

NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ FEBRUARY 2018

How Can We Help Our Neighbors?

By Ed Levy

Like many of us in Northwood/Four Corners, I greatly value the diversity of our neighborhood. The Washington area has the second greatest concentration of Salvadoran immigrants (after Los Angeles), and I have found my Salvadoran neighbors to be among the hardest working and friendliest people I know.

President Trump's recent decision to eliminate Temporary Protective Status for

200,000 Salvadorans living in this country has created a wide range of problems for our Salvadoran neighbors. (The President has also removed TPS protection for immigrants from Haiti, Nicaragua, and Sudan.) For Salvadorans, there is uncertainty, for example, about how long they can remain in our country, and about how children born in this country (who are U.S. citizens) will be able to survive once their parents are deported. Gangs in El Salvador make it one of the countries with the highest murder and highest crime rates, and a country that continues to be an unsafe destination for deportees.

As I write this, Congress is considering the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. If this program is ended, more Salvadoran immigrants will be deported to their country of origin.

Some advocates suggest that the best way to protect TPS recipients is for Congress to pass legislation granting legal immigration status. If you agree, you can contact Congressman Jamie Raskin at 202.225.5341 and ask him to support immediate action to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Next Meeting on Valentine's Day

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 14 February 2018, at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Knolls Elementary School. Come spend Valentine's Day with your neighbors! The school is located at 10830 Eastwood Avenue, just off Caddington Avenue (there's no access from other sections of Eastwood). Scheduled speakers include Council Member Tom Hucker and a representative from the Montgomery County Green Bank.

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

Freedom of Information.....5

Former neighborhood resident David Perlman relates what he found in his FBI file after an FOIA request

Bilingual Volunteers Needed.....6

Help needed translating for Spanish-speaking residents

Discovery Communications Leaving DTSS in 20199

Blair High School Tough Artificial Turf Endangers Students10

County Parks Dept. joins class-action lawsuit against synthetic turf manufacturer

Weathering the Winter Storm.....11

It snows; how to deal

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

WWW.NFCCA.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year. The holidays are over and winter has settled in. We've all learned a new weather term—bomb cyclone—and been revisited by the frigid cold of another polar vortex. Despite the cold, so far we have had more salt than snow on our roads, but winter is far from over. And doing what my children think I do exceedingly well—nag—this is a chance to remind you that unshoveled sidewalks are much more than a simple inconvenience. Children need to get to school safely and cleared sidewalks allow all of us to enjoy our walkable community. NextDoor, the NFCCA listserve, and NFCCA's other social media platforms are handy resources to connect with individuals who want to earn extra money shoveling snow.

But we can also look forward to spring, or at least that is what the seed catalogues want us to think. Board member Kevin Harris has been pressing the Parks and Planning department to rehabilitate the soccer field in the new park. Unfortunately, regular maintenance did not occur in the Spring or the Fall as scheduled. They will be installing sod within the next three months, according to Crystal Ruiz of Council President Riemer's office, who is assisting us in working with the Parks Department.

At the December meeting, we heard from Community Service Officers Joy Patil from the 3rd District and Katie Beard from the 4th District. Our neighborhood is divided between two police districts with Dennis Avenue as the boundary line—who knew? Both officers emphasized that all residents—no matter which district they reside in—could call either the 3rd District (240.773.6800) or the 4th District (240.773.5500) directly, or 911 for emergencies, or 301.279.8000 for non-emergencies. The officers indicated that our community is a safe one with no major crime trends in our neighborhood. Nevertheless, the officers encouraged residents to contact the Police to report all suspicious activities and incidents, such as vehicle break-ins, even if nothing is taken. These reports are useful to the police who use them to spot trends across different neighborhoods.

Also, Patrick Butler from the Montgomery County Planning Department gave an update on the Viva White Oak project. He explained that the Montgomery County Council had adopted the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan with the hope and expectation that a life science center could be established in east Montgomery County, building on the synergy of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which has relocated to White Oak and the Washington Adventist Hospital being built off Cherry Hill Road. Although this new development is intended to spur much-needed economic development in the southern portion of Montgomery County, the fact remains that adding housing along with commercial

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Communicate With Neighbors

NFCCA Listserv

To join: nfcca-subscribe@yahoo.com
[add "un" to unsubscribe]
To send messages to group:
nfcca@yahoo.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.

Editor

Jacquie Bokow
10603 Cavalier Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301.593.8566
editor AT nfcca DOT org

Visit Our Website

www.nfcca.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

offices and retail could exacerbate the traffic congestion that this area already faces.

Speaking of traffic, I attended a meeting to review the plans for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations as well as the BRT Open House at Montgomery Blair. In Four Corners heading south (towards Silver Spring), a BRT station is proposed to be located on the sidewalk adjacent to the 4 Corners Pub's parking lot between the gas station and shopping strip. On the northbound route, the BRT station will be located on Colesville Rd./Rt. 29, adjacent to Blair High School. The BRT stops will be separate from the existing bus stops for Metro buses and Ride-On buses. This location of the BRT stops in Four Corners might be subject to change, however; six of nine

county council members recently signed a letter asking the Department of Transportation to designate funds to study the feasibility of locating the BRT stops in the median. We will continue to monitor BRT plans closely.

This newsletter is a great way to communicate with everyone in the 1,500 households in our neighborhood, but the printed word makes for a one-way conversation. We would love to see and hear from more of you, so join us at upcoming NFCCA meetings, which take place the second Wednesday in February, April, June, October, and December at 7:30 p.m. in Forest Knolls Elementary School. Learn about county services, upcoming development, and other issues that affect the livability of our great community.

—Sharon Canavan

How Can We Help Our Neighbors?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

protect TPS recipients.

Langley Park-based CASA is one of the greatest providers of services to Latino residents of the Washington area. They provide employment placement; workforce development and training; health education; citizenship and legal services; and financial, language, and literacy training to Latino and immigrant communities throughout the state. CASA is a 501c(3) nonprofit and charitable contributions made to it are tax-deductible. CASA is also seeking volunteers with some Spanish language capability to help



Salvadoran residents in filling out required paperwork. Contact Nick Katz at nkatz@wearecasa.org if you would like to volunteer.

There are several ways to help our neighbors, including asking them how we can help and letting them know that we are glad they are our neighbors.

[Ed Levy, who serves as NFCCA Vice President, lives on Thistle Court.] ■

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

Sharon Canavan
10213 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.0487
president AT nfcca DOT org

Vice President

Edward Levy
212 Thistle Court
240.988.8200
veep AT nfcca DOT org

Treasurer

Sondra Katz
10905 Lombardy Road
301.593.4542
treasurer AT nfcca DOT org

Secretary

Linda Perlman
1203 Caddington Avenue
301.681.3735
secretary AT nfcca DOT org

At Large

Kevin Harris
10306 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.6924
kevin AT nfcca DOT org

Andrew Majett, III
503 Dennis Avenue
301.580.0107
andrew AT nfcca DOT org

Sam Salisbury-Jones
10702 Glenwild Road
817.774.7103
samantha AT nfcca DOT org

Director of Social Affairs

Fiona Morrissey
10301 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.4026
fiona AT nfcca DOT org

Immediate Past Prez

Laura Hussey
10217 Edgewood Avenue
240.463.1913
ipp AT nfcca DOT org



**TAMARA KUCIK TEAM'S
ONE STEP CLOSER TO SOLD: SIGNATURE HOMES**

Our team is excited to announce our Signature Homes program. Eliminating the hurdles which most often create wrinkles in a real estate transaction, our Signature Homes program will best position your home, just in time for the Spring heyday.



PROGRAM SUCCESS STORY

We worked closely with the seller to make sure that her home would stand out in the real estate crowd. The result?

- **7 offers in 48 hours**
- **Selling for \$25k over asking**
- **No contingencies**

10003 PORTLAND PLACE, SILVER SPRING



That's no home inspection, no appraisal contingency, no financing contingency and a three week closing. The Signature Homes program has given the seller peace of mind and incredible results. A true success story!



Ranked Among "America's Best Real Estate Agents 2017" by *Real Trends* and the *Wall Street Journal*.



tk@tamara4homes.com
www.tamara4homes.com
(301) 580-5002 cell • (301) 857-1867 office
8218 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 310, Bethesda, MD 20814



FOIA: Seeing Myself Through My Neighbors' Eyes

By David L. Perlman

**O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursels as ithers see us!**

—Robert Burns (1786)

Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act and the diligence of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I have been able to see myself as others see me—well, some others anyway.

Thus, I discovered that a neighbor (name deleted) told the FBI that my wife and I were both “very arty.” Most puzzling was a comment that “the Perlman (deleted) their two young children.” I’m sure we wouldn’t have deleted Linda or Arthur unless they had been very, very naughty.

Some background: The year was 1965 and I had a job I enjoyed on the staff of the *AFL-CIO News*, then the weekly newspaper of America’s union federation. I wasn’t much interested when a friend told me the labor reporter for the Voice of America was retiring and suggested that I apply for the job. But I agreed to consider it.

The rather daunting five-page form I was sent was titled “Security Investigation Data for Sensitive Positions.” I dutifully listed every address where I had lived since 1937, schools I had attended, organizations I had joined, and jobs I had held. Months passed and I heard nothing more. By then, I was no longer interested in the broadcasting job and I assumed the agency was no longer interested in me.

I was curious, however. In

1983, I invoked the Freedom of Information Act to obtain a copy of my FBI files. I learned that the investigation had gotten off to a rocky start. The FBI couldn’t verify my claim that I had been born in New York City in 1924. I have a certified copy of my birth certificate. It cost me \$2. Perhaps the FBI hadn’t sent in the fee.

The Great Depression was not yet over when I was 17. My mother had to take a live-in job with an orphanage in Cleveland. I moved to a furnished room and found work at the minimum wage of 37.5 cents an hour, or \$15 for my 40-hour week. I took evening session classes at New York’s tuition-free City College.

The FBI tracked down my employer but Mr. Gross said he couldn’t be expected to remember all the “boys” he had hired and fired. I remember Mr. Gross, however. When I said I’d have to leave if I didn’t get a raise, he asked when I was leaving.

After Pearl Harbor, my mother and I found jobs in wartime Washington, D.C. My path led to the Copyright Office of the Library of Congress, then to the Army and combat with the 99th Infantry Division.

When I returned to City College, journalism became my career goal. My first newspaper job was in Jennings, a small city in Louisiana. My predecessor stayed on to introduce me to local newsmakers before moving to a larger paper in Opelousas, where the FBI found him. He remem-



The author with his two not-so-naughty children, Linda and Arthur, in front of their Caddington Avenue home in the 1960s. His Freedom of Information Act request showed what his neighbors thought of him: that he was against racial discrimination, believed all are created equal, and was just too broad-minded and principled to entrust with a top-secret security clearance.

bered I liked to cover fires and would hitch a ride on the fire engine. I could say that I didn’t have a car and riding with the volunteer firemen was the quickest way to cover a story. But I can’t deny that I did like to ride the fire engine.

The FBI then diligently traced my path to Beaumont,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

FOIA and Me

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Texas, to the Washington bureau of a radio news service and to the labor movement, where for nearly 40 years I wrote for and edited union newspapers. After Laura and I were married, the FBI followed our trail from Greenbelt to the Silver Spring neighborhood [this one] where our two children would grow up.

A neighbor (name deleted) said my wife and I “appear to be fine, upstanding, moral people whose personal behavior is above reproach. However, I have always felt that if anyone I knew ever turned out to be a Communist, it would surprise me least to find Mr. Perlman that person.”

Our suspicious neighbor explained: “I know of no activities that Mr. Perlman engages in that could be considered subversive. He is, on the other hand, a vociferous proponent of labor unions. He strikes me as a person who has never had to do any manual labor in his life and, consequently, I find his union mentality sort of phony.... Under the circumstances, I felt that I should express my opinions, unfounded though they may be.”

I was intrigued to learn that the FBI’s legendary director, J. Edgar Hoover, had taken an interest in my investigation. He found puzzling a report from the FBI’s New York office quoting a source who said he would not recommend me for a “top-level security position” because I was “the type of person who is against racial discrimination”

and would support the U.S. policy in Vietnam.

“By return airtel, clarify,” the FBI chief ordered.

The return airtel explained that T-9 (deleted) said he would not say that Perlman was a CP (Communist Party) sympathizer in the true sense of the word. “Source said he considered Perlman a liberal and by this he meant that Perlman is a broad-minded type of person ... who would be for freedom of speech and freedom of the press but would tend to be a little excessive in the use of these freedoms. He felt Perlman would be a sympathizer with Martin Luther King on integration as he believes all are created

equal. He believed Perlman to be a man of principle, who would fight for his country, honest and loyal. He would recommend him for a government job but not for a top-level security position such as entrusting him with the battle plans of the United States as, in his broad-minded liberal way, he might discuss them with an unauthorized person.”

You’ve got to watch out for those liberals.

[David L. Perlman is the father of NFCCA Secretary Linda Perlman, who still lives in that house on Caddington Avenue. This article first appeared in “Tales from Riderwood” and is reprinted with permission of the author.] ■

Bilingual Volunteers Needed

By Laura Hussey

At a recent NFCCA Board meeting, the discussion turned from the routine business of Board meetings—agendas and speakers for upcoming meetings, topics for newsletter articles—to a more fundamental conversation: how can NFCCA better serve *all* of the residents of our community?

If you think about the size and demographic diversity of our neighborhood, you will understand how tall an order that is. According to various demographic data sets, including voter registration, census data, and data collected by the Urban League, our neighborhood (or the smallest region within the data set that includes our neighborhood) is more diverse than Montgomery County as a

whole. For example, according to state voter registration data available at http://planning.maryland.gov/PDF/redistricting/2010data/GreenReport_web.pdf, about 17 percent of Montgomery County registered voters self-identify as Hispanic, while in our voting district (precinct 13-11), that figure is more than 25 percent.

Recognizing that our community has a large number of Spanish speakers, the Board is seeking some bilingual volunteers to work with us to make NFCCA more welcoming and accessible to Spanish speakers in the community. If you are bilingual (English-Spanish) and can give up an hour or two to assist with translating at an NFCCA meeting or in other ways, please contact an NFCCA Board member (see p. 3). ■



We've got your tail covered.™

Cat & Small Pet Visits
Private Dog Walks
Vacation Visits
Dog Boarding
...and MORE!!

Silver-Spring.
FetchPetCare.com

*Named to
Washingtonian's 2011
Best Pet Care List!*

301-850-1274

***We've Got Your Tail
Covered, Northwood!!***

CLASSIFIEDS

Menara Heating and Air Condi-
tioning • Install, Service, Repair.
In Neighborhood • 410-818-
3303, menara.hvac@gmail.com

YOUR OWN AD HERE! You can
reach all 1,485 neighbors with
a single Classified Ad in your
Civic Association's newsletter.



**HOOVER-FISHER
FLORIST**

Family Owned &
Operated For Over
60 Years!



Same day delivery
local and nationwide!

Visit us online at
hooverfisherflorist.com

*Witness
Freshness!*

16 University Blvd. E.
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 593-4700



Louis Altobelli III
Owner

MHIC# 94794

Phone: 240-793-8499

Email: Lou@LA3I.com

Web: www.LA3I.com

18905 Willow Grove Rd.
Olney, MD 20832

ROOFS – GUTTERS – WINDOWS – DOORS – SIDING



Associate Broker, Realtor®
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc
 6000 Executive Blvd, Suite 100
 North Bethesda, MD 20852
 O: 301-468-0606
 C: 301-346-9126



barbara@ciment.com

www.ciment.com

Our Numbers Say It All!
\$500 Million in Career Sales
1,000 Closed Sales Transactions
Helped 500 Buyers/Renters Find Homes
#1 Office Producer 25 Years in a Row & Counting

90 Transactions & \$27M in Sales in 2017!
Silver Spring's #1 Producer 2000-17

Recent Sales in Northwood/Forest Knolls: Since July 1, 2017

STATUS	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	SELLER SUBSIDY	STYLE	BR	BA/HBA	DOM	LOT SQ FT	SUBDIVISION
Sold	423 Dennis Ave	\$888,750		Colonial	4	4/1	0	10,077	Northwood Knolls
Sold	421 Dennis Ave	\$812,000		Colonial	5	4/1	52	7,850	Northwood Knolls
Sold	10429 Eastwood Ave	\$625,000	\$5,000	Colonial	6	3/1	113	9,672	Northwood Park View
Sold	302 Dennis Ave	\$600,000	\$18,000	Cape Cod	5	3/1	48	7,796	Northwood Park
Sold	807 Whittington Ter	\$530,000		Contemporary	4	2/1	14	8,321	Forest Knolls
Sold	10216 Lorain Ave	\$520,000		Cape Cod	5	3	9	10,041	Northwood Park
Sold	10707 Margate Rd	\$500,000	\$11,250	Rambler	4	2/1	4	6,000	Northwood Park View
Sold	10822 Margate Rd	\$499,999		Split Level	4	2/1	6	6,299	Northwood Park View
Sold	10228 Edgewood Ave	\$485,000	\$14,000	Colonial	4	2/1	5	7,211	Northwood Park
Sold	318 Hannes St	\$477,000	\$14,310	Colonial	5	3/1	30	8,163	Northwood Park
Sold	10709 Glenwild Rd	\$470,000	\$1,949	Rambler	4	2/1	7	9,361	Northwood Park View
Sold	104 Southwood Ave	\$470,000	\$2,200	Cape Cod	4	2/1	86	8,859	Northwood Park
Sold	107 Woodridge Ave	\$469,000		Cape Cod	4	2	30	11,109	Northwood Park
Sold	512 Kerwin Rd	\$467,000	\$3,300	Cape Cod	4	2	28	6,099	Northwood Village
Sold	10420 Eastwood Ave	\$466,500		Cape Cod	4	3	124	9,365	Northwood Park
Sold	10624 Eastwood Ave	\$459,500	\$4,275	Cape Cod	4	3	34	6,384	Northwood Village
Sold	105 Belton Rd	\$440,000	\$8,800	Raised Rambler	3	3	6	6,900	Northwood Park View
Sold	406 Irwin St	\$435,000	\$10,000	Split Level	3	3	50	6,008	Northwood Park
Sold	313 Hannes St	\$430,000	\$11,000	Colonial	4	2/2	66	7,500	Forest Knolls
Sold	305 Belton Rd	\$425,000	\$4,000	Rambler	4	3	101	6,300	Northwood Park
Sold	1127 Caddington Ave	\$419,500	\$5,000	Split Level	4	1/1	48	7,500	Forest Knolls
Sold	10831 Eastwood Ave	\$410,000		Split Foyer	4	1/2	6	9,184	Forest Knolls
Sold	1023 Loxford Ter	\$410,000	\$12,000	Split Level	4	2/1	79	9,916	Forest Knolls
Sold	10609 Edgewood Ave	\$409,000	\$9,000	Rambler	4	2	15	7,868	Northwood Village
Sold	408 Eisner St	\$408,500	\$15,500	Split Level	3	2/1	101	6,028	Northwood Park
Sold	201 Belton Rd	\$396,000	\$16,000	Bilevel	3	2	42	9,999	Northwood Park View
Sold	825 Loxford Ter	\$395,000		Split Foyer	4	3	49	7,504	Forest Knolls
Sold	315 Ladson Rd	\$390,000		Cape Cod	3	2	21	7,246	Northwood Village
Sold	10312 Colesville Rd	\$385,000	\$11,550	Colonial	3	2/1	103	8,497	Northwood Park
Sold	205 Hannes St	\$365,000	\$10,650	Other	3	2	9	6,600	Northwood Park View
Sold	121 Kinsman View Cir	\$359,900		Townhouse	3	3/1	10	1,500	Northwood Park View
Sold	707 University Blvd W	\$356,800	\$12,500	Split Level	5	4	5	7,060	Northwood Village
Sold	41 Kinsman View Cir	\$355,000		Townhouse	4	3/1	6	1,500	Northwood Park View
Sold	300 Cavalier Ct	\$335,000		Rambler	3	1/1	8	7,564	Northwood Park
Sold	316 Ladson Rd	\$330,000	\$6,000	Rambler	2	1	44	5,726	Northwood Village
Sold	10301 Lorain Ave	\$329,900		Rambler	3	3	9	9,946	Northwood Park
Sold	506 Kerwin Rd	\$327,000		Cape Cod	4	3	54	5,500	Northwood Village
Sold	811 Caddington Ave	\$322,000		Raised Rambler	3	4	11	10,683	Forest Knolls
Sold	308 Ladson Rd	\$300,000		Rambler	2	2	24	5,181	Northwood Village

Not all referenced properties are from my agent team or my broker. RETS data provided by MRIS as of January 15, 2018 is subject to change. For a real-time update go to Northwood Sales Report: www.ciment.com/northwood

Call Today for My Free Market Analysis 301-346-9126

Discovery Communications Leaving DTSS in 2019

By Samantha Salisbury-Jones

In 2003, Discovery Communications opened its headquarters in downtown Silver Spring. In January 2018, the company announced it is vacating One Discovery Place, opting to move its global headquarters to New York City. The company is relocating U.S. headquarters to Knoxville, Tenn.

This news comes as a shocking blow to the greater Silver Spring community, in part because of Discovery's recent commitment to remain in the area. In the fall of 2017, Discovery and Montgomery County came to an agreement that promised the corporation would invest an additional \$10 million in its Silver Spring location.

A surprised Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett stated that he was "disappointed" to hear Discovery was leaving the area. He also stated, "The County and State made a substantial proposal designed to accommodate Discovery's challenges. Together, we were ready to provide considerable incentives to retain their presence in the County." Of course, in light of recent news, Discovery will no longer be receiving any promised grants or additional funds.

Despite attractive financial packages offered by the County and the State, Discovery claims it makes more financial sense to move its domestic headquarters to Knoxville. The company cited a lower cost of living as a significant reason for choosing the Knox-



ville location. The company already had established offices in New York, which was presumably a big reason for relocating global headquarters to that city.

Many neighbors recall when Discovery moved to Silver Spring; the move was heralded as part of a strong revitalization effort that proved quite effective over the years. At its peak, Discovery employed 1,300 full-time, local employees in the Silver Spring office. With so many Discovery employees occupying space downtown, local restaurants, cafes, and other businesses thrived due to their proximity to the corporation.

Given Discovery's global distribution channels, numerous multimedia companies cropped up in the area to work with and around such content. Now, those smaller companies and other local businesses are questioning whether they will be able to sustain themselves in Discovery's absence.

Moving forward, the big

question is what will happen to the soon-to-be-empty office space at One Discovery Place? Many local residents have speculated that Amazon.com may occupy that space soon enough. In January 2018, Amazon announced that Montgomery County is a top 20 finalist in its search for a location for its second headquarters. Even if Amazon did choose to build a second headquarters in Montgomery County, it is unlikely the former Discovery building would be large enough. It seems more probable that the office space will be divvied up and leased to other businesses.

It will be interesting to see how Discovery's departure will impact the downtown Silver Spring area. Will the local economy take a temporary down-turn, or will Discovery's move open up valuable downtown real estate for other businesses which can commit to long-term investments in the region?

[An at-large Board member, Sam Salisbury-Jones lives on Glenwild Road.] ■

Blair H.S. Tough Artificial Turf Endangers Students

By Jim Zepp

The artificial turf field at Montgomery Blair High School has been the focus of local and national news coverage on the County Parks Department's decision to join a class action lawsuit that agencies from 46 states and Washington, D.C., are already participating in against FieldTurf, the manufacturer of these fields. Risks to students using the field include exposure to known carcinogens and other toxic chemicals and possible concussions on a hard surface that may exceed NFL safety standards for professional players.

The Blair field was specifically cited in news coverage by NBC 4 [www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Turf-Company-Knowingly-Sold-Defective-Unsafe-Product-Lawsuit-Says-470776623.html] and an article in *Forbes* magazine [www.forbes.com/sites/mikeozanian/2018/01/17/maryland-county-has-joined-huge-artificial-turf-class-action-lawsuit/#440779245f6b].

The agencies contend that Field Turf misled them by selling them a defective product. However, in the case of the County Parks Depart-



NBC 4 reported on the lawsuit by the County Parks Dept.

ment, it may be a situation of willful ignorance. In 2012, I served on the Countywide Recreation Advisory Board. At the Board's February 6th meeting that year, Mike Riley (currently the Parks Department's Director, then the Director of Facility Development) presented his plans for artificial turf fields. Members of the Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition (including a nationally recognized NIH neuroscientist) presented scientifically based research on the hazards of these fields. Mr. Riley said that he preferred information provided by the vendor over independent analyses of the risks of

the product.

The Manager of the fields at Soccerplex, which are of such quality suitable for national and international games, contended at the time that the overall costs of installing and maintaining artificial turf fields for a 10-year period are substantially more than that for natural grass fields. Again, Mr. Riley preferred to listen to statements from the vendor.

Another concern raised about the issue was the County school system's practice of making sole source purchases from Field Turf rather than seeking competitive bids from other vendors. The Parks Dept.'s Director, Mary Bradford, would not do this and have competitive bids. However, the agency did buy from Field Turf anyway.

More information about these concerns can be found at the Coalition's Website, www.safehealthyplayingfields.org. ■

Apply for College Scholarships

The Senator Roger Manno Scholarship Program is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 academic year. This program has funded more than \$350,000 in need-based scholarship money for District 19 students. Interested students can contact Sharon Canavan (p. 3) for an application form.

Weathering the Winter Storm

By Sharon Canavan

The snowiest months in Mont. County tend to be January and February. Major blizzards with one-day snow accumulation of 10 or more inches occur about twice per decade. In this area, historically, almost half of the snow records—top 25 snowstorms and top 15 snowiest months—have been racked up in the month of February.


The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is responsible for clearing 5,000 lane miles. MCDOT relies on its 250 employees and 175 pieces of equipment to do the job but, for larger storms, hires additional contractors and trucks. Depending on the size of the

storm, MCDOT takes different approaches to managing the snow removal process.

When a storm is on the way, the county's First Stage response is to pretreat the roads with salt brine, a solution of salt and water. If there is less than three inches of snow, the Second Stage involves spreading salt on emergency routes, main roads, and bus routes. For heavier snowfalls, MCDOT will implement a Third Stage by continuing to spread salt and beginning to plow emergency routes, main roads, and bus routes. The focus on these main transportation routes is intended to ensure that every home is within no more than half a mile of a passable thorough-

fare. In addition, snow plows are stationed at fire battalions to assist with emergency response. At Stage Four, county crews widen the passageway on main roads and begin plowing in neighborhoods. At Stage Five, the final clearing process is completed.

You can identify who plows your street or determine the snow removal status of a County-maintained street during a storm event by visiting the Winter Storm Information Portal website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/snow. Just enter your address. You can also check the status of snow removal in your area or file a service request on that portal. You can also file a service request by calling 311 to talk to the Montgomery County call center. ■



Karen Boyer Piano Lessons

Celebrating over 30 years of sharing the joy of music!

Karen Boyer has been teaching piano for over thirty years throughout the East Coast. She received her Bachelor's of Music from Boston University with a concentration in Piano and Music Education, followed by her Masters Degree from the University of Maryland. She uses a wide variety of teaching methods to keep lessons interesting and fun. Enjoyment in piano playing is one of the main goals!

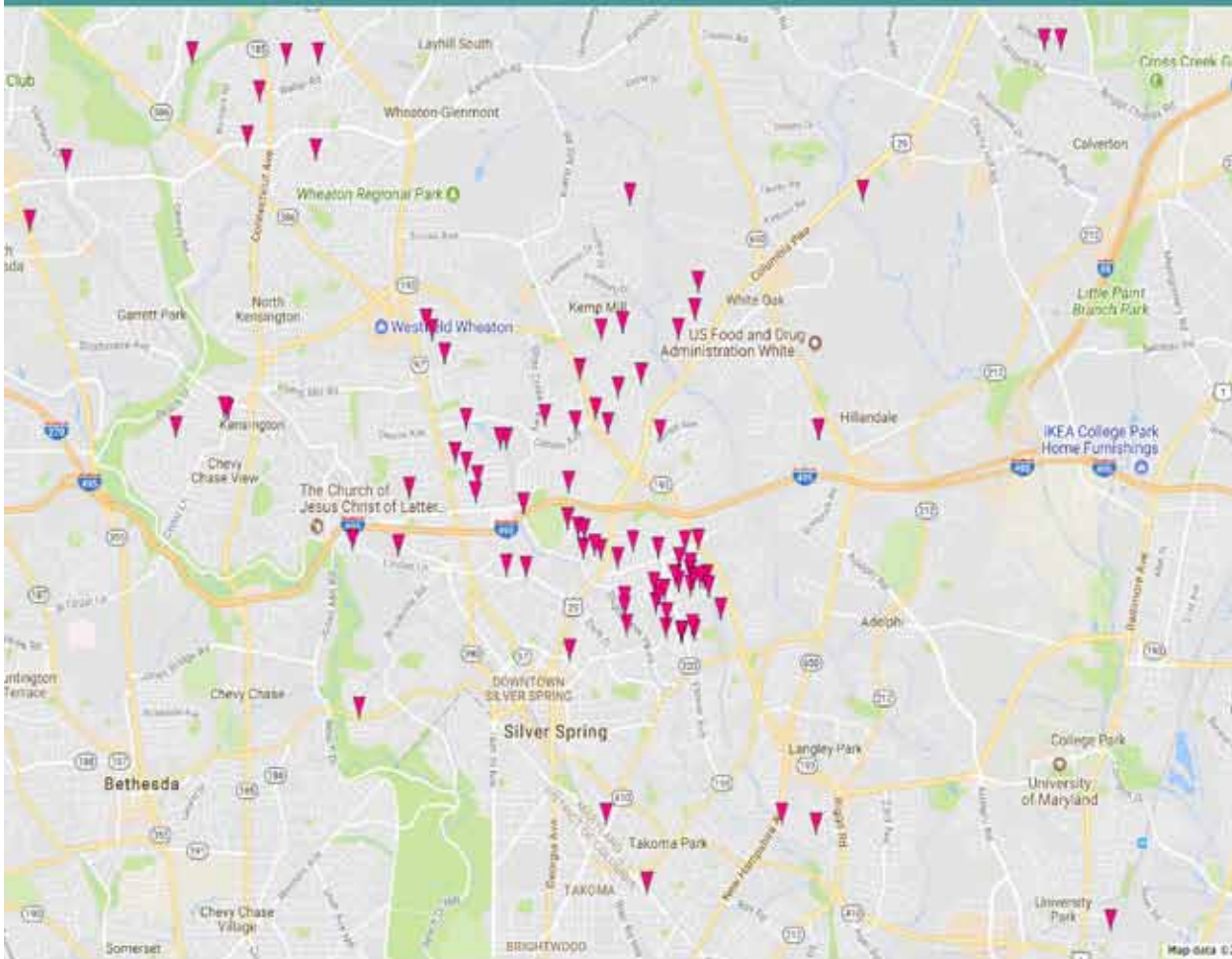
Lessons offered for all levels!

Lessons are offered for all levels and age groups, including children, teens, and adults.

301-891-3535
karenbmusic7 AT gmail DOT com
Located in the Neighborhood, in Forest Knolls

Celebrating helping 134 families
buy or sell homes in 2017. How
can DKG make real estate
AWESOME for you?

Learn how:
donnakerrgroup.com/sell-for-more



DONNA
KERR
GROUP

With the Donna Kerr Group, you'll discover ways to get
the most out of the sale of your home. There's real estate
service, and then there's DKG.

REAL ESTATE MADE AWESOME

301.608.1454

donnakerrgroup.com