

NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ FEBRUARY 2003

Redistricting May Send Local Students to Unrenovated NHS

By David West

Hello from a neighbor to the South! I live in South Four Corners, have a First Grader at Forest Knolls ES, and teach at Blair HS. I am inviting you to join a movement to build citizen power in the "Downcounty" area. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has included Northwood in a new five high school megacluster Downcounty Consortium (DCC) that includes approximately 20,000 students. Thus, we in Four Corners are now, officially, bedfellows with dozens of other neighborhoods in Kensington, Silver Spring, Takoma Park, and Wheaton.

As of *this year* designations for which high school serves our area may change. Your home address, for example, now feeds Blair HS. It is possible that, beginning in August 2004, students from your home will *not* be allowed to attend Blair. If they must attend another equally strong high school, no one may care. But what if the high school they must attend is inferior? We need to work together to *make sure* MCPS makes all DCC high schools strong.

MCPS will erase boundaries on the map that separate

the districts of Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, and Wheaton high schools. Instead, attendance will depend largely on the elementary school boundaries. Each elementary school area will be part of a "base area" for one of five high schools (the four above, plus Northwood). Students will attend their base high school unless there is space available at a DCC high school they prefer.

MCPS has not decided which school will be our base school, but it seems likely it will assign us to Northwood. By taking our kids out of Blair, MCPS can reduce overcrowding. Northwood has housed many schools being renovated, but MCPS has not renovated it, nor does it intend to. However, it has committed to improve parts of the building beginning after Rockville HS leaves in June 2004 and continuing as students attend starting in August 2004. MCPS intends to spend around \$11.5 for Northwood (the BCC HS renovation cost \$50 million).

See http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Downcounty_Consortium_Neighbor_Network or contact me at David_West@fc.mcps.k12.md.us. ■

Just When Will Those Leaves Be Collected?

By Vince Jankoski

Here is some additional information regarding leaf collection, courtesy of Lou Cutsail. Because of the wetness of the leaves, a two-step procedure needs to be utilized. First, skid loaders will pull the leaves into the street. Then, the leaves will sit for a day or two in order to dry. Then, the vacuums will come and pick up the leaves. Within the next week or two our neighborhood will be done. Mr. Cutsail strongly recommends that those of us with off-street parking use it for the next week or two. This will make their job a lot easier. ■

Next Meeting on 12 February

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Assn. will be held on Wednesday, 12 February 2003, 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. A speaker from Metro will be at the meeting to discuss transportation issues. ■

This issue printed
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in Silver Spring,
301.588.0998.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the executive board, I would like to wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year. I trust we can all work together to make 2003 as successful as previous years.

I expect that you were impressed (as was I) by the beauty of our neighborhood recently covered in snow. I also expect that you shared my welcome when drought conditions were lifted. Unfortunately, as we all know, winter precipitation has its drawbacks. Our recent bouts of inclement weather have called to mind the need for neighborliness above and beyond what we normally express. I am thinking of two situations which occasion themselves whenever a winter storm passes through.

First, we are fortunate to have senior citizens living among us. They give stability to our neighborhood and provide the wisdom of their experience. We must keep in mind our elderly, infirm, or disabled neighbors whenever we are struck by severe winter weather. Snow and ice may limit their mobility. Some may find it difficult to keep their normal routine, even to the point of being unable to go to the grocery store or visit the doctor's office. I ask each of you to keep these neighbors in your thoughts during times of extreme winter weather. A timely visit, a telephone call, or the offer of assistance will help our seniors through this winter.

The second situation, while more mundane, is no less important to survival during a snow storm. Snowfalls in excess of about six inches will cover fire hydrant connections, particularly when drifting occurs or after the streets are plowed. Firefighters need to locate and access the hydrants if they are to do their job in protecting your family and your home. Help them out and do yourself a very big favor at the same time. Shovel out the hydrants.

It will be my pleasure to serve each of you in the New Year. Best wishes.

—Vincent A. Jankoski

Shoveling Law

By Jacquie Bokow

Some residents may yet be unaware that a bill passed in April 2001 requires property owners to clear away ice and snow from public walkways and parking spaces bordering their property. The law, designed for the safety of pedestrians, requires that residents clear these areas within 24 hours after the storm stops or face a fine. A first violation calls for a written warning, followed by a \$50 fine if they do not comply. We've had more than our usual amount of snow this winter. Neighbors, let's help those in our community unable to shovel their walks themselves. ■

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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Are You a Member Yet?

By Margaret Hawkins

Membership in the NFCCA continues to climb. We now have 43 dues paying households in the neighborhood. This is roughly four percent of the 950 households in our territory, leaving us just a few more percentage points to go to reach our goal of 10 percent. Thanks to all who

have joined the NFCCA in support of their neighborhood.

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

How Do You Think North Four Corners Park Should Be Used?

By Charlie Pritchard

In addition to plans suggested to the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) for our local North Four Corners Park, a neighborhood resident has suggested the inclusion of a "dog exercise ground" similar to the one recently installed in Wheaton Regional Park. This would be a ground fenced off from the rest of the park and open to dog owners and their pets. Owners would be responsible for clean up, etc. President Silverman of the County Council has indicated that such exercise grounds should be limited to the larger regional parks but the suggestion may surface in a meeting sponsored by MNCPPC on park use at 7:00 p.m., 30 January 2003, at the Park Department headquarters just off Brunett Avenue near Sligo Creek Parkway. Residents of our neighborhood, as well as from adjacent neighborhoods, have been invited to express their views on park usage.

[Ed. Note: Although you may receive this issue of the News after this meeting is held, you are encouraged to contribute your views. The MNCPPC is seeking public comments on the following three questions: (1) What would you like to have at the park? (2) What would you NOT like to have at the park? (3) What do you think are problems with the park? Send your comments (include your name, address, and phone) to: Ms. Heidi Sussmann, MNCPPC,

9500 Brunett Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901; or via fax to 301.585.1921.]

Our civic association membership meeting will not be until the second Wednesday in February. Consequently, the association executive board had appointed Dave Povtak to be our representative and possible chairman of a committee to negotiate with MNCPPC on park usage. Dave has performed in this role before. Two residents already have indicated their desire to be on such a committee. Dave's telephone number is 301.593.3718. ■

Take Some ZZs

If you're thinking of riding the Z Metrobuses that run along Colesville Road (Z2, Z4, and Z8), please be aware that the fare has been reduced to 50 cents. Metro took this step to increase ridership on this line. The fare decrease remains in effect until 31 March 2003, so get out and ride! ■

Network Needs Babysitters

The Northwood-Four Corners Baby Network, a group of 24 home-based parents with preschoolers in our community, is creating a list of local babysitters. If you would like to be added to this list, please call Jacquie Bokow at 301.593.8566. References must be provided to be included. ■

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.

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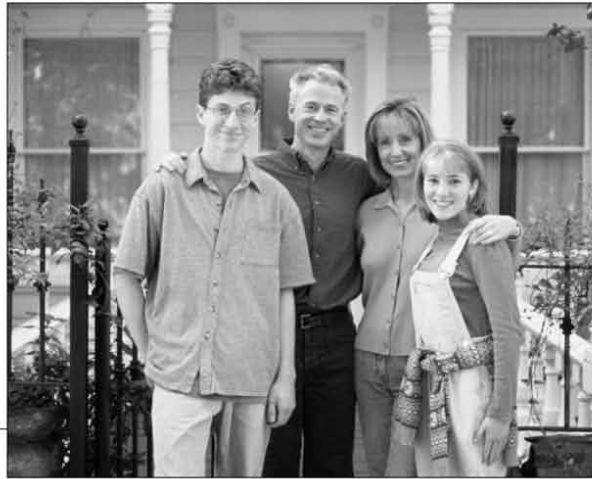
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Recent Northwood Settled Properties

11/15/02-12/31/02

Address	Sold Price	Style	BR	BA	DOM
10400 MOUNTAIN QUAIL	\$400,000	Colonial	4	4	8
324 PINWOOD AVE	\$383,000	Colonial	3	2	64
111 WOODRIDGE AVE	\$376,000	Cape Cod	4	2	3
10816 MARGATE RD	\$335,000	Split Level	4	2/1	80
10308 EDGEWOOD AVE	\$325,000	Cape Cod	4	2	36
412 DENNIS AVE	\$321,000	Rambler	5	3/1	44
216 THISTLE CT	\$285,000	Split Level	3	2	34
909 MALTA LN	\$270,000	Split Foyer	4	2	248
11103 LOMBARDY RD	\$265,000	Rambler	4	2	79
222 THISTLE DR	\$255,000	Split Level	4	2/1	221
10609 LOCKRIDGE DR	\$250,000	Rambler	3	1/1	3
921 MALTA LN	\$241,000	Split Level	3	1/1	8
112 KINSMAN VIEW CIR	\$208,000	Colonial	4	3/1	7

Silver Spring Subdivision Sales

(November 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002)

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

SUBDIVISION	# Units Settled	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. DOM
AMER. FINMARK	5	\$141,710	3
BALLANTRAE	5	\$255,200	23
BREEWOOD	1	\$231,500	7
BURNT MILLS	5	\$326,800	24
CONN AVE ESTATES	23	\$218,161	18
CONN AVE PARK	8	\$249,125	48
DUMONT OAKS	10	\$246,090	3
FOREST ESTATES	4	\$263,250	5
FOREST KNOLLS	2	\$255,500	128
FRANKLIN KNOLLS	2	\$260,250	2
GARRETT FOREST	4	\$255,700	27
GLENMONT	6	\$212,583	33
HIGHLAND VIEW	8	\$319,498	11
INDIAN SPRING	8	\$346,410	20
KEMP MILL	5	\$398,460	13
KENSINGTON	3	\$301,900	12
LEISURE WORLD	7	\$215,357	26
MCDONALD KNOLLS	2	\$244,900	22
NORTH WOODSIDE	2	\$403,450	32
NORTHWOOD	11	\$309,364	53
ROSEWOOD	1	\$265,000	1
ROSSMOOR LEISURE	44	\$204,690	25
SLIGO PARK	6	\$338,850	21
SPRINGBROOK FOREST	1	\$436,000	8
TAKOMA PARK	3	\$272,633	33
TIVOLI	4	\$289,500	14
UNIVERSITY TOWERS	7	\$120,329	9
VEIRS MILL	13	\$199,262	30
WESTCHESTER	3	\$238,332	40
WHEATONCREST	2	\$254,250	18
WHEATON HILLS	11	\$238,691	18
WOODMOOR	11	\$332,418	40

Making a House an Apartment

By Ken Hawkins

The Montgomery County Board of Appeals has notified the NFCCA and the community regarding a special exception to the zoning ordinance to allow an accessory apartment in a house at 419 Belton Road. The location is zoned residential R60, which does not permit such uses except by permit. Apparently an apartment already exists in this house and the request is to permit it retroactively.

The hearing on this matter is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Friday, 7 March 2003 at the Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Second Floor, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville MD. The case number is S-2558. Residents can mail letters about this matter or testify

in person. More information is available from the Planning Board at 301.495.4610. ■

Social Director Sought-NFCCA

The NFCCA is seeking an individual to be our Social Director. This person would coordinate special events for the families in our community, which might include an Annual Fun Run, a Halloween party, Easter Egg Roll, nature walks, a pig roast, whatever you can dream up!

Like all NFCCA positions, this is an unpaid, volunteer job. If you're interested in volunteering, call Vince Jankoski at 301.681.3692. ■

New Retail Center on 29

A new shopping center with eight small stores (the largest 13,000 square feet) is to be built on Colesville Road just north of the Northwest Branch. The old furniture store that was there will be razed, and a 25,000-square-foot retail center constructed. The property manager, Gary Taubin of Finmarc Management, Inc. (in Bethesda), said they expect to break ground in the fall. No tenants are signed yet, but they would welcome suggestions as to what stores those in the neighborhood would like to see there. Please call Jacquie Bokow, 301.593.8566, with any suggestions and she will pass them on to Finmarc. ■

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