which their body temperature and heart rate fall dramatically, the former to less than 68°F—from late fall until late winter or early spring. So they should be out and about right about now. Keep an eye out! ■

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11003 Lombardy Rd Silver Spring, MD 20901



Northwood Neighborhood RealTime Report: **www.ciment.com/northwood**

Easy-Peasy Shrubs for Native Pollinators

By Carole Barth

When considering a shrub for your yard, you may not think of supporting pollinators. We tend to think more about planting flowers for the native bees and butterflies, and we often forget that moths, wasps, flies, beetles, hummingbirds, and even bats are also pollinators. But, in truth, we are losing pollinators, with many species in danger of disappearing locally or even facing extinction. Loss of habitat (due to development and the spread of nonnative invasive plants), increasing use of pesticides, and climate change are all factors threatening pollinator populations. Thus, it makes sense to try and provide for pollinators whenever we add plants to our gardens.

In particular, native bees are our hardest-working pollinators, contributing an

estimated \$3 billion worth of crop pollination nationally each year. A recent nationwide study of the more than 4,000 native bee species in North America and Hawaii found that nearly one in four species is imperiled and at increasing risk of extinction. (See “Pollinators in Peril” at https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/native_pollinators/pdfs/Pollinators_in_Peril.pdf.)

Their loss will impact much more than agricultural crops. Native bees also provide ecosystem stability, helping to determine the types and numbers of various other species in the community. Like the keystone which keeps an arch from collapsing, keystone species keep ecosystems from collapsing. These interspecies relationships can be surprising; for example, even the grizzly

bear depends upon bees. In late summer, fruit makes up more than 60 percent of a grizzly’s diet. By helping to keep plant communities healthy and sustainable, native pollinators help provide food and cover for wildlife, prevent erosion, cycle nutrients, and keep waterways clean.

So what can you do? Reduce pesticide use, provide nesting sites (e.g., let some perennial stalks stand through the winter), and use native plants in your garden. Below are four shrubs that support pollinators, provide multiseason interest in the garden, and also add a structural element to your design. These are easy-to-grow, adaptable shrubs that are not fussy about soil, light, or water. And don’t worry about inviting native bees to your garden: they don’t sting. ■

American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*)

Pollinators: Butterflies, native bees, and birds. Notes: Stunning fall display with yellow leaves and red-violet (edible) berries. Berries persist in winter. Crushed leaves repel insects.

Arrowwood Viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Pollinators: Butterflies (host plant for spring azure, secondary host plant for Baltimore Checkerspot*), native bees, and birds. Notes: Showy white flowers in late spring; blue-black edible berries; fall color can be yellow, red-orange, or crimson. Native Americans used the straight branches for arrow shafts.

Red Chokeberry (*Photinia pyrifolia*)

Pollinators: Butterflies (Coral Hairstreak, Striped Hairstreak), larval host for several moths, native bees, and birds, including hummingbirds. Notes: Attractive white flowers in spring, vivid red leaves in fall, and bright red edible berries persist in winter. (This is the plant Aronia juice comes from.)

Sweet Pepperbush (*Clethra Alnifolia*)

Pollinators: Butterflies (Swallowtails, Skippers), especially good for native bees, attracts hummingbirds. Notes: Also called summersweet, Clethra has fragrant white or pink flower spikes in July and August. Very good clear yellow fall color.

*Maryland’s state butterfly, which is on the list of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species.



Forest Knolls Pool

HOME OF THE SEAHAWKS SWIM TEAM

In the Heart of Your Neighborhood

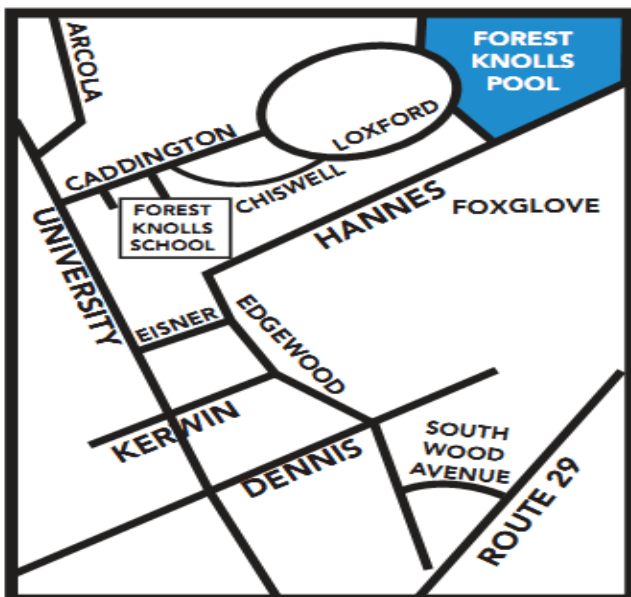
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Questions, contact Mike Amitay
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 (see website for info, calendar)

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