



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2016

OCTOBER 1 THROUGH DECEMBER 31



News

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WWW.GREATERFARMLAND.ORG

IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF US TO RENEW OUR MEMBERSHIPS

By Mail...Use the addressed envelope to mail a check to our GFCA treasurer, Tom Biggs, 11710 Magruder Lane. Checks can be made payable to GFCA for \$25.

Online...Log into the GFCA directory* at AtoZdirectories/home. Click the Purchases tab, follow the prompts to purchase the 2015 membership using your credit card or PayPal. As an active member, you can have online access to the entries of all households in the community.

Please be sure to reference your payment to your home address so that the payment can be definitively directed to your household

In Person...You can bring a check to our next community event.

WHY NOT TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO UPDATE YOUR INFO IN THE DIRECTORY?

By Mail... **RETURN THE POSTCARD ONLY IF YOU HAVE UPDATED OR NEW DATA FOR THE DIRECTORY.** Please be sure to include an email address.

Online...Log into the directory* to edit your household. Add family members, phone numbers, email addresses, and use the Vendor/N2N tab to recommend contractors and advertise services members of your family can provide, such as babysitting and yard cleanup.

Email...Send your updated or new information to directory@GreaterFarmland.org

In Person...Bring your information to the next community event.

If at all possible, please provide an email address so that you can receive a login and password for the online directory and we can email notices and announcements to you.

Households that have provided no information will have names inserted, derived from public property tax records. If you *do not* want this information included, you must "opt out" by indicating on the enclosed postcard. If you have opted out in the past, you don't need to do it again.

* If you never received or have lost your login information, email directory@GreaterFarmland.org, and we will respond with an introductory email with your login and instructions.

Emily Mintz, Chair

Letter from the President

Greetings from the Greater Farmland Civic Association. A warm welcome to those of you who have recently moved into our community.

The GFCA has had a busy year sponsoring community events. The 3rd annual community yard sale had record participation of 64 households. Participants sold many items and made some money in the process. Thanks to Karen Lipsy for her hard work.

Despite the rain, we had a wonderful July 4th Parade and celebration at the Old Farm Pool, complete with street flags, fire trucks, police cars, and our own patriotic band. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered your time and talents in order to make this event memorable.

We have had a busy year representing you on issues of neighborhood concern. Your Association worked hard to make sure that our voices are heard by the Board of Education and the County Council regarding the proposed relocation of the Tilden Middle School to its original location on Tilden Lane. We will continue to remain active this fall as the Board of Education carries out its feasibility study to ensure that the new school meets our kids' needs, addresses potential traffic concerns, and ensures the safety of walkers and bikers.

We provided testimony to the Maryland Public Service Commission, opposing the proposed merger of Pepco with Exelon, arguing that it offered limited benefits and was inconsistent with the goal of moving away from traditional power generation and toward renewable energy.

GFCA is working with other organizations, such as the Friends of White Flint, the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the Park Potomac Homeowners Association, and the Montgomery Square Citizens Association to prevent the elimination of the Ride-On Route 42, which currently serves our community on Montrose Road. We are confident that our efforts will lead to a reversal of the discontinuation decision by the County Council.

We are monitoring local redevelopment to ensure that projects are consistent with the vision of an urban town center that is walker and biker friendly and will be a lively and active destination for us.

As members of the White Flint Implementation Committee and the Friends of White Flint, GFCA advocates for the creation of a Regional Community/Senior Center at Wall Park and the Shriver Aquatic Center, the creation of more green space, and measures to ensure that new development has limited impact on our neighborhood streets.

A diverse group of speakers made presentations to our community this past year at our general meetings at Farmland ES. Our Second District Community Relations Officer advised us on home, neighborhood and traffic safety, a home inspector told us how to address issues within our homes, representatives from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission talked about brown water and the state of our water and sewer pipes, and representatives from the Montgomery County Parks Department discussed plans for upgrading the Tilden Recreation Center. This project was initiated by the GFCA, and we provided input as to what we would like to see in a renovated recreation center.

Many thanks to our dedicated Board members for their yeoman's work on behalf of the Association and the community. *(continued on next page)*



Greater Farmland Neighbors enjoy a block party

Next Community General Meeting

November 11, 7:30 pm—9 pm

Farmland Elementary School All Purpose Room

GreaterFarmland.org

Info@GreaterFarmland.org

Beautification Committee

A landscape designer has produced a planting design for many of the common areas, and a professional contractor has been hired to begin implementation of the plan.

In August, the contractor weeded, pruned and mulched, with existing landscape. The contractor applied weed abatement fabric to some areas and organic weed killer to traffic circles and medians.

To report a dead tree along a street, call 311 or fill out the form "Request to Inspect, Remove or Prune County Tree" posted on the County website at mc311.com and Search for Street Trees.

Pamela Levine, Chair



Teen Job Listserve

If you are a teen or young adult in the community and are interested in doing jobs like babysitting, yard work, and pet sitting, please let me know and I will add you to the **Teen Job Listserve**. I connect teens looking for work with those in the community needing help. The list of teens is kept private and contact information is released only to people asking for assistance. If you would like to join the Teen Job Listserve, email me at wwwperry1@verizon.net and let me know your age and email address. To those in the community who need to hire a young person to help out, please also feel free to contact me. I will be glad to advertise your need to our Teens.

Wendy Perry, Coordinator

President's letter, continued

GFCA's committees remain active. Some committee reports are included in this newsletter. The Seniors Committee continues to work on ways to allow our seniors to continue to live in their own homes and to make sure that our neighborhood looks out for its senior neighbors. The Government Affairs Committee is following proposed actions by the County Council that would impact our community and has been looking at ways to reduce our dependence on traditional forms of energy and on dangerous lawn care chemicals. Many thanks go to the Chairs and dedicated members of all committees for their hard work on behalf of our community.

Finally, the GFCA continues to support our neighborhood listserv, which now has over 600 participants and provides valuable and timely information to our community and allows many of you to share your ideas, service providers and, in general, communicate with your neighbors. Many thanks to our moderators for your efforts in ensuring that the listserv remains a vital source of neighborhood information and communication.

As the Association enters its fourth year, we look forward to working to keep our community vibrant and strong, as well as providing opportunities for us to get to know each other and fun activities for all. As always, we welcome your suggestions and concerns. Most importantly, we welcome your involvement. Please join or renew your membership in your GFCA and contribute to keeping our community the great place it is.

Ed Rich,
President

GFCA Officers

Ed Rich, President
Kevin Novak, Vice President
Peggy Slye, Secretary
Tom Biggs, Treasurer
Meg Gold, Director
Toby Levin, Director
Peter Rumm, Director
Marta Vogel, Director
Lisa Woll, Director

Energy and Government Affairs Committee

The committee now has a charter to define the scope of its work. It will advise and assist the Board on issues largely related to our county government and utility services. It will also provide news and tips on energy efficiency, smart home ideas, pollution, noise etc.

TIPS from Committee Chair Paul Arveson:

- County governments handle a vast number of services for residents. Montgomery County has made it easy to obtain information simply by dialing 311 for non-emergency government services or use this web link: mc311.com

- Montgomery County has set a goal of 70% recycling of trash by 2020. Note that housekeeping services may not follow recycling rules. If you use a service, please pre-sort your trash into the recycling bins before your housekeeper comes. This will help our county achieve its goal.

- We are entering the "noisy" season -- the season of leaf blowers. Our county has a noise ordinance restricting noise levels in residential areas. The limit is lower from 9pm - 7am. Some landscaping employees do not have hearing protection, although this is an OSHA requirement. We can provide you with quality earplugs to give to employees; contact me if you want some. We include a safety message in English and Spanish.

As we interact with utilities and local government agencies, we will pass along news and tips to the

community via this newsletter, the email list, and in community meetings. Feel free to contact me if you have some tips to share regarding county services. PaulArveson@gmail.com 301 523-4540

Paul Arveson, Chair

Neighborhood Reminders

- ◆ If you are posting private or commercial signs (estate sale, rental, lost pet, services advertised, etc.), please remove them in a timely manner. The county has regulations that prohibit most signage not on private property. Civic Association signs will be posted and removed accordingly, as the county approves.
- ◆ For homes with sidewalks, please trim encroaching shrubs and overhanging trees
- ◆ Call the county at 311 to report potholes
- ◆ It is illegal to leave yard trimmings in the street or to put them in the storm drains. Please ask your landscaping company to comply with county law.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in maintaining our community safety and aesthetics

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee has been moving! We ...

- filed a letter to the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation imploring it to **keep Ride On Route 42** on Montrose Road and to look at other ways to cut costs that don't involve eliminating the bus many of our neighbors depend on.
- sent a letter to Farmland Elementary parents reminding them to **drive safely** on our neighborhood streets.
- made **connections with the Luxmanor and North Farm citizens groups** so we can work together on common interests. We
- talked with the county about the traffic counters on some of our neighborhood streets and found out that they are part of the **White Flint traffic study**, a report on which is coming out soon.
- We will be pursuing traffic law enforcement on our streets with an **increased police presence**, as well as trying to get all-way **stop signs** at some key intersections.

Keep Our Streets Safe - Follow all the traffic laws when driving in our community and remind your teen drivers and others to do the same. Particularly as it starts to get dark earlier and the sun comes up later in the morning, be aware of kids traveling to and from bus stops in the dark. Please help make our community a safe place to move around and follow the rules of the road (and sidewalk) when you are a driver, cyclist, and pedestrian. Thank you!

Tracy Miller, Chair