



NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ JUNE 2005

County Council Votes to Return Trash Cans to Parks

By Carole Barth

There's good news for park users and residents living near County parks. The County Council voted to fund the return of trash cans to county parks in the FY 2006 budget. Trash cans should begin to reappear this summer. It is interesting that it took a concerted effort by a coalition of civic associations (including Northwood-Four Corners) to bring this about, even though Park and Planning now admits that the "Carry-in, Carry-out" (CICO) program did not actu-

ally save money. Thanks to all of our residents who sent letters or emails and who signed petitions. Special thanks is owed to Jennifer Chambers of Indian Springs who organized the Coalition effort.

However, there is still work to be done on this issue. The Council gave Park and Planning the discretion to decide which parks would get trash cans and which would remain CICO parks. One would like to think that North Four Corners Park will definitely be getting trash cans, since we have testified many times about trash problems in this park. Moreover, North Four Corners Park was listed as a problem park in the report analyzing the CICO program.

However, it never pays to take such things for granted. Just before the Council's decision, the Director of the Parks Dept. called me to ask whether the Coalition to Return Trash Cans still existed, because he was under the impression that concern about this issue had died down. (He called me because when I testified, I gave out copies of *Northwood News* that included an article on the Coalition.)

Therefore, we will need to keep following this issue until the trash cans are back. If

you want to help out, send an email to cbarth@mindspring.com and I will add you to the park mailing list. That way, if we need to generate calls/letters/emails over the summer, I can let you know. (This is also the list for any developments in the facilities planning process for North Four Corners Park.) ■

INSIDE

National Night Out3

Join your neighbors on Tuesday evening, August 2, for fun at the Rec Center.

Problems with Pet Waste5

The scoop on the ... well, you know.

County Waste Collection6

Beth Ginter reports on what and how to recycle.

Traffic 'Calming' or 'Control'?10

Murray Scher explores the options for Hannes Street.

Clueless in Frogland.....11

Robin Loube investigates the 'vernal pool' and learns about tadpoles and frogs.

Next Meeting On June 15th

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 15 June 2005, 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 invited to attend and express their views. ■

JUNE						
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer is almost here, and that means our last membership meeting before hiatus (June 15) is almost upon us. Unfortunately, we still have no resolution on the facilities plan for North Four Corners Park. Still, we've seen progress on other issues. The long-awaited Trader Joe's is almost here, and Fajita Coast has opened where Fred and Harry's used to be. County parks will once again have trash cans (see the story on page one.) We have new neighborhood list serves for parents and for crime watch. Thanks to everyone who helped us make this progress.

We are trying to get two speakers for the June meeting. First, we are inviting a representative from the park police to explain what falls under park police jurisdiction, and how and when to contact park police. Secondly, we are inviting a representative from the Department of Permitting Services to explain what current zoning law allows in the way of additions and "mansions." So plan to attend on June 15.

Before you head off to the beach, however, remember that there's still a lot going on during the summer. We have one big event coming up, Neighborhood Night Out which is always a lot of fun (see page three.) And we will keep an eye out for any actions by park and planning on park issues (to be kept up to date, send an email to cbarth@mindspring.com to be added to the park mailing list). Finally, this is a good time of year to plan, organize, and think about what to do differently next year. See the new help wanted column (page three.)

I wish you all a delightful summer!

—Carole Barth

Join Our Crime Watch Listserv

The NFCCA has created a crime watch email group through Yahoo. This group exists to communicate crime reports and related information to interested community residents. Its purpose is to raise awareness of crime in our neighborhood to empower us as citizens to protect ourselves and our neighbors.

If you would like to join this email group, please send an email to Nick Scalera at nicholas_scalera@discovery.com). You'll get an email back with instructions. Participation is voluntary and you can unsubscribe at any time. ■

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the 1,488 households in the area bounded by Colesville Rd. (Rte. 29), University Blvd. (Rte. 193), Caddington Ave., and the Northwest Branch.

Any resident of this area is eligible to join the NFCCA. Annual dues are \$10 per household 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
10603 Cavalier Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
301.593.8566
jcbokow@earthlink.net

Update on the Parents' Listserv

By Cait James

Parents in Northwood Park are beginning to meet and network via a new electronic listserv, first announced in the April edition of the *Northwood News*. The listerv, founded on March 25, 2005, now has 23 members.

While it started out slowly with only a few postings in its first few weeks, it is gradually building momentum and postings have increased to as many as 13 in a week since late April. Members are using the listserv to share informa-

tion on topics such as consignment sales, school fund raisers and fairs, local play groups and day care centers, and many other topics of interest to families.

If you are a parent and are interested in joining, please go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/northwood_parents. When completing the membership form, please include the following information: your full name and address, whether you have children, and how you heard about the listserv. ■

Help Wanted For Our Community

By Carole Barth

This is a new column to highlight some of the ways you can get to know your neighbors, have fun, and help keep Northwood Four Corners a wonderful community. We have a marvelous array of skills, experience, and creativity in our neighborhood, and the best way to experience this is to get involved. Remember, everything the Civic Association achieves is done by volunteers. Not sure you can take on leadership for an entire project or event? No problem! There's sure to be something you can do to help. As the proverb says, "Many hands make light work."

Organize the Fall Creek Cleanup

We've been doing creek cleanups for 15 years, so if you're looking for a "turn key" project where someone can show you the ropes, this fits the bill. Tasks include publicizing the event, providing supplies and refreshments, and coordinating with the county to be sure the collected trash gets picked up. This is the type of project where you

really see the results of your efforts.

Special Events Coordinator

Many civic associations have a regular calendar of social or seasonal events such as fun runs, community yard sales, Fourth of July barbecues, Halloween parties, and so on. We do participate in National Night Out every year, and from time to time we have organized nature walks, but we have never had anyone to pull together a range of events. This could include all sorts of things—an open mike night for the neighborhood musicians, our own Earth Day festival, a celebration of the multicultural nature of our community, a community history scavenger hunt? Or maybe you have an idea for a particular event you'd like to organize. These kind of activities truly nourish our sense of community.

If you're interested in either of these—or have an idea for something else—please contact Carole Barth, 301.593.7863. ■

National Night Out is August 2

The Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association invites you and your family to celebrate **National Neighborhood Night Out** on Tuesday, August 2, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Rec Center Building at Northwood Four Corners Park, 211 Southwood Avenue (at Edgewood).

Activities include a potluck dinner, music, activities for children, and a visit from

the Montgomery Co. Police and MNCPPC Park Police Departments' motorcade, including McGruff the Crime Dog. Come and meet your neighbors and share an evening's fun.

Volunteers are needed to help and provide entertainment. Contact Jim Zepp at 301.593.7863 or via email at jzepp@mindspring.com. ■

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. Current officers:

President

Carole Barth
10602 Lockridge Drive
301.593.7863
cbarth@mindspring.com

Vice President

Michele Frome
10802 Lockridge Drive
301.593.3554
michele.frome@verizon.net

Treasurer

Margaret Hawkins
10205 Lorain Avenue
301.681.0762
margaret.hawkins@nara.gov

Secretary

Beth Ginter
10221 Sutherland Road
301.681.8190
beth.ginter@comcast.net

At Large

John Hill
319 Pinewood Avenue
301.593.7746
johni.hill@verizon.net

Ann Rose
913 Caddington Avenue
301.593.4486
bigalnme2@aol.com

Nick Scalera
10208 Lorain Avenue
301.592.0368
Nicholas_Scalera@discovery.com

Immediate Past Prez

Charles Pritchard
10612 Margate Road
301.593.1781
erc69434@aol.com



Barbara Ciment

ASSOCIATE BROKER

*\$200 Million in Career Sales
Top Office Producer Since 1988*

(H) 301-622-7002 (O) 301-949-7070

Email: barbara@ciment.com

Web: www.ciment.com



Northwood Real Estate Report

June 2005

Specialist in Northwood Market

Before you make any move in Northwood, Forest Knolls, or Kinsman Farm, I would be pleased to share my insights with you. Call today for my Free Market Analysis.

It is Still Spring in Northwood

The Northwood real estate market is still hot as the Spring Market continues in Silver Spring.

**Call Today for My Free
Home-Prep and Listing Strategy
to sell for Top Dollar
in this Sellers' market.**

Silver Spring Subdivision Sales

(January 1 - May 10, 2005)

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

Subdivision	# Units	Price	DOM
AMERICANA FINMARK	6	\$244,166	18
BALLANTRAE	3	\$389,315	123
BROWNSTONES WHEATON	2	\$574,000	121
BURNT MILLS	5	\$405,700	30
CARROLL KNOLLS	5	\$385,700	12
CHESTNUT HILLS	7	\$313,857	11
CONNECTICUT AVE ESTS	6	\$438,338	22
DUMONT OAKS	8	\$470,950	29
FAIRWAY	4	\$422,750	37
FOREST ESTATES	11	\$407,781	23
FOREST KNOLLS	10	\$418,060	16
FRANKLIN KNOLLS	3	\$416,633	45
GLEN HAVEN	5	\$388,000	23
GLENMONT	4	\$351,800	32
GLENVIEW	3	\$472,333	10
HEARTHSTONE VILLAGE	4	\$370,250	12
HIGHLAND VIEW	13	\$469,521	34
INDIAN SPRING	14	\$441,117	40
KEMP MILL	11	\$440,354	44
NORTHWEST BRANCH ESTS	2	\$500,000	11
NORTHWOOD	15	\$394,003	28
PARKSIDE PLAZA	6	\$275,500	15
PARKWAY	2	\$447,500	2
ROSEWOOD	2	\$369,975	38
SLIGO PARK	3	\$392,141	19
TIERS OF WHEATON	3	\$245,000	7
UNIVERSITY TOWERS	14	\$171,707	15
WESTCHESTER	3	\$418,333	33
WHEATON CREST	5	\$342,700	10
WHEATON FOREST	3	\$528,666	30
WHEATON HILLS	20	\$365,680	19
WOODMOOR	15	\$492,866	12

Northwood Settled Properties

(01/01/05- 5/10/05)

Address	Price	Style	BR	BADOM
904 CADDINGTON AVE	\$455,000	Split Foyer	4	2/1 3
1104 CADDINGTON AVE	\$432,100	Split Foyer	4	2/1 8
10709 CAVALIER DR	\$335,000	Rambler	3	1/1 0
1000 CHISWELL LN	\$310,000	Colonial	4	2/2 8
10301 EDGEWOOD AVE	\$335,000	Colonial	2	1 56
401 EISNER ST	\$425,000	Split Level	4	2/1 7
10614 GLENWILD RD	\$455,000	Cape Cod	5	2/1 51
10705 GLENWILD RD	\$330,000	Rambler	3	2 0
512 KERWIN RD	\$442,700	Cape Cod	4	2 6
63 KINSMAN VIEW CIR	\$335,700	Townhouse	4	3/1 100
304 LADSON RD	\$480,000	Rambler	4	3 133
313 LADSON RD	\$324,250	Rambler	3	1 6
10711 LOCKRIDGE DR	\$300,000	Rambler	4	2 7
10815 LOMBARDY RD	\$379,900	Split Level	3	2 8
833 LOXFORD TER	\$449,000	Colonial	4	3 66
847 LOXFORD TER	\$451,100	Split Foyer	5	3 6
908 LOXFORD TER	\$419,000	Split Level	4	2/1 39
1018 LOXFORD TER	\$400,000	Split Level	3	2/1 7
803 MALTA LN	\$419,900	Split Level	4	2/1 20
821 MALTA LN	\$394,000	Split Foyer	5	2/1 7
10706 MARGATE RD	\$425,000	Rambler	4	2/1 8
10815 MARGATE RD	\$430,000	Split Level	4	2/1 4
107 NORTHWOOD AVE	\$522,500	Cape Cod	3	2 7
1002 PLAYFORD LN	\$450,500	Split Level	4	2/1 5
10408 ROYALTON TER	\$390,000	Rambler	4	2 10

Data subject to revision. Copyright 2005

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is already listed with a real estate agent.

Problems with Pet Waste: The Scoop on the Poop

By Carole Barth

What do you think of when you think of summertime? Picnics? Swimming? Kids playing outside? Dog and cat poop?

Pet waste may seem like nothing more than a nuisance, but if it is not managed correctly it has the potential to ruin a lot more than your shoes. It can pose a health risk to pets and people, especially children. Disease can be spread through direct contact, flies, or through swimming in, drinking, or eating shellfish from contaminated waters.

Diseases or parasites that can be transmitted from pet waste to humans include:

- **Campylobacteriosis**, a bacterial infection carried by dogs and cats that frequently causes diarrhea in humans.

- **Cryptosporidium**, a protozoan parasite carried by dogs, cats, mice, calves, and many other mammals. Common symptoms include diarrhea, stomach cramps, nausea and dehydration. May be fatal to people with depressed immune systems.

- **Toxocariasis**, roundworms usually transmitted from dogs to humans, often without noticeable symptoms, but may cause vision loss, a rash, fever, or cough.

- **Toxoplasmosis**, a protozoan parasite carried by cats that can cause birth defects such as mental retardation and blindness if a woman becomes infected during pregnancy; also a problem for people with depressed immune systems. Symptoms include

headache, muscle aches, and lymph node enlargement.

Pet waste can affect water quality because most stormwater runs off streets and lawns through the storm drains and into local streams without any treatment. In natural areas such as the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park, pet waste may be deposited right at the water's edge. In addition to bacteria and parasites, pet waste also contributes to nutrient pollution, the number one problem in Chesapeake Bay.

Too many nutrients create algae blooms. The algae dies, sinks to the bottom, and begins to rot. As it decomposes, oxygen is pulled out of the water. This creates "dead zones," areas where crabs, fish, and oysters can't survive. Sometimes you can see a mass of blue crabs frantically clambering over each other trying to get onto land to escape a dead zone. (This behavior has been called a "crab war" or a "crab jubilee.") In severe cases, oxygen depletion, high temperatures, and ammonia from human and/or animal waste can cause a fish kill. The oysters, of course, are unable to flee.

It may seem a stretch to think your cute little kitty or pooch is part of such a serious environmental problem, but, like so many of our problems, it is the cumulative impact of the millions of households in the Bay watershed. Urban environments contain large concentrations of people. We learned many years ago that too much human waste over-

whelms natural decomposition systems and so sewage treatment systems were built. However, we forgot that large numbers of people also means large numbers of pets.

For example, the waste produced by Seattle, Washington's dogs and cats is about what a city of 50,000 people would produce. In Duluth, Minnesota (21,000 households), there are about 125 dogs per square mile in the city. According to the Duluth Streams research project, this is a much higher population density of large mammals than you would find in a natural forest. You would expect to find an average of 4 fox, 0.8 coyotes, 0.1 wolves, 2.6 raccoons, 0.1 lynx, 0.6 bobcats, 8.5 skunks and 0.2 bear per square mile in undisturbed areas.

Speaking of wildlife, pet waste is a favorite food source for that most unwanted form of "wildlife," the rat. The only way to reliably control rat populations is to control readily available food sources by securing garbage cans, properly disposing of pet waste, and so on.

Finally, picking up after your pet is the law in Montgomery County. The law applies to both cats and dogs, and there is a \$100 fine for noncompliance. So how do you dispose of pet waste properly after scooping?

There are several options:

- You can double bag it and place it in your trash can. (This helps protect trash collectors from germs.)

(continued on page 6)

County Waste Collection: What and How to Recycle

By Beth Ginter

Gabriel George of the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services spoke at the April 20 membership meeting about the county's recycling program. According to George, the county currently recycles 32 percent of its waste, with the ultimate goal of reaching 50 percent recycling.

Recently, a new contractor has assumed responsibility for trash and recycling collection. The new contract requires collection trucks with two people, shorter routes, trucks equipped with global positioning satellite (GPS) for monitoring, and trucks with mechanized lifts to accommodate paper recycling carts. Members present at the meeting commented that they've noticed instances of trash dropped in the street and empty cans thrown haphazardly about. Mr. George replied that contractors may be fined for leaving cans in the driveway or street and he encouraged residents to report complaints.

With regard to missed collections, the County's website states that, "The recycling and trash trucks may make collections until 7:00 p.m. Call **240.777.6410** after 9:00 p.m. or the next morning to report a missed collection. Leave a message on the recorder if you call after business hours. **Missed collections must be reported within 48 hours of the incident.** In the meantime, do not remove your items from the curb."

Below are some interest-

ing facts we learned at the meeting about our waste collection and recycling services:

- **Bulk pick-up** is available for items like furniture; each household may request up to five bulk collections per year. Residents must call to request this service.

- **Unlimited scrap metal** collections are available to residents. Please call to schedule.

- **Yard trim** (leaves, grass, etc.) may be placed in large brown paper bags available at most grocery stores, home improvement stores, and garden centers, or yard waste may be placed in containers market as yard trim. The bright green "YARD TRIM" decals are available at county libraries, regional service centers, online, or by calling 240.777.6410. Total weight must not exceed 45 pounds per container. Place the green decal facing the street so collectors recognize it.

- Large brush (e.g., storm debris) can also be tied into bundles with twine. Bundles should not exceed 30 inches in diameter. Each branch should not be larger than four feet in length and four inches in diameter

- Mulch made from recycled yard collections is available at no cost to county residents at the Shady Grove transfer station.

- **Only plastic items** that have a neck (such as bottles) are recycled by the county. Thus, plastic butter tubs, yogurt cups, salad bar or produce containers, and similar items are not recyclable. The county no longer recycles

plastics based on the number marked on the bottom of the item. Plastic caps *may* be left on plastic bottles. Metal tops should be removed.

- Many other items—such as hazardous household waste, computers, bicycles, and unused construction materials—are recycled at the county transfer station on Shady Grove Road.

If you're unsure about how to dispose of various items, or if you need information about other waste services, visit the county's informative website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dpwt/solidwaste/. ■

Pet Waste

(continued from page 5)

- You can install an underground pet waste digester that works like a small septic tank. According to Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), digesters must be installed and sited properly in order to prevent attracting rodents and other pests and to prevent bacteria from leaking into groundwater. Be careful to place the unit 100 feet from any well, whether a neighbor's or your own.

- Lastly, you can flush it down the toilet. DEP considers this the least preferred approach because of increased water usage and of the likelihood of other debris such as rocks, sticks, or cat litter getting into household plumbing and creating blockage problems. ■

Changes Proposed for the Rachel Carson Trail

By Charles Pritchard

On 19 April 2005, I attended a public hearing held the Montgomery County Park and Planning Commission (MNCCPC) on plans to extend the Rachel Carson Trail (formerly the Northwest Branch Trail) from its present location between Piney Branch and Randolph Roads north to the Sandy Spring area (south of Piney Branch Road, the trail is still designated by the Northwest Trail nomenclature and part of it is hard surfaced) and from there, via Rachel Carson Conservation Park, to the Patuxent River State Park. Here, the trail would join with the Seneca Greenway Trail, which extends from Riley's Lock on the Potomac River

to the Patuxent River State Park. Depending on the route taken, the combined trails would provide a "nature trail" through some of the most scenic and historic terrain in the county.

Members of our community lobbied for the current trail plan and worked physically as volunteers—along with members of the Conservation Corps of the Americorps and the Montgomery County Conservation Corps—to build the trail. We also supplied an input of volunteer labor on the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail, anticipating the ultimate union of these two trails.

The Sandy Spring community is particularly rich

in historic buildings such as the Afro-American Slave Museum, the route of the Underground Railroad, a Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, and close proximity to the Trolley Museum. The trail would link the Potomac and Anacostia watersheds. The southern portion of the combined trails also has historic features such as the Kemp Mill original mill run that powered the mill, the Burnt Mill dam, and two associated water supply and filter buildings that were purchased from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission by MNCCPC when a larger such Blue Plains facility was expanded in D.C.

Most MNCPPC plans
(continued on page 9)

The Perfect Solution To All Your Cleaning Problems

Ana's Housekeeping Service

Now you have someone to clean for you

*Let us clean your house
and see the best job
at the lowest price.*

Flexible Times
References Available
Vast Experience
Reliable
Top Quality Service
Serving You Since 1983
Licensed and Insured

301.563.3393
Cell **240.353.6751**



For all Your Real Estate Needs,
Call Your Neighbor...



Maureen Bovich

Office Direct: 301 388-2625

Home: 301 593-6209

Email: JMBOVICH@AOL.COM

WHY Call Anyone Else?

Northwood Resident and Top Producing Agent

**Recent Northwood/Forest Knolls/Kinsman Settled Properties
 March 16, 2005 – May 19, 2005**

Address	Sold	Style	BR	BA	DOM
313 Ladson Rd	\$324,250	Rambler	3	1	6
401 Eisner St	\$425,000	Split Level	4	2/1	7
10706 Margate Rd	\$425,000	Rambler	4	2/1	8
904 Caddington Ave	\$455,000	Split Foyer	4	2/1	3
10408 Royalton Ter	\$390,000	Rambler	4	2	10
10705 Glenwild Rd	\$330,000	Raised Rancher	3	2	0
10815 Margate Rd	\$430,000	Split Level	4	2/1	4
1002 Playford Ln	\$450,500	Split Level	4	2/1	5
107 Northwood Ave	\$522,500	Cape Cod	3	2	7
803 Malta Ln	\$419,900	Split Level	4	2/1	20
847 Loxford Ter	\$451,100	Split Foyer	5	3	6
512 Kerwin Rd	\$442,700	Cape Cod	4	2	6
304 Ladson Rd	\$480,000	Rambler	4	3	133

** Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed **



12520 Prosperity Drive, Suite 105, Silver Spring, MD 20904 • 301-388-2600



Rachel Carson

(continued from page 7)
for trail modification raise problems with the communities through which the trail passes. In the current plan, the Sandy Spring community is concerned about the effect of extending the trail to them. This concern led the Commission to offer two options: "A" and "B." Option A would pass well west of the community through currently undeveloped land, which is, of course, ripe for development of residential and commercial construction projects. The Commission would seek trail easements as a precondition for permits. The B Option would pass more directly near or through Sandy Spring and requires partial use of major roadways such as Route 108. The community itself is divided, but appears to prefer Option A.

Some other options were offered at the meeting. One presented by the Legacy Open Space Advisory Committee (LOSAG) called for a "loop trail" that would include the best features of A and B by providing both continuation of a natural trail in the Rachel Carson tradition and access to the historical features in Sandy Spring proper. An Option C also offered alternatives to A and B.

MNCPPC will reach a decision in June. Wishing not to arouse a neighboring county community, I confined my testimony to the plan for linkage with the Seneca Trail and retention of the current restrictions on use and surface. We will keep you informed. ■

How Does Your Street Rank?

By Maggie Hawkins

Once again, the NFCCA has set a membership goal of 150 households (10 percent of the homes in our area). Last year we just met this goal, so we would like to try to meet or exceed it this year.

So far, 108 households have supported our Association by paying membership dues. That is an increase of over 20 households since the last newsletter.

NFCCA's calendar (including dues payments) runs on the fiscal year calendar (October to October). Currently we are in Fiscal Year 2005, which runs from October 1, 2004, through September 30, 2005. This means that we begin collecting dues every September for the upcoming fiscal year.

Dues are used to help finance the newsletter, special flyers, Allied Civic Association dues, rental of the community center for meetings, tree plantings in the Northwest Branch park and to match County grant dollars for such projects as the neighborhood sign.

Membership support varies from street to street. Below is listed membership levels by street; NFCCA thanks those households for their support.

11 Households

Hannes Street (104)

7 Households

Edgewood Avenue (71)

Lombardy Road (91)

6 Households

Eastwood Avenue (53)

5 Households

Eisner Street (32)

Margate Road (50)

Timberwood Avenue (25)

4 Households

Caddington Avenue (83)

Cavalier Drive (53)

Glenwild Road (31)

Lockridge Drive (31)

Loxford Terrace (136)

Malta Lane (45)

Pinewood Avenue (13)

Sutherland Road (31)

3 Households

Belton Road (48)

Dennis Avenue (43)

Lorain Avenue (21)

Southwood Avenue (20)

Woodridge Avenue (13)

2 Households

Kerwin Road (42)

Mountain Quail Road (28)

Snowy Owl Drive (23)

1 Household

Chiswell Lane (39)

Kinsman View Circle (85)

Marvin Road (18)

Northwood Avenue (14)

Playford Lane (31)

Royalton Road (31)

Thistle Drive (23)

University Blvd. W (48)

Numbers in parentheses are total homes on that street. Dues can be paid by check or cash to Margaret Hawkins, Treasurer, NFCCA, 10205 Lorain Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901. Dues are \$10 per household.

'Traffic Calming' or 'Traffic Control' for Hannes St.?

By Murray F. Scher

On Wednesday, May 4, I received two emails. One was from Silver Spring Day School Executive Director Richelie Meer.

"I have always thought the intersection of the church parking lot, Hannes Street, and Edgewood Avenue is very dangerous," wrote Meer. "I have sent the email below to members of the Silver Spring Day School community. We are happy to join your efforts in making sure that our neighborhood is as safe as it can be."

The other email I received was from Elise Schloss, Director of the Young Israel Shomrai Emunah Nursery School. She wrote, "We support any initiative that will help keep our children safe."

I sent thank you letters to both schools.

I have delivered information and letters to the Principal at Forest Knolls Elementary School who said she would give it to the PTA and ask them to get in touch with me. It has been over a month and I have not heard from them at all, even after a second reminder call to the Principal.

However, I felt we have waited too long. So, on Thursday, May 5, I went to Montgomery County Traffic Control Dept. on Orchard Ridge Drive in Gaithersburg.

My folder contained a letter stating our goals (signs and bumps), a copy of my letter from the *Northwood News* (stating reasons why), your email letters to me, plus copies of two email letters in agreement from the two day care centers, and even several hand-written letters received in my mail box.

I spoke to a very nice county official, who listened and seemed to understand and appreciate our cause in a positive way. She said she and her associates would review my documents and be back in touch with me. I asked if I need to fill out an application. She said the prepared documents and letters might be enough! We will see, but I believe we have a beginning. I will give them follow up call this coming week.

Basically, there are two ways Montgomery County will proceed, after making their surveys and studies:

1. "Traffic Calming," which may take several months to do and will not

include speed bumps/lumps/humps but will include speed, stop, or yield signs as tests determine.

2. "Traffic Control" includes speed bumps, etc., plus some of #1 as above and as tests may determine. #2 will take several years to get on schedule for surveys, tests, and other required documents, meetings, etc. This is due to the backlog of other previous requests that are still on their list.

I—and I hope you agree—have opted for #1. At least, let's get started now with something and see how it works or helps. If you don't agree, and I get enough neighbors saying to choose #2, I will go to the county and change our request. If you would like to go with me, that would help a lot; we will need to make an appointment.

If we see #1, "Traffic Calming," is not working, then the alternative would be to apply for #2, "Traffic Control," with speed bumps/lumps/humps. But remember, there is a two- to three-year waiting list!

In either case, our neighborhood will have a prior community meeting for questions and answers with a county representative before any work is begins.

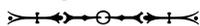
There will be tests, surveys, and meetings, and maybe more letters needed. Your suggestions, help, and advice are always welcome. Thanks again.

[For more information, or to help, call Murray Scher, 405 Hannes St., 301.593.4264.] ■

National Neighborhood Night Out

Tuesday, August 2
7 to 9 p.m.

Rec Center Building
at North Four Corners
Park
211 Southwood Ave.
(at Edgewood Ave.)



There will not be another reminder,
so please make a note of it now!

Clueless in Frogland

By Robin Loube

I've loved Northwest Branch Park for the 15 years we've lived here, but since October I've walked in there much more often than I ever have before. A major reward this spring was the chance to observe the life cycle of the frog in our very own "vernal pool" near the river. The thing is, I know next to nothing about frogs. So, to me, it was all one big adventure.

It began March 19, the

date of a scheduled nature walk on the other side of the branch.

I was returning up our

side of

Northwest Branch Trail from the dam when I heard quacking as I neared the spot where the Lockridge tributary meets the river. "Quack! Quack!" Ducks? I didn't see ducks. I walked down the hill toward the small pool that parallels the river. And there they were—frogs! Perhaps 100 frogs, swimming around and quacking. Later I talked to Carole Barth, our resident ecologist, and she told me it was mating time. "Watch for the eggs soon," she said.

Later that afternoon, I brought my husband Bob and our son Adam, our nephew Charlie, and three little grand-nephews to see and hear the frogs. On the trail, in the

neighborhood, over the next several days, I asked people, "Have you seen the frogs? Have you heard them?" I didn't want anyone to miss this. I stood next to the pool late one afternoon and held out my cell phone so my niece Lindsay, a harpist, could hear the frog music.

Then, one day, I went to see "my frogs" ... and they were gone! Zero. Zip. Not one frog. I scanned the pool and didn't see anything—no frogs, and no eggs, either. Baffled, I started back up the trail toward Lockridge Drive. On the way, I encountered two county naturalists surveying water quality in the tributary. I told them about the frogs that had disappeared. "But there are eggs," they said, "at the downstream end of the pool!"

I went right back to the pool. Then I saw what I had missed: a gelatinous mass of round white eggs, each with a tiny black dot. I had not looked closely enough.

For a few days, I went to see the eggs. When would the tadpoles hatch? Then there was a big rain. Then—nothing! No eggs. No tadpoles. Did someone (ducks?) eat the eggs? Had they been washed away? Carole said don't worry.

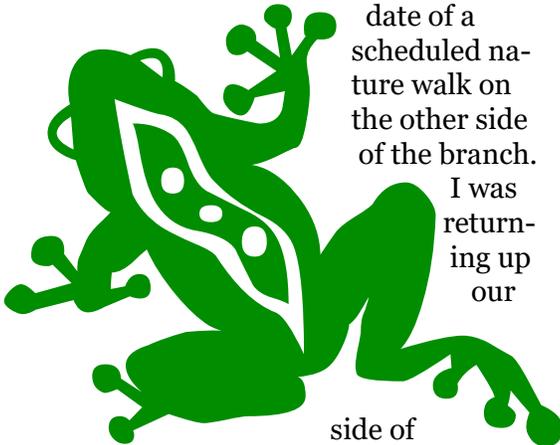
Sure enough, my friend Jean and I walked to the pond. We thought we saw nothing. Then Jean said, "Look how the water is moving kind of funny. Like it's raining." We stood there, holding out our hands, palms up. It wasn't raining.

We crouched closer to the water and looked down. And there they were, tiny black tadpoles, thousands of them! They were swimming together, black streams along the edge of the pool.

For the next several days, on the trail and in the neighborhood, I'd say, "Have you seen the tadpoles?" After the neighborhood creek cleanup on April 16, Carole and her husband Jim and a few others of us went to see the tadpoles. When would the tadpoles become frogs?

Then, one afternoon, Jean and I went to the pool. Nothing. The tadpoles were gone. No frogs either, it seemed. Then, a sudden sound: "Plop!" We looked around, but we saw nothing. "Plop!" Then, "Plop!" We never did see frogs, but clearly some frogs (or toads) saw us. I don't know what frogs or toads those were, whether or not they were related to the tadpoles we had been watching. But Liz Sequiera, who walks her dog along Northwest Branch every day, says the trail is literally jumping with frogs on summer evenings.

You may wonder what is a "vernal pool," anyway? It is a pond that catches spring run-off but may dry up each year in the August heat. It offers a perfect place for frogs to breed because there are no fish to eat the eggs. At Carole's suggestion, the Army Corps of Engineers and the county created our vernal pool a few years ago when they did some environmental work in our park. I'm so grateful, and just a little less clueless about frogs now. ■



FOREST KNOLLS POOL

Join by July 1, 2005 and get **30% OFF** 2005 annual dues!



Regular Cost

One-time Membership fee: \$250

PLUS

Annual dues:	Families	\$395
	Couples	\$325
	Singles	\$295

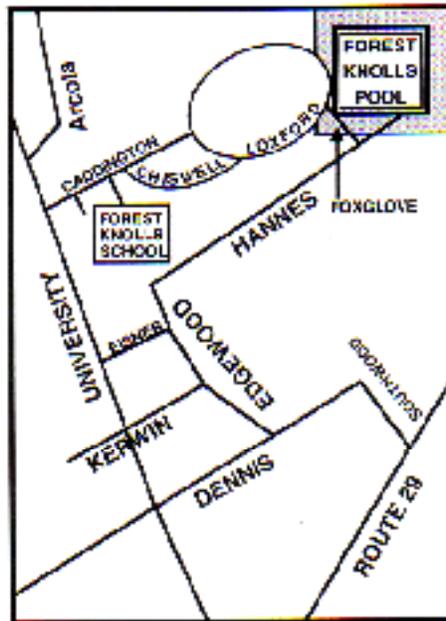
DIVE INTO SUMMER

In the heart of your neighborhood!

Featuring

- 25-METER POOL
- 3-METER HIGH DIVE
- 1-METER LOW DIVE
- DESIGNATED LAP LANES
- SEPARATE BABY POOL
- SWIM TEAM (MCSL)
- SWIM LESSONS
- RAFT-NIGHT
- SOCIAL EVENTS
- BATHING FACILITIES
- PRIVATE PARKING AREA
- SNACK BAR & SODAS
- PARK-LIKE SETTING
- PICNIC AREA

Opening Memorial Day Weekend
Closing Labor Day Weekend



For more information and applications, please call 301/681-0688

11105 FOXGLOVE LANE
SILVER SPRING, MD
301/593-9883

www.forestknollspool.com