



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024

Newsletters and Events are posted on

GreaterFarmland.org

facebook.com/GreaterFarmland

Our Next Event Has a New Twist:

THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY GENERAL MEETING PLUS NEIGHBOR2NEIGHBOR BUSINESS/INTEREST FAIR

Farmland Elementary School, Wednesday, April 3, 7 pm



Do you have a business or hobby that you'd like to share with the rest of the Greater Farmland community? There are so many talented folks with skills from astronomy, to photography, to writing, to running a successful business.



We're hosting a Neighbor2Neighbor event so we can all mingle after the program and board of directors election. We will be giving away mosquito dunk kits, too!

Tables will be set up around the all-purpose room perimeter so we can share our talents, interests, and business enterprises with the rest of the community.

Bring your exhibits, materials, information, etc. for display, or come and enjoy the brilliance of our fellow neighbors. Email mintz.emily@gmail.com or marta@limelightdrama.com to reserve your table.

COMMUNITY DAY PARTY, Saturday June 1

Our biggest annual gathering, with catered lunch & entertainment.
Additional information will be on the listserv and GreaterFarmland.org.



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 for instructions and easy online payment.

Want to volunteer to help on party day? Email Michele Stein, michelecutler@yahoo.com.

Follow plans on the GFCA listserv and GreaterFarmland.org for these events:



JULY 4TH PARADE

HALLOWEEN PARTY



COMMUNITY MEETING, DECEMBER 4

Board Meetings are held bi-monthly and are open to all community members.
Zoom links are posted on the listserv and greaterfarmland.org.



Will We Have A Community Yard Sale?

Without an organizer (or two) from the community, it may not occur. Would you be interested in setting up this popular event? The methodology is in place, and Scott Keohane will be happy to show you how to follow through.

Available to volunteer? Contact Scott Keohane, skeohane@yahoo.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES!

SCHOOLS CORNER by Julie Merberg

If you have driven on Old Georgetown Road recently, you are likely well aware of the progress being made on the construction of the new Woodward High School. The project is currently on track to open to students in August 2024. Unfortunately, the construction timeline of Northwood High School has been extended, which will in turn delay by one year the re-opening of Woodward High School to provide much needed capacity for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) and to alleviate overcrowding at Walter Johnson High School.

Previously, MCPS planned to relocate students assigned to Northwood High School to the newly constructed high school on Old Georgetown Road for two years while Northwood was being rebuilt. After serving as holding school, Woodward would open to local students in August 2026. However, the construction timeline for Northwood has been extended, and now Woodward will be used as a holding school for three years delaying the re-opening of the school until August 2027.

This one year delay will have a direct impact on current and future Walter Johnson High School students as WJ continues to operate at 130% of its capacity. The school has added 15 relocatable classrooms, but students are finding that hallways and classrooms are crowded as the school struggles to accommodate over 3,000 students in a space built for 2,300.

In other Walter Johnson High School news, the school's long-serving principal Jennifer Baker retired in December. WJ vice principal Nicole Morgan is serving as acting principal, and Ms. Baker's permanent replacement will be announced in the near future. In the wake of the departure of Superintendent Monifa McKnight, who resigned following controversy over the handling of sexual harassment allegations against a former principal, the principal appointment process may be slowed.

NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE NEWS AND EVENTS by Jean Hochron



NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE is a volunteer-led organization that supports community members, aged 55+, residing in 20852. For information about our upcoming events and to join our email distribution list, visit northbethesdavillage.org or contact us by email at northbethesdavillage@gmail.com.

TEEN JOB LIST—NEED HELP?

Are you a teen looking for babysitting or odd jobs within the community? Or, are you a neighbor looking for someone to weed your garden, carry things, shovel snow, or babysit?

Wendy Perry runs the Teen Job List, wendyperry6713@gmail.com.



COMPOST CREW UPDATE by Jerry Mindes

When left in the trash, food waste goes to the county incinerator, using fossil fuels and generating pollution. Composted food waste supports organic agriculture. Compost Crew is a private composting company that offers a weekly pick-up service of food waste. The GFCA negotiated a reduced rate, based on the number of subscribed households. Currently, 28 homes receive weekly pickups from Compost Crew, at \$28 per month. (The starting price was \$34 a month). If six more households join, the monthly price will be reduced to \$25 for all participating households.

To help reach our target goal of 34 households, Casey Henderson will be reaching out to families on his block of Rolling House Road to encourage them to sign up. If you a current Compost Crew subscriber, please consider doing the same on your block. If you are interested in signing up, please contact Casey, ch2001@aol.com, and Jerry Mindes, jerrymindes@gmail.com, to let us know. When we get to six new interested households, we will contact Compost Crew as a group and secure the lower rate of \$25/mo for all 34 households.

Let's do this! You can visit Compost Crew's website at compostcrew.com.

FIGHT JUST THE MOSQUITOS by Marjorie Raley

Commercial mosquito sprays and commercial mosquito spraying companies harm beneficial insects and their predators, such as birds.

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

Here's how it works: The fermented brew in your bucket is an irresistible location for female mosquitos to lay their eggs, because it multiplies what mosquito larvae eat. Those larvae are doomed, 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, pets, and humans. A 6-pellet pack of Summit's Mosquito Dunks sells on amazon.com for about \$10, and is more than enough to get you through the summer. Put 1/4 of a pellet directly in your birdbath to keep it free of mosquito larvae, too.

GFCA will be giving away BUCKET OF DOOM KITS at the April 3 General Meeting. Come get yours!



HALLOWEEN PARTY & PUMPKIN COMPOSTING

The weekend before Halloween, GFCA held a great party, costumes and all, at Farmland Elementary. A week later, GFCA sponsored the collection of pumpkins for composting, after smashing some of them with a bat—total fun!



WINTER HOLIDAY CONCERT ON FARMLAND DRIVES CUL-DE-SAC

We had a lovely informal concert from our neighbor, Kevin Gebo, and his US Army Brass Quintet. Folks brought folding chairs and shared refreshments. Great music, great friends!



JANUARY'S WINTER-ON-THE FARMLAND PARTY

GFCA's big winter party included a magician show, birds of prey presentation and discussion, cookies by Pike & Rose's Summer House, hot chocolate by Jen Eckel of Compass Realty, held a book exchange, and featured our baking skills. The Environment group shared materials about the Homegrown National Park project and helped the kids make their own "seed bombs" to spread native wildflowers in bare patches.

NEIGHBOR TALKS ZOOM PRESENTATION OF THE HOMEGROWN NATIONAL PARK PROJECT

This year, many of us are joining this project, homegrownnationalpark.org, to create small native planting areas that can promote the local ecosystem. Check greaterfarmland.org's environmental pages for more information.

All over the Greater Farmland community, neighbors are holding block parties, meeting in clubs and interest groups, and sharing with each other.

GARDEN CLUB by Sue Schick

Everyone is invited to join our Greater Farmland Garden Club! We meet monthly, on Sundays, from 2-3:30. In the past, we've talked about weeds, shade gardening, ferns, ground covers, composting, good and bad insects, erosion issues, favorite tools, pollinator plants, and many other topics.

So come and bring your ideas! Contact Sue Schick at 240-498-2784 if you have any questions.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

The GFCA board has adopted a new sponsorship policy. If you live in our community and would like to contribute, you may provide a service or product that an event could use at one event per year. Contact info@greaterfarmland.org or michelecutler@yahoo.com

I-270/BELTWAY TOLL LANES AND LANE WIDENING by Ed Rich

In January, the federal government rejected the State's grant application for the proposed toll lane and lane widening projects on the Beltway and I-270 and the Governor's proposed \$3 billion budget reduction in transportation funding due to slowing state revenue. On February 8, I, along with fellow members of the MD Advocates for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) Coalition, spent the day at the MD Senate and House offices requesting that the funding be reallocated to projects that would actually provide equitable and efficient transportation, alleviating traffic congestion. We advocated that the limited funding for transportation provide the greatest benefit to everyone, such as establishing a stable source of funding for METRO; expansion of daily MARC rail service; reliable, affordable and convenient bus rapid transit, providing affordable workforce housing adjacent to transportation, and employer tax incentives for telework and staggered work hours. We continue to advocate on behalf of our neighborhood and others affected by this ill-conceived project and welcome your input.

Information on the MAST Coalition and its initiatives and proposed solutions can be found at MAST Coalition, mastcoalition.org.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM ANNAPOLIS—DISTRICT 16 by Ed Rich

Delegate Sarah Wolek, who came to our Community Meeting in November, is attending her first session of the Maryland General Assembly and is focused on creating policies that enhance human flourishing and well-being. She has sponsored bills to establish pilot financial literacy programs for college students at UMD College Park and Morgan State Univ., to establish a pilot program within the Dept. of Aging, to create a consortium of senior villages (such as our North Bethesda Senior Village) with common administrative staff so that individual senior villages can provide direct services to seniors, and to create more Green Schools, supporting students as they connect with nature and become environmental stewards.

Delegate Marc Korman, who chairs the House Transportation and Environment Committee, sponsored a bill that has passed the MD House that removes restrictions on Metro funding. He also sponsored a bill to address the increasing incidents of cultural and religious bias on a statewide level. The legislation would require each county school board, colleges, and universities to train employees on antisemitism and islamophobia and require the State Dept. of Education to conduct an independent assessment of Holocaust education in state middle and high schools.

Sign up for their newsletters at marc.korman@house.state.md.us and sarah.wolek@house.state.md.us

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 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 gfcfa.membershiptoolkit.com. Every address has a listing in the directory; you can edit yours by registering an account on that site. The directory is visible only to our community members.

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!

Go to greaterfarmland.org/neighbor-talks-environmentalism-at-home and greaterfarmland.org/caring-for-our-environment.



Join or Renew Your Membership



A Big *Thank You* to Those Who've Already Renewed for 2024! GFCFA Dues Pay For:

- * *Community Day* * *Winter-on-the-Farmland Party* * *Halloween Party* * *Email Listserv* * *July 4th Parade* *
- * *Landscaping Improvements and Maintenance* * *Online & Print Directories* * *General Meeting Programs* *
- * *Website and Facebook Page* * *Newsletters* * *Advocacy for Community Interests* * *Block Party Support* *
- * *Environmentalism-at-Home Programs* * *Candidate Forums* * *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 will be automatically 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.

2024 Membership—Renew or Join NOW
GreaterFarmland.org/membership

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

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024



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