



NORTHWOOD NEWS

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

West Nile Virus Confirmed in Co.

The West Nile Virus has been verified in the 20901 area. As of 27 September, there were six lab-confirmed cases of the virus in humans in Maryland. Only one of these is in Montgomery County, in Bethesda, and none has resulted in death.

Most individuals infected with WNV will not have any symptoms or signs of illness. People who *do* develop illness may experience mild symptoms such as fever, headache, and body aches; occasionally a skin rash and swollen lymph glands may be noticed. These symptoms generally appear three to 15 days following the bite of an infected mos-

quito. Less than one percent of persons infected with the virus will develop more severe disease with symptoms such as high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, paralysis, and, rarely, death. People who are over 50 years of age have the highest risk of developing severe disease.

There is no evidence to suggest that West Nile virus can be spread from person to person or from animal to per-
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Next Meeting on 16 October

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 16 October 2002, at 7:30 p.m. at the North Four Corners Rec Center. The Rec Center is located at the end of Southwood Road, just off Edgewood Drive. The agenda includes election of a 2002-2003 Board of Directors; materials also will be available to make signs for Safe Neighborhood Day (see page 9 for details on both). ■

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Last season, less than five percent of NFCCA households paid dues. Did you?

Big Neighborhood Night Out For Northwood-FC Community

By Jim Zepp

The NFCCA participated in the 19th National Neighborhood Night Out on Tuesday, 6 August, at the North Four Corners Park. That evening communities around the country hosted activities to promote crime prevention/safety and to foster communications among neighbors. About 100 adults and children attended the NFCCA event, which included a potluck dinner, games and prizes for the children, music, and a visit by a Montgomery County Police

motorcade that arrived with McGruff, the Crime Dog.

We appreciate the many contributions which helped to make this evening special for our residents. Robin Loube and her children, Adam and Rachel, organized the games. Liz Sequeira and her son, Philip, patiently filled 80 water balloons for the toss game. Karen Devitt sang and played piano during the evening. The Woodmoor CVS store contributed some toys for prizes and Jerry's Pizzas and Subs sent discount coupons. ■

This issue printed
courtesy of
Sir Speedy in
Silver Spring,
301.588.0998.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope that this issue of the *Northwood News* finds you and your family well and enjoying early autumn in this great neighborhood. We are fortunate to have such a place to call home, with wonderful old homes, tree-lined streets, good schools, and friendly neighbors.

We believe that another important part of what makes Northwood-Four Corners blessed is the community spirit embodied by NFCCA and its members. For years, NFCCA volunteers have worked for better schools, safer streets, and a vibrant, better-looking commercial district. We saw victories last season in the fight against KFC at Woodmoor, for sidewalks along Route 29, and great participation in August's National Night Out Against Crime event.

Ongoing issues in the neighborhood demand the community's attention. Crimes against property and an armed robbery in the neighborhood highlight the need for action. Transportation plans at the county and state level portend significant changes for Four Corners. We hope that you will get involved by paying membership dues, attending meetings, speaking out, and getting involved.

Opportunities to serve your neighborhood and community abound, and we invite those who can to run for NFCCA board and officer positions at our October meeting. I will be stepping aside as NFCCA president and urge you to consider serving the NFCCA as a board member or officer. Your civic association can only be as successful as those who are willing to help out.

—Ken Hawkins

Len Marinaccio, Seahawks team rep, said, "The swim team is possible only through the continued support and encouragement of the families who donate their time to both the team meets and the numerous social events of the team."

Matthew Frawley, Vice President of Forest Knolls Pool, said, "We are very proud of the Seahawks. The swimmers learn a lot from swim team. They learn about teamwork, loyalty, and the value of competition."

Forest Knolls Pool, located on Foxglove Lane, is a community pool that welcomes new members and new swimmers to the swim team. ■

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.

Editor

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Seahawks Undefeated in 2002

By Pat Cochran

The Forest Knolls Pool sponsored swim team, the Seahawks, held a potluck-style supper at the pool on July 28 to celebrate the team's undefeated 2002 season and their division championship.

The Seahawks "A" team participated in and won five swim meets sponsored by The Montgomery County Swim League. Seventy-six teams—with swimmers ranging in age from five to 18—participate in 15 divisions. Swimmers enter events including free-style,

backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and a variety of relays. Swimmers are awarded points based on their finish.

The Seahawks dinner was capped by a presentation of awards to the victorious swimmers. Coach Kelly Jacobs, a freshman at James Madison University in Virginia, presented trophies and recounted stories about each swimmer. She also pointed out that hard work by the entire team, and her assistant, Sam Danus, were the key elements in the undefeated season.

Transit Center in Four Corners?

On August 26, Ken Hawkins, NFCCA President, sent an email to the *Go Montgomery!* program. He had noticed several references for up to four proposed transit centers, but the specific sites are not identified. He asked if one of the proposed sites is in the Four Corners area. On September 20, he received this response:

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

Thank you for your e-mail regarding transit centers in the *Go Montgomery!* program. I apologize for the delay in responding.

Go Montgomery! proposes funding for three transit centers, but the locations are not fixed, or identified. A Four Corners Transit Center is one of several candidate transit center projects, and a Four Corners Transit Center has merit with or without a Busway along US 29. My staff will be taking a wide range of

issues into considerations as to which transit centers will be studied for inclusion in *Go Montgomery!*

The community organizations in the US 29 corridor did express their strong opposition to the US 29 concept on a median busway between Sligo Creek Parkway and Stewart Lane that the County Department of Public Works and Transportation developed in 1996. This project was withdrawn by the County in light of community opposition. Due to ever increasing congestion, *Go Montgomery!* seeks to forward a wide array of projects vital to the future mobility of the County. A US 29 Busway from MD 198 to downtown Silver Spring is one of them. This is not the same project as the 1996 County study, and it is too early to say what the project will be. Busways can function in conformity with many alternative design and operational configurations. The County has not begun to study the options for what this busway might be. Obviously, community issues are a major part of County planning, as well as providing mobility for county citizens.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. If you have any further questions, please contact Gary Erenrich, Assistant to Director-WMATA, at 240-777-7156 or Rob Klein, Manager, Facilities Development Operations, at 240-777-5835.

Sincerely,
Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

NFCCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association meets five times a year, in October, December, February, April, and June. All Board meetings are open to the public, but only residents who have paid dues to the NFCCA may vote. The 2001-2002 Board is listed below; a new board for 2002-2003 will be elected at the October 2002 meeting.

President

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301.681.0762
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Vice President

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10612 Margate Road
301.593.1781
erc69434@aol.com

2002-2003 NFCCA Meetings

Please mark these dates on your calendar for the next cycle of meetings of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association:

16 October 2002
11 December 2002
12 February 2003
9 April 2003
11 June 2003

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Capital Center/US Air Arena	301-350-3400
Folger Shakespeare Theater.....	202-547-1122
Ford's Theater	202-347-4833
Kennedy Center	202-467-4600
MCI Center	202-628-3200
Merriweather Post.....	301-596-0660
National Theater.....	202-628-6161
National Gallery of Art	202-737-4215
Olney Theater.....	301-924-3400
Redskin (Fed Ex Field).....	301-276-6000
Smithsonian Museum.....	202-357-2020
Ticketmaster.....	202-432-7328
Ticketplace (Same day 1/2 price tickets).....	202-842-5387
Washington Convention & Visitors Association.....	202-789-7000
White House Tours.....	202-456-7041
Wolf Trap	703-255-1860
Zoo Information.....	202-673-4800

Important or Local Numbers

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Forest Knolls Elementary	301-649-8060
Forest Knolls Swim Club.....	301-593-9883
Holy Cross Hospital.....	301-754-7000
Metro Transit Info.....	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Govt.....	240-777-1000
Motor Vehicle Admin.....	1-800-638-8347
Pepco.....	202-833-7500
Poison Control	1-800-492-2414
Recycling	301-590-0046
Telephone - Verizon	301-954-6611
Time	301-844-2525
Transit - Ride-On Bus Info	301-217-7433
Trash Pick Up.....	240-777-6410
Washington Gas	703-750-2500
Washington Post (Delivery).....	202-334-6100
Weather Forecasts: Local	301-936-1212
Wheaton Library	240-777-0678
Renewal.....	240-777-0007
Wheaton Recreation Ctr.....	301-929-5500
Wheaton Ice Rink	301-649-2250
White House.....	202-456-1111
WSSC (Water Service).....	301-206-4001

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NFCCA Sets Membership Goal

Without support from its membership, the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association cannot function. Dues pay for the security deposit and rent of the meeting hall at Northwood Park Recreation Center, our dues in the Allied Civic Association, and last year helped pay for the Northwood-Four Corners neighborhood sign and special flyers announcing special exception hearings in the KFC matter. Dues also partially fund publication of the *Northwood News*.

Last season, of the approximately 950 households in the area represented by NFCCA, only 50, or less than five percent, paid

membership dues. This year we are setting a modest goal of 10 percent of households—95 members—to pay membership dues.

The NFCCA season runs from October to June and dues are just \$5.00 per adult member of the household. So far, three households have paid. Please support the work of the NFCCA by paying your membership dues. Dues can be paid in cash or check (made out to the "NFCCA") to the treasurer at meetings, or by sending them to:

Margaret Hawkins
Treasurer, NFCCA
10205 Lorain Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20901 ■

West Nile Virus

(continued from page 1)
son.

Dead Bird Reporting

If you come upon a bird that appears to have died of natural causes (not a broken neck from flying into a window or obviously mauled by a cat, etc.), you should contact the State Call Center at 1.866.866-CROW (2769).

As West Nile Virus is now considered endemic, the County Department of Health and Human Services is not picking up birds in zip codes where two or more infected birds have already been found, which includes 20901.

However, people should continue to report dead bird
(continued on page 9)

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Annual NFCCA Board Elections

The annual election of NFCCA's Board of Directors—officers and at-large members—will take place at our October 16 meeting. Nominations for positions can be made from the floor or by notifying a board member prior to the meeting.

Several positions currently have no declared candidates, including the president and vice president. Please attend the October 16 meeting and consider running for a position; present and former board members are happy to answer any questions you have about what serving entails.

The positions to be filled, and those currently running, are as follows:

President: [no candidate].

Vice President: [no candidate].

Treasurer: Margaret Hawkins.

Secretary: Mike Diegel.

At Large (3 positions): Alan Friedman, Charles Pritchard, [no candidate]. ■

Making a Safe Neighborhood

The NFCCA will participate in Safe Neighborhood Day on Wed., October 30. From 7 to 9 a.m., participants are needed to make and hold handheld signs at various intersections to urge motorists to slow down, drive with care, etc. For details, call Ken Hawkins at 301.681.0762. ■

West Nile Virus

(continued from page 6) sightings to the State Hot Topics Line, 1.866.866.2769.

In addition, callers may contact the Hot Topics Line to hear pre-recorded messages regarding West Nile Virus.

The dead bird is *not* dangerous to you. You cannot contract West Nile Virus directly from the bird; there is no live virus in a dead bird. However, as with any dead animal, you should wear plastic or latex gloves (or use a plastic bag as a glove) when handling the bird. Place the bird in a plastic bag and tie the bag securely, dispose of the bag in an outdoor trash receptacle, and wash your hands with soap and water. ■

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