

NORTHWOOD NEWS

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY THE NORTHWOOD-FOUR CORNERS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ■ APRIL 2019

Local Pre-Kindergarten Options

By Frances Spiegel

In Maryland, children are not required to attend school until kindergarten (age five by September 1st) and, even then, the kindergarten requirement can be waived if a child is in full-time daycare or if a parent feels that the child is not mature enough to attend. However, by the time children turn four, many parents are looking for a structured pre-kindergarten (pre-K) program to ease kids socially and academically into full-day kindergarten.

Public Programs

■ **Forest Knolls Elementary School.** The Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) system currently offers means-tested pre-K programs, including free full-day (8:50 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.) pre-K at For-

est Knolls Elementary School for families whose income that does not exceed 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (currently \$47,638 for a family of four). This is the same income eligibility requirement for the Free and Reduced Meals program. Registration is currently open for the 2019–2020 school year. Application information is available by calling 240.740.4530 and on the MCPS website.

■ **Northwood High School Child Development Lab.** Northwood High School offers pre-K taught by high school students, as part of their Child Development class, under the guidance of a certified teacher. The Pre-K program costs \$750 per child for the year, which runs October to May. Pre-K students are in session 7:55 a.m. to 12:40 p.m., Monday to Thursday. Applications for the 2019–2020 school year are currently being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The class is capped at twelve students. Interested parents may contact Maureen McEaney at 301.593.3800. Information and applications are available on the Northwood High School website. Blair High School also has a similar program.

Next Meeting on Wed., April 10th

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 10 April 2019, 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 other sections of Eastwood Avenue).

See the "President's Message" on page 2 for items on the agenda. Invited speakers include Theodora Scarato, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Trust.

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.)■

INSIDE

'Nurturing Nature' Column: Spring Wildlife 101: Encounters7

The Washington Post's Michelle Singletary Advises on Five Places to Look for Unclaimed Money.....9

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Kicks Off Public Outreach Sessions About School Boundary Study11

APRIL						
	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

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)

WWW.NFCCA.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the February NFCCA meeting, we had really strong attendance; about 50 people came to hear about the concepts for further revisions to the current construction plan for the Route 29 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system that are being studied by the Montgomery County Division of Transportation (MCDOT). Although the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system on US 29 is already under construction and scheduled to be operational by 2020, this ongoing study is evaluating whether additional changes could further improve traffic flow between White Oak and Silver Spring.

Our speaker was John Thomas, the project manager for the study, who gave an overview of design challenges on Route 29 and potential changes that are being evaluated. Among the concepts that the study is evaluating are: (1) construction of a dedicated median lane for BRT buses; (2) creation of a preferential/managed lane for carpools and buses, including BRT; (3) spot improvements to benefit traffic flow, and (4) a hybrid of these ideas. Additional revisions that could be recommended once the study is concluded are changes in traffic signal operations and installation of additional new traffic signals as well as traffic control changes, such as lane reassignment or turn restrictions.

Pretty soon we will have a better idea about which of these concepts will be recommended for further serious consideration. Sometime this Spring, MCDOT will conduct a Public Workshop on the Draft Mobility Improvement Package to solicit additional input on the study's recommendations. After that public outreach, a conceptual design and cost analysis for mobility improvement recommendations will be developed this Summer. Study recommendations will be finalized by Fall 2019.

Thomas emphasized that final review and approval for additional changes to the current BRT construction plan is in the hands of the Montgomery County Council and the State Highway Administration (SHA) before any of the recommendations can move to construction stage. Thomas also underscored that further design changes and construction are not funded at this time.

Thomas concluded by stating that he welcomes public input at any point during this study process. He passed out comment cards and encouraged residents to comment via email at *john.thomas AT montgomerycountymd DOT gov* or by phone (240.777.7240). If you would like to take a look at the PowerPoint slides from the February meeting or learn more about BRT construction planning, there is additional information posted on the *NFCCA.org* website.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

Communicate With Neighbors

NFCCA Listserv

To join: *nfcca-subscribe@yahoogroups.com*
[add "un" to unsubscribe]
To send messages to group:
nfcca@yahoogroups.com

Nextdoor/Northwood-Four Corners

<https://nextdoor.com>; enter your street address; choose "Northwood-Four Corners."

Twitter: @NFCCAMoCo

Facebook: www.facebook.com/nfccamoco

Park [on FB]: NFCCAPark ■

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 are \$10 per household and may be paid at any Association meeting or mailed to the treasurer.

The *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
editor AT nfcca DOT org

Visit Our Website

www.nfcca.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

It might be hard for you to believe sometimes, but the NFCCA board is busy following other issues—besides BRT—that affect our community. One topic we are keeping a close eye on is consideration of legislation by the County Council to loosen restrictions on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). Examples of ADUs are a basement apartment, a separate unit above a garage, or a freestanding “grannie flat.” Proponents view removing restrictions against ADUs as a way to expand affordable housing, but opponents raise concerns about overcrowding, code enforcement, school over-enrollment, and limited street parking. At our next meeting, we would like to hear what you think.

Also, the Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Capital Planning is conducting a study to recommend revisions to school boundaries in order to alleviate overcrowding in local elementary schools, including Forest Knolls, as well as Eastern and Silver Spring International Middle Schools. Boundary changes, once approved, are expected to go into effect for the 2020–2021 school year. (See the story on page 11 of this issue.)

Many of you noticed the construction underway on Lockridge Drive. MCDOT is replacing a storm drain and reworking the creek area below Lombardy to mitigate erosion. Trees that were re-

moved will be replaced.

Board members are also continuing our outreach to the Montgomery Parks and Planning agency. We hope to work with staff there to attract pop-up events to our local park like last summer’s movie night and temporary skate board pump track installation. You may also want to comment on the agency’s Dog Park Site Study. One of the dog park sites under consideration is in nearby South Four Corners. To comment go to <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/projects/directory/dog-parks-site-suitability-study/>.

On a final note, some of our neighbors reached out to get answers from the park agency about the campaign to reduce the deer population in Northwest Branch. Sharpshooters were working there in February and March—so come April it will be safe again to enjoy the park in the evening (subject, of course, to park rules on closing hours).

We will be discussing these neighborhood issues at the upcoming NFCCA meeting on April 10th—as usual, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Knolls Elementary School. At this meeting, we will also hear more from speakers about issues related to the installation of 5G small cell towers.

Lots going on, and we want to hear from you about these and other issues of concern. So come join us at the April meeting.

—Sharon Canavan

NFCCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association serves for one year and meets every month except July and August. Current officers (until October 2019) are:

President

Sharon Canavan
10213 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.0487
president AT nfcca DOT org

Vice President

Edward Levy
212 Thistle Court
240.988.8200
veep AT nfcca DOT org

Treasurer

Sondra Katz
10905 Lombardy Road
301.593.4542
treasurer AT nfcca DOT org

Secretary

Linda Perlman
1203 Caddington Avenue
301.681.3735
secretary AT nfcca DOT org

At Large

Kevin Harris
10306 Edgewood Avenue
301.593.6924
kevin AT kevinharris DOT org

Sam Jones
10702 Glenwild Road
301.395.2722
samantha AT nfcca DOT org

Mark Lutz
10603 Lockridge Drive
301.367.5337
mark AT nfcca DOT org

Julie Whitcomb
1019 Chiswell Lane
301.509.5534
julie AT nfcca DOT org

Immediate Past President

Laura Hussey
10217 Edgewood Avenue
240.463.1913
ipp AT nfcca DOT org

ELITE BODIES by Jeff

SMALL GROUPS, BIG RESULTS!



Modern fitness studio, organizing dynamic **Small Group Fitness** classes upstairs in the Woodmoor Shopping Center at 4 Corners. Our program focuses on developing all facets of your fitness.

Email fitness@elitebodies.net with code "Woodmoor50" to get 50% off the first month of your fitness package. Discount only applicable to Woodmoor, North Four Corners, and South Four Corners residents.

Expect a 45-minute class that is geared towards developing your strength, muscular endurance, balance, and flexibility.

Our philosophy of fitness has proven to be the most ideal way to develop lean muscle, which increases your metabolism and can assist with weight loss goals.



ELITE  BODIES by Jeff

www.elitebodies.net
(301) 844 5360

Woodmoor Center
Upstairs, Suite 131
10111 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20901

Local Pre-Kindergarten Options

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Private Pre-K Programs

■ Finding Programs.

The website of Wheaton Area Moms (www.wheatonareamoms.org) has an extensive directory of local preschools. In addition, the Maryland State Department of Education has listings of nonpublic nursery schools that offer state-approved educational programs and other accredited programs, available at <https://earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/finding-child-care/early-child-care-and-education-program-lists>. These listings are organized by county and city.

■ **Cost.** Sticker shock for some pre-K programs is real. Consider this: pre-K at the University of Maryland's Center for Young Children at College Park costs \$12,220 for the year (for comparison, in-state undergraduate tuition at the University of Maryland is \$10,595). And this is not the most expensive pre-K program out there. Costs for private pre-K vary widely, depending numerous

factors such as whether it is a full-day or half-day program, the number of days a week students attend, whether it is partially subsidized by a religious institution, whether it is a co-op that requires parent participation, and whether teachers are specially credentialed in a particular method of early childhood education (such as Montessori or Waldorf). All else being equal, co-op programs and those affiliated with religious institutions tend to be less expensive. Some programs offer financial aid; it doesn't hurt to ask.

■ **Timing.** The earlier families make contact with a preschool, the better—particularly in this area. If you are looking for a pre-K program for this September, do not delay. Waiting until summer may result in frustration. Many pre-K programs have application deadlines in February and March but, even if the deadline has passed, it is still worth contacting the school.

■ **Waitlists.** If your child gets placed on a waitlist or in

a “waitpool,” do not despair; many pre-K programs indicate that they move through their waitlists fairly regularly. “Plans change” is a common refrain heard from preschool administrators. Families are also often on several waitlists and will only accept a spot from one of the schools, which opens up spots for other students on the list.

Update on Universal Pre-K

During the 2018 election, many local candidates proclaimed support for “universal pre-K.” As it turns out, “universal pre-K” in our context does not refer to publicly funded pre-K for all children, regardless of family income, as it does in some other states. The Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education recommended in its January 2019 Interim Report that pre-K in Maryland be free to families with incomes up to 300% of the FPL (approximately \$75,000 for a family of four), with some public funding provided to families on a sliding scale between 300% and 600% of the FPL. Families with incomes over 600% of the FPL would have to pay the full cost to attend a public pre-K program.

These recommendations still need to be finalized, converted into legislation, voted on, and funded. The bottom line: we are still several years away from state-wide “universal pre-K,” which, even when fully implemented, is unlikely to result in free public pre-K for all students.

[Frances Spiegel lives on Margate Road. She attended pre-K at the Northwood High School Child Development Lab in 1982 and turned out okay.] ■



Northwood High School's engaging Child Development Lab.



Barbara Ciment

301-346-9126

barbara@ciment.com

www.ciment.com

#1 Office Producer 25 Years in a Row & Counting

90 Transaction Sides • \$35 Million in Sales • #1 Producer in Silver Spring • In 2018

My Team Shared in Highest GCAAR Award!

The regional Realtor® organization, GCAAR, announced 2018 awardees and placed my Team in the highest category. We had over 90 closed sales and rental transaction sides, resulting in \$35M in Sales. We greatly appreciate referrals from prior clients and customers. Rest assured they will receive the same high level of professional, ethical and caring services that are the basis of my team's success. Thanks for your continued support. We Are #1 in Silver Spring.

We Will Help Get Your Home Ready For Sale

We specialize in helping you make decisions and get the right experts to solve all your selling/moving problems. We will discuss how to prepare your home for sale with needed home repairs, possible renovations, yard work, and, 'declutter'. We will share our contacts of varied real estate/home-care professionals who serve you knowing, that we are very watchful how they treat our referrals.

The Spring Market is Underway!

Many of my home sellers have been working to fix up for sale over the winter, and are now coming on the market. I have several new listings going into the MLS in the next week or two. If you need to catch up and get your home listed, don't delay another day! Call me for My Free Market Analysis to discuss listing pricing and strategies and a plan to get your home listed ASAP!

Our Buyer Agents Are The Best!

One of the reasons my team's buyer agents are so successful, is that they are working alongside a strong listings Team. This gives them insight as to how homes are being marketed and selling and how owners are generally behaving. My buyer agents, working at arms-length from each other, often sell our Team's listings because, they know how to write strong contracts that appeal to owners. All members of My Team are informed on market changes and can shift strategies accordingly.

Sales in Northwood/Forest Knolls: Since January 1, 2019

ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	SELLER SUBSIDY	CLOSE DATE	STYLE	BR	BA/HBA	DOM	LOT SQ FT	SUBDIVISION
503 Dennis Ave	\$800,000		2/28/2019	Farmhouse	5	4/1	46	7,265	Northwood Knolls
309 Timberwood Ave	\$485,000		3/5/2019	Cape Cod	5	2	11	7,260	Northwood Park
10408 Eastwood Ave	\$425,000	\$12,750	1/28/2019	Colonial	2	1/1	47	10,723	Northwood
10701 Cavalier Dr	\$425,000	\$10,000	2/26/2019	Ranch/Rambler	3	2	19	7,629	Northwood Park
1018 Chiswell Ln	\$415,000	\$8,000	2/11/2019	Other	4	2/1	35	7,500	Forest Knolls
514 Kerwin Rd	\$405,000	\$9,600	1/25/2019	Cape Cod	4	2	12	6,577	Northwood Village
812 Loxford Ter	\$385,000	\$11,550	2/28/2019	Colonial	4	3/1	113	6,303	Forest Knolls
823 University Blvd W	\$370,000		2/28/2019	Split Foyer	5	4	3	1,430	Forest Knolls

Not all referenced properties are from my agent team or my broker. RETS data provided by BrightMLS is subject to change.

Call Today for My Free Market Analysis: 301-346-9126

Northwood Neighborhood Real-Time Report: No Log-In Required: www.ciment.com/northwood

Spring Wildlife 101: Encounters

By Jennifer McGuire Cox

With spring comes increased chances to encounter wildlife. What do you do if you have a run-in? Here are some tips!

There's a Baby Bird on the Ground

Young birds on the ground can be completely healthy and are not necessarily orphans. Young birds leave the nest before they are able to fly, pushed out by their parents to try and learn "the ropes" for themselves. Parents are often nearby watching them and providing food until they are old enough to take care of themselves. These "fledglings" have feathers and are almost fully developed, although they can hop around as if injured.

Other baby birds that have no feathers are considered "nestlings." Often much smaller than fledglings, nestlings cannot survive outside of the nest and will likely die without intervention. If you know where the nestling came from, you can attempt to put the bird

back in that nest. You can also create a substitute nest off the ground as close to the suspected nest as possible. A great substitute nest is one that is eight to 10 inches in diameter, at least six inches deep, and has drainage holes, such as a hanging basket. Line it to the top with dry grasses or straw, then press down the center of the lining with your fist to make a small bowl-like depression to hold the baby. Ideally, place it away from the trunk of the tree and six to eight feet off the ground, sheltered by leaves. If after two hours you do not observe a parent return, or return with food, call a wildlife rehabilitator. At no point should you give the baby bird any food or water.

I Think I've Found a Baby Squirrel

A baby squirrel on the ground may be completely healthy and not need intervention. Does the squirrel have a fluffed-out tail and is the body bigger than six inches? These juvenile squirrels are independent at about

10–12 weeks and do not need intervention unless it is obviously injured or crying non-stop. Infant squirrels, on the other hand, have a thin tail, may not have any fur yet at all, and cannot survive on their own.

If you think you have an infant squirrel, its best chance to survive is to be reunited with its mother. While waiting to be reunited with its mother, the squirrel has to stay warm. Placing uncooked rice in a sock and warming it in the microwave for 30 seconds will do the trick. Wrap the sock in a towel and place it with the baby squirrel in a small box or basket. Do not attempt to give the baby water or food. Return the squirrel, in the box, to the tree you suspect has the nest in it, usually the tree closest to where the squirrel was found. You can secure the container with a bungee cord or rope. Watch the baby squirrel from afar for the next six to eight hours, reheating the rice bag every two hours to keep the squirrel warm. If the mother has not retrieved the baby by this time, call a wildlife rehabilitator.

General Wildlife Tips

- Never touch or attempt to move an animal unless it is injured or in a dangerous location.
- Never give food or water to injured or orphaned wildlife. Inappropriate food or feeding can lead to sickness or death.
- When in doubt, call someone! There are two wildlife rehabilitation organizations in our area:

! **Second Chance Wildlife Center:** 7101 Barcellona Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20879, 301.926.WILD.

! **City Wildlife:** 15 Oglethorpe St. NW, Washington, DC 20011, 202.882.1000.

A Bird Has Hit My Window

Birds don't understand the concept of reflection. What looks like glass to us just look like landscape to birds. Strikes often occur when birds are fleeing predators or other sudden threats. While most strikes often prove fatal, some birds can recover. How to prevent strikes in the future? Break up the reflec-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

NURTURING NATURE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

tion using decals or stickers that are at least six inches in diameter. Some decals will even reflect ultraviolet light for added warning. If you have bird feeders, think of repositioning them to decrease the risk of strikes. Birds flying from feeders that are only two or three feet away from the glass can usually not pick up enough speed to kill themselves. Likewise, a feeder placed more than 30 feet away from a picture window helps to cut down on bird strikes.

In the meantime, if a bird does strike your window and is still alive, use a towel to try and cover and catch the bird and place it in a covered cardboard box with air holes. Keep the bird in a quiet, warm, and dark place, checking on the bird every 30 minutes. Do not try and feed or provide water to the bird. If the bird seems to have recovered, take the bird outside and remove the cover of the box. Back up and stay quiet to see if the bird flies away. If it does not, take the bird back inside and wait to see if it further recovers. If its condition doesn't change in a few hours, but it is still breathing, reach out to a wildlife rehabilitator.

There's a Bird Attacking My Window/Car Mirror

In the spring, male birds will sometimes scratch and peck at windows and mirrors. Males at this time of year are very territorial and thinking it's another male bird (and not their reflection), they will attack. Like with bird strikes,

it's recommended to help break up or eliminate the reflection. One measure might be to put tinting film on your window or cover your car mirror temporarily until the bird stops.

There's a Bird Pecking on My House

In spring, woodpeckers will "drum" on houses. These male birds aren't trying to cause damage but, rather, are attempting to mark their territory and attract a mate. The louder the noise, the better! This drumming pattern is often temporary. Woodpeckers, however, have been known to drill into houses searching for insects and nesting cavities, but this activity usually occurs in the fall.

There's a Baby Deer Laying in the Grass Alone

White-tailed deer mothers leave their fawns alone during the day to go off to feed and to avoid leading predators to their young. Fawns are usually left in an area with tall grass and bushes, including yards. If it does not look injured or in distress, leave it be. A fawn has the best chance of surviving if it's left alone to be cared for by its mother.

There's a Turtle in My Yard

It is quite common to run into turtles in the spring. Turtles that are looking to lay eggs often wander into yards, especially those near ponds and rivers. Other turtles, such as box turtles, live in the woods and might just be looking for food or shelter. These animals, if not obviously in-



jured, should not be disturbed and can be observed from a distance until they move on.

It is tempting to possibly take a wild turtle as a pet. Not only does it reduce local populations but turtles can live a long time (box turtles can live to be 100 years old!). Once a pet, it may not survive if released back into the wild. Turtles can also carry salmonella, which can easily be transmitted to children and adults. If you're looking for a pet, many organizations provide turtle adoptions instead!

There's a Turtle in the Road

In the spring and summer, female turtles will cross roads looking for habitat for nest sites. If the turtle is in danger of being hit by cars, you can attempt to move the turtle in the direction it is moving. Never try to handle a snapping turtle however, as they are very fast and their long necks can easily whip around and bite down on you. Crossing roads is normal behavior and does not mean something is wrong with the turtle. Do not attempt to move it to a water source, take it home, or take it somewhere "safer" to release it. Once it is clear of cars, leave it alone.

[Cox is a naturalist at Brookside Nature Center, Maydale Conservation Park, and Croydon Creek Nature Center. She is also a certified Maryland Master Naturalist. She lives on Belton Road.] ■



Behavioral & Educational Solutions, P.C.

Psychological Services for Children & Families

Why choose BES?

- ◆ Leaders in mental health for children & families
- ◆ Accept most insurance plans
- ◆ Near the Silver Spring Metro
- ◆ Plenty of public parking
- ◆ English & Spanish speaking staff
- ◆ We collaborate with schools & pediatricians

BES Psychological Services in Clinic for children and adolescents include the following:

- ◆ Psychological Evaluations ◆ Psycho-educational Evaluations
- ◆ Neuropsychological Evaluations ◆ Individual, Group, & Family Therapy
- ◆ Social Skills Groups ◆ Applied Behavioral Analysis



8609 2nd Avenue, Suite 506B
 Silver Spring, MD, 20910 ◆ www.besdc.com
 240-398-3514

Singletary: Five Places to Look for Unclaimed \$\$

By *Jacquie Bokow*

In her September 2, 2018, column “The Color of Money” in *The Washington Post*, fiscally conservative financial columnist Michelle Singletary listed five places readers of her column had identified (in an online discussion) where people can find unclaimed funds that belong to them. You don’t need to pay someone to find lost property, you can do it yourself for free. Here are her suggestions of where to look. (Note that, for each of these, you’ll have to provide personal details—probably including your Social Security Number—in order to prove your own identity.)

■ unclaimed.org. Run by the National Association of

Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA), a nonprofit affiliate of the National Association of State Treasurers. Search the database for each State you or members of your family have ever lived.

■ missingmoney.com. Also sponsored by NAUPA. You don’t have to search State-by-State; you just input your name and current State of residence.

■ webapps.dol.gov/wow. U.S. Labor Department’s “Workers Owed Wages” database for back wages from an old employer. Hey, you never know!

■ www.unclaimedretirementbenefits.com. By the National Registry of Unclaimed Retirement Benefits, which

is a subsidiary of PenChecks, a private company that provides retirement distribution services. Just in case you’ve forgotten about an old 401(k) plan you contributed to years ago! You’ll have to provide your Social Security Number.

■ tinyurl.com/TrusteedPensionPlans. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation is a government agency that insures pensions that now may be the trustee of a failed pension plan.

Singletary prompts us to “go look for your money,” but she cautions us to be careful of missing money scams. “Don’t pay someone to do a search you can do for free,” she admonishes. “The point is to find cash, not give it away.” ■



go green with TKT!

SAVE THE DATE - APRIL 27, 2019

GO GREEN DAY!

Get ready to clean out those closets, purge the attic, declutter the garage and **spark joy** in your home. Join us as we donate, shred and recycle everything from outdated pieces of furniture to old bank statements at our bi-annual Go Green Day. And as always, reward yourself with a cup of Starbucks coffee and delicious donuts.



Tamara Kucik



Katie Bocoock



Kathleen Briese



Morgan Ivey



Jayna Kucik



Stacey Kuzma



Patty Millar



Scott Noyes



Robert Suggs



Clare Tock



Ashley Veith



Carolyn Hamilton



www.tamara4homes.com | 301.857.1867



check out our Facebook page for Go Green Day updates!



Montgomery County Public Schools Kicks Off Public Outreach Sessions About School Boundary Study

By Sharon Canavan

On March 18th, staff from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Division of Capital Planning kicked off public input sessions as part of the process to study changes to the boundaries for local elementary and middle schools that serve the Four Corners area. MCPS is evaluating how to alter school boundaries to address current and projected student overcrowding. The elementary schools included in this study are Forest Knolls, Pinecrest, and Montgomery Knolls. The study will also evaluate the boundaries for Eastern and Silver Spring International middle schools.

Presently, student enrollment at Forest Knolls Elementary is significantly over capacity. MCPS staff estimates that changes to the Forest Knolls boundary could require shifting approximately 250 students. Pinecrest and Montgomery Knolls are currently scheduled to be enlarged, but MCPS has determined that expansion is infeasible at the Forest Knolls site.

Before making recommendations for changing school boundaries, the study will look at a number of factors at each of the schools, including: demographics, geography (e.g., local traffic patterns, barriers, such as the Beltway, etc.), stability of the school boundary over time, and utilization rates.

The first step that MCPS staff is taking in the boundary



Jacquie Bekow

No boundary changes are being studied for Northwood High School, above, but the old facility will be undergoing a major renovation beginning in 2023. NHS students will temporarily attend an alternative school during the two-year renovation.

study process is holding public outreach sessions. At the first meetings, which have already taken place, MCPS staff discussed the process steps for the boundary study. At public outreach meetings at Forest Knolls on April 23rd and at Montgomery Knolls on April 24th, MCPS staff will present round one of the proposed options they have developed.

In addition to feedback gathered at this outreach session, MCPS will develop an online survey to gather additional views. MCPS will evaluate the public input from the meeting and surveys, and then will develop a second round of proposed options, if necessary. Additional public outreach sessions will be conducted in mid-May and early June to discuss the public survey results and any changes to the options being considered.

MCPS staff will present the boundary study report to the Superintendent of Schools in July, who will issue a report

on the recommended boundary changes by the early fall. A public hearing and final decision by the Board of Education is expected by November. Once adopted, changes to school boundaries will go into effect for the 2020–2021 school year.

MCPS has a dedicated webpage where information about the boundary study will be available as the process unfolds. For more information go to: [https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/DownCountyES Boundary Study.aspx](https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/DownCountyES%20Boundary%20Study.aspx).

The current boundaries for Northwood and Montgomery Blair are not being studied. Changes are afoot, however, for Northwood High School, which will be undergoing a major renovation beginning in 2023. During the two-year renovation, Northwood students will temporarily attend an alternative school. ■



Forest Knolls Pool

HOME OF THE SEAHAWKS SWIM TEAM

In the Heart of Your Neighborhood

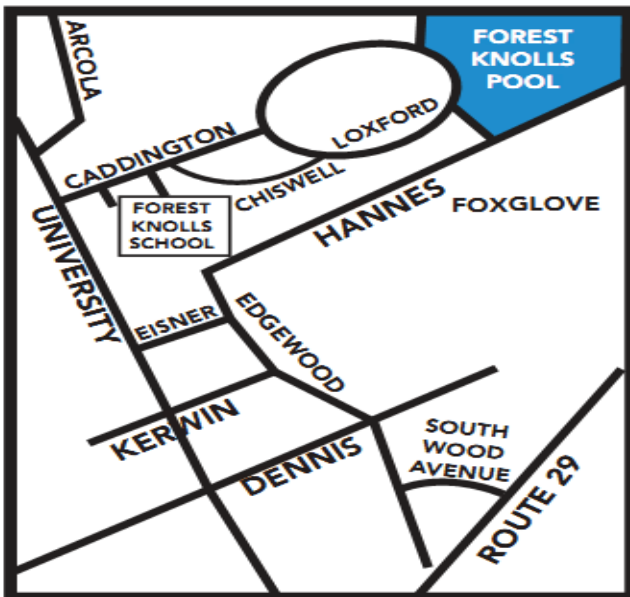
Summer's almost here!

Join the pool where friends and neighbors have gathered for 50+ seasons of fun, relaxation, and a great sense of community. Nestled in the woods of Northwest Branch, our pool is quiet, often uncrowded, and always a great setting for family gatherings, kids' parties, and socializing. We hope you'll join the fun this season!

- + Fun Community Space
- + 25-Meter Pool
- + High & Low Diving Boards
- + Fenced Baby/Toddler Pool
- + Social Events & Live Music
- + MCSL Swim Team
- + Lap Swimming, Basketball
- + Snack Bar, Grills, Picnic Tables
- + Plenty of Parking
- + Swimming Lessons
- + Food Trucks
- + Open May 27 – Sept. 4

**Open House
Saturday, June 1**

**Spring Carnival
Saturday, April 13**



NO WAIT LIST

**Visit pool Open House
and enter raffle for free
Summer membership
(new members only)**

**Questions, contact Mike Amitay
president AT forestknollspool DOT com
(see website for info, calendar)**

www.forestknollspool.com

11105 Foxglove Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20901