



NORTHWOOD NEWS

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Update on the Forest Knolls Elementary School Boundary Study

By Frances Spiegel

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) continues to move forward with its study to determine the new boundaries for Forest Knolls Elementary School. The goal of the study is to identify the portion of the current Forest Knolls area that will be reassigned to sister schools Montgomery Knolls (Pre-K to 2nd grade) and Pinecrest (3rd to 5th grade). The reassignment

is necessary because Forest Knolls is currently overcrowded and MCPS has determined that a physical expansion of Forest Knolls is not feasible.

MCPS is seeking community feedback on its staff-proposed options, released on April 23rd, and has posted a survey on its website for this purpose. The survey and details about the proposed boundary options are available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/DownCountyESBoundaryStudy.aspx.

The survey asks respondents to rank the reconfigured boundary options by preference and also to rank the relative importance of the factors that the County is weighing as it comes to a determination: geography, demographics of the student population, and facility utilization. The survey is available in several languages and is open until June 14th.

Two of the proposed options (options 1 and 2) reassign to Montgomery Knolls and Pinecrest the portion of Northwood-Four Corners neighborhood bounded by Eastwood and Colesville Road

Next Meeting on Wed., 12th June

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 12 June 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). Speakers include Md. General Assembly representatives for District 19—Delegates Charlotte Crutchfield, Bonnie Cullison, and Vaughn Stewart—as well as State Senator Benjamin Kramer.

All residents of the Northwood/North Four Corners/Forest Knolls area are invited to attend and express their views, but only paid members of the NFCCA are eligible to vote. (Annual dues are \$10 per household and may be paid at the meeting or online.) ■

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to know where to start—there are so many emerging issues that could potentially change our community. Construction has begun on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations along Route 29. Pretty soon we will have a better idea about future BRT changes being considered when the recommendations in a Draft Mobility Improvement Package are presented in public workshops this spring. Additionally, in May, the Maryland Department of Transportation held Open Houses to provide information on the Capital Beltway Study and describe proposals for adding Express Toll Lanes. Watch this space!

Meanwhile, on the education front, there is a study underway to develop recommendations for adjusting local elementary school boundaries. Under consideration are changes to address student overcrowding at Forest Knolls Elementary that could impact whether students in our neighborhood remain in Forest Knolls or will go to nearby Pinecrest or Montgomery Knolls (see related story on page 1).

At the NFCCA meeting in April, Theodora Scarato, Executive Director of the Environmental Health Trust (EHT), described how installation of small cell towers with “5G” (fifth generation) radio frequency will increase connection speed for internet, computer, cell phone, and other electronic devices. Scarato cautioned, however, that she believes, and that some research indicates, wireless technology could pose potential health risks from radiation emissions. Ms. Scarato noted that, under current federal law, local government cannot use health effects as a reason to reject an application for small cell antenna or tower placement.

At the April meeting, we also heard from Brian Anleu, Deputy Chief of Staff for Councilmember Tom Hucker, who presented information on Zoning Text Amendment (“ZTA”) 19-01, introduced by Councilmember Hans Reimer, which proposes to remove restrictions on Accessory Residential Uses to encourage development of accessory dwelling units (ADUs.) These changes would allow ADUs as a limited use in R200, R90, and R60 zones. The NFCCA area is zoned R60 residential (see related story on page 6).

In mid-June, the Montgomery County Council is expected to take up consideration of ZTA 19-01. Proponents argue that encouraging ADUs could increase the supply of affordable housing, but, at several recent public meetings, representatives from local communities have expressed concern about over-crowding and increased density in single family neighborhoods.

After discussion at the April meeting, members voted to express the NFCCA’s concerns about the proposed ADU bill (such as safety concerns, licensing and inspection requirements, overcrowding, impact on school capacity, and preventing negative impact on neighborhoods), while also

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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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.

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www.nfcca.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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emphasizing support for the bill's stated goal of providing affordable housing. Members voted to authorize the NFCCA Board to draft a letter to the County Council urging improvements to the proposed bill (ZTA 19-01) and expressing concerns about its shortcomings.

At the next general membership meeting on Wednesday, June 12th, we will hear from the Maryland General Assembly representatives for District 19. Delegates Charlotte Crutchfield, Bonnie Cullison, and Vaughn Stewart, as well as state Senator Benjamin Kramer, will provide their insights on the current session and upcoming legislative activity.

In other news, Laura Hussey and David Rotenstein, both of whom formerly served as NFCCA Presidents, have moved to Pittsburgh, Pa. As NFCCA Board members and Officers, Laura and David have contributed their time, energy, and insights to making Northwood Four Corners a better community. They will both be missed.

Their leave-taking also means there is an open spot on the Board. If you are inter-

ested in getting more involved in the community by serving on the NFCCA Board, please drop me a line. In any event, we have an upcoming election for the officers and board members at the NFCCA general membership meeting in October. Although that may seem a long way away, it is not too early to begin thinking about nominating someone or offering to step up to bring new energy and ideas to our association.

Get involved and help guide the direction of our neighborhood organization; this is a manageable lift! There are five board meetings during the year, and five general membership meetings. Otherwise, individual board members or officers choose to volunteer to help with activities, such as planning community events, writing articles for the newsletter, or attending important community hearings about issues that affect our community. We want to hear from you. This is your chance to nominate someone else or offer to stand for one of the elected positions for the 2019-2020 NFCCA slate of officers and board members.

On a final note, before we take a break from NFCCA meetings for the summer, mark your calendars for our National Night Out community get-together on Tuesday, August 6th (see page 16). There will be the usual delicious potluck food, sno-cones, and drinks. The band will be playing and the police motorcade will stop by. Come and join the fun at the Forest Knolls pool. ■

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:

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Vacant

Immediate Past President

Vacant

If you are willing to help your community by serving as a member of the Board, contact the NFCCA President. Elections will be held for all offices at the October meeting.

Next NFCCA Meeting
Wednesday, June 12
7:30-9:00 p.m.
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School Boundary Study Affects Forest Knolls Elem.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

on the east, University Blvd. on the west, and Dennis Avenue (between University and Eastwood), in addition to various portions of South Four Corners and Sligo Woods. The third option maintains all of the Northwood-Four Corners neighborhood within in the Forest Knolls area, while reassigning South Four Corners and most of Sligo Woods.

Maps and further details regarding these proposals are available at the MCPS planning website noted above. The website includes an interactive map that can be used to examine individual addresses.

Northwood-Four Corners resident Jacquie Bokow, who grew up in the neighborhood, notes that, if part of our community is reassigned to another school, it would not be without precedent. Bokow recalls that, when she was in elementary school, some neighborhood children attended Forest Knolls (including her now husband), while others (including herself) were assigned to Four Corners Elementary School that was located where The Oaks currently stands.

The next steps in the boundary study process are as follows. Initially, a second set of options was to be released at meetings on May 20–21, but those meetings were cancelled as no further options had been developed. Public information meetings will be held on June 3rd at Forest Knolls (7:15 p.m.) and June 5th at Montgomery Knolls (7:00 p.m.) to discuss the re-



mainder of the process.

Over the summer, MCPS planning staff will provide a boundary study report to the Superintendent. The Superintendent will review the report and make a recommendation to the Board in October. The Board will hold a hearing and make a final determination in November, which will be implemented in the 2020–2021 school year. In addition to completing the online survey by June 14th, community members can provide input to the process by writing letters to the School Board and the Superintendent. Letters should address the three priority factors listed above.

County-Wide Boundary Assessment

In January 2019, the MCPS School Board decided to hire an external consultant to undertake a county-wide review of school boundaries. The School Board's student member, Ananya Tadikonda, proposed the measure, noting that "there are many schools in MCPS with adjacent boundaries that have both significant disparities in socioeconomic and racial demographics and disparities in facility utilization." Student

groups have been advocating for this study in hopes that it will result in recommendations that may lessen the de facto segregation that currently exists in Montgomery County schools.

According to MCPS data, available at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/sharedaccountability/glance, the schools to which Northwood-Four Corners students are assigned are socioeconomically and racially diverse. However, in other parts of Montgomery County, such as Bethesda and Potomac, this is not the case. Many have noted a disparity in student achievement and resource allocation between schools where most of the student population is white and schools with a greater percentage of minority students.

The county-wide boundary assessment will not result in concrete recommendations for specific schools. Rather, the external consultant will present findings to the School Board in Spring 2020, and the Board will then determine what next steps to pursue based on those findings.

[Spiegel lives on Margate Road.] ■

Zoning Changes Easing Requirements for Accessory Dwelling Units Under Consideration by Mont. County

By Sharon Canavan

In January, Councilmember Hans Riemer introduced Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 19-01, which would liberalize the regulation of Accessory Residential Uses—Accessory Apartments. If adopted, these changes would make it easier for residents to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on their property. Riemer supports these zoning changes as a way to increase the supply of affordable rental housing and promote inter-generational housing.

An ADU is an independent unit with a separate entrance and separate cooking and bath facilities, which can either be located within a home (e.g., a basement apartment) or as a separate external unit (e.g., a backyard cottage). Montgomery County has permitted ADUs as Accessory Apartments since 1983, but required a special exception hearing unless the unit was occupied by a relative or caregiver. In 2014, the requirements were eased to allow “limited use approval,” so no hearing is necessary for any application that meets the requirements for an ADU (such as size, parking, etc.), although the ADU must still be licensed as a rental unit by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA.)

ZTA 19-01 would allow ADUs as a limited use in areas zone R200, R90, and R60 (the Northwood community is zoned R-60). Detached ADUs are not currently permitted in



these zones, but would be allowed with a setback of as little as 12 feet from the rear lot line and eight feet from side lot line under the proposed measure. As introduced, the measure would also:

- delete the current requirement to build one additional parking space,
- delete the 1,200-square-foot maximum size requirement,
- delete protections to prevent over-concentration of ADUs that currently require a proposed ADU to be at least 300 feet distant from an existing ADU, and
- delete the requirement that a proposed ADU may only be added to a dwelling that is at least five years old.

At a public hearing in February, homeowners and organizations raised concerns about adding more density in single-family neighborhoods, inadequate parking, over-

crowding in schools, and lack of staffing to enforce compliance with safety requirements.

In mid-April, the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee adopted amendments to ZTA 19-01 to limit the size of an interior unit to 1,200 square feet and to limit a detached ADU to 10 percent of the lot size up to a maximum of 1,200 square feet. An amendment was also adopted to retain the current requirement to build an additional parking spot, unless the property is less than a mile from a Metro or Purple Line station. Under current and proposed law, a property with an ADU must be owner-occupied; that is, only the main house or the ADU may be rented, but not both.

After a briefing on ZTA 19-01 at the April NFCCA meeting, members voted to authorize the NFCCA Board to draft a letter to the County Council urging improvements to the proposed bill (ZTA 19-01) and expressing concerns about its shortcomings (such as safety concerns, licensing and inspection requirements, overcrowding, impact on school capacity, and preventing negative impact on neighborhoods), while also emphasizing support for the measure’s stated goal of providing affordable housing. The Montgomery County Council is expected to take up ZTA 19-01 for further consideration in mid-June. ■

Speakers at the June Meeting

By Ed Levy

We are pleased to host all four members of the District 19 state legislative delegation, which represents our neighborhood in Annapolis. State Senator Ben Kramer, and State Delegates Bonnie Cullison, Charlotte Crutchfield, and Vaughn Stewart will each provide ten minutes of opening remarks to be followed by questions and answers. This was a momentous annual legislative session, notably with the death of long-time Speaker of the House Michael Busch on the next to last day of the session.

The legislature passed several significant pieces of legislation, some of which at this writing have not yet been

acted on by Governor Hogan.

Feel free to raise any question about the state government, but expect to hear about issues such as the Governor's proposal to widen the Beltway and I-270, alcohol and tobacco regulation, minimum wage, support for Federal workers during government shutdowns, school construction, renewable energy, end of life options, and election day voter registration.

Please join us for what we expect to be a lively and informative meeting June 12 starting at 7:30 pm at Forest Knolls Elementary. You needn't be a member of the NFCCA to attend. It's free!

[Levy, NFCCA Vice President, lives on Thistle Ct.] ■

'Uber' for Stuff

Bungii is a mobile app that instantly helps you move stuff across town by connecting you with a local driver and pickup truck. It's like "Uber" but for things instead of people: store deliveries, Craigslist pickups, donation drop-offs, etc.

The charge is \$1/minute and \$1/mile per driver; \$39 minimum. If you can't help move the item (nothing hazardous, illegal, or breathing), order two. See bungii.com. ■

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Living Between the Lions in North Four Corners

By *Jacquie Bokow*

If you walk around our neighborhood, you may be delighted to see how some neighbors have personalized their dwellings. Lions seem to predominate, although dogs, cats, and flamingoes are also in evidence. Enjoy the variety!



Lions on Margate Road and a tiny kitten on University Blvd.



Panting dogs on Lockridge Dr.



The three lions above all stand guard on residences along one block of Lockridge Drive.



Photos by Judy Vann, Sondra Katz, and Jacquie Bokow

Judy Vann on Marvin Road decorates her lion and cat statues according to the season.

Creating a Bee-Friendly Backyard

By Jennifer McGuire Cox

When you think of bees, the first thing you might think of is that they sting. You might even think that all bees are bad. But the reality is: those bees you're so afraid of—those aggressive yellow and black-striped stingers—aren't actually bees at all! They're wasps. Bees are generally not aggressive and just want to be left alone. Bees are also critical pollinators. Bees are responsible for pollinating more than 80 percent of the world's flowering plants, including a lot of the foods we eat everyday!

There are more than 400 species of bees in Maryland. Unfortunately, many bees across the United States are in decline, including those that are found locally. One way to help native bees is by making your backyard more bee-friendly. You can do this by:

1. Planting Natives.

Native plants are those that naturally occupy a particular area, region, habitat or ecosystem (in our case, Maryland). Unfortunately, many of the plants you can purchase at Home Depot or at the local garden center originate from Asia, Europe, and other parts of the United States. Native pollinators such as bees have co-evolved with these native plants and are, thus, more able to pollinate these flowers and extract the pollen and nectar they need to eat and be able to survive. Try to select native plants that bloom throughout the year to offer a continual source of nectar and

pollen for pollinators. For advice on what natives plants to include in your yard, visit the Maryland Native Plant Society, the University of Maryland Extension, and the Maryland Plant Atlas. [Also see the *Native Plant Guide* on the NFCCA website.]

2. Maintain Habitat.

Bees nest in many different



places, including dead trees and stumps, brush piles, and stalks of dead flowers. Many native bees even nest in the ground, not just yellow jackets. If possible, try and leave these areas of your yard undisturbed. At the end of the day, most bees won't bother you if you don't bother them.

3. Limit Your Use of Pesticide. Even though you might not be trying to kill bees by using pesticides, they can be harmful to the critters that frequent your yard. If you must use pesticide, look for one that doesn't contain neonicotinoids, and try and limit their application.

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

Common Bee Myths

All Bees Sting

Since the stinger is a modified egg-laying apparatus, only female bees have the ability to sting. Yet even though a bee technically has a stinger, it still doesn't mean it actually works and can sting. In some species, there is no stinger at all!

Wasps Are Bees

Wasps are actually different types of insects than bees. While bees are vegetarians, collecting pollen and nectar, wasps are actually carnivores. Some species of wasps can be very aggressive, especially when their nests are disturbed, whereas bees are more docile.

All Bees Leave Together in Groups

When we think of bees, we might think of honeybees who live in complex hives and societies. But most bees (90 percent) are actually solitary, interacting only when mating and laying eggs. These bees can be found living in individual nests tunneled into the ground, in dead wood, in old plant stems, or even in mud or resin in hard surfaces.

All Bees Make Honey

Less than five percent of all bee species make honey and, of those, only honeybees and stingless bees make enough honey to harvest.

Fighting for Her WASP Grandmother's Burial at ANC

By Erin Miller and Jacquie Bokow

When Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) refused to accept her grandmother's last request to be laid to rest there, Erin Miller refused to let her legacy as a veteran die along with her.

That grandmother, Elaine Danforth Harmon, flew as a pilot with the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) of World War II. Despite being part of the first group of women to fly for the United States Army, the WASP remained officially unrecognized as members of the military. Although they didn't fly combat missions (which was left to the men), the WASP pilots

were used to test newly built planes, then ferry them from factories to war zones, transport cargo, and tow banners that aircraft carriers used for target practice.

To become a WASP, a woman was required to already have a civilian pilot's license. She also had to pass an Army Air Corps physical and pay her own way to Avenger Field in Sweetwater, Texas, for basic training. Twenty-five thousand women applied; less than five percent—1,102—made the cut.

Although these female pilots flew military aircraft, they were considered civilians, so they were not granted military benefits or burials. The 38 WASP who gave their lives in service did not get flags draped over their caskets.

"When I was young," said Miller, "I thought of my grandmother's trips to accept awards, or to visit the White House, or to give lectures about her time in the service, as her hobby. I knew what she had done and I knew that, in the 1970s, they had lobbied Congress to get the veterans' status they had been denied during the war. From that point on, my grandmother shared her story of service with the WASP during World War II with anyone who would listen.

"But it was not until after she died that I fully understood why she had spent so many years talking about her service with the WASP. My grandmother's last request was to be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.



Elaine Danforth Harmon in her WASP uniform in 1944.

Our family was surprised when the United States Army, which managed the cemetery, denied that the WASP—and, therefore, my grandmother—were eligible for placement in the cemetery.

"The Army said 'no' to the wrong family," said Miller.

Miller led her family's campaign on behalf of her grandmother—and all the women of the WASP—across social media, traditional news outlets, and to Capitol Hill to fight for their equal recognition at one of the nation's most well-known cemeteries.

The WASP was disbanded on December 20, 1944. It took another 30 years for women to fly again in the United States Armed forces, with the Navy and Army accepting their first female pilots in 1974 and the Air Force following suit in 1976.

The WASP were granted

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)



Miller wrote a book about the fight to ensure that all women of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II—including her grandmother—received equal recognition at Arlington National Cemetery.

WASP at ANC

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

retroactive military status in 1977, after two years of lobbying, when President Jimmy Carter finally signed the bill into law. WASP were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal (seen at right) in 2010.

Elaine Danforth Harmon died in April 2015. On May 20, 2016, President Obama signed H.R. 4336, the bill introduced in Congress by Representative Martha McSally of Arizona in January 2016, which then became a law to officially recognize the service of WASP as eligible for ANC. Harmon's funeral was held September 7, 2016, at ANC.

Miller wrote a book about the fight to ensure that her grandmother and all women



National Air and Space Museum

The Senate and the House of Representatives recognized and awarded the WASP this Congressional Gold Medal for their service, record, and "revolutionary reform in the Armed Force" during World War II. This medal was presented to the WASP on March 10, 2010, and specifically designated to come to the collection of the Smithsonian in Public Law 111-40 on July 1, 2009.

of the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II received equal recognition at Arlington National Cemetery. *Final Flight, Final Fight: My Grandmother, the WASP, and Arlington National Cemetery* was published in February. See www.finalflightfinalfight.com for more information. The book also is available on Amazon and other retailers. Miller is looking into having it added to the Montgomery County library system. It is already being ordered by the Baltimore system.

"My grandmother's final fight came after her final flight," said Miller, "but I was honored to follow in her footsteps to ensure her legacy would not be forgotten."

[Miller lives on Ladson Road.]



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Manna Brings Food to the Hungry

By Michelle Whittaker

Barbara watched “Manny,” a mobile pop-up pantry and kitchen, drive through her street and she was curious to check out the bus. She was welcomed on board by Manna Food Center’s community food education volunteers who announced the pantry was open and free to all in the neighborhood. Stepping on board, Barbara sized up the rack of fresh produce and spotted the perfect bundle of collard greens for her neighbor. She’s excited to bring the fresh greens, peppers, tomatoes, and guacamole to share with her neighbor as she recovers from recent surgery. “She can’t get out to the bus because of her health and age,” Barbara shares.

This scene plays out across Montgomery County as Manny travels into communities where neighbors are struggling with food insecurity. Despite being one of the wealthiest counties in Maryland, one in 15 residents is unsure when and where her next meal will come from; this includes thousands of school children. Manna’s mission is to bring essential food support to county residents facing hunger.

For Barbara and her neighbors, Manna Food Center provides residents with nutritious food, life skills, and support. Through Manna’s Food to Farm Bank program, participants gain access to more locally grown produce. Manna’s Smart Sacks program partners with community groups and MCPS to provide 2,900 elementary children with a weekend bag of food items.



And Manna has expanded its food network to support a healthier planet through Community Food Rescue, an innovative program to collect unused food from restaurants and farmers to share with supporting agencies.

Manna offers several community distribution locations to pick up a monthly assortment of shelf-stable and fresh produce food items. Manna’s 21 distribution locations includes Silver Spring United Methodist Church at Four Corners (formerly Marvin Memorial UMC). Manna hosts choice pantries every second and fourth Saturday of the month at Silver Spring UMC and every fourth Friday at Colesville Presbyterian Church.

Manna’s choice pantries empower participants to select from a variety of food items that support their health and wellbeing. In a few short months, Manna Food Center will open a new center in East County to serve more neighbors in need and create a community hub for education and training. Manna’s new office and choice market will open near Tech Road, just off of Colesville Road/Route 29.

If you’re interested in volunteering with Manna Food Center, call 301.424.1130 or visit www.mannafood.org. ■

Forest Knolls PTA Requests Community Help to Preserve Special Press Corps Programs

By Frances Spiegel

The Forest Knolls Elementary School PTA has recently informed the community that the County has cut the special programs funding at Forest Knolls, which will eliminate programs such as Junior Press Corps, Kids News Network, newspaper, and other similar enrichment programs, as well as the position of Ms. Susan Michal, a true educational innovator, who has taught at Forest Knolls for over 30 years.

In an effort to convince the county to restore funding, the PTA has asked current and former students who have benefitted from special programs at Forest Knolls to submit respectful narratives detailing the impact of Ms. Michal’s programs and advocating for the restoration of a full 1.0 Special Programs/Focus position at Forest Knolls.

Letters should be addressed to “To Whom it May Concern,” as they will be bundled and sent to multiple Board of Education and County stakeholders. Letters should be sent to FKESPTAfeedback@gmail.com. Please help spread the word to former Forest Knolls students who may have benefited from these programs. ■

'Everybody Grows' Shares Its Flowers, Its Message

By Jacquie Bokow

Some of the walkers in the neighborhood might have strolled past 10706 Lockridge Drive and noticed the removal of the grass in the sloping front yard in favor of terraces. A profusion of flowers now appears on these "swales," the earthwork trenches that capture rain runoff. Swales are a feature of permaculture, the development of agricultural ecosystems designed to be both sustainable and self-sufficient.

You may see Jake Ifshin or his colleagues working in the impressive garden. Ifshin is the Executive Director of Everybody Grows, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which, according to its website, was "founded to inspire and equip people to grow fresh, healthy food by bringing the home garden to everybody, wherever home may be."

Part of the "Everybody Grows" mantra is that all people should be able to grow food for personal consumption no matter where they are, how old they are, how much they earn, or how mobile they are. Everybody Grows is "committed to making fresh food accessible."

All of us are aware how important the nutrients in fresh vegetables are for our health, but Everybody Grows also believes that gardening offers transformative and therapeutic benefits to individuals and communities.

Based in the Washington, D.C., area, the nonprofit has installed "Inspiration Gardens" at fire departments,



The newly terraced front yard on Lockridge Drive dispenses with the usual lawn in order to grow flowers and vegetables.

churches, and nursing homes. They planted a rooftop garden for the Discovery Channel and have installed accessible gardens for wheelchair-bound seniors.

"Our work brings families and communities closer through sharing the life-sustaining joy of growing food," says their website.

These community-focused gardens provide an opportunity for people from all walks of life to learn how to plant, nurture, and harvest their own vegetable gardens. Doing so is an educational experience that brings people together. Everybody Grows provides the training and equipment.

If you have questions, visit their website for more information at everybodygrows.org or view a short film online at [https://everybodygrows.org/everybody-grows-short-](https://everybodygrows.org/everybody-grows-short-film)

film, Or you can email Jake AT everybodygrows DOT com.

"The intention of our gardens to create habitat for beneficial insects, grow food, and enrich the community," said Ifshin. "The gardens include a wildflower front yard and in-ground beds growing herbs and vegetables. We welcome neighbors to harvest a few flowers as they pass by!" ■

Under 5? <1 Hour of Screens

Children aged two to four should not be allowed more than one hour of "sedentary screen time" per day, infants less than one year old should not be exposed to electronic screens at all, said the World Health Organization in April. The guidelines were the United Nations agency's first. ■



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#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. My Team stays informed on market changes and can shift strategies accordingly.

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

ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	SELLER SUBSIDY	CLOSE DATE	STYLE	BR	BA/HBA	DOM	LOT SQ FT	SUBDIVISION
309 Timberwood Ave	\$485,000		3/5/2019	Cape Cod	5	2	11	7,260	Northwood Park
1100 Playford Ln	\$475,000	\$1,000	5/10/2019	Split Level	4	3	1	7,249	Forest Knolls
901 Caddington Ave	\$460,000	\$10,600	4/11/2019	Split Level	4	2/1	17	9,040	Forest Knolls
1402 Caddington Ave	\$460,000		4/18/2019	Split Level	4	2	26	8,627	Forest Knolls
1145 Loxford Ter	\$455,000	\$1,400	4/18/2019	Other	5	2/2	17	8,063	Forest Knolls
307 Hannes St	\$450,500		5/1/2019	Colonial	4	2/1	6	7,500	Forest Knolls
10614 Glenwild Rd	\$444,000	\$13,000	4/10/2019	Colonial	4	2/1	49	7,710	Northwood Park View
418 Eisner St	\$440,000	\$4,000	4/18/2019	Colonial	5	2/1	83	6,036	Northwood Park
1015 Loxford Ter	\$366,000	\$10,000	4/15/2019	Split Level	3	2/1	13	10,356	Forest Knolls
112 Kinsman View Cir	\$350,000	\$10,000	5/9/2019	Townhouse	4	3/1	154	2,378	Northwood Park View
711 University Blvd	\$350,000		4/29/2019	Split Level	5	3	4	6,410	Northwood Village
504 Royalton Rd	\$300,000		4/30/2019	Ranch/Rambler	3	2	6	5,900	Northwood 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

Permeable Driveways the Answer to Flooded Homes

By Jacquie Bokow

Two neighbors on Timberwood Avenue had similar problems: heavy rain would flow down their driveways and into their garages, which were lower than the street. Both found that the answer to controlling the run-off was water-permeable driveways.

“Our house and driveway are lower than the houses on the other side of the street,” said Bruce Guenther, “so we were getting street run-off. [My wife] Sue and I wanted a grass driveway that we could drive and park on, but did not intend to park on that driveway on an everyday basis. We found a recycled plastic mesh system that met our expectations. Our system is similar to design and look of the grass parking lots we would see at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap.”

Across the street, Paul Carroccio used stone pavers. A former construction

contractor, he was able get masons he'd worked with for 20 years come and put the driveway in for him. He discovered the previous owner had already put in about 18 inches of gravel. Carroccio purchased 18-inch-square, four-inch thick, concrete blocks from Tri-State Quarry at Seven Locks and River Roads, right off the Beltway.

In both cases, installation involved digging below driveway 'grade' and installing a crushed stone/gravel support system, several inches thick, for drainage and strength below the driveway pavers. A filter landscaping fabric that lets water through—available at most home gardening centers—should be placed atop the gravel so the gravel doesn't fill up with dirt, recommends Carroccio.

The stone pavers are “pretty heavy,” said Carroccio, but “they work great. You plant whatever you want in



Photos by Jacquie Bokow

The stone pavers installed by Paul Carroccio are strong enough to support a fire truck.

there, you can even throw flowers in if you want to. I threw grass seed around, but I seem to have gotten more weeds. I thought about putting zoysia, which would spread and keep the weeds down.”

“The [recycled plastic mesh] type of grass paver installation will not support green, growing grass when a vehicle is regularly parked on it,” cautions Guenther. “The grass will not get sunlight beneath the car, and the location of the car wheels will compress and damage the grass beneath it when a vehicle is parked on this surface.”

“This driveway looks no different than our front lawn,” said Guenther, “and retains and drains water in rain storms rather than draining the water into our backyard or into the street gutter and storm sewer.”

“It has made a difference,” said Carroccio. “I think it's much more appealing than an asphalt or gravel driveway.” ■



Bruce Guenther shows off the permeable driveway he installed.



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. A good first step is getting to know more of your neighbors.

The first National Night Out took place on Tuesday, August 7th, 1984. That first year, 2.5 million Americans took part across 400 communities in 23 states. National Night Out now involves 38 million people in 16,790 communities from all fifty states, U.S. Territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. 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 follow basic crime prevention measures and be alert for suspicious activities in the area. Most types of crime in the County are still relatively small in number for a jurisdiction of this size, despite some increases.

Anyone willing to help with the event — entertainment, setup or cleanup, or other preparations — please call Sharon Canavan at 301.593.0487.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A POOL MEMBER TO ATTEND!

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 National Crime Prevention Council's Web site at [www.npc.org / topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety](http://www.npc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety).
- ✓ If you have an emergency or see a crime in progress, dial **911**.
- ✓ To report less serious crimes (like individuals acting in a suspicious manner, such as watching houses or testing for unlocked doors and windows), call the police nonemergency phone number, 301.279.8000. Give a complete description of the individual or vehicle as best you can.

**Tuesday, August 6th
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Forest Knolls Pool
11105 Foxglove Lane**

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

**McGruff the Crime Dog:
"Take a Bite Out of Crime!"**

