



# NEWSLETTER

## SPRING 2023

Newsletters and Events are posted on

[GreaterFarmland.org](http://GreaterFarmland.org)

[facebook.com/GreaterFarmland](https://facebook.com/GreaterFarmland)

**TWO OF OUR FAVORITE EVENTS ARE BACK!!**

**MARK THESE DATES**

*GFCFA is sponsoring the*



### **Karen Lipsy Memorial Community Yard Sale**

**Saturday, June 3**

Get all of your items ready for sale!

Save the date for great shopping within our community.

Sign-up and information at:

[greaterfarmland.org/community-yard-sale](http://greaterfarmland.org/community-yard-sale)

Available to volunteer? Contact Scott Keohane, [skeohane@yahoo.com](mailto:skeohane@yahoo.com).



### **And Community Day Party, Saturday June 10**

Come to Farmland Elementary School between 1—4 pm  
for a catered luncheon and fun for all ages.

Details on Page 3

### **OUR NEW COMPOST CREW DISCOUNT!— FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING** by Jerry Mindes

The GFCFA Environmentalism-at-Home team is pleased to share this update from Compost Crew's Michelle Hendrickson, the Community Outreach and Growth Associate:

'The Greater Farmland Community Program has been officially established in our system (woo!). All new composters in your community will benefit from a reduced rate of \$28 per month, instead of \$32. Our customer service has manually changed the rates for all established customers in the area. With only 14 more composters, we can reduce the rate to \$25 per month.'

To sign up, go to [compostcrew.com](http://compostcrew.com). Compost Crew provides a bin and picks up your food waste weekly at the curb. Email [michelle@compostcrew.com](mailto:michelle@compostcrew.com) to be sure you're part of the Greater Farmland discount.

Compost Crew customers receive an "environmental impact" report, totaling pounds and the equivalent carbon offset expressed as "miles driven." One customer diverted 318 lb. of food waste over 8 months, the equivalent of driving 321 miles. I know in my own two-person household, we're sending at least 7 or 8 lb. to compost each week.

Alternatively, you can bring food waste for composting to MOM's Organic Market, at Randolph Rd & Nebel Street, which has a free collection bin outside the entrance.

The county is evaluating establishing curbside food waste collection for countywide composting, but, until that is a reality, we have the option of discounted service from Compost Crew, taking food waste to Mom's Organic Market, or backyard composting.

I want to end this note by sharing the following testimonial from one of our neighbors:

*"I just wanted to drop you a note to again thank you and the Environment group for the compost talk several months ago. I have been doing the Mom's compost drop off since October and am astounded by how composting improved things for me in surprising ways. I have less food waste each week because I'm forced to plan for and think about disposal beyond just the trash can. I also found myself eating healthier because I can see the whole food waste in the compost versus the packaging waste from processed food in the trash can. And, most surprisingly, I found that my anxiety about climate change has eased a bit, perhaps because I am taking personal action in some small way. A few weeks ago I stumbled on the movie "Kiss the Ground" and learned the science behind it all. I recently signed up for Compost Crew and hope we get the neighborhood discount." (They did!)*

## WOODWARD HIGH SCHOOL AND SCHOOL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES by Julie Merberg

Woodward High School will open in 2024 as a holding school for Northwood High School for two years. In 2026, Woodward will open to our community with space for 2,159 students. Under current plans, students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or younger will attend Woodward. Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders (class of 2027) will not be moved during their senior year. It is unclear whether current 7<sup>th</sup> graders (class of 2028) will move to Woodward. After budget cuts that delayed the project and a downsizing of the capacity, construction is on track!

The next issue to be addressed is - who will attend Woodward High School? MCPS will be conducting a school boundary study to determine middle and high school district boundaries across eight HS clusters, including those for Woodward HS and Walter Johnson HS. The logical assumption is that Tilden Middle School students will be assigned to Woodward. Tilden Middle School – with only three grade levels - is rapidly approaching 1,200 students.

For context, the capacity of the newly constructed Tilden Middle School is 1,244 students, so the school, which opened in 2020, will be near capacity in the next year at its current growth rate. Tilden's neighbor, Luxmanor Elementary, also opened in 2020, and the student population of the newly constructed school will likely exceed its capacity of 746 students next Fall.

Key points about the boundary study:

- Elementary school boundaries are not included in the study.
- Boundary lines for eight high schools will be included in the study. Even though Woodward is being constructed to relieve overcrowding at Walter Johnson, the study includes boundary lines for WJ, Whitman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, and the five schools of the Down County Consortium (Blair, Einstein, Kennedy, Northwood, and Wheaton) along with their 14 feeder middle schools.

## STRATEGIES FOR REDUCING MOSQUITOS by Marjorie Raley

Commercial mosquito sprays are increasingly controversial, because they harm beneficial insects and their predators, such as birds.

Fight mosquitos effectively and cheaply with **THE BUCKET OF DOOM**, an inexpensive, yet effective trap you can make yourself at home. Here's how to set it up: Get a bucket, preferably a 5 gallon one, and put 3 or 4 handfuls of straw or hay inside. Fill the bucket about halfway. The ratio of hay to water is about 1 to 4. Let this sit for about 3 days until the hay or straw is clearly fermenting. Add a Mosquito Dunks pellet, which will float on top and slowly dissolve over 3 to 4 weeks. Set the bucket in a sunny or part-sunny location. If you have critters which will disturb the bucket, cover with chicken wire.

Here's how it works: Female mosquitos need to lay eggs in a little standing stagnant water. The fermented brew in your bucket is an irresistible location for the eggs because it multiplies the diatoms and algae that mosquito larvae eat. Those larvae are doomed, though, by the bacteria released by the Mosquito Dunks pellet. The bacteria is toxic to the larvae and fungus gnats, but harmless to other insects, wildlife, birds, and humans. A 6-pellet pack of Summit's Mosquito Dunks sells on amazon.com for about \$10. With each pellet lasting 3 to 4 weeks, that is more than enough to get you through the summer. You can put 1/4 of a pellet directly in your birdbath to keep it free of mosquito larvae.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TREES (AND WHY)? By Emily Mintz

This property, north of Josiah Henson Parkway and adjacent to the Cherington townhouses, is privately owned, so it was never part of the protected park that flanks the parkway to the west closer to our community. It is called the Wilgus property, and has been planned for development for the past two decades or so, most recently authorized in the 2018 master plan. This is small consolation for the loss of the forest, but is not unexpected. There will be a maximum of 1,274,498 sq. ft. total of mixed-use development (residential, commercial, and retail), to be completed in 4 phases. 15% of the residential units will comply with affordable housing requirements.



## NAME CHANGES FOR THE PARKWAY AND METRO STATION

The Montrose Parkway has been renamed Josiah Henson Parkway. This should eliminate some of the confusion between Montrose Road and the parkway. The parkway begins at the traffic light in front of St. Elizabeth Catholic Church, with Montrose Road taking a left at the light and Josiah Henson Parkway heading straight in the far right 2 lanes.

At long last, the White Flint Metro Station has been renamed North Bethesda Metro Station. The new state budget has allocated funds to install a 2nd entrance to the station at the corner of Old Georgetown Road and Rockville Pike, opposite Pike & Rose.

# Party ON!



**SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1-4 PM**  
**BEHIND FARMLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

## **GREATER FARMLAND'S FAMOUS ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY**

Join us for

- Mediterranean feast by Moby Dick
- Tents & chairs for adults to socialize
- Desserts brought by us, as potluck
- Show by Prehistoric Reptile Zoo
- Bounce house
- Temporary "tattoos" for the littles

Our community party is open to everyone and is FREE for GFCA member households. Not a member? \$35 at the gate will admit your household. To join ahead of time, go to [greaterfarmland.org/membership](http://greaterfarmland.org/membership) for instructions and easy online payment.

Want to volunteer to help on party day? Email Michele Stein, [michelecutler@yahoo.com](mailto:michelecutler@yahoo.com).

We aim to reduce our earth impact while we enjoy our party.  
 Look for food scrap recycling and compostable tableware disposal bins. If you want to help with the recycling effort, contact Marjorie Raley or Marta Vogel, [marjorie.raley@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.raley@gmail.com) or [marta@limelightdrama.com](mailto:marta@limelightdrama.com).

### **THE ENVIRONMENTALISM-AT-HOME GROUP: TONS OF RESOURCES**

We've had many Zoom seminars on various topics and host a comprehensive recycling and resource page. Join our community-wide effort to reduce our household carbon footprints. No effort is too small! For information, go to: [greaterfarmland.org/neighbor-talks-environmentalism-at-home](http://greaterfarmland.org/neighbor-talks-environmentalism-at-home) & [greaterfarmland.org/caring-for-our-environment](http://greaterfarmland.org/caring-for-our-environment).



### **HOW ABOUT ORGANIZING A BLOCK PARTY OR IMPROVING YOUR STREET ISLAND?**

Among the many advantages of the Greater Farmland Civic Association are the \$100 grant program for block parties and for cul-de-sac island landscaping improvements. If you want to organize either of these for your block, contact [info@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:info@greaterfarmland.org). The board is always looking for ways to enhance our community and encourage neighborliness.



### **DO YOU HAVE BOOKKEEPING OR ACCOUNTING SKILLS?**

If so, **GFCA needs you!** The Treasurer position is vacant, and this is a position that needs to be filled. The board will give you all the support you need. While our books are being carefully maintained and monitored, we need a higher skill set. For more information, contact Diana Keohane, [president@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:president@greaterfarmland.org).

**IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT IN THE DIRECTORY?** Emily Mintz, membership & directory chair P. 4  
**WILL YOU RECEIVE A PRINT DIRECTORY THIS SUMMER?**

Paid-up members will receive one print directory per household. We anticipate distribution to occur sometime around August. Members also can view all household listings in the online directory and in the mobile app. If you haven't paid dues yet, there's still time to be included in the print distribution. Contact [membership@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:membership@greaterfarmland.org) or call me at 301-704-2913, if you need instructions.



Please check your household listing to see if there's anything you want to change, add, or delete. To confirm your listing and membership status, log into [gfc.membershiptoolkit.com](http://gfc.membershiptoolkit.com). Every address has a listing in the directory, regardless of GFC membership; you can edit yours by registering an account on that site. The directory is visible only to our community members.

**QUESTIONS FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY? CONTACT 311**

Dial "311" or go online to [mc311.com](http://mc311.com), to report a repair needed for a street light on a metal pole, dead street tree, potholes, permitting questions, schedule a bulk trash collection, report other issues, get answers to any questions, or other county business.



**POLITICAL NEWS: OUR DISTRICT 16 MARYLAND STATE DELEGATION**

A lot has happened this year: Former Senator Susan Lee is now Gov. Moore's Maryland Secretary of State

- Ariana Kelly is our new senator, 301-858-3124, [ariana.kelly@senate.state.md.us](mailto:ariana.kelly@senate.state.md.us)
- Marc Korman is majority leader in the House of Delegates, 301-858-3649, [marc.korman@house.state.md.us](mailto:marc.korman@house.state.md.us)
- Sarah Wolek has taken Sen. Kelly's delegate seat, 301-858-3642, [sarah.wolek@house.state.md.us](mailto:sarah.wolek@house.state.md.us)
- Sara Love continues in her post, 301-858-3454, [sara.love@house.state.md.us](mailto:sara.love@house.state.md.us) **Our thanks for their outstanding service!**

**INTRODUCING OUR NEW DISTRICT 4 COUNCILMEMBER** by Ed Rich

Kate Stewart was elected in November 2022 to serve as the councilmember for the newly created District 4, which includes Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Montgomery Hills, Kensington, Garrett Park, parts of Chevy Chase and North Bethesda. Kate, her husband Jon, and their rescue dog Gracie have lived in Montgomery County for 30 years, mostly in Takoma Park, where she most recently served as mayor. Among her major focuses have been local climate change mitigation, systemic underlying economic inequalities and racial injustices, housing creation and affordability and, along with Council Chair Evan Glass, Vision Zero. She chairs the Government Operations Committee at the Council and sits on the Transportation & Environment Committee. Kate also chairs the Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), a regional organization with membership of 300 elected officials from 24 local governments in the DMV area, the MD and VA state legislatures, and U.S. Congress. She received her BA from Haverford College, her MS from the University of Maryland, and taught as an Adjunct Professor at American University.



She is interested in learning as much as she can about North Bethesda and our priorities and is devoted to constituent service. You can contact Kate's office at the Council at 240-777-7968 or by email, [councilmember.stewart@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:councilmember.stewart@montgomerycountymd.gov).

2023 Membership—Renew or Join NOW  
[GreaterFarmland.org/membership](http://GreaterFarmland.org/membership)

Your Civic Association is an all-volunteer effort  
By Neighbors for Neighbors

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



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