



# 2024 FALL NEWSLETTER MEMBERSHIP ISSUE

Newsletters and Events are posted on  
**GreaterFarmland.org**



### A Big Thank You to Those Who've Already Renewed for 2025! GFCFA Dues Pay For:

- \* Community Day \* Winter-on-the-Farm Party \* Halloween Party \* Email Listserv \*
- \* Landscaping Improvements and Maintenance \* July 4th Parade \* Online & Print Directories \*
- \* Website and Facebook Page \* Mailed Newsletters \* General Meeting Programs \* Advocacy for Community Interests \*
- \* Environmentalism-at-Home Programs \* Candidate Forums \* Block Party Support \* New Neighbor Welcome Bags \*

**Your membership helps to build and improve our warm and caring community.**

**Online option 1:** Go to the GFCFA directory at **GFCFA.membershiptoolkit.com**. If you're registered on this site, log in. If not, register a new account. Follow the prompts to purchase the membership length of your choice. Your membership renewal automatically will be reflected in the directory.

**Online option 2:** On our website, **GreaterFarmland.org**, select the number of years you'd like to pay for, and click Head to Checkout. Please fill in your address, where indicated.

**Mail:** Use the enclosed addressed envelope to **mail a check, payable to GFCFA** for \$35, \$70, or \$105. Please allow time for us to manually update your membership and deposit your check.

We are a volunteer organization composed of neighbors

**JOIN US!**

## FOR UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

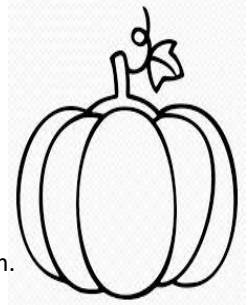
### **OCTOBER 27 - HALLOWEEN PARTY**

4 to 5:30 pm at Farmland Elementary School's front parking lot. Parade at 4:45 pm  
Show off your costume and join in the fun, with games with prizes

### **NOVEMBER 3 - PUMPKIN SMASHING AND COMPOSTING**

9:30 am—12:30 pm at 11917 Tildenwood Drive

Take a bat and SMASH them! Drop off your pumpkins, join the smashing fun, and Compost Crew will compost them.  
Pumpkins can't be painted, glittered, or have a candle/foil still inside.



### **NOVEMBER 20 - GFCFA BOARD MEETING**

Contact [info@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:info@greaterfarmland.org) for location details, 7:30 pm, and via Zoom for those who can't come in person\*.



### **NOVEMBER 29 - COMMUNITY-WIDE GENERAL MEETING**

7 pm start at Farmland Elementary School and via Zoom for those who can't come in person.  
Speakers and topics will be announced on the listserv.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR 2025



### **JANUARY 12 - Winter-on-the-Farm Party**

Farmland Elementary School All-Purpose Room, Time: 1 to 3 pm—Everyone is invited!  
Entertainment, hot chocolate, Desserts-to-Share, all-ages Books Exchange, and food collection for Manna Food Center.

### **FEBRUARY 19 - "Grow Your Pollinator Patch" Neighbor Talk** via Zoom

### **APRIL 3 - Spring Annual Community Meeting with Neighbor-2-Neighbor Exhibits,**

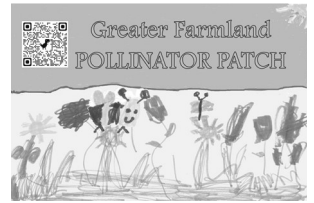
### **JUNE 8 - Community Day, 1 to 4 pm, our biggest party of the year!**

### **JULY 4TH and HALLOWEEN Celebrations**

\*Bi-monthly GFCFA Board meetings are via Zoom, link in the [greaterfarmland.org](http://greaterfarmland.org) Calendar. Open to community members.  
Keep an eye on the listserv and on GreaterFarmland.org's Calendar for times, locations, and Zoom links.

## THE GFCA POLLINATOR PATCH PROJECT from GFCA's Environmentalism-at-Home Group

*"Every square inch of planet earth has ecological significance, even where we live, work, and play. If we landscape these areas with plant function as well as aesthetics in mind, we can create viable habitat where humans are, not just where humans are not."* --Doug Tallamy



Many of us have a "pollinator patch" garden that includes native plants and provides forage for butterflies, bees, other beneficial insects, and songbirds. While a few pollinator patches have little impact on declining pollinator and bird populations, a patchwork of these plantings across many yards can. The **GFCA Pollinator Patch project** takes up this challenge and invites you to participate!

Increasingly we are learning about the key role the suburban yard must play: University of Delaware entomologist and founder of the Homegrown National Park, Doug Tallamy, explains that the land we think of as provided for "nature" consists mostly of isolated fragments of land often too degraded or too tiny to support thriving ecosystems. Since 83% of land in the US is privately owned, Tallamy argues, we must make space for nature in our own yards. And here is the critical part: it is only collectively that we can make this work.

The pollinator patch project is intended to recognize and inspire gardening for pollinators in Greater Farmland. GFCA members and non-member neighbors with pollinator garden plots can participate by requesting a Greater Farmland Pollinator Patch yard sign. Participants in the project pay \$10 towards the cost of the sign, with the GFCA covering the remainder. **For more information and to request a Greater Farmland pollinator patch yard sign, visit [www.greaterfarmland.org/homegrown-national-park](http://www.greaterfarmland.org/homegrown-national-park).**



## NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE IS GROWING NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!

North Bethesda Village is a volunteer-led, grassroots organizations that supports community members, especially those who choose to age in place. We sponsor social activities, events, and coordinate volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model. Visit [northbethesdavillage.org](http://northbethesdavillage.org) for the wide array of activities.

We have moved our communications from Gmail to MailChimp, a popular electronic mailing system used by non-profits and businesses. MailChimp allows us to send information to our ever-growing mailing list. Our newsletter, The North Bethesda Village Quarterly, is generated by Mailchimp and is full of a wonderful array of news and photos. We will be using additional tools to streamline the enrollment process for our events.

We are very excited about our move to MailChimp! Look for email in our new format. We also have a new NBV contact email, [info@northbethesdavillage.org](mailto:info@northbethesdavillage.org).

## THE IMPACT OF PERSISTENCE: BENCHES ON THE JOSIAH HENSON PKWY BIKE PATH

Pictured is Arline Sanchez, of Sulky Lane, with Councilmember Kate Stewart and aide Paul Ellis, on one of the two new benches installed along the Josiah Henson Pkwy bike path. Arline worked for two years to get benches installed along the MCDOT segment, and the councilmember's office was instrumental in accomplishing this. We now are hoping to have a bench or two installed on the Park & Planning-owned segment that runs through the woods from Tildenwood Drive. Councilmember Stewart and Paul Ellis said they'd contact Parks & Planning to start that process. Thank you, Arline!



## DIFFERING LEAF COLLECTION PROTOCOLS IN GREATER FARMLAND by Diana Keohane

Some homes in our community have their leaves picked up differently from others. You may start seeing signs alerting you to an upcoming date for leaf vacuuming. The dividing line for this is homes on and east of Tildenwood Drive (Tilden Woods). Those residents may pile leaves at the edge of the curb, out of the street. For all homes west of Tildenwood Drive (Old Farm & Walnut Woods), leaves will not be vacuumed and must be bagged and placed at the curb, not in the street, for pickup with weekly yard waste collection. Additional information can be found at [montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Leaf/index.html](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Leaf/index.html). Alternatively, leaves can be mulched into your lawn and/or piled into your garden beds to foster native insect habitat through the winter.

# FUN, LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: WHAT WE'VE DONE SO FAR IN 2024

Huge Thanks to Michele Stein, our Social Committee Chair

## ANNUAL MEETING WITH NEIGHBOR2NEIGHBOR EXHIBITS

During our spring election meeting at Farmland ES, nearly a dozen neighbors showcased their professions and hobbies. We have enormous talent & expertise in our community!



To register a table for our April 3, 2025 meeting, Email [info@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:info@greaterfarmland.org)



## COMMUNITY DAY

Free to all GFCAs paid members, this is our biggest event of the year. We enjoyed seeing each other at Farmland ES, and the kids loved the pony rides and bounce house. Catering was provided by Moby Dick House of Kabob. The Environmentalism-at-Home group gave out anti-mosquito kits, pots of native plants, and recycled/composted discards.



## KAREN LIPSY MEMORIAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Yard Sale was back in action! Over 52 households participated in this single-day, highly advertised event. Huge thanks to Suzanne Thorpe and Erica Caplan, who organized this event.

## JULY 4TH PARADE!!

The annual parade featured contests & prizes, along with popsicles and music.

## BLOCK PARTIES!!!!

Did you know that the GFCAs may reimburse up to \$100 of party expenses for these events? Go to [greaterfarmland.org/block-parties](http://greaterfarmland.org/block-parties) for an online form and helpful information to plan your next block party.


## 777VOTE.ORG—COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS INFORMATION

The County Board of Elections site has tabs for voting, voter registration, and all other topics. You can find out where and when to vote in person at an early voting location and where to drop off a completed ballot. The closest ballot box drop-off is in front of the Montgomery County Conference Center on Executive Blvd. The easiest early voting center to get to is Potomac Recreation Center at 11315 Falls Road. Early voting at that location starts runs from October 24-31.

Want information about the candidates? I go to [vote411.org](http://vote411.org), add my address, and it will guide me through the entire ballot and every candidate's answers to pertinent questions. It is run by the League of Women Voters Montgomery County.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE KENNEDY SHRIVER AQUATIC CENTER?

A leaky roof, worn out pool equipment, and a wonky HVAC system prompted the county to close the Kennedy Shriver Aquatic Center for badly need renovations. For 35 years, the neighborhood has enjoyed the center's 50 meter swim and dive pool, diving tower, 2 hydrotherapy areas, leisure pool, 200 foot water flume, and weight room. During the closure, swim clubs and high school teams are practicing at the Germantown Indoor Swim Center, while community swimmers' annual passes are honored at the county pools in White Oak, Olney, Germantown, and the new Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center. The renovations are expected to take 18 months with reopening projected for fall 2026.

 Do you have a concern about something you have experienced or observed in the community, need guidance on whom to contact about an issue, or are just looking for information, and you have not found it on the GFCAs listserv or website? The GFCAs Ombudswoman is here to assist. Contact Pamela at 240-606-6333. If you reach voicemail, please leave a brief message with your name, phone number, and the nature of your call.

Montgomery County and WMATA announced a memorandum of understanding for a North Bethesda national center for life sciences and medical research development partnership to be built on nearly 14 acres adjoining the North Bethesda Metro Station on Marinelli Rd. The development also will promote transit ridership and will include housing, office and retail space, along with public spaces. The life sciences sector will include medical and bio research, health data research, healthcare, and manufacturing. A developer has not been selected, but WMATA has released a request for bids. "When I was first elected five and a half years ago, my goal was to create a development scenario for White Flint because it's simply the largest redeveloped space on the Red Line," Elrich said. "There is no place else that you can pack in 15 million square feet in an environment that is basically ready for a lot of stuff on the ground. So this was a very unique place in Montgomery County." "[This is about] reimagining what this transit site could be, not just a stop ... but really above the cutting-edge innovation, a vibrant place and space for people to be able to live and to work and to meet all of their needs within walking distance of where they live and where they go to work," County Council President Andrew Friedson said during the press conference. The project is being supported by \$5 million in federal funding from Congress. Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen were on hand Monday to present a ceremonial check. "These funds are really competitive. They're not easy to come by," Cardin said. "But your plan, your partnership, set you up for success, and we're glad to be part of that coalition."

## GFCFA LISTSERV

Your dues pay for operating our community listserv, an email group that allows us to communicate in real time. Over 650 of us use the GFCFA listserv. GFCFA announcements, buying & selling or free items, traffic concerns, security events, lost & found items/deliveries/pets, tips, gardening, charity appeals, all of these are the "stuff" of our discussions. To be part of "what's happening," email [GFCFA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:GFCFA+subscribe@groups.io) to join or click the Community Email List icon at the bottom of the [GreaterFarmland.org](http://GreaterFarmland.org) homepage.

## DO YOU HAVE AN ACCOUNT IN OUR PRIVATE, SECURE COMMUNITY DIRECTORY?

- Present your household information any way you want, including whatever you'd like to be visible
- Pay dues seamlessly, with your membership status automatically updated with your online payment
- Have the most up-to-date information, so you don't have to wait for the printed directory to get updates
- Download the free app to your phone, so you have our directory with you when you need it



Go to [GFCFA.membershiptoolkit.com](http://GFCFA.membershiptoolkit.com) and click Register a new account.



### NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD ?

We invite you to join the Greater Farmland Civic Association and our community listserv, which is our major means of communication.  
Please email [directory@GreaterFarmland.org](mailto:directory@GreaterFarmland.org) so we can get a Welcome Bag to you.

## PLANTING TREES? GET YOUR DISCOUNTS AND FREEBIES HERE!

Fall is a great time to plant new trees and shrubs! If you are looking to add trees or to replace a tree recently removed, consider these great cost-saving programs offered through Montgomery County and the State of Maryland.

**(1) Discount coupons** for tree purchases. Montgomery County is offering a "Reforest Montgomery" coupon worth \$50 off on a qualifying tree with a retail value of at least \$75 from one of the participating garden centers. Maryland is offering a \$25 coupon toward the purchase of one qualifying tree with the retail value of \$50 or more at participating nurseries and garden centers. Best of all, these coupons can be used together for \$75 off the price of a tree that qualifies for both programs. For lists of qualifying trees (all natives) and participating centers (there are four listed which accept both coupons), visit the web sites below.

[dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/MarylandersPlantTrees/Print-Your-Coupon.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/MarylandersPlantTrees/Print-Your-Coupon.aspx)

[montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/forest-conservation-and-trees/reforest-montgomery/native-trees-discount/](http://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/environment/forest-conservation-and-trees/reforest-montgomery/native-trees-discount/)

**(2) Free trees planted for free courtesy of the Tree Montgomery program.** Just fill in the application form, meet with their experts on your site, finalize your tree choices, and sip your coffee in a comfy chair while the county installs your trees. All gardening should be this easy. Read more at [treemontgomery.org/how-it-works/](http://treemontgomery.org/how-it-works/)

## HOME SAFETY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FALL/WINTER

1. Have your fireplace cleaned and inspected before using it.
2. Stack firewood and lay mulch at least one foot from any wall to prevent termite intrusion into your house structure.
3. Clean gutters and downspouts after the leaves fall. Water intrusion promotes mold growth.
4. Clean out the clothes dryer flue to prevent fire. There are companies that will come do this.
5. Check that your smoke & carbon monoxide detectors are less than 10 years old to be sure they will alert when needed.