



NORTHWOOD NEWS

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

Crime Comes to Our Community

By Ken Hawkins

Several recent incidents in our neighborhood show that criminals are never far away. Vandals have sprayed sidewalks, street signs, and

private property with graffiti. More seriously, on February 15th, three men, two of them armed with handguns, attempted to rob one of our neighbors in the 10400 block of Edgewood Avenue. About the same time, there was another attempted armed robbery near Lorain Avenue and Timberwood Avenue. There has also been at least one residential burglary in the neighborhood since January and a car window was smashed in late March.

Be sure to keep a careful watch on your surroundings at all times. Have your house keys ready when you leave your car to go indoors. Montgomery County Police tell the NFCCA that they welcome hearing from citizens anytime we see something or someone the least bit suspicious. You can call the Police Non-Emergency dispatcher at 301.279. 8000 and they will send an officer out to investigate. If you wish to talk with an officer specifically assigned to our area, call the G-3 Beat Team office at 301.565.7740. *The Washington Post* maintains an online archive of crime reports for Silver Spring going back six months, for those who would like more information. ■

Next Meeting On April Ninth

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 9 April 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. Items on the agenda include:

- guest speaker Heidi Sussman from MNCPPC to discuss uses for the park (see story on page 10);
- graffiti control (see page 2);
- report on status of renovations at Northwood H.S.; and
- disintegration of curbs, gutters, and driveway aprons that were installed less than two years ago.

All residents of the Northwood-Four Corners area are invited to attend and express their views. (For those who wish to join, annual dues are \$5 per person and may be paid at the meeting.) ■

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This issue printed
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Sir Speedy
in Rockville,
301.340.0500.

APRIL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With a never-so-welcome spring approaching, I would like to give you my thoughts on what we can all do to make our neighborhood as beautiful as it can be. From the moment I first saw our neighborhood, I was impressed with its natural effects: the mature trees, the varied—and sometimes unique—gardens, the ample open space. After I lived here for a while, I learned the reason for my initial impression. We have neighbors who are dedicated to maintaining and, in fact, improving the natural beauty of our neighborhood.

In view of this, I have no hesitation in asking all of you to address two problems that, while always present, have become magnified in recent months: litter and graffiti. As to the former, my frequent walks through our local streets have led me to believe that the problem is one of unthinking motorists traversing our streets in an effort to avoid the more congested main arteries which border our neighborhood. Viewed as a convenience rather than a place where people live, our neighborhood becomes an easy place to discard bottles, cans, and fast food wrappers. This angers and frustrates me greatly. While I invite suggestions for a long-term solution, I regret that the short-term solution is for each of us to do the unpleasant and pick up other people's trash. I trust you will respond to my call.

In some respects, the graffiti disappoints me more than the litter. While I suspect the litter is the product of persons outside our neighborhood who have little respect for us, the graffiti is most likely an inside job. One of us is defacing our neighborhood. Unfortunately, s/he will continue to do so until s/he is caught.

I ask you to report to the county police each and every incident of graffiti whether it occurs on your personal property or on public property. The police are already aware of the situation. They are considering these incidents seriously. Do not assume that the police have better things to do. If we do not report these incidents to the police, the police have no way of knowing that we have a problem. They want to hear from us. I am told that, given the similarities in the kinds of graffiti, the police are treating these incidents as a single occurrence and are investigating them on the detective level. When reporting a graffiti incident, call the main Montgomery County Police Department non-emergency number at 301.279.8000. Ask to speak to Mr. Landfair and refer to Report No. S03060335.

—Vince Jankoski

NFCCA Emails Help Keep You Informed

If you have an email address and would like to stay connected to what's happening in our community, you are invited to join the NFCCA email list. Just send an email to nfccca2002@yahoo.com. Include your name, street address, and email address with a request to be added to our distribution list.

Messages are sent infrequently and *only* when community action is urgently required before the next full meeting of the civic association. So sign up! ■

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

Jacquie Bokow
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BayScaping Tips for Spring

By Carole Barth
Start with the Soil

As things start to warm up and green up, it's always tempting to rush the season and begin working the garden. If the soil is too wet, however, you risk compacting the soil and spreading plant diseases. Instead, why not prepare for spring by working on the compost pile? Then you will have finished compost ready for the spring push and room for the first crop of weeds and trimmings. How can you tell if the soil is too wet to work? Take a small amount of soil in your hand and squeeze it into a little ball. If the soil stays together in a soggy mass, you need to wait awhile.

While you're examining the soil, take a little time to learn more about it. It will help you pick the plants that will grow best in your yard. Take a small soil sample and put it in a jar. (Spaghetti sauce jars work well, and some even have measuring lines on the side.) Add water to the sample until you have a mixture of five parts water to one part soil. Shake until thoroughly mixed, and then set aside.

After a few hours, check the jar. You will see that the water is clear and the soil has separated into different layers so it's easy to compare the relative proportion of organic matter, sand, silt, and clay. (Note: If your soil has a high clay content, the clay particles may never settle out, but will be held in suspension and the water will not be clear.)

Lawn Care

Ah, a sure sign of spring: the TV is once again running ads for fertilizers, grass seed, pesticides, and lawn care services. **BE STRONG!** Resist the temptation to fertilize the lawn. Cool season grasses (like bluegrass and fescues) are growing slowly, and an extra boost of food will only encourage weak, shallow-rooted growth. Warm season grasses like zoysia will not break out of dormancy until temperatures remain consistently above 60 degrees. Cool season weeds, however, will be quick to take advantage of the bonus. Early spring fertilization only helps the weeds overgrow the grass, and yet, in a recent survey, 73 percent of residents said they fertilize in spring.

So do yourself a favor and, instead of buying fertilizer, invest in a Cooperative Extension soil test. A soil test will tell you whether or not fertilizer will be needed later in the year. You can get more information about soil testing as well as timely tips from the Cooperative Extension Home and Garden Information Center website at www.hgic.umd.edu. ■

To Dog Owners

To responsible dog owners who clean up after their pets, your community thanks you! To those of you who are *not* cleaning up your pet's waste, please be considerate of your neighbors. Pick up the poop! ■

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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I am a carpenter-roofer with more than 30 years experience and have completed over 150 new roofs in the Northwood, Pinecrest, 4-Corners, Kemp Mill, and Arcola Avenue neighborhoods within the last 4 years, with ***no leaks***.

References aplenty upon request. **MHIC #71419**

Winter did a great deal of damage to roofs, gutters, downspouts, and other exterior parts of your home. With 30 years experience, I'll beat any estimate you may get. I use the best shingles money can buy — 30 year warranty certainteed. Ask your neighbors about my work. It is ***Top Notch!***

**Call Jim & Noe
 (Home Care by the House Doctor)**

301-681-6802

**Please leave message & phone number;
 I will respond ASAP.**

Membership: How Does Your Street Rank?

By Margaret Hawkins

This year the NFCCA has been trying to increase membership. We set a goal of 95 households (10 percent of the homes in our area). So far, 62 households have supported our Association by paying membership dues.

Membership support varies from street to street. Below is listed membership levels by street:

5 Households

Edgewood Ave.
Lombardy Rd. and Ct.
Lorain Ave.

3-4 Households

Cavalier Dr. and Ct.
Dennis Ave.
Kinsman View Circle
Lockridge Dr.
Margate Rd.
Marvin Rd.
Mountain Quail Rd.
Pinewood Ave.
Sutherland Rd.
Woodridge Ave.

2 Households

Royalton Rd. and Ter.
Timberwood Ave.

1 or No Households

Belton Rd.
Colesville Rd.
Eastwood Ave.
Eisner St.
Glenwild Rd. and Ct.
Northwood Ave.

Kerwin Rd. and Ct.
Ladson Rd.
Snowy Owl Dr.
Southwood Ave.
Thistle Dr. and Ct.
University Blvd.

Dues can be paid by check or cash to Margaret Hawkins, Treasurer, NFCCA, 10205 Lorain Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20901. Dues are \$5 per adult member of the household.

Dues are used to help finance the newsletter, special flyers, Allied Civic Association dues, rental of the community center for meetings, and to match county grant dollars for such projects as the neighborhood sign. ■

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Fighting West Nile Virus By Battling Mosquitoes

By Marilyn Piety

Our biggest mosquito problem is Asian Tiger mosquitoes. The best way to keep them out of your yard is to get rid of places mosquitoes can breed. Asian Tigers breed *only* in small containers like flower pots, kids toys, downspout extensions, and other places on the attached checklist. They *must* remain in water for at least a week because it takes that long for the eggs to complete their life cycle to become adult mosquitoes. If you dump the water out, the eggs can never become adult mosquitoes. What could be easier? But *everyone in the neighborhood* must get rid of their standing water once a week. (See the page 8 checklist to correct breeding sites.)

Asian Tigers do not fly very far. Their maximum flight range is about 200 yards (600 feet, not backyards). This means, if you have Asian Tigers in your yard, they are breeding in your yard or, perhaps, that of a nearby neighbor.

Public Health Services, in conjunction with the County's Volunteer Center, teaches residents how and where to find places where mosquitoes are breeding. It is good for neighborhoods to have residents trained to help each other. One training is scheduled for Thursday, 17 April, at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park City Hall. Everyone is invited. No reservation is required.

If people are interested in other training, they can call the Volunteer Center, 240.777.2600, to learn where

other training sessions are currently scheduled. Or they can leave their phone number to be notified as other training is scheduled. It is early in the season now. More will be scheduled.

2002 was the largest recorded arboviral outbreak in the Western Hemisphere.

(Arboviral means virus carried by arthropods such as mosquitoes, ticks, etc.) 2003 will probably be bigger.

Please feel free to call me (240.777.1394) if you need more information.

Marilyn Piety is Program Manager for Mont. County Public Health Services. ■

Survey Responses for Proposed Burnt Mills Shopping Center

By Jacquie Bokow

In the last issue of the *Northwood News*, I requested input from the community about which stores we would like to see installed on Route 29. A new shopping center with eight small stores (as currently envisioned) is to be built on Colesville Road just north of the Northwest Branch, in what was formerly a furniture store. The property has been vacant for several decades and will soon be torn down (the sign indicating the new center will open this spring was a bit optimistic).

The planned center is being called Burnt Mills Shopping Center by Finmarc Management, Inc. (their office is in Bethesda), which is the property manager. The land itself is owned by the Leisner Family Limited Partnership, the trustees for which live in New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange, Fla. (I am currently in possession of the preliminary plans, sent to the NFCCA by the Mont. Co. Dept. of Park and Planning, if anyone would

like to see them.) A new intersection, with a stoplight, is proposed at the southern end of the property, just next to the existing service station.

One popular request was for an ice cream parlor. Eat-in/carry-out restaurants (such as Chicken Out or Chick-fil-A) were also mentioned. Others requested a finer quality eat-in restaurant. Obviously, we don't want duplication of any type of service already available in either Four Corners or White Oak.

But, hands down, the number one request was for a Trader Joe's. The largest store planned at the center (12,973 square feet) would easily accommodate a Trader Joe's and the 179 parking spaces planned would be more than adequate. If you would support a Trader Joe's at this location, please mention this to the management at any branch of Trader Joe's the next time you shop there.

Finmarc has not yet signed a single tenant. Perhaps if we work together, we can get what we want! ■

Use This List to Check for Mosquitoes' Artificial Breeding Sites

Potential Breeding Site	How to Correct
Any container capable of holding water	Throw away, turn over, empty once a week or drill holes in the bottom.
Bird baths	Dump out once a week or flush out with garden hose.
Pet water bowls	Rinse out once a week.
Potted plants with saucers	Empty saucers or flush out with garden hose once a week.
Buckets, watering cans, drinking glasses, styrofoam cups, bottle caps, foil, other trash that can hold water	Store inside or turn over. If trash, throw away.
Tarps or other plastic covers, flexible sandbox covers	Drain water trapped in folds and arrange so that water runs off.
Gutters, including "covered" types	Clean so water runs freely.
Garbage cans, other barrels Upturned garbage can lids	Keep can covered or drill holes in bottom. Keep lid on can or turned so water runs off. If collecting rain water, cover with screen.
Old tires	Dispose of at Solid Waste Transfer Station, Shady Grove. If used for playground equipment, drill holes for water to run. If on ground, be sure holes are not blocked by mulch.
Old playground equipment	Remove and dispose of. If it must be stored, put under cover. Be sure water drains off.
Children's toys, especially plastic toys, "Kiddie Coops," etc.	Store inside or turn so that places that can hold water are turned down. Some toys have compartments that hold water on both sides.
Wading pools, unused or abandoned swimming pools	Turn over kiddie pools when not in use. Larvicide unused swim. pools with "mosquito dunks" once a month. (Mosquitoes can't breed in maintained pools because of the chemicals used.)
Wheelbarrow stored outside	Turn over when not in use.
Flat roofs	Inspect for water pools.
Dripping outdoor faucets and window air conditioners	If puddling, repair faucet. Place rocks under window air conditioner to ensure water runs off or fill hole with dirt.
Ornamental ponds without fish	Stock with fish, apply larvicide or filter/aerate water. (Fish eat mosquito larvae.)
Boats, canoes	Pump out bilges. Turn over canoes and small boats. If not possible, dump out after each rain.
Under decks, porches, or outbuildings: stored items, depressions in dirt, or plastic ground linings	Fill in depressions. Remove or turn over any stored items that hold water.
Pipes, plumbing supplies with corner joints	Store under cover. If they must be outside, arrange so openings point down, not up.
Drainage ditch, culvert or other low areas clogged by grass and weed clippings	Remove grass and weed clippings so water can flow and/or drain freely.
Flexible plastic pipe to take water away from downspout	Replace with smooth pipe. The grooves can hold enough water to breed mosquitoes. Or fasten screen or old nylon stocking to end.
Base of patio umbrella or portable basketball stand	Fill with sand or, if filled with water, be sure to screw on plug. Keep water out of depressions on stand also.
Outdoor grills	Keep covered. Be sure vent is closed also.
Bromeliads (plants that hold water), holes in trees or cavities formed by multiple trunks	Turn plant over to dump water. For trees or plants too large to turn over, flush out cavities with garden hose once a week.
Outside drains	Cover with screening or larvicide with "mosquito dunks/pellets."
Sump pumps	Cover with screening
Bamboo	Cut down and regularly mow remaining "stumps" so they can't hold water
Hollow fence posts without caps	Put caps on open chain link or plastic fence posts
Plastic in gardens to prevent weeds	Use landscape cloth that will allow water through instead of plastic sheets

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01/01/03-03/09/03

Address	Sold Price	Style	BR	BA
DOM				
10405 EASTWOOD AVE	\$290,000	Cape Cod	4	2/1
10700 GLENWILD RD	\$283,000	Bilevel	3	2
332 HANNES ST	\$281,500	Split Level	4	3
227 HANNES ST	\$260,000	Rambler	4	2
11007 LOMBARDY RD	\$259,000	Rambler	4	2
137 KINSMAN VIEW CIR	\$230,000	Colonial	3	2/1
1134 LOXFORD TER	\$219,900	Split Level	4	2/1

My New Northwood Listing

Address	List Price	Style	BR	BA
10627 EASTWOOD AVE	\$279,950	Cape Cod	4	2

Silver Spring Subdivision Sales

(January 1, 2003 - February 28, 2003)

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

SUBDIVISION	# Units Settled	Avg. Sale Price	Avg. DOM
BREEWOOD	1	\$250,000	5
BURNT MILLS	3	\$311,667	21
CONN AVE ESTATES	9	\$209,767	24
CONN AVE PARK	6	\$251,817	26
DUMONT OAKS	5	\$250,100	14
FAIRWAY	8	\$147,538	40
FOREST ESTATES	1	\$185,800	4
FOREST KNOLLS	1	\$219,900	10
FRANKLIN KNOLLS	4	\$264,675	64
GARRETT FOREST	2	\$238,000	83
GLENMONT	15	\$216,187	44
HIGHLAND VIEW	5	\$318,260	47
INDIAN SPRING	14	\$323,993	36
KEMP MILL	7	\$335,893	8
LEISURE WORLD	30	\$197,681	41
MCDONALD KNOLLS	2	\$195,250	2
NORTHWOOD	5	\$264,400	74
ROSEWOOD	2	\$253,450	6
SLIGO ESTATES	1	\$260,000	14
SLIGO PARK	7	\$293,700	39
SPRINGBROOK FOREST	1	\$375,000	39
TAKOMA PARK	3	\$363,333	31
TIVOLI	1	\$237,968	3
UNIVERSITY TOWERS	10	\$133,500	24
VEIRS MILL	4	\$218,725	19
WESTCHESTER	2	\$209,250	16
WHEATON HILLS	6	\$245,483	53
WHEATONCREST	1	\$261,726	4
WOODMOOR	3	\$411,867	5
WOODSIDE	4	\$339,000	3

What Will Happen to North Four Corners Park?

By Carole Barth

Do you have ideas on what the design should be for the new addition to North Four Corners Park? If so, be sure to come to the next NFCCA meeting on Wednesday, April 9. Heidi Sussman from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) will be at the meeting to hear what you have to say. Dean Smith of the Park Police will also be attending to hear about problems with the existing park.

Background

The addition to North Four Corners Park was purchased from the Yeshiva School in 1998. It is located on University Boulevard

next to the Oaks. When a high-density town home development was proposed for the site, NFCCA successfully argued for the county to purchase the land as an addition to the park. Now the planning process for developing the addition has begun.

MNCPPC held an Input meeting January 30, which was well-attended. At the meeting, MNCPPC staff mentioned that this is one of the sites being considered for a huge senior citizen facility/recreation center. At 33,000 net square feet, and with 150-190 parking spaces, such a facility would effectively take both the new and existing portions of the park. (If built on one level, the building alone

would cover about an acre of land.)

Most of the citizens who attended the meeting are residents of Northwood Four Corners, and their comments were overwhelmingly in favor of a plan that would preserve existing park resources and minimize construction impacts. Many residents spoke eloquently about the tranquility of the site and the simple pleasures of open land: bird watching, flying a kite, and walking. Many also talked about serious problems with large groups overwhelming the existing park resources and asked MNCPPC not to exacerbate the problem by adding more athletic fields.

(continued on page 11)

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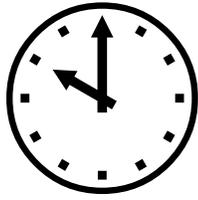
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About North Four Corners Park

(continued from page 10)
MNCCPC did not seem very receptive to such a low-impact approach. They argued that the property was purchased at the community's request to provide active recreation and that it would be difficult to change that now.

Our Actions

At its February meeting, the NFCCA passed a resolution calling for preserving existing specimen trees, minimizing impervious surfaces, and adding features such as a fitness trail, native plant landscaping, picnic tables, chess/checkers tables, and rain gardens. This proposal has since been endorsed by

a number of residents from the Oaks as well as the Silver Spring Women's Club.

The MNCPPC plans to present some alternative plans to the community in early May and to present a final plan for approval by the Planning Board in mid- to late June. If you can't come on April 9, you can send written comments to Heidi Sussman, MNCPPC, 9500 Brunett Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901; or fax them to 301.585.1921. ■

Mark your calendar now for the June NFCCA meeting, set for Wednesday, 11 June 2003.

This is the last meeting until October.

Annual Creek Clean-Up Scheduled

It's time for our annual spring cleanup of Lockridge Creek. This creek runs directly into the Northwest Branch. You can pitch in to beautify our surroundings!

Join us at 9:30 a.m. on **Saturday, 19 April 2003.** (Raindate: Sunday, 27 April.) We will start at the Lockridge Drive and Dennis Avenue intersection and work our way into the Northwest Branch Park. Be sure to bring gloves and wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and long pants.

For more information, or to help with this event, call Carole Barth, 301.593.7863. ■

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