

NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ JUNE 2013

Bulldozers Poised to Destroy Rachel Carson Meadow in No. 4 Corners Park; Your Help Needed

By Carole A. Barth

Will this be the last spring in Rachel Carson Meadow? The last time to see the delicate fringe of the daisy fleabane flowers or to smell the heavenly scent of the black locust blossoms? The last leaf-out for the 190-year old walnut tree? Is it the end for the wishing tree, the place where the fairies dance, and firefly alley?

Montgomery Parks is pro-

ceeding with its plan to chop down most of the trees (including a tree that may be the county champion black cherry tree) to convert this six-acre green oasis into a soccer field and 50-car parking lot. The revised plan calls for “saving” the walnut tree, but even if it survives construction, it is unlikely to survive with its critical root zone under the soccer field run-out. At the same time, the park’s existing youth soccer field would be converted to a “natural area” or “civic green” (translation: a lawn).

If Parks staff succeed in

their goal, the end result after spending roughly \$6 million will be lost green space and no additional soccer fields gained. This is the opposite of a win-win outcome. It is lose-lose. Silver Spring and Takoma Park residents will lose a very well-loved and well-used green space. Soccer players will lose as well, because the money budgeted to build this single field could instead have renovated 11 fields.

This is why the project has been opposed by the Civic Federation, the Silver Spring

(continued on page 3)

INSIDE

Resident Writes of Love5
Malta Lane resident’s “little book of large value.”

Are Smart Meters Affecting Your or Your Pet’s Health?6
Holistic nurse on Ladson Road researches the topic.

Paper Clutter and What to Do About It.....9
Our resident expert on what to save, what to toss.

Neighborhood Student Takes Third Place in School Recipe Contest...11
Parents promote whole, fresh foods in school meals.

Local Man Fights Graffiti.....14
Lockridge Drive resident cleans signs of graffiti.

Next Meeting on Wed., June 12th

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 12 June 2013, at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Knolls Elementary School. The school is located at 10830 Eastwood Avenue, just off Caddington Avenue (there’s no access from the other sections of Eastwood Avenue).

All residents of the Northwood-Four Corners-Forest Knolls area are invited to attend and express their views. Please note that only paid

members of the NFCCA are eligible to vote. (Annual dues are \$10 per household and may be paid at the meeting, mailed to the treasurer, or paid online at nfcca.org.) ■

JUNE						
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, Neighbors. It looks like our 12-year battle to save Rachel Carson Meadow is coming to an end and it's very likely that this beautiful place will be with us only a short time longer. Despite the fact that our County Council reps—Valerie Irvin and Nancy Navarro—have voted with us, the County Council as a whole has decided to build a soccer field while removing the used soccer field and making it a green space (at a cost of over \$5 million dollars). Senator Roger Manno and State reps Bonny Cullison and Ben Kramer have also agreed with the community and have blocked state funds for this project.

Nevertheless, Montgomery Parks is determined to force this through the Council. Their rationale is that the County needs more soccer fields, though this project nets no soccer field increase.

The Civic Association and many of your neighbors have fought this battle for over a decade and now we need YOU! Whether you think that our meadow is a jewel that needs to be saved or that \$5 million plus dollars for no net soccer field increase is a waste of funds that could be better spent elsewhere, let your voice be heard. Call the County Council—all of them (listed below)—and let them know that we, as a community, value our green space and our tax dollars.

Montgomery County Council

- **All Councilmembers**, 240.777.7900
- **Phil Andrews**, 240.777.7906, *councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Roger Berliner**, 240.777.7828, *councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Marc Elrich**, 240.777.7966, *councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Valerie Ervin**, 240.777.7960, *councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Nancy Floreen**, 240.777.7959, *councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **George Leventhal**, 240.777.7811, *councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Nancy Navarro**, 240.777.7968, *councilmember.navarro@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Craig Rice**, 240.777.7955, *councilmember.rice@montgomerycountymd.gov*
- **Hans Riemer**, 240.777.7964, *councilmember.riemer@montgomerycountymd.gov*

You also can leave a comment on the Montgomery Parks webpage for our park at www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/north_fourcorners_park.shtm.

—Brian Morrissey

Join One or Both Of the NFCCA's Two List Serves

NFCCA General List Serve

- Subscribe: *nfcca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com*
- Post a Message (you must subscribe first): *nfcca@yahoogroups.com*

Northwood Parents List Serve

- Subscribe (send an email to): *northwoodparents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com*
- Post a Message (you must subscribe first): *northwoodparents@yahoogroups.com* ■

NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the ~1,485 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—\$10 per household—may be paid online or 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.

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Visit Our Website
www.nfcca.org

'Parks' Still to Bulldoze Meadow

(continued from page 1)
Citizens Advisory Board, all of the Four Corners civic associations, residents of the Oaks Independent Living Facility, over 600 neighborhood residents who signed a petition, the Takoma Soccer League Commissioner, and many other individual citizens around the County.

Unswayed by this opposition, Parks requested \$4.2 million dollars in state Program Open Space (POS) funding for this project. The District 19 State Delegation was successful in blocking this use of POS money; however, Parks has simply re-allocated the POS funding to other projects and taken the money from those projects to fund the soccer field.

Nonetheless, despite having been ignored, patronized, and disrespected for 13 years, the Northwood-Four Corners community has not given up. We're still pursuing our



The branches of the 190-year-old walnut tree in Rachel Carson Meadow would overhang the new soccer field planned by the Parks Dept. The existing soccer field would be removed, meaning \$4.2M spent without actually adding another soccer field.

vision of a win-win solution. Our vision includes a flexible, multi-use park with active and passive amenities for all ages, designed in a way which showcases and enhances the site's natural resources. Our vision also includes a five-point plan for increasing the number of playable adult soccer fields in Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

On Sunday, 2 June, we will again gather for *Rachel Carson Meadowfest: Celebrating a Sense of Wonder in North Four Corners Park*. An exciting new addition to this year's festival will be a performance by Jennifer Cutting's Ocean Orchestra and an appearance by the green man and green woman. These "spirits of the forest" will join us in a ceremony to honor all that this place has meant to County residents and to celebrate the wishing tree, the spot where the fairies dance, and firefly alley. Come join us for the festival and join us in our effort to save the meadow.

Want to Help?

Ask the County Council to save the meadow (see contact information in the President's Message on page 2). Call, email, write, tweet, or post on Council members' Facebook pages. Spread the word. Ask your friends to contact the Council, too. Write letters to the editor and post them on your Facebook page. Watch the list serve and NFCCA web page for more ideas. Bottom line, be a Lorax: if we don't speak for the trees, who will? ■

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 are:

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Silver Spring /Northwood Specialist

If you are thinking of selling your home in the Northwood/Forest Knolls/Kinsman Farm area, we need to talk ASAP, as the Spring Market is well underway. The key to our success is our ability to negotiate with all parties, including: inspectors, appraisers, lenders and settlement attorneys to close your transaction.

Call Today for My Free Market Analysis

My Team is Hot! Our listings Are Selling

Your Home Team has over 40 sales/rental transaction-sides settled or pending closing in 2013! Better yet, I am pleased to report that our Silver Spring Market is showing price improvements. For the first time in years, I have many more buyers than listings. If you are thinking of selling, I may have better news than you expect. I really could use some new listings!

Northwood Settled Transactions: March-May 2013



4 BR Split Level
 10816 Margate Rd
 Sold Price: \$502,000



3 BR Split Level
 403 Eisner St
 Sold Price: \$415,000



5 BR Rambler
 10915 Lombardy Rd
 Sold Price: \$385,000



4 BR Cape Cod
 204 Marvin Rd
 Sold Price: \$335,000



2 BR Rambler
 10108 Lorain Ave
 Sold Price: \$325,000



4 BR Split Foyer
 10810 Lombardy Rd
 Sold Price: \$313,000



4 BR Split Foyer
 1012 Playford Ln
 Sold Price: \$305,000



4 BR Rambler
 305 Dennis Ave
 Sold Price: \$297,000



3 BR Rambler
 802 Caddington Ave
 Sold Price: \$282,500

Resident Writes of 358 Ways to Live a Life of Love

By *Jacquie Bokow*

"Is it news for an 87-year-old Jewish navy veteran, married to a red haired bowler for 63 years, writing a book about love?" That was the email Jack Ralph sent to the *Gazette* newspapers which resulted in a Valentine's Day feature later picked up by *The Washington Post*.

"When I started to write my little book about love," said Jack, who's been living with his wife Lenora on Malta Lane since 1959, "it began as a light-hearted discussion of things that people could do for each other in the name of love. During the process of thinking over the items, it occurred to me that following some of the listed items would tend to mold and solidify marriages and good relationships so that they could weather the storms of life."

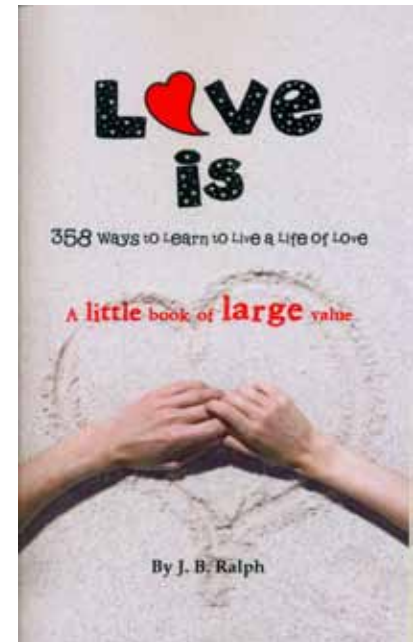
Jack was inspired to write and self-publish his book, *Love is: 358 Ways to Learn to Live a Life of Love*, after receiving an email listing 21

definitions of love as told by young children. Those definitions fill numbers one through 21 of the list.

"If kids can define love, why can't the adults do it?" he wondered. He asked family and friends to supply examples, which comprise the remainder of the list.

Some of the ways reflect the contributor's time of life, such as "taking your medications" (336), "using light salt" (240), and "taking baby aspirin to protect your heart" (329). Many are practical, such as "having an umbrella in the car" (257), "putting a fresh paper towel roll on the dispenser" (245), and "charging your cell phone" (354). Taking care of our family members, ourselves, and our commitments is the overarching theme. Number 358 suggests that readers add to the list by looking at their own lives.

"In spite of the statistics concerning the 50 percent divorce rate in less than 10



Jack believes his book's "incomplete message extends beyond helping to have better marriages. It can repair [them]. It can lead to a better way of life and to serve as a guide, with love as the undercurrent and undertow, to help ward off negative influences."



Jack Ralph and his wife of 63 years, Lenora, who is bedridden with cancer, share a laugh in their home on Malta Lane.

years of marriage," says Jack, "everybody thinks they really know everything about love. When Lenora wanted to bowl better, I bought and we studied a book about the techniques. Our 63 years of marriage seems incredible. We must have done something right. Living in this neighborhood didn't hurt us either.

"I am happy and satisfied that I took the time and expense to gamble on producing my little book," says Jack.

Love is is available through both the Author House book publishing company (authorhouse.com) and Amazon.com. ■

Are Smart Meters Affecting Your or Your Pet's Health?

By Anna Pritchard

I first heard that Smart Meters could be harmful to our health last summer from a close friend who is very knowledgeable about environmental issues. Then, in July, I got a letter from Pepco letting me know that their workers would be around soon to install my Smart Meter. I found a door hanger letting me know that the smart meter had been installed on 8 September 2012. I really didn't think much about it until I received *Health Keeper's Magazine* that accompanied a nutritional program I am studying. The cover story was entitled, "Is it Smart to Install Smart Meters?"

The article said that, "The information-carrying radio waves—transmitting 24/7—will effectively blanket homes and neighborhoods with radiation that could adversely affect not just humans but all living systems." It went on to say that they could affect "...not only electro-hypersensitive persons, but children and pregnant women, persons with medical conditions such as heart arrhythmia, those with compromised immune systems, and others...."

"Transmitted microwave and radio frequency radiation have the potential to cause serious long-term health consequences, even for those who do not notice overt symptoms. The majority of independent studies report similar results: DNA breakages, increased stress proteins, etc. ...Radio wave and microwave radiation are not just a problem for people, they are also causing



Anna Pritchard holds Tasha.

serious problems for animals of all types...."

Although I read this article, I did not take any action, hoping it was really nothing to worry about. Three weeks after my Smart Meter was installed, I noticed that the pupil in the left eye of my 12-year-old cat, Tasha, which is normally black, was now burgundy-colored. I took her to the veterinarian quickly and found that her retina had detached. She had had no injury or fall. Her blood pressure was 250 (it should be no more than 160), which is extremely and dangerously high and would account for her detached retina.

Tasha's kidney and thyroid tests were negative and no other reason could be found for her high blood pressure. I also noticed that I was having more fatigue than usual and began having ringing in my ears, which I did not associate with the smart meter until later.

Are Smart Meters Making You Sick?

There's been an explosion in the number and diversity of electromagnetic field (EMF)

sources in the past 30 years, including computer monitors, wireless routers, handheld gaming devices, and cell phones and their base stations.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "For some time a number of individuals have reported a variety of health problems that they relate to exposure to EMF. While some individuals report mild symptoms and react by avoiding the fields as best they can, others are so severely affected that they cease work and change their entire lifestyle. This reputed sensitivity to EMF has been generally termed **Electromagnetic Hypersensitivity**, or EHS."

Numerous WHO workshops and conferences have determined that, "EHS is characterized by a variety of nonspecific symptoms.... The symptoms most commonly experienced include dermatological symptoms (redness, tingling, and burning sensations) as well as neurasthenic and vegetative symptoms (fatigue, tiredness, concentration difficulties, dizziness, nausea, heart palpitation, and digestive disturbances). The collection of symptoms is not part of any recognized syndrome. EHS resembles multiple chemical sensitivities (MCS), another disorder associated with low-level environmental exposures to chemicals."

Another WHO report stated that, "EHS is characterized by a variety of non-specific symptoms that differ from individual to individual. The symptoms are certainly real

(continued on page 7)

Smart Meters

(continued from page 6)
and can vary widely in their severity.”

Although it doesn't appear that the U.S. is conducting any studies on EHS, other countries are. Sweden has fully recognized EHS as a physical impairment and the Canadian government has started funding treatment of EHS.

For some sufferers, the only solution is to move to the National Radio Quiet Zone—1,300 square miles straddling West Virginia and Virginia where omnidirectional and high-power transmissions are restricted—which was created by the Federal Communications Commission in 1958 to protect the radio telescopes at the National Radio Astronomy

Observatory at Green Bank, W.Va., and the Sugar Grove Research Facility at Sugar Grove, W.Va. The NRQZ has attracted many people who believe they suffer from electromagnetic hypersensitivity.

Research continues. WHO, through its International EMF Project, is identifying research needs and coordinating a world-wide program of EMF studies to allow a better understanding of any health risk associated with EMF exposure. Particular emphasis is placed on possible health consequences of low-level EMF. Information about the EMF Project and EMF effects is provided at www.who.int/emf.

Use the websites below to educate yourself about the health hazards associated with the radiation from smart meters:

- Maryland Smart Meter Awareness, www.marylandsmartmeterawareness.org.
- BioInitiative 2012, www.bioinitiative.org.
- EMF Safety Network, www.emfsafetynetwork.com.
- Stop Smart Meters, www.stopsmartmeters.org.
- EMF Health Alert, www.emfhealthalert.com.

I know this issue is controversial, but, as a holistic nurse, responsible pet guardian, and animal lover, I am not taking any chances. I have requested that Pepco replace my new Smart Meter with the original analog meter ASAP. Also, my fiancé helped me shield my smart meter from the outside and inside of my house with four thicknesses of heavy duty aluminum foil, a suggested temporary solution. ■

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507 Dennis Ave	\$899,900	Colonial	6	4	0
10308 Colesville Rd	\$314,990	Traditional	3	1	1
10909 Hannes Ct	\$399,000	Split Foyer	5	3	0
319 Ladson Rd	\$429,000	Cape Cod	3	1	0
1133 Loxford Ter	\$399,000	Split Foyer	6	2	1
10308 Lorain Ave	\$525,000	Colonial (to be built)	4	2	1
112 Southwood Ave	\$379,000	Rambler	4	2	0

CONTRACTS on the following properties:

10216 Edgewood Ave	\$459,000	Cape Cod	3	2	0
417 Eisner St	\$275,000	Rambler	3	2	0
501 Kerwin Rd	\$417,000	Cape Cod	4	2	0
317 Ladson Rd*	\$279,900	Cape Cod	4	1	0
11109 Lombardy Rd*	\$295,000	Rambler	5	2	0
10711 Lombardy Rd	\$415,000	Rambler	3	2	1
1117 Loxford Ter	\$350,000	Split Level	4	2	1
314 Marvin Rd	\$429,900	Cape Cod	5	3	0
10815 Margate Rd	\$535,000	Split Level	4	3	0
912 Playford Ln	\$399,000	Split Foyer	4	2	1

*Short Sale **Foreclosure



•• Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed ••

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Paper Clutter and What to Do About It

By Fiona Morrissey

By June 2008, the number of people with personal computers worldwide hit the one billion mark. With the PC, it was hoped that there would be less paper accumulation in the home. I have seen no evidence of this in my work. The trouble is that new technology doesn't always displace old technology. For instance not everyone likes to read the news online. A friend of mine who owns a laptop and a regular computer still hoards newspapers. He keeps a three-foot-high stack on top of his dog's crate. Recently he has started to store his papers *inside* the crate. So poor Fido has to sleep somewhere else.

Excess paper is unsightly, takes forever to go through, and is adept at concealing items you actually need. In enough quantities, paper presents a fire hazard and it also attracts a special kind of cockroach. I haven't seen this particular creature in the course of my work but I've heard it has a dark brown body and a pale yellow head. It even has wings.

There are two sorts of paper: paper you need to keep for good and paper you don't. Important examples of the first kind are **active insurance policies (car, disability, health, life, long-term care, umbrella); adoption and naturalization papers; birth, marriage, and death certificates and divorce decrees; military/veterans records and discharge papers; passports; social security cards;**

stock and bond certs; wills; and general powers of attorney.

Paper that you don't need falls into two distinct groups. The first group is paper that was necessary at one stage in your life but no longer is: **obsolete insurance policies, for example, elderly instruction manuals, and old car registrations.** It still surprises me how many of my clients hang on to car registrations when they no longer own the vehicles in question. This group also includes **bank statements/checkbook registers, charitable contributions, childcare expenses, medical expenses, mortgage interest records, non-reimbursed business expenses, self-employment income/expenses, tax returns, and tax forms 1099-B, 1099-DIV, 1099-G, 1099-INT, 1099-MISC, 1099-R, and W-2.** You do not need any of these *provided* they are six years old or older. If they are less than that, you hold onto them for now.

The second group of paper that you don't need is the tricky one. This group takes only a short time to accumulate and, if you're not careful, will soon have the run of your house. I'm referring to those leaning towers of newspapers, newsletters, magazines, clippings, and catalogs. If you haven't looked at them by now, kick 'em out. Like all clutter, paper clutter has a mind of its own. So no matter how fascinating, informative, or crucial these leaning

towers pretend to be, remind yourself that they are one of the reasons you keep apologizing for your home when friends visit.

Loose recipes are another scourge. One of my clients had 27 recipes for cheesecake stuffed inside an old jar of Hellmann's Mayonnaise. I finally convinced her that she didn't have enough years in her life to make all those cheesecakes.

Books that you've never had time to read—or have read and won't read again—belong to this category, too. Earlier I warned you about paper and flying cockroaches but also be aware that the glue from bookbindings contain a special starch that these creatures enjoy snacking on.

John Burroughs said, **“Leap and the net will appear.”** However, when you're grappling with paper, a leap is a very long distance indeed. I recommend short hops. Set aside a certain amount of time—about half an hour—and begin with the clutter you find most offensive. If it's a pile of magazines, begin with that. Pick up a publication and, before it has a chance to beguile you into keeping it, start firing questions:

- What's so special about you?
- Do you contain vital information that I cannot get anywhere else?
- You have lived on this chair rent free for three years. How would it benefit me to keep you any longer?

(continued on page 11)

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Demolition/Construction Debris Removal
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Neighborhood Student in School Recipe Contest

By Karen Devitt

On Saturday, 18 May, Real Food for Kids-Montgomery held its first recipe contest tasting event to create a healthy school lunch. Children, parents, chefs, educators, and friends submitted their recipes, and five finalists prepared and served their entries at the event which was held at Piney Branch Elementary School. Cash prizes and gift cards were awarded to the top three winners. Third place went to our very own Cait James and daughter Josie James-Le (Lockridge Drive) for their yummy entry “Happy Bean Pancake with Mango.” About 60 people were in attendance.

“This recipe contest gives MCPS families a real opportunity to demonstrate that it is

possible to create a delicious, fresh, whole, and nutrient-rich meal that children will eat,” said Lindsey Parsons, co-founder of RFKM. “It is our hope that the winning recipe will be adopted by MCPS as a healthy school lunch option.”

The initial recipes were submitted by 8 May, and prejudged by a group that included Marla Caplon, Director, MCPS Food & Nutrition Services; Cesare Lanfrancini, Executive Chef, Lia’s, Chevy Chase; Sheila Crye, Montgomery County Food Council; Drew Faulkner, Chef and Culinary Educator; and Kristen Daugherty, Nutrition Educator from Wootton High School.

About Real Food for Kids-Montgomery (RFKM)

RFKM is a grass-roots, parent advocacy group promoting whole, delicious, fresh foods in the Montgomery County Public Schools. Formed in October 2012, it currently includes parents representing 56 elementary, middle, and high schools and 360+ supporters. RFKM’s first priorities include: improving communication and transparency with parents about what is being served in MCPS schools, eliminating products with harmful additives, and surveying current à la carte and vending items with an eye toward proposing healthier alternatives. In April, RFKM became a project of the Institute for Public Health Innovation which provides RFKM tax-exempt status, access to a wider audi-

ence, and the ability to raise funds to help continue and expand its programs.

If you would like to join us in our mission or for more information, you can reach us at RealFoodMCPS@gmail.com, 301.202.4812. Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/RealFoodForKidsMontgomery) and check out our website, www.realfoodforkidsmontgomery.org. ■



Cait James (with daughter Marisa) show off Josie’s recipe for “Happy Bean Pancake with Mango,” which won third place in the contest. Josie, a fifth grader at Oak View Elementary, was on a scouting trip and couldn’t attend.

Paper Clutter

(continued from page 9)

■ Are you one of the reasons I feel depressed whenever I walk in my door?

When you’re done, continue with the pile until the time is up. Persistence is the key thing here: half an hour every day until that ugly pile has gone. Then do the next one. As Winston Churchill said, “**Never give in.**” The payoff is that you will become better and faster at throwing out paper that doesn’t matter, you will grow more confident at disposing of non-paper clutter, and you will develop a greater sense of what it is that makes you feel truly alive. A neighbor of mine told me recently, “**After I took the plunge and cancelled all my subscription magazines, I discovered what I’ve been wanting to do all along—sit on my deck and listen to the birds!**”

[Morrissey, Vice President of the NFCAA, is a Professional Organizer. For more information see www.happyroomsbyfiona.com or call Fiona at 301.593.4026.]■

The Latest Development Developments

By Jim Zepp

As I have previously reported, the County government continues its pursuit of a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) AKA Rapid Transit Vehicle (RTV) as well as the adoption of the White Oak (Science Gateway) Master Plan. Both could result in significant impacts on the Four Corners area in terms of local transit services, roadway access to the neighborhood, future traffic congestion, and taxes.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) held a public hearing on 16 May for comments on a proposal to modify the Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan. This proposal would allow BRT routes to be placed on the following roadway corridors, which would create an 80-mile system:

- Georgia Avenue;
- Rockville Pike (MD 355);
- New Hampshire Avenue;
- North Bethesda Transitway (White Flint Metro to Montgomery Mall, mostly via Old Georgetown Road);
- Randolph Road;
- University Boulevard;
- Colesville Road (US 29);
- Viers Mill Road.

This is a reduction from the 163-mile BRT network covering 23 major roadways recommended by a Transit Task Force last year. The MNCPPC staff's recommendation for the smaller configuration was based on the finding that there wasn't sufficient ridership in the County to support the more extensive BRT system.

The concerns about this proposal as previously stated are that: (1) it promotes sprawl development and growth in the outer areas of the County because it is a limited stop, express transit service; (2) its operation will be energy-inefficient since it involves large vehicles with passenger capacities for rush hour demands that for non-rush hour periods will mostly waste fuel on frequent runs; (3) it could pull needed resources away from existing transit services; (4) its potential for traffic congestion reduction could be achieved through less expensive and more immediate solutions that are being ignored; and (5) in order to maximize the speed of BRT vehicles, the lanes available for other vehicles will be reduced or properties will be taken along these corridors, intersections without traffic lights will be blocked, and the timing cycles of traffic lights will be disrupted so that the BRT vehicles won't have to stop. The MNCPPC Planning Board is expected to approve this Plan sometime this Summer so that it can be referred to the County Council for adoption, probably in the Fall.

Oh, BRT, Where Aren't Thou?

As extensive as the proposed BRT coverage is in its many possible configurations, it is also interesting where it is not suggested for. The New Hampshire Corridor BRT would go from the Colesville Park-and-Ride lot

north of the New Hampshire Ave./Randolph Rd. intersection to the D.C./Md. line. It does not go to Takoma Park Metro Station, which would seem the logical endpoint for commuters continuing their trips on the Metro system. So, despite its claims to greenness, the City of Takoma Park has no interest in having a BRT on its streets and promoting transit-oriented development. Having the BRT travel Colesville Road from Burtonsville to White Oak and turning onto New Hampshire from White Oak to the Takoma Park Metro (which has a wider right-of-way than lower Colesville Road and more substantial ridership potential) is not under consideration.

Also, Connecticut Avenue—which initially was included in the proposed BRT routes and, relative to other County roads, is the farthest to other forms of express travel (i.e., interstates and Metro lines)—has fallen out of consideration. One wonders if fears of opposition by the Chevy Chase Club killed any urge to improve mass transit along that road, as if the traffic congestion along that road is more acceptable.

Strangely, Rockville Pike (even though it will parallel the Metro Red Line) and Colesville Road (which will inconveniently serve the expanding FDA staff and planned expansion of the Hillandale shopping area) have been identified as top priority for BRT treatment.

(continued on page 14)

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NEIGHBORLY NOTES

Man Fights Neighborhood Graffiti

By Carolyn Ross

While some may appreciate it as an urban art form, most Northwood neighbors probably agree: graffiti is “just unpleasant to look at,” as Lockridge Drive resident Richard Suchinsky concludes.

So, instead of waiting for the County’s “environmental services” branch or other such outfit to take on the task, on several recent occasions this industrious non-County employee (the yellow “Staff” shirt notwithstanding) has been seen—atop a ladder and rag in hand—attempting to remove the spray-painted drivel on street signs himself.

A University of Maryland graduate student in engineering, Suchinsky also is the thoughtful neighbor who provides the trashcan and bags for pet waste at the trail

entrance at the end of Lockridge.

Suchinsky uses a logic-minded approach to graffiti removal, experimenting with a variety of products that profess themselves to handle the job. He found, for example, those solvents that may remove the blight best actually also may remove the reflective paint from the signs, so he must work carefully.

As it turns out, removing graffiti, just like applying it, is all in the wrist, or—more precisely—the elbow grease.

[We are happy to receive announcements, etc., from neighbors who want to tell us about an accomplishment, an award, a performance they are participating in, or other such news. Send your news items to carolynross36@gmail.com.] ■

Development Developments

(continued from page 12)

There are already several approved BRT routes (the Corridor Cities Transitway, Viers Mill Road, Upper Georgia Avenue, and the North Bethesda Transitway).

The White Oak Wipeout

The MNCPPC planning Board was also holding a public hearing on the proposed White Oak Master Plan on 22 May. While some improvements and new development in that area are desirable, the question is whether the massive scale envisioned by the proposed plan (14 million sq. ft. of new commercial space—equal to about 11 more Wheaton Malls—and 8,000 new residential units) would overwhelm the area’s transportation and other infrastructure. If the proposed BRT on Colesville Road were built, this new development would wipe out any reductions in traffic congestion.

In many cities that chose to build a BRT, it was or will be replaced by a light rail system because of BRT’s relatively limited passenger carrying capacities. Unless a BRT is planned as a temporary stand-in for light rail, there may be little or no cost savings for a later conversion.

The MNCPPC Planning Board is expected to also approve the White Oak Master Plan this summer so it can be sent to the County Council for adoption before its December adjournment. ■



If you’ve noticed graffiti on neighborhood signs, only to find it’s disappeared on another day, thank Richard Suchinsky.

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Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association

National Night Out



The Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association, along with the Montgomery County Police Department, is joining with thousands of other communities in observing the National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th. This event brings residents together to cooperatively oppose crime in our area. The first step is knowing your neighbors.

This is the 30th year that the National Night Out has been held. Residents are asked to turn their porch lights on and are invited to join their neighbors in coming together as a community.

Our neighborhood has been fortunate with relatively few crimes occurring. However, residents should still follow basic crime prevention measures and be alert for suspicious activities in the area. Most types of crime have decreased in the County in the last year and they are still relatively small in number for our population size. When crimes do occur, it is up to us to work with the police to keep the neighborhood and our residents safe.

We can always use help with this event, ideas for activities/performances, or contributions for raffles/prizes, please call 301-593-7863 if you would like to help.

If you are concerned about crime in our community, the following are some steps that you can take.

- ✓ For information on ways to avoid being a crime victim, visit the crime prevention section of the Montgomery County Police Web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltml.asp?url=/content/pol/media/brochures.asp or call the crime prevention officer at the Silver Spring District office, (301) 565-7744.
- ✓ If you have an emergency or see a crime in progress, dial **911**.



- ✓ If you see individuals acting in a suspicious manner such as watching houses or testing for unlocked doors and windows, call the police non-emergency phone number, (301) 279-8000. Please give them a complete description of the individual or vehicle as best you can.



- ✓ Volunteer to help with the neighborhood Crime Watch.

Tuesday, Aug. 6th
7:00 - 9:00 PM
Forest Knolls Pool
11105 Foxglove Lane

★ Bring some food to share. If your last name begins with the letters A to H, bring a main dish; letters I to P, bring a side dish; and Q to Z, bring a dessert. **Please do not bring glass containers because of pool safety.**

- ★ live music
- ★ swimming
- ★ snowcones
- ★ visit by McGruff the Crime Dog and County Police motorcade

Come and meet your neighbors!!!

Thanks and we hope to see you on Tuesday, August 6th.