

NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ JUNE 2022

June Meeting Hosts At-Large County Council Candidate Forum

By Linda Perlman

The 8 June 2022 meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association (NFCCA) will be a Zoom forum for the eight Democrat primary election candidates running for the four at-large seats on the Montgomery County Council.

The nine member Montgomery County Council is the legislative branch of the Montgomery County Govern-

ment. All County voters elect four at-large members of the County Council. Five members of the County Council are elected by districts and only voters residing in that council district can vote for candidates of that district. (The NFCCA area is in council District 5; a District 5 candidate forum was held at NFCCA's April meeting and can be viewed online.) All nine Council members are elected at the same time and serve four-year terms.

The Democrats running in the July primary election for at large Council seats are:

- Gabe Albornoz (currently County Council president);
- Brandy Brooks (consultant on environmental and racial justice issues);
- Dana Gassaway (former biology teacher);
- Evan Glass (currently Council vice president);
- Scott Goldberg (small real estate business owner and on the Democratic Central Committee);
- Tom Hucker (currently Council member representing District 5);
- Will Jawando (current

Next Meeting on Wed., 8 June

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 8 June 2022, at 7:30 p.m. **The meeting will be held virtually.**

To find the access codes for the online meeting, go to the NFCCA website at www.nfcca.org; the codes will be posted online and on the list-serv the week of the meeting.

Items on the agenda include a forum for candidates running for the "at-large" seats on the County Council.

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 online.) ■

INSIDE

Great Turnout for First Northwood Bicycle Club Neighborhood Ride ..4

Gran Participación en el Primer Paseo en Bicicleta Por el Vecindario del Northwood Bicycle Club5

Celebrating Our Diversity/ Celebrando Nuestra Diversidad ...8

NFCCA Dues are Lagging9

Community Public Services10

26+ Homes at First Neighborhood Yard Sale in May12

Saving Our 'Witness Tree'14

National Night Out on 2 August..15

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

JUNE						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All eight Democratic primary candidates—including four incumbents—running for at-large Montgomery County Council seats are scheduled to participate in the NFCCA meeting/candidate forum on Wednesday, 8 June 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting will be held via Zoom. The Zoom link for this meeting/candidate forum is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88309318257?pwd=sHWkE6uh9VE39qM8ogyL3OueqKBuqt.1> or via phone at +1 301.715.8592. The link will be available on the www.nfcca.org website before the meeting.

The Zoom connection information for the NFCCA candidate forum also will be publicized via the NFCCA Groups.io listserv and Next Door/Northwood-Four Corners and will be available on the NFCCA website at nfcca.org. All residents of the Northwood-Four Corners-Forest Knolls area are encouraged to attend this virtual meeting/candidate forum. The candidate forum also is open to interested members of the public.

NFCCA's last meeting, on 13 April 2022, was a District 5 candidate forum for the contenders for the County Council District 5 seat. The eight Democratic candidates for the District 5 County Council seat all attended the forum. The candidates opined on efforts to increase pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle safety in the complex Four Corners traffic intersection and along nearby roads; on the availability and conditions of rental housing; on the Thrive Montgomery 2050 planning process, including zoning changes to permit denser redevelopment in single-family neighborhoods; and on economic redevelopment of nearby commercial areas.

NFCCA also sponsored an Earth Day Family Bike Ride for children of all ages around the neighborhood (see page 4). The bike ride finished at North Four Corners Park with pizza and beverages for participants. Thanks to Ema Perez and his team for organizing the fun bike ride!

A Neighborhood Yard Sale—actually more than 26 yard sales—took place on 14 May at multiple locations in the neighborhood (see page 12). Kudos to Julie Whitcomb and Karen Donnelly for their work in planning, organizing, and marketing the neighborhood yard sale. There have been other fun civic activities this spring, such as a plant swap sponsored by the newly formed Northwood Garden Club.

Finally, please save the date—Tuesday, 2 August—for NFCCA's annual National Night Out celebration (see page 15). National Night Out will be held at the Forest Knolls Pool and include the traditional potluck dinner, as well as snow cones, swimming, and visits from local officials.

NFCCA does not meet during the summer months so we will next see you in October. By then, we hope to resume in-person meetings at Forest Knolls Elementary School.

—Linda Perlman

Communicate With Neighbors

NFCCA Listserv

To join:

nfcca+subscribe@groups.io

[add “un” to unsubscribe]

To send messages to group:

nfcca@groups.io

Nextdoor/Northwood-Four Corners

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/517319962826076>

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/nfccamoco

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the ~1,600 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.

Editor

Jacquie Bokow
10603 Cavalier Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301.593.8566
editor@nfcca.org

Visit Our Website

www.nfcca.org

June At-Large Candidates Forum

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Council member); and

■ Laurie-Anne Sayles (FDA employee and former Gaithersburg City Council member).

There also are three Republicans running for at large Council positions: Christopher Fiotes, Lenard Lieber, and Dwight Patel. Because there are four at-large Council seats and only three Republicans are running in the primary election, all three of the Republican candidates will appear on the general election ballot in November 2022.

Maryland primary elec-

tions are closed party primaries. You must be a registered Democrat or Republican to vote for that party's candidates for all elective offices other than nonpartisan Board of Education offices. The primary election will be held on 19 July 2022. Early voting and voting by mail will be available for the primary election, as well as voting in person at Forest Knolls Elementary School, the polling place for our Precinct 13-11. In the November general election, all registered voters may vote for any candidate or ballot question. ■



ALBORNOZ



BROOKS

No Photo
Submitted

GASSAWAY



GLASS



GOLDBERG



HUCKER



JAWANDO



SAYLES

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 2022) are:

President

Linda Perlman
1203 Caddington Avenue
301.681.3735
president AT nfcca DOT org

Vice President

Julie Whitcomb
1019 Chiswell Lane
301.509.5534
veep AT nfcca DOT org

Treasurer

Sondra Katz
10905 Lombardy Road
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Sharon Canavan
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703.400.9560
ema AT nfcca DOT org

John Prochilo
114 Southwood Avenue
978.502.4412
john AT nfcca DOT org

'Raffle Lady'

Fiona Morrissey
10301 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.4026
fiona AT nfcca DOT org

Immediate Past President

Edward Levy
212 Thistle Court
240.988.8200
ipp AT nfcca DOT org

Great Turnout on Earth Day Weekend for First Northwood Bicycle Club Neighborhood Bike Ride

By Ema Perez

Thank you to all who joined the Northwood Bicycle Club for our first neighborhood bike ride, held on 23 April. More than 50 of our neighbors of all ages turned out for this great event. The ride started on the open lawn in North Four Corners Park and took a lap around the park before heading out as a group through our neighborhood's streets. We concluded with another lap back at the park as we were cheered in by our neighbors.

It was great to see so many neighbors out on their bikes. One 7-year-old neighbor earned a Cub Scout badge for her participation, and a 4-year-old was thrilled to be riding her bike with a "big group" for the first time. The event was a great opportunity get out of our micro-communities and meet residents from other parts of the neighborhood. We look forward to holding another ride again soon and continuing to build these neighborhood connections.

Many thanks to the neighbors who served as traffic monitors along the route, as well as those who helped with set up, clean up, and food pick-ups. It was a really a team effort. We especially thank the NFCCA for sponsoring the ride so that we could provide food from our local businesses, because a bike ride is great, but a ride with Woodmoor Bakery donuts and 4 Corners Pub pizza is

even better! On that note, we would like to encourage everyone to join the NFCCA; your \$10 per year helps support community events like this!

Stay tuned to the NFCCA listserv and this NFCCA news-

letter for announcements about future neighborhood rides, or subscribe to the Northwood Bicycle Club list serv at NorthwoodBicycleClub+Subscribe@nfcca.groups.io. ■



Photos by Bart Desmet, Aya Zink, John Prochilo, and Aya Perez



**REMEMBER
FIREWORKS ARE ILLEGAL
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**
In Maryland, private use and possession of fireworks, including sparklers, is illegal and carries a \$500 fine.

Gran Participación en el Primer Paseo en Bicicleta Por el Vecindario del Northwood Bicycle Club

Gracias a todos los que se unieron al Northwood Bicycle Club para nuestro primer paseo en bicicleta por el vecindario, que se llevó a cabo el 23 de abril. Más de 50 de nuestros vecinos de todas las edades asistieron a este gran evento. El paseo comenzó en el césped abierto en North Four Corners Park con una vuelta alrededor del parque antes de salir en grupo por las calles de nuestro vecindario. Concluimos con otra vuelta en el parque mientras nuestros vecinos nos animaban.

Fue realmente genial ver a tantos vecinos en sus bicicletas. Una vecina de 7 años ganó una insignia Cub Scout por su participación, y una niña de 4 años estaba encantada de andar con un "grupo grande" de bicicletas por primera vez. El evento fue una gran oportunidad para salir de nuestras micro comunidades y conocer a residentes de otras partes del vecindario. Esperamos realizar otro paseo pronto y continuar construyendo estas conexiones en el vecindario.

Muchas gracias a los vecinos que hicieron de monitores de tránsito a lo largo de la ruta, así como a los que ayudaron con la presentación, limpieza y recogida de alimentos. Fue realmente un esfuerzo de equipo. Agradecemos especialmente a NFCCA por patrocinar el paseo para que podamos proporcionar comida de nuestros negocios locales, porque un paseo en

bicicleta es genial, ¡pero un paseo con donas del Woodmoor Bakery y pizza del 4 Corners Pub es aún mejor! En ese sentido, nos gustaría alentar a todos a unirse a la NFCCA; ¡sus \$10 por año ayudan a apoyar eventos comunitarios como este!

Manténgase en sintonía con el list serv de NFCCA y el boletín informativo de NFCCA para recibir anuncios sobre futuros paseos en el vecindario, o suscríbase al Northwood Bicycle Club list serv en *Northwood BicycleClub+Suscribe@nfc-ca.groups.io*. ■



RECUERDE, LOS FUEGOS ARTIFICIALES SON ILEGALES EN EL CONDADO DE MONTGOMERY

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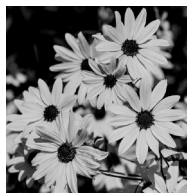
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Celebrating Our Diversity

By Ema Perez & Cait James

Ever wonder what countries are represented by the residents of our neighborhood? Or what languages are spoken in our community? A new committee is forming to celebrate the diversity of the Northwood-Four Corners neighborhood. Would you like to be part of it?

The Northwood-Four Corners Diversity Committee has held two meetings on Zoom over the past few months and, in these meetings, we have developed these goals:

- Promote inclusive communication about neighborhood news and events through our current communication platforms (e.g., the NFCCA newsletter, listserv, and meetings); and
- Explore options for community events that celebrate diversity.

To promote inclusive communication and reach more neighbors, we want to publish select *Northwood News* articles in other languages spoken in the neighborhood, such as Spanish and Amharic, in addition to English, and publicize neighborhood news and events with multilingual posters that will feature QR codes which can quickly engage neighbors via their mobile devices. We also hope to encourage more neighbors to contribute to the newsletter and to highlight many of the diverse individuals who are part of our community.

The committee continues to brainstorm and seek ideas from the community about events that will highlight the

cultural and linguistic diversity of our neighbors. The recent Latin-infused “Salsa in the Park” event sponsored by the Montgomery County Parks Department showed us that music and food can bring so many neighbors together for a fun time; the committee aspires to bring more events like it to our neighborhood.

The Northwood-Four Corners Diversity Committee is looking for neighbors with an

interest in helping to organize events, translating articles (especially into Amharic or Spanish), or sharing ideas for celebrating our diversity. If interested, or to find out about the next meeting, please contact NFCCA Board Member Ema Perez at mobelixk@gmail.com or Cait James at caitlin.a.james@gmail.com.

In the spirit of inclusion, we encourage you to pass our contact information to any neighbors you think might be interested in getting involved. ■

Celebrando Nuestra Diversidad

¿Alguna vez te has preguntado qué países están representados por los residentes de nuestro vecindario? ¿O qué idiomas se hablan en nuestra comunidad? Se está formando un nuevo comité para celebrar la diversidad del vecindario de Northwood-Four Corners.

¿Te gustaría ser parte de este Comité?

El Comité de Diversidad de Northwood-Four Corners ha realizado dos reuniones en Zoom en los últimos meses y en estas reuniones hemos desarrollado estos objetivos:

- Promover la comunicación inclusiva sobre las noticias y los eventos del vecindario a través de nuestras plataformas de comunicación actuales (p. ej., el boletín informativo de la NFCCA, el Listserv, las reuniones de la NFCCA); y
- Explorar opciones para eventos comunitarios que celebren la diversidad.

Para promover la comunicación inclusiva y llegar a más vecinos, queremos: publicar

artículos selectos del boletín informativo del NFCCA en otros idiomas que se hablen en el vecindario, como español y amárico, además de inglés; publicitar noticias y eventos del vecindario con carteles multilingües que contarán con códigos QR que pueden interactuar rápidamente con los vecinos a través de sus teléfonos celulares.

También queremos invitar a más vecinos a contribuir con el boletín y destacar a muchas de las personas que representan la diversidad de nuestro vecindario.

El Comité continúa generando y buscando ideas de la comunidad sobre eventos que celebran la diversidad cultural y lingüística de nuestros vecinos. El reciente evento con infusión latina “Salsa in the Park” patrocinado por el departamento de Parques del Condado de Montgomery nos mostró que la música y la comida pueden unir a tantos vecinos para pasar un rato

(CONTINÚA EN LA PÁGINA 9)

NFCCA Dues Are Lagging, But You Can Help

By Sharon Canavan

Do you enjoy this newsletter? If you wish to continue having the *Northwood News* delivered to your home, then please pay your \$10 annual civic association dues. If you have a local business, consider advertising in the *Northwood News*. You also can help by reaching out to encourage your neighbors, especially the newcomers, to join our civic association, the NFCCA.

NFCCA's main annual expenditure is for printing the *Northwood News*, but inflation



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The Democrats running in the July primary election for at-large Council seats are:
 • Gabe Allmarer (currently County Council president)
 • Brandy Brooks (consultant on environmental and racial justice issues)
 • Dana Gansway (former biology teacher)
 • Evan Glass (currently Council vice president)
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Next Meeting on Wed., 8 June

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INSIDE

Great Turnout for First Northwood Bicycle Club Neighborhood Ride 4

Great Participation at 4th Annual Home on Belmont for 4th Year of the Northwood Bicycle Club 5

Celebrating Our Diversity: Children's Health Overlaid 8

NFCCA Dues are Lagging 9

Community Public Services 10

20+ Homes at First Neighborhood Yard Sale in May 12

Saving Our 'Witness Tree' 14

National Night Out 2 August 15

JUNE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Y Mas en Español

(CONTINÚA DE LA PÁGINA 8)

divertido; el comité aspira a traer más eventos como este a nuestro vecindario.

El Comité de Diversidad de Northwood-Four Corners está buscando vecinos interesados en ayudar a organizar eventos, traducir artículos (especialmente en español y amárico), o compartir ideas para celebrar nuestra diversidad.

Si está interesado, o para obtener información sobre la próxima reunión del Comité, comuníquese con Ema Perez, miembro de la junta de NFCCA, en mobelixk@gmail.com o Cait James en caitlin.a.james@gmail.com.

Con el espíritu de inclusión, les invitamos a que compartan nuestra información de contacto a cualquier vecino que pueda estar interesado en participar. ■

tion is taking its toll on our printing expenses this year! Last year, despite efforts to attract additional paying advertisers, the newsletter lost money and is expected to do so again in 2022. Jacquie Bokow, the newsletter editor, and our Board members often hear compliments about the quality and newsworthiness of our neighborhood newsletter. If our expenses continue to exceed our income, then we would be forced to implement measures such as increasing the annual NFCCA dues, cutting newsletter production to fewer issues a year, or publishing the *Northwood News* online-only.

NFCCA Board members are also trying to put together more social events. Last fall, NFCCA sponsored two Halloween contests, earlier this spring we had a Family Bike Ride with over 60 participants, in mid-May we hosted both a Neighborhood Yard Sale and a Northwood Garden Club plant swap. In August we are looking forward to

National Night Out at the Forest Knolls Pool (see page 15). These activities don't cost a lot, but there are expenses to publicize and host these social events. We've had fun planning these events and hope you have enjoyed participating. We would hate to be forced to cut back on social gatherings for budgetary reasons, because that is what a community is about.

So, how can you help? Dues are only \$10 per household—not individual—per year. (There is an additional \$1 service fee, to offset costs, if you choose to pay your dues online.) We offer several convenient ways to pay your NFCCA dues:

- Mail your check, payable to "NFCCA," to our Treasurer, Sondra Katz (10905 Lombardy Road). Please don't mail cash.

- Deliver your check or cash to the Treasurer at her home in her mailbox.

- Hand your payment (cash or check) to the Treasurer or any other NFCCA Board member (see page 3).

- Contact *Northwood News* Editor Jacquie Bokow (301.593.8566 or editor@nfcca.org) and a Board member will pick up your payment and, if it's in cash, will give you a receipt (if requested).

- Go online to join the NFCCA at nfcca.org/join.html#pay.

If you are unsure whether you're up to date on your dues, NFCCA has an online tool to check your NFCCA membership at nfcca.org/membercheck.html. ■

Did You Know? Services Available in the Community

By Melissa E. Ferguson

Get Free At-Home PCR Covid Tests

Free at-home PCR test kits for COVID-19 continue to be available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., seven days a week, at the Dennis Avenue Health Center of the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (2000 Dennis Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902). Bring identification with your current address as the tests are only for county residents. PCR tests detect the presence of the COVID-19 virus in your body. Residents register when they pick the tests up, administer the tests at home, and return the kits to 2000 Dennis Avenue for laboratory processing. Test results are emailed to residents within 48 hours. In-person PCR testing also continues. For locations and more information, call 311 (or 240.777.0311) or visit: montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing.html.

July Primary Election

On July 19, there will be a primary election. In Maryland, primary election votes are within your registered party. Registered Democrats vote among the Democratic candidates, Republicans vote for Republican candidates, and “unaffiliated voters” (called Independent voters in some other states) vote only for positions such as the Board of Education that are not party-based. In Montgomery County, the County Executive and several County

Council seats are up for election. In Maryland, the governor and legislators are also up for election.

In 2020, every registered voter was given an automatic option of mailing in their ballot. This year, you have to request a mail-in ballot by 21 June if you don’t want to go in-person to an Early Voting Center or to vote on election day. Letters to request mail-in ballots were sent to all registered voters from the Maryland Board of Elections. Maryland has same-day voter registration at the polls as well.

Do you want to support fair elections? Consider volunteering with the Montgomery County Board of Elections. There is a great need for volunteers for the upcoming primary election on 19 July, in the Early Voting Centers, and in the general election in November. Volunteers participate in online and in-person training, and receive a stipend after fulfilling their commitment to work on Election Day. I have volunteered since 2016 and I’ve found it to be very rewarding to be among members of different political parties working together to ensure voters exercise their right to vote. Information on volunteering, redistricting maps, voter registration information, and more can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections or by calling 311 (240.777.0311).

The County’s Future Vote program is one of only two

programs in the U.S. that allow teens who are registered to vote but under 18 years old to volunteer at election polling sites. Participating teens earn Student Service Learning hours. I have met teens who were inspired by their volunteer experience to return as volunteers, recruit others to participate in Future Vote, and who encouraged friends and family to vote in elections. Check out www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/FutureVote/faq.html for details.

If you’re not sure who to vote for, the League of Women Voters is a great resource. The League sends each candidate on the ballot a questionnaire and publishes their responses. The League of Women Voters can be found online at www.lwv.org. [See page one for candidates forum at the June meeting.]

Free Trees from the County

Does your lawn crave shade? Free native Maryland shade trees can be requested from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. I’ve heard from a neighbor that it can take a while for the free tree to arrive but, to me, a free tree is a long-term investment worth checking out. Trees are delivered at 10 feet tall and can grow to 50 feet. More information is available at treemontgomery.org or call 311.

Thank you for reading about these services for the betterment of our community. Information is power! ■



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It is a very challenging time in real estate sales, but My Team has been succeeding and I am proud of our success in this most difficult market.

We already have \$15M in Closed and Pending Sales in 2022, as a result of 30 transactions almost evenly divided between helping sellers and buyers!

Do You Want Top Dollar? List in the MLS!

I have never felt more strongly that owners who try to sell their homes by themselves are giving

up significant dollars. They don't realize what possibilities come from the broadest exposure to the Multiple Listing Service (MLS). Some owners get too eager to sell and sometimes accept offers while in Coming Soon status. My owners, who held off for all contracts to come in, did best.

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Sales in Northwood/Forest Knolls Since March 1, 2022

ADDRESS	LIST/OLD PRICE	LIST PRICE	RATIO (S/L)	SELLER SUBSIDY	CLOSE DATE	STYLE	BR	BA/HBA	DOM	LOT SQ FT	SUBDIVISION
10305 Edgewood Ave	\$609,000	\$579,000	105%		5/5/2022	Colonial	3	2	5	11,250	Northwood
10422 Mountain Quail Rd	\$790,000	\$775,000	101%		5/3/2022	Colonial	5	4	6	13,949	Northwood Park View
1100 Playford Ln	\$650,000	\$549,000	118%		5/2/2022	Split Level	4	3	6	7,249	Forest Knolls
1205 Caddington Ave	\$575,000	\$575,000	100%		4/29/2022	Split Level	5	2	1	7,500	Forest Knolls
10412 Edgewood Ave	\$725,000	\$639,900	113%		4/15/2022	Colonial	3	2/1	6	11,700	Northwood Park
10621 Glenwild Rd	\$635,000	\$635,000	100%		3/31/2022	Split Level	4	2/1	3	6,000	Northwood Park View
122 Snowy Owl Dr	\$865,000	\$900,000	96%		3/18/2022	Colonial	4	4	5	6,000	Northwood Park View
10700 Cavalier Dr	\$480,000	\$480,000	100%	\$14,400	3/16/2022	Rambler	3	2	3	7,818	Northwood Park
10512 Edgewood Ave	\$535,000	\$550,000	97%	\$1,200	3/4/2022	Split Level	3	2/1	7	6,820	Northwood Knolls

In the above chart, we now show **Sold Price and List Price** and **Ratio of Sold Price to List Price (S/L)**.
The **Sold Price/List Price Ratio** gives you a sense of the strength of **Seller Market** versus **Buyer Market**.



It is a Great Time to Sell!
We Need Listings for the Many Buyers Contacting Our Listings
Call Today for My Free Market Analysis: 301-346-9126



26-Plus Homes at First Neighborhood Yard Sale

Our first Neighborhood Yard Sale was held on Saturday, 14 May, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Twenty-six households throughout the North Four Corners neighborhood participated.

People displayed all their items in driveways and on the front lawns. Some set up canopies and spread out blankets to showcase their wares. Others used laundry baskets, bookshelves, clothes racks, tables, and boxes to hold their merchandise for sale.

Neighbors walked or

drove from house to house checking out all the yard sales and chatting with other neighbors. The rain stayed away except for a light mist early in the morning. Everyone seemed to enjoy being outside, shopping, strolling, and talking with neighbors, some they have not seen in a while.

Yard Sale participants made from \$30 to over \$600 in sales! Some great bargains were found. Many people had free stuff to give away. Children really enjoyed looking through bins or boxes for a

special free item!

Most of the participants plan to donate their unsold merchandise. There are many local charity organizations that accept donations. Some neighbors have already scheduled a pick-up, while others will be dropping off their items.

The Neighborhood Yard Sale was sponsored by NFCCA. It was organized by Karen Donnelly and Julie Whitcomb. They hope to make it an annual event. See you at the next yard sale! ■



Ina was selling his toys and games at his yard sale on Caddington Avenue.



Mom Jess and baby Violet shopping the yard sales together.



This yard (both above and at right) on Chiswell Lane saw plenty of buyers stop by.



More Neighborhood Yard Sale Pix

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)



Zoe Leckron

A satisfied customer on her new chaise lounge she just bought at the yard sale!



Katelyn Donnelly

Organizers Karen Donnelly and Julie Whitcomb take a break after the sale is over.



Zoe Leckron

Another happy shopper in the neighborhood was thrilled with her yard sale purchases.



Julie Whitcomb

Neighbors from Cavalier Drive and Chiswell Lane were able to walk to many of the yard sales.



Julie Whitcomb

Maria, Laura, and Elena working at their yard sale.



Zoe Leckron

Shopping at the yard sale with maps and lists in hand!

Saving Our Black Walnut ‘Witness Tree’

By Robin Loube

Once or twice nearly every day, I walk with my pup or my husband through North Four Corners Park and up the path around the soccer field, stopping to gaze at the huge native black walnut tree that crowns the field, encircled by a protective wooden fence.

Often, I can’t resist telling a passerby, “Hey, did you know that tree is nearly 200 years old?”

I want everyone to experience the wonder of our “witness tree,” a living organism that has seen so much history. Our walnut tree was about 30 years old when Abe Lincoln was inaugurated in 1861, 50 when Thomas Edison invented the light bulb. It marked its centenary year when Amelia Earhart flew across the Atlantic, and passed 125 when Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus.

And I want folks to know we can’t take that tree for granted. It might have been destroyed if not for the dedicated efforts of our civic association at the time, led by our neighbors Carole Barth and her husband, Jim Zepp.

First, the group petitioned the county in 1996 to purchase the land where the soccer field sits when it was put on the market after the closing of a private school. By preventing the land from being sold to developers, this purchase added 6 acres to the original 7.9 acres of North Four Corners Park, and kept the tree from being sacrificed to make way for new housing.

Then the NFCCA battled



relentlessly for years for the preservation of the walnut tree as well as of other native species as the county planned, designed, and constructed the new park area, a process that took 13 years from its start in 2003. Some of the county’s proposed designs which NFCCA fought would have destroyed the walnut tree.

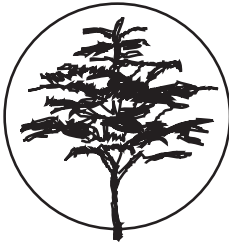
To try to inspire county planners to save this tree, Carole arranged for a local tree expert to estimate its age. Among other considerations, this was accomplished by measuring the tree’s circumference at about four and a half feet high, calculating the diameter and multiplying that by the black walnut’s species-specific number of 4.5, which put the tree at about 180 years old at the time. Jim also produced a timeline for the tree, listing the historical events it would have “witnessed” since it sprouted around 1830.

Carole and Jim saved the tree from possible destruction on a February morning in 2008 when they discovered that a county work crew of 8 to 10 men with heavy equipment had been “rampaging” through the new parcel, including under the walnut, Carole said, felling and clearing out trees and digging

out boulders. Carole went straight up there and found the workers on break but was told that the goal was “to be able to see from University Blvd. to the rec center.” She stayed for hours, prepared to “lie down in front of the bulldozer” to protect the walnut tree. Meanwhile, Jim had called the local press and then-Councilmember Marc Elrich, and—when Elrich’s staff person and a reporter showed up—the work was shut down for the day.

Thanks to NFCCA’s persistence, the county’s final plan for the park preserved the black walnut, and a fence was added to keep heavy equipment off the critical roots. Ironically, given how hard the civic association had to work to save that tree during the county’s design and construction process, when the county itself advertised the re-opening of the North Four Corners Local Park in April 2016, it touted among the park’s benefits its “protection for a significant walnut tree.”

When I told Carole about my love for that tree and my awe at its longevity, she understood exactly what I meant. “The long-lived trees have a different experience of time than we do,” she said, “and by knowing them, we get a little peak into that window. It enlarges us in a sense, because by having a connection with something so old and so large, it’s so much more than us. And when you touch that bark, you are in a sense touching that time. It makes that time so much more real.” ■



Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



The Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association, along with the Montgomery County Police Department, is joining with thousands of other communities in observing the National Night Out on Tuesday, 2 August 2022. This event brings residents together to cooperatively oppose crime in our area. A good first step is getting to know more of your neighbors.

The first National Night Out took place on Tuesday, 7 August 1984. That first year, 2.5 million Americans took part across 400 communities in 23 states. National Night Out now involves 38 million people in 16,790 communities from all fifty states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. Residents are asked to turn their porch lights on and are invited to join their neighbors in coming together as a community.

Our neighborhood has been fortunate, with relatively few crimes occurring. However, residents should follow basic crime prevention measures and be alert for suspicious activities in the area. Most types of crime in the County are still relatively small in number for a jurisdiction of this size, despite some increases.

Anyone willing to help with the event—entertainment, setup or cleanup, or other preparations—please call Sharon Canavan at 301.593.0487.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A POOL MEMBER TO ATTEND!

If you are concerned about crime in our community, the following are some steps that you can take.

- ✓ For information on ways to avoid being a crime victim, visit the National Crime Prevention Council's Web site at [www.ncpc.org / topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety](http://www.ncpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety).
- ✓ If you have an emergency or see a crime in progress, dial **911**.
- ✓ To report less serious crimes (like individuals acting in a suspicious manner, such as watching houses or testing for unlocked doors and windows), call the police nonemergency phone number, 301.279.8000. Give a complete description of the individual or vehicle as best you can.



**THANKS AND WE
HOPE TO SEE
YOU ON TUESDAY,
AUGUST SECOND!**

**Tuesday, 2nd August
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.
Forest Knolls Pool
11105 Foxglove Lane**

- ★ **Bring some food to share.**
If your last name begins with the letters A to H, please bring a main dish; letters I to P, bring a side dish; and Q to Z, bring a dessert. Please do not bring glass containers because of pool safety.
- ★ **Music**
- ★ **Swimming**
- ★ **Snowcones**
- ★ **Visit by McGruff the Crime Dog and County Police motorcade**

**Come and meet your
neighbors!!!**

**McGruff the
Crime Dog:
"Take a Bite
Out of Crime!"**



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