



NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ FEBRUARY 2002

Finger-Lickin' Good? You Decide!

According to the experts at Raab & Associates, a consulting firm retained by Tricon Restaurants, the ratio of Limited Service Restaurants to residents, households, and jobs in Montgomery County is too low. It seems that we are being deprived of our rightful share of quick, convenient, delicious, prepared meals. The solution? Open another fast food drive-through restaurant in Four Corners!

Kentucky Fried Chicken wants to build and open a combined KFC/Pizza Hut drive-through restaurant at the Woodmoor Shopping Center. They propose to de-

molish the former residence at the northwest corner of University Boulevard and Lexington Drive, in the back corner of the Center's rear parking lot, and replace it with a 3,200-square-foot eatery open until 11:00 p.m. on weeknights and till midnight on Friday and Saturday. They argue that it will not bring extra noise, traffic, odors, or bright lights to the area and that it will enhance the Center and neighborhood. Aspects of the architectural design are said to complement the Art Deco theme of the Woodmoor Center. However, they do intend to keep the traditional KFC corner tower, 24 feet high, featuring a smiling Col. Sanders and the Pizza Hut logo. These elements would be repeated on an eight-by-ten foot backlit neon sign atop a 20-foot high pylon to go up at the same corner.

In order to proceed with their project, KFC has applied to the Montgomery County Board of Appeals for a special exception from zoning ordinances. This is because the current C-4 zoning, low-density commercial, does not consider drive-through restaurants a compatible use of the land. A public hearing is

scheduled for 3 April 2002 to consider the KFC application.

The NFCCA would like to provide its membership an opportunity to review the plans and learn more about the proposed restaurant, so representatives of KFC and their local law firm, Linowes and Blocher, LLP, have agreed to address our February meeting. Following their presentation, we may wish to entertain a motion to let the county know our position on the application. ■

Traffic Calming Cmte. is DOA

No one responded to the call for volunteers to identify new traffic calming needs in the neighborhood and begin work with the County, even though dozens of people have complained to the Board about traffic. Since the NFCCA cannot initiate such measures—only residents can—it appears that nothing, except more speeding cut-through traffic, will happen for now. ■

Next Meeting on 13 Feb.

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 13 February 2002, at 7:30 p.m. at the North Four Corners Rec Center (located at the end of Southwood Rd., just off Edgewood Dr.). All N-FC residents are encouraged to attend! ■

FEBRUARY						
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the NFCCA Board, I'd like to wish you and your family a Happy New Year! After 2001, the gifts of family, home, and neighborhood really take on a special value.

There are a lot of issues confronting the Northwood-Four Corners neighborhood that await your input and work: crimes like burglaries and robberies, increases in cut-through traffic, sidewalks, and opportunities to improve our nearby public spaces. Your opinion matters when it come to which issues NFCCA will concentrate on during 2002.

Some issues, like addressing traffic calming, will not move forward without your involvement. Others, like neighborhood crime and less troublesome nuisances, will only get worse. Please take an hour or so out of your busy schedule to attend our February meeting. Meet your neighbors, catch up on the news, and get involved.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call, write, or e-mail me at: 301.681.0762, 10205 Lorain Avenue, or ken.hawkins AT nara DOT gov.

—Ken Hawkins

Update on Area Burglaries

At our December meeting, the NFCCA welcomed Montgomery County Detective Mark Difcak, who provided those in attendance with a report on the upswing of frightening burglaries in our neighborhood recently. The detective discussed the typical M.O., motives, and risks posed by local burglars and how to avoid becoming a victim. He urged residents to call the Police's non-emergency phone number (301.279.8000) any time they see something or someone suspicious. Be a nosy neighbor! ■

Route 29 Sidewalks Update

Last year the NFCCA notified the County that it supported proposed sidewalks along both sides of Colesville Road between Lorain Avenue and Burnt Mills Avenue, with provisions. Our concerns centered on avoiding the use of ugly plain concrete retaining walls and we urged that alternatives be considered, along with the use of native plantings, that would complement the wooded character of the site and the Green Boulevard concepts of the Legacy Open Space program.

After months of silence from the County, we finally received a response from Douglas Duncan. He reports that, because of the desire to limit the removal and replacement of soil and vegetation, and to decrease encroachment on private properties, concrete soldier pile walls must be used in more locations

than first planned. Facing can be added to soften the look of the wall. The County has proceeded beyond the concept plans reviewed by the NFCCA and gone ahead with preliminary plans for both sides. However, because of funding limitations, final designs will be done for the east side of the road only. Completion of the design of the west side and the construction of the sidewalks on both sides will depend on future funding. ■

Deliverers Needed

For several issues now we have had no one willing to deliver newsletters to Kerwin Road or Kerwin Court. If you can spare half an hour every other month to distribute this newsletter to your neighbors on those streets, please contact NFCCA president Ken Hawkins at 301.681.0762 or ken.hawkins AT nara DOT gov. ■

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the 950 households in the area bounded by Colesville Road (Route 29), University Blvd. (Route 193), Eisner Street, and the Northwest Branch.

Any resident of this area is eligible to join the NFCCA. Annual dues are \$5 per person and may be paid at any Association meeting or mailed to the treasurer.

Northwood News is published five times a year—in October, December, February, April, and June. To place an ad or discuss a story, please contact the editor.

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Right-Turn Signs Installed

In late December, the County installed the long-awaited signs prohibiting right turns from Colesville Road to Southwood and Lorain Avenues during the AM rush hours. This culminates a long-term NFCCA project to implement the desire of a majority of neighborhood residents to limit cut-through traffic. Our thanks go out to all those who shepherded this through the bureaucracy, making traffic counts, circulating petitions, and signing them!

The NFCCA Board has requested the Mo.Co. Police to provide some early morning reminders to those drivers just getting acquainted with the new arrangement. ■

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