

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Published Bimonthly by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association ■ December 2002

A Public Hearing to be Held On North Four Corners Park

By Dave Povtak

Many residents have wondered about the status of the Yeshiva (formerly Alexander) School site which adjoins the North Four Corners Park and stretches to University Blvd. Several years ago, the property was acquired in order to expand the existing park. Earlier this year, a consultant was hired to develop a formal proposal and preliminary work has been completed.

The Department of Park and Planning has scheduled the first public meeting to solicit the suggestions, ideas, and concerns of the community. Although this Association lobbied to have it held at

our Rec Center, the planners have scheduled it for 7:00 p.m. in the Lounge Meeting Room at M-NCPPC Parkside Headquarters, 9500 Brunett Avenue, on Thursday, 5 December. Call 301.495. 2503 for directions.

The comments of this community's residents are important. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission staff have requested that you send your remarks to them in the event you cannot attend the public meeting. A questionnaire will be available at the NFCCA meeting on December 11, or you can send written comments to Heidi Sussmann, MNCPPC, 9500 Brunett Ave., Sil. Spring, MD 20901, or via email at Heidi.Sussmann@mncppc-mc.org. The MNCPPC will hold a follow-up meeting in the spring. For further details, visit: www.mc-mncppc.org/silverspring/public_projects/fourcorners_park.shtm.

On a related matter, please note the 26 trees recently planted alongside the basketball and tennis courts on the Royalton Road side at the Rec Center. This is the first significant planting in the park in more than 25 years. ■

News on the Member Drive

By Margaret Hawkins

Thanks to all Northwood-Four Corners residents who have paid their membership dues to the Civic Association. Currently, 31—or 3.2 percent—of the neighborhood's households have paid their dues. This helps to bring us closer to our membership goal of 10 percent of the households (95 households out of 950).

Cash or checks for dues (payable to the "NFCCA") can be mailed to Margaret Hawkins, Treasurer, 10205 Lorain Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901. Dues are \$5.00 per adult member of households. ■

Next Meeting 11 December

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 11 December 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. All residents of the Northwood-Four Corners area are urged to attend. ■

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Our state is beginning to address the problem of "light pollution."

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If you're 55 or older, the county-funded senior center closest to our neighborhood is offering computer classes in its new computer laboratory.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Season's Greetings to everyone! I hope this edition of the Northwood News finds you and yours in good health and ready to enjoy some time off from work and together with loved ones.

Things are generally quiet in the neighborhood these days, something we couldn't say during our general meeting in October. The sniper headlines have receded and we can at least gas up in Four Corners without looking over our shoulders.

But there are things stirring and there is always opportunities for you to step in and help improve Northwood-Four Corners. There was a serious attempted crime against a teenage girl here in early November and police are looking for a suspect. The County parks department is asking for community input on the further development of North Four Corners Park (see story on page 1). And it looks like the Department of Public Works may be acting on the NFCCA request for sidewalks this spring.

Because of low attendance at our last meeting we postponed the election of the new NFCCA board until the meeting of December 11th. Please plan to attend and support your NFCCA!

—Ken Hawkins

Seeing the Light, or Living in The Darkness Can Be Better!

Pollution of a Different Kind Decreases Our Quality of Life

By Jacquie Bokow

Did you see the Leonid meteor storm on November 19? It was expected to be up to four times more intense than last year's. But even if you were up at 5:30 a.m., you might only have been able to see the glow coming from the lights at White Oak, rather than the thousands of meteors soaring through the night sky. Since the Leonids peak every 33 years, that might have been our last chance in a lifetime to see a meteor storm.

If you step outside on most clear nights, you will see relatively few stars. The problem is called "light pollution,"

the inadvertent illumination of the atmosphere from streetlights, outdoor advertising, parking lots, homes, schools, and other sources.

The first "world atlas of artificial night sky brightness"—published recently by scientists at the Department of Astronomy of the University of Padova, Italy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Boulder, Colorado—found that 99 percent of the people in the continental U.S.A. live under light-polluted skies. *More than two-thirds of the U.S. population can no longer see the Milky Way.*

Perhaps you think this doesn't matter. But anyone who has traveled to a rural area and seen the night sky as it truly appears knows that it *does* matter. One cannot see its grandeur in a planetarium. We would never let our children grow up without letting them see birds or flowers or other aspects of nature; is this any different from preventing them from seeing the stars? But we thoughtlessly erect outdoor lights everywhere, without considering glare, light trespass, safety, the right to privacy, or the waste of energy and taxpayer dollars.

A principal means to prevent poor exterior lighting practices is a code or ordi-

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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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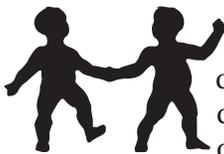
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Oh, Baby!

The N-FC Baby Network plods on! Any home-based parent with a pre-school child is welcome to join our merry band as we meet once a month to commiserate and have fun. Call Jacquie Bokow at 301.593.8566 for details. ■



Next NFCCA Meetings

13 February 2003
17 April 2003
12 June 2003

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 2002-2003 Board is listed below; please contact them directly with any concerns you may have about our neighborhood.

President (Acting)

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Seeing the Light: Living in Darkness is Better!

(continued from page 2)
nance, an “enforceable legal restriction on specific lighting practices that are deemed unacceptable by the government body having jurisdiction.” Code violations can be cited and prosecuted if necessary. Outdoor lighting codes and ordinances have proven to be at least partially effective at reducing polluting and trespassing light.

Montgomery County addresses light *trespass* in a limited fashion in zoning ordinances by requiring shielding of fixtures and by prohibiting intrusion onto residential property or adverse effects on roadways, but these requirements deal only with certain golf course and parking lot lighting.

At present, the county has no overall ordinance or regulation regarding light *pollution*. According to a county official, however, Montgomery County is interested in statewide legislation that would set some baseline requirements for all jurisdictions in Maryland that could be amended or strengthened by individual jurisdictions. A statewide code would simplify requirements and eliminate problems arising from variations in requirements from one county or municipality to another. At a minimum, a statewide code could address lighting that no local jurisdiction has authority over, such as state highways.

Currently, there are no state laws or regulations addressing outdoor lighting in Maryland. But in 2001, Govern-

nor Glendening selected members for a “Task Force to Study Lighting Efficiency and Light Pollution in Maryland” that included astronomers; lighting designers; representatives from the state department of transportation, police departments, and medical centers; environmentalists; and others. The purpose of the task force was to study the cost, extent, and consequences of inefficient public lighting and light pollution in the state and the benefits of alternative improvements.



The task force submitted its final report in March 2002. The following are some general guidelines coming out of their deliberations:

- Choose luminaires that distribute the light only where it is needed, minimizing light pollution and unnecessary energy consumption.
- Choose appropriate lamp source color.
- Choose lamp types to

maximize visibility per lumen output, as well as maximizing lumen output per input watt of energy.

- Choose lamps with longer life ratings.
- Choose appropriate efficient ballasts.
- Design to appropriate lighting levels based on Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) recommendations and to avoid over lighting.
- Layout lights to avoid spillover onto adjacent property, and choose appropriate pole heights.

The task force also urged that the Maryland Green Buildings Council, established by Executive Order and chaired by the Secretary of the Department of General Services, report on implementation of these plans and recommend a public information program aimed at local planning officials, county commissions, city councils, etc.

The task force believes that residential lighting systems should be exempted from any standards established. Temporary lighting systems—such as is used for holidays or at nighttime work areas—also should be exempted, but nonetheless, effort should be made to achieve energy efficiency and control of light.

To read the full report, see www.dgs.state.md.us/lighting/pdfs/TaskForceReport.pdf. For further information on light pollution, see the website of the International Dark-Sky Association at www.darksky.org. ■

Computer Classes Now Available at Senior Center

By Marion Lane

The county-funded senior center closest to our neighborhood, the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center (MSSC), is offering computer classes in its newly established computer laboratory. Introduction to computers, Microsoft Word, Windows basics, graphics/photos, and other classes are scheduled on a variety of days and times. These classes are open only to seniors (ages 55 and older) and there's a small fee involved.

Many other activities also are offered at the center; most are free. Regular

classes are held in Italian culture and language, ceramics, and acrylic painting/drawing. NARFE meetings are held at the center and it also serves as a mobile Post Office. Conditioning/exercise classes are available, or visitors may play bocce ball or bridge or amuse themselves at any of six full-sized pool tables. There's also square dancing, bingo, cards and table games, and indoor shuffleboard.

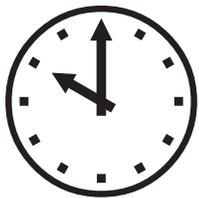
A nutritious lunch is served on weekdays for \$3.90 (reservations required), and blood pressure screenings are available three times a month.

The MSSC includes a self-

serve library and a large auditorium with a full stage where regular performances and Sunday afternoon concerts are held. Monthly mini-trips to local points of interest are also offered. A number of special interest clubs and classes include discussion groups for opera, books, Shakespeare, World War II/Korean War veterans, and current events; a karaoke club; groups for quilting and hand sewing, needlepoint, knitting and crocheting, and antiques and collectibles; a support group for widowed persons; and poetry and writing workshops.

Free "in-house" attorneys help with wills and provide other legal advice. A counselor (personal appointments

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Senior Center Holds Classes

(continued from page 6)
required) provides information on senior housing, financial assistance, and Medicare and Medicaid information.

The center provides a variety of spaces for rent for meetings, parties, and other activities. The Social Hall seats 250 at tables for large events such as wedding receptions, anniversaries, bat/bar mitzvahs. The Card Room seats 70 at tables and is available for meetings and classes (no food or drink). The Art Room seats 40 at tables and can be used for craft classes, birthday parties, meetings, etc.

Light alcoholic beverages, beer and wine are permitted only for rentals contained in

the Social Hall. Smoking is strictly prohibited on all county properties.

The MSSC, located at 1000 Forest Glen Road, is one of five senior centers sponsored by Montgomery County Department of Recreation. It is distinguished by being the first senior center to be built in the state of Maryland in 1972. Its monthly newsletter includes the calendar of events and is available when you visit the center.

Seniors ages 55 and older who live in the surrounding community and wish to lead active and interesting lives will find the Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center a stimulating and welcoming

place. Whether you are looking for friendship, useful information, or great entertainment, you'll find that the MSSC has many opportunities for seniors to stay connected with life.

To reach the MSSC from our neighborhood, drive south on Dennis Avenue (cross University Blvd.). At the stop sign, turn left onto Sligo Creek Parkway. At the traffic light, turn left onto Forest Glen Road. The senior center is approximately one half mile on the right. There is ample parking.

For further information, call 301.681.1255 or see www.schweinhaut-seniors.org. Hours are Monday to Friday from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ■

Northwood Real Estate Market Report



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Northwood Settled Properties

7/1/02-11/14/02

| Address | Sold Price | Style | BR | BA | DOM |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|----|-----|-----|
| 10416 MOUNTAIN QUAIL | \$395,000 | Colonial | 4 | 4 | 14 |
| 306 PINWOOD AVE | \$358,000 | Colonial | 4 | 2/1 | 14 |
| 403 EISNER ST | \$295,000 | Split Level | 3 | 2/1 | 9 |
| 10610 LOCKRIDGE DR | \$289,500 | Rambler | 5 | 3 | 41 |
| 10803 CAVALIER DR | \$285,000 | Colonial | 4 | 2/1 | 5 |
| 505 ROYALTON RD | \$280,000 | Cape Cod | 4 | 3 | 40 |
| 418 EISNER ST | \$270,000 | Split Level | 4 | 2/1 | 6 |
| 802 MALTA LN | \$267,905 | Rambler | 4 | 2/1 | 5 |
| 10814 LOMBARDY RD | \$266,000 | Split Level | 4 | 2 | 138 |
| 10404 EASTWOOD AVE | \$265,000 | Cape Cod | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| 1108 CHISWELL LN | \$261,500 | Split Level | 4 | 2/1 | 3 |
| 10611 EASTWOOD AVE | \$255,000 | Cape Cod | 5 | 2 | 54 |
| 924 LOXFORD TER | \$250,000 | Split Level | 3 | 2/1 | 4 |
| 912 CADDINGTON AVE | \$240,000 | Split Foyer | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| 803 LOMBARDY CT | \$225,000 | Rambler | 4 | 2 | 36 |
| 711 UNIV BLVD W | \$223,505 | Bilevel | 3 | 2 | 9 |

Silver Spring Subdivision Sales

(July 1, 2002 - October 31, 2002)

(DOM - Days on Market from List Date to Contract Date)

| SUBDIVISION | # Units | Avg. Sale | Avg. |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| | Settled | Price | DOM |
| ARCOLA | 2 | \$279,500 | 9 |
| BALLANTRAE | 3 | \$238,333 | 61 |
| BROOKSIDE | 2 | \$353,000 | 0 |
| BURNT MILLS | 12 | \$245,950 | 30 |
| CONN AVE ESTATES | 44 | \$209,346 | 18 |
| CONN AVE PARK | 12 | \$241,100 | 26 |
| DUMONT OAKS | 10 | \$279,804 | 20 |
| FOREST ESTATES | 20 | \$269,308 | 12 |
| FOREST GROVE | 2 | \$335,550 | 6 |
| FOREST KNOLLS | 4 | \$254,851 | 4 |
| GLENFIELD | 3 | \$314,833 | 23 |
| GLENMONT | 30 | \$227,959 | 27 |
| INDIAN SPRING | 14 | \$347,654 | 18 |
| KEMP MILL | 13 | \$344,138 | 10 |
| LAYHILL VIEW | 8 | \$404,500 | 23 |
| LONGMEAD | 47 | \$226,353 | 11 |
| MCDONALD KNOLLS | 2 | \$223,750 | 60 |
| NORTH WOODSIDE | 2 | \$410,950 | 16 |
| NORTHWOOD | 12 | \$283,917 | 31 |
| ROSEWOOD | 8 | \$250,000 | 8 |
| ROSSMOOR LEISURE | 107 | \$172,563 | 21 |
| SIERRA LANDING | 4 | \$112,625 | 32 |
| SLIGO ESTATES | 3 | \$259,800 | 11 |
| SLIGO PARK | 9 | \$319,112 | 14 |
| SPRINGBROOK FOREST | 1 | \$742,500 | 46 |
| TIVOLI | 11 | \$240,182 | 9 |
| UNIVERSITY TOWERS | 12 | \$94,642 | 6 |
| VEIRS MILL | 30 | \$201,640 | 16 |
| WESTCHESTER | 3 | \$228,333 | 18 |
| WHEATONCREST | 7 | \$274,614 | 19 |
| WHEATON HILLS | 22 | \$231,236 | 35 |
| WOODMOOR | 17 | \$298,847 | 22 |
| WOODSIDE | 25 | \$382,612 | 20 |
| WOODSIDE FOREST | 3 | \$429,333 | 8 |
| WOODSIDE PARK | 3 | \$393,167 | 49 |