



FALL NEWSLETTER 2018

2019 Membership Renewal Issue

GreaterFarmland.org
facebook.com/GreaterFarmland

Our precinct has traditionally high voter turnout—Be part of it!

VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6

Farmland Elementary School, 7 am to 8 pm

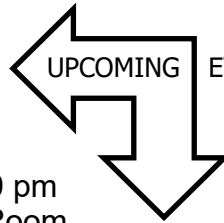
Need an absentee ballot or want to Vote Early?

Montgomery County Board of Elections Info at 777vote.org or call 240-777-8500

GENERAL MEETING

State Delegation Priorities Update
Community Solar Opportunities

Monday, November 12, 7:00 pm to 9 pm
Farmland Elem. School All-Purpose Room



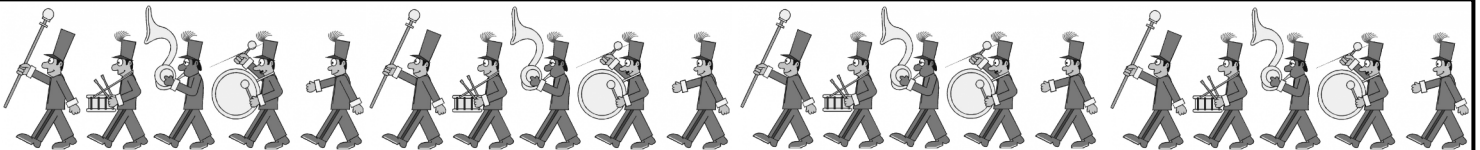
EVENTS in November and December

Sunday, December 9, 1 to 4 pm
Farmland Elem. School All-Purpose Room

Fresh from the election, our District 16 delegation to the State General Assembly will talk about their priorities for the upcoming legislative session in Annapolis and hear from you on issues of importance to our community. Neighborhood Sun Community Solar will tell us how to power your house using solar energy without the need for solar panels.

WINTER-ON-THE-FARMLAND HOLIDAY PARTY

Celebrate the season with your neighbors! We'll have a DJ, crafts, birds of prey from the Raptor Conservancy and ...Santa! Bring cookies or desserts to share and shelf-stable foods for the Manna Food Pantry.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR GFCA MEMBERSHIP

- * Community Day BBQ * Neighborhood Yard Sale * Winter-on-the-Farmland Holiday Party * Garden Club *
- * Landscaping Improvements and Maintenance * July 4th Parade * General Meeting Programs *
- * Government Advocacy * Email Listserv * Website and Facebook Page * Newsletters *
- * Online & Print Directories * Candidate Forum * Block Party Support * Welcome Baskets*

Please join for 2019.
Annual dues are only \$35.
After five years with no increase, we are raising dues to fund our community activities.

Online...Log into the GFCA directory* at AtoZdirectories/home on a computer (not a mobile device). Click the Purchases tab, then follow the prompts to purchase the 2019 membership using your **credit card or PayPal**. Your membership renewal will be automatically reflected in the directory.

By Mail...Use the enclosed addressed envelope to mail a check to our GFCA membership chair, Emily Mintz, 6712 Sulky Lane. Make **checks payable to GFCA for \$35**. Please allow time for us to manually update your membership and deposit your check.

Over 500 of our households were paid members of GFCA in 2018!
Let's continue to build our warm and caring community.
Join or Renew your membership today.

*email directory@GreaterFarmland.org with your address if you need login/password information.



TILDEN WOODS PARK LITTER CLEAN-UP

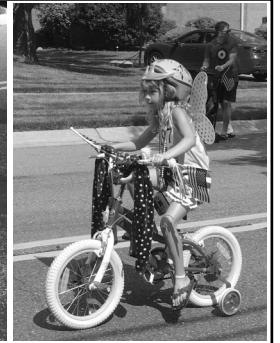
30 volunteers showed up on a dreary April Saturday morning to clean up the creek and park area. It was a friendly and helpful group, and resulted in the collection of 35 bags of trash, 12 bags of recyclables, and additional recyclable metal debris. The park looks great!



This event was co-sponsored by Greater Farmland Civic Assoc, Luxmanor Citizens Assoc, and Friends of Cabin John Creek, Inc

JULY 4TH PARADE & POOL DAY

This year's July 4th celebration came with a new parade route and venue. Thank you to the Tilden Woods Pool for hosting our community Independence Day gathering and to the Police and Fire Departments for, once again, leading the parade. Families decorated bikes, trikes, wagons, scooters, and dogs. Flags, bandanas, and bottles of water (on a very hot day!) were provided by GFCA. A huge thank you goes to Toby Levin and her team for putting up flags & brackets along our new parade route, and to our 23 flag sponsors.



I-270 IS AGAIN A TARGET FOR WIDENING OR TOLL LANES

The GFCA Board filed a comment with the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding the Managed Lane Study for Interstates 495 & 270. The letter states, in part, that Governor Hogan's study is flawed, as it focuses on ways to move traffic faster. The Board argues that the state should be looking at a comprehensive approach on how to manage future growth in a way that allows for continued economic growth without the need for major new road infrastructure. The state should be figuring out ways to improve public transportation options that make other modes of transportation more accessible, affordable, reliable, with viable alternatives to the single-occupancy vehicle. Expansion of the METRO and MARC systems, building the Corridor Cities Transitway, bus-rapid transit and neighborhood public transportation options, such as regularly scheduled jitneys, should be explored. Smart growth around areas with strong public transportation infrastructure that (1) provides opportunities for people to live, work and play in a single area, (2) provides housing for persons of all income levels, and (3) requires modal splits that significantly reduce single occupancy vehicle traffic need to be prioritized and incentivized. Updates to the study and hearings will be publicized on the GFCA listserv.

RENOVATED ENTRANCE COMPLETED WITH MORE TO COME



Your dues in action!

A dedicated corps of GFCA Landscape/Beautification volunteers completed its first project at the Old Farm entrance at the corner of Old Bridge Road & Hitching Post Lane. Our next projects include the Tilden Woods entrance at Montrose Road & Tildenwood Drive, along with the circle at Stonewood Lane & Old Stage Road.

Trillium Landscape has been contracted to maintain prominent traffic islands and consulted on the design and selection of plants for this project.

New projects will be announced via the GFCA listserv.

MORE SUCCESSES AND FUN THIS PAST SUMMER...

COMMUNITY DAY BBQ



Didn't we have a great time??? We had lunch catered by Mission BBQ (delivered in their army truck—a big hit with the kids), shared desserts brought by many of us, a DJ playing music and games with the kids, a bounce house, games in the fields, the Rolling House Little Library book exchange, and tables set up under the tent for the rest of us to sit and socialize. This event was pioneered by GFCA last year, and is now an annual highlight of our social calendar.

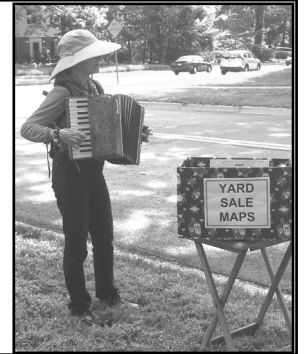


Plan for next summer—Put June 8, 2019, on your calendar for our next Community Day

NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE

Thank you to all of the participants and volunteers that made the Yard Sale such a success! This year, 67 households cleaned out garages, attics, and basements, selling a huge variety of items on a flawless, sunny day. Those who weren't selling were out visiting their neighbors, socializing and shopping :-)

This event requires an extraordinary amount of organization and number of volunteers. Thank you to Karen Lipsy, Mark Friedman, Rick Gentry, and the whole team of sign-installers, map distributors, advertising gurus, and list-keepers.



TALKING TRASH

Free Paper Shredding

at Walter Johnson High School on **November 3rd from 10 am to 2 pm**. Limit of 5 paper bags or small cardboard boxes. For more information, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/programs/paper-shredding

Free Bulk Trash and Appliance/Scrap Metal Curbside Pickups

County residents who receive county trash service can request up to 5 bulk curbside collections a year. This includes mattresses & box springs, rugs, and furniture. For info or to schedule a pickup, call 311 or visit montgomerycountymd.gov/bulktrash. Large metal items can also be collected curbside, montgomerycountymd.gov/scrapmetal.

Items collected at curbside go to the landfill, and are not recycled or reused.

Recycling Matters

You can drop off many items for recycling at the Shady Grove Solid Waste Transfer Station (just south of Shady Grove Road on the Pike). Information and the drop-off location can be found at montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/dropoff. Click on "What materials does the transfer station accept?" Acceptable items include appliances/scrap metal, electronics, most light bulbs, rechargeable batteries, large hard plastics, discarded engine oil, hazardous materials, and usable-condition building components. These include ceiling fans, appliances, toilets and sinks, kitchen/bath cabinets, and floor tiles. Under the Recyclables heading, click on "building materials in usable condition."

Take the "Aiming for Zero Waste" survey! Give your ideas and feedback at montgomerycountymd.gov/sws.

Request a free composting bin at montgomerycountymd.gov/sws/composting/bins.

Donate Items for Re-use

Furniture, professional clothing, and home goods in good condition: A Wider Circle, awidercircle.org. Arrange for pickup of furniture, but home goods and clothing must be delivered to 9159 Brookville Rd., Silver Spring.

Books in good condition: donation bins at the libraries, the Friends of the Library Montgomery County used book store, folmc.org, or save them for the Walter Johnson High School spring book sale

Toys, childrens' books, furniture, home goods: National Center for Children and Families on Greentree Rd in Bethesda nccf-cares.com

Sports Equipment: Leveling the Playing Field, levelingtheplyingfield.org

Re-usable building components: Discards from your remodeling jobs (cabinetry, doors, windows, wood flooring, sinks, working appliances, countertops, lighting fixtures, etc.) can be tax-deductible contributions if you get them appraised before pick-up by Second Chance, secondchanceinc.org.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS AND TIPS

The Garden Club has taken root quite vigorously! Our meetings have included lectures and discussions on Dealing with Deer, Gardening in the Shade, Native Plants, and Gardening to Protect Pollinators. We've toured several member gardens, and have lots planned. We are excited to invite anyone who might be interested in joining our group.



Future meetings are scheduled for Sundays from 2 to 3:30 on October 21, November 18, December 16, January 20, February 17, March 17, and April 28. Please look for topics and locations on the listserv, or email Karen Fricke to be added to the contact list: karenafricke@gmail.com.

- Check houseplants for insects before bringing them inside. Wash off pests or apply houseplant insecticide to control aphids, scale, spider mites, and mealy bugs.
- Prune tree and shrub branches this month only if they are dead, diseased, or damaged. Wait until after all the leaves have dropped for all other pruning.
- Powdery Mildew is a common disease of dogwood, lilac, and other landscape plants. Affected leaves turn white and droop. Prune to increase air circulation. No fungicide sprays will be effective now, but can be applied next year, or use horticultural oil labeled for powdery mildew control.
- Lettuce, spinach, arugula, and kale can be planted through the middle of the month.
- Leaves that fall onto the lawn can be run over several times with a lawnmower until pieces are small and left to decompose naturally. They'll release nutrients and add organic matter to the soil; they won't hurt the turf. However, deep piles of leaves need to be removed or turf will smother and die.
- Mid-October is the recommended cut-off for seeding a lawn, but a few weeks later is OK if it's warm.



DO YOU WANT TO CONTACT YOUR GFOA DIRECTORS, COMMITTEES, OR YOUR BLOCK CAPTAIN?

You can get information or leave a comment for us at info@GreaterFarmland.org. For those who prefer the phone, call Pamela Levine at 301-468-6699.

BEST TO BE SAFE... AND LEGAL —SMOKE DETECTORS

Montgomery County law requires at least one smoke detector on each level of a home. It is best to have one in or just outside every bedroom, as well.

Any smoke detector over 10 years old must be discarded and a new one with a 10-year sealed lithium-ion battery installed. The new devices don't require annual maintenance, and can be found in local hardware stores. Some are combined with a carbon monoxide detector, another safety item for any house with natural gas heat, water heater, and/or appliances. If you haven't replaced your smoke/fire detectors in the past 10 years, your old ones are probably nonfunctional (even if the battery tests OK, it is unlikely to detect fire and smoke) and certainly aren't legal.

The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service will come to your house for free to do a safety check. They will help you locate your detectors. If you are a senior citizen, disabled, or economically challenged, they will provide the smoke detectors and install them, free of charge. Go to this site to request a safety check (if you don't have a computer, call me, and I'll submit the request for you).

<http://www.weblinksa2z.com/mcfrs/firesafety/default.aspx?requestvisit=yes>

Emily Mintz, 301-704-2913

