



FALL NEWSLETTER 2020 MEMBERSHIP ISSUE

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GFCA LAUNCHES TWO ONLINE *CONVERSATION* PROGRAMS

PLEASE JOIN US TO GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS IN A WHOLE NEW WAY

Responding to many members of our community who asked to share concerns about the events of this spring, the GFCA Board established volunteer work groups to develop two online Zoom programs. ***Conversations with Experts*** and ***Conversations with Your Neighbors*** were developed to increase understanding of pressing issues of the day and to enable neighbors to share their unique perspectives in an open and safe environment. The work groups independently chose to focus on the theme of racial equity and social justice.

Conversations with Your Neighbors launched on November 18. It was fabulous. We have such a variety of experience within our community, and the discussions were fascinating and illuminating. Participants met in small breakout rooms to discuss the Peabody Award winning documentary podcast series ***Seeing White***. This series explores the impact of racism and “white privilege” on American history. There will be more sessions, which will be announced on the listserv. Volunteer facilitators lead the discussion, and participants listen to one or two podcasts prior to each session. You can listen at your own pace or read the transcripts, which are made available. Preview the series at sceneonradio.org/seeing-white.

Conversations with Experts focuses on racial equity and social justice in Montgomery County and was launched on October 5 with MS Tiffany Ward, Montgomery County’s first Chief Equity Officer. MS Ward is responsible for implementing the County’s *Racial Equity and Social Justice Act*. She will be responsible for employees’ racial equity diversity training, will help set priorities for the County’s racial equity improvements, create a tool kit to assist community members in having conversations about race, and review proposed bills and existing departments for equity impacts.

Our next Expert will be Montgomery County Council Member At-Large **Will Jawando**, who will discuss policing and criminal justice reform on **December 15 at 7:30 pm**. Future *Conversations with Experts* will discuss racial equity and social justice in areas such as County education, housing, health, and employment. A registration link has been sent out via the listserv.

A big thank you to the hardworking committee members who have created these programs, which started with our July Open Forum Zoom meeting, attended by nearly 80 neighbors!

If you have any questions about these programs, please contact Toby Levin, Coordinator of the Conversations Program and a GFCA Board member at info@greaterfarmland.org.

RESOURCES ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

Looking for reading material? Try [The Color of Law](#) by Richard Rothstein, [The Hidden Cost of Being African American](#) by Thomas Shapiro, [Slavery by Another Name](#) by Douglas Blackman, or [Begin Again](#) by Eddie Glaude Jr. Podcasts include On the Media’s “The Scarlet E,” first broadcast in June 2019, as well as Scene on Radio’s “Seeing White,” which we’ll be discussing in our Conversations with Your Neighbors Zoom series.

LISTSERV

What’s it for, and why should I join? Our neighbors and GFCA communicate via the GFCA listserv in real time, with over 650 members. GFCA announcements, buying & selling or free items, traffic concerns, security events, lost & found items/deliveries/pets, tips, gardening, appeals for charity events/opportunities, community events and participation opportunities, all of these are the “stuff” of our email discussions. If you want to be part of “what’s happening,” join by clicking the Community Email List icon on the GreaterFarmland.org homepage.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The Montgomery County Babies Born Healthy Program is collecting new, unwrapped toys and new winter gear (coats, hats, gloves, etc.) for children of all ages (newborns and infants included). Gift cards are also being accepted. I will leave a bin in front of my house for those who wish to drop off donations. Donations will be accepted through Dec. 14. Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Wishing you all a safe and joyful holiday season.

Crystal Paultre, 7013 Old Gate Road

Manna Food Bank has an urgent need for food donations. Faith United Methodist Church (6810 Montrose Road) has placed a box for food donations outside of the office door entrance (under the brown awning), which will be available through the Thanksgiving holiday. The goal is to collect 500 food items! The first 500 items of donated food will be matched by a \$.50 per item donation to Manna by an anonymous donor! To learn more about Manna or see a list of preferred foods go to Manna's website, mannafood.org. Please, no glass.

Bill Maas, Old Club Road



WE DECORATED OUR HOUSES ON JULY 4TH AND HALLOWEEN...

There was tremendous participation in our safe outdoor "events." On Independence Day, we had dozens of households participate in a

house decorating contest, with winners in many categories.



For Halloween, Olya Dougherty organized the households that chose to participate in safe candy distribution and some !extreme! decorating, producing an online map so that trick-or-treaters could know who was part of the fun that evening. By all accounts, this was the best Halloween ever, and the most organized!

LEGO GIVEAWAY

It was a beautiful afternoon, and it was great to see so many come out for the GFCFA sponsored visit of the LEGO Truck and the giveaway of the LEGO minibuilds. We had long lines but they moved very quickly, thanks to the well organized LEGO team. Everyone was wearing their masks and keeping socially distanced. We hope that you enjoyed putting together your school buses, race cars, penguins, UFOs and other kits. I'm told that they gave away over 500 minibuilds during their time here and were extremely happy with the turnout. You can also pick up other minibuilds at the new LEGO store at Montgomery Mall.

Ed Rich, President, Greater Farmland Civic Association



OUR COMMUNITY MARCHES IN UNITY FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE & BLM

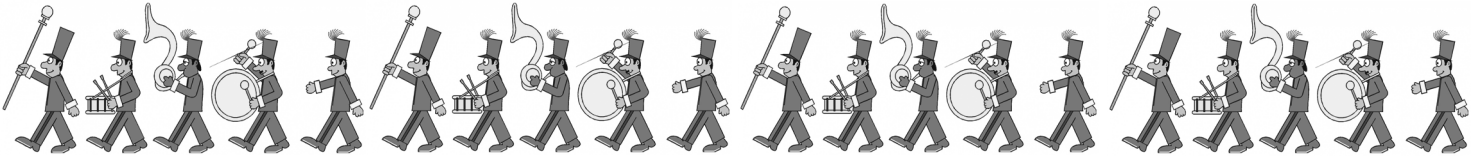
Thank you to Liz Martinich for organizing the uplifting neighborhood march for social justice on June 12. Approximately 250 neighbors participated, along with Rep. Jamie Raskin, State Sen. Susan Lee, and State Del. Mark Korman. Knowing that our community is dedicated to supporting justice and equality is a beginning, as we learn what to do, how to communicate with each other, and what structural changes are needed.

BULLETIN BOARD RENOVATED

Our Old Stage Rd/Tilden Ln community bulletin board has been rebuilt and improved by Marta Vogel & Eliot Applestein. All 3 panels are now open for use, and pushpins are a thing of the past. With new magnetic boards and magnets provided, we can now post important events and services. Thank you, Marta & Eliot!

COUNTY IMPROVEMENTS

1. We now have a sidewalk on Farmland Drive from Old Stage Road to Race Horse Lane.
2. The Parks Dept. completed sidewalks, ramps, and benches in Tilden Woods Park. Most amenities are now fully accessible for strollers and wheelchairs.



IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR GFCA MEMBERSHIP

- * Conversations with Experts Zoom Group * Conversations with Your Neighbors Zoom Group *
- * 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*

Dues support activities and services, as permitted by public safety guidelines. Some activities will resume when safe, while others have been added or modified for our mutual health. We are a volunteer organization composed of neighbors.

**Please join now for 2021 and beyond.
Annual dues are only \$35, with the option to pay for 1, 2, or 3 years**

Online option 1: Log into the GFCA directory* at [AtoZdirectories/home](https://atozdirectories.com/home) on a computer (not a mobile device). Click the Purchases tab, then follow the prompts to purchase the membership length of your choice using your **credit card or PayPal**. Your membership renewal will be automatically reflected in the directory.

Online option 2: On our website, GreaterFarmland.org, fill in your address and click Pay Now.

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

**Over 510 of our households were paid members of GFCA in 2020!
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.

I-270 WIDENING PROPOSAL UPDATE

November 9 was the deadline for submitting comments to the public record for the Maryland Department of Transportation on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement issued by them on the proposal to add between 2 and 4 lanes to the 12 lane I-270. Along with numerous community members from our neighborhood, the GFCA submitted a detailed and well-reasoned statement. It expressed our community's concerns about the negative impacts of the proposal on the environment and our climate and the increased amounts of carbon dioxide that we would be breathing, in addition to the potentially billions of dollars we as taxpayers would be paying to fund this project. The GFCA faulted the EIS for failing to consider alternatives to the construction of additional lanes, such as telecommuting; staggered work hours; convenient, consistent and affordable transit alternatives; and smart growth that includes affordable housing around transit hubs such as Metro Stations. We asked the state to go back to the drawing board and consider real, rather than simplistic, solutions to the issue of traffic congestion.

Ed Rich, President GFCA

NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE NEWS

North Bethesda Village is a local, volunteer-led organization that supports community members in the 20852 zip code, with particular emphasis on those of us who are aging in place. For now, we are gathering virtually via Zoom. Coming in December, we have a Dial-a-Docent art seminar, our single women's friendship group monthly meeting, and a holiday singalong.

For information about our upcoming events, to join our email distribution list, or to volunteer, visit our website at northbethesdavillage.org or contact us directly at northbethesdavillage@gmail.com.

Welcome

NEW TO GREATER FARMLAND ?

We invite you to join our community listserv, which is our major source of information. Also, please email directory@GreaterFarmland.org so we can get a Welcome Packet to you.

HOME MAINTENANCE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FALL/WINTER

1. When preparing your lawn and garden for the winter, consider leaving your leaves in garden areas and chopping the leaves on the lawn with a mulching mower. Leaves contain nutrients, and will decompose to improve your soil. They will also provide a thermal "blanket" for your plantings, much as mulch does.
2. If you plan to use your fireplace this winter, have it cleaned and inspected before firing it up the first time. Reasons? Fireplace chimneys and flues can deteriorate, breaking the important barrier between the heat and embers and the flammable framing in your house. Creosote can build up from previous years, which can burn like a furnace through the chimney. Squirrels can build nests in the chimney tops, stopping up the flue so that smoke accumulates in the house. For recommendations for good chimney services, consult the GFCFA listserv.
3. When buying firewood, stack it at least one foot from any house surface. Piling up wood against the house exterior allows termites to pass through nearly invisible cracks in the brick or siding. It's also a good idea to keep stacks of firewood away from fences and sheds. Mulch can also be conduits for termites into the house, so any fall mulching should be kept a few inches away from the edges of the house exterior.

IMPROPERLY DUMPING YARD WASTE AND OTHER TRASH

The following information is quoted from the Montgomery County Solid Waste department. Please be respectful of other peoples' property and of our storm sewer system, which feeds the Chesapeake Bay.

"By definition, illegal dumping is depositing solid waste at a location other than a legally accepted facility. Common examples of illegal dumping:

- Improperly disposing of yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, brush and natural wood waste) by throwing it over your fence or dumping it in a nearby wooded area
- Disposing of your trash in dumpsters or containers that you don't own
- Disposing of your trash along public roadways or in vacant lots, fields, wooded areas, stream valleys, parklands, or any other unacceptable location
- Dumping chemicals, pesticides, used automotive fluids and other pollutants into storm drains, into waterways, or on the ground
- Burning or burying solid waste
- Dropping off solid waste at any location other than a legally accepted facility

If you see an act of illegal dumping, you can do something to help!

Step 1: Write down information about the illegal dumping. Please record:

- The exact location where the dumping occurred (Most important)
- The license plate number of the vehicle
- A description of the vehicle and person(s) involved
- The date and time of the incident
- Take photos of the dumped material(s)

Step 2: Call 311, the Montgomery County hotline. A DEP investigator will return your call and follow up on your complaint. The information you report can help end illegal dumping and environmental abuse!"



**Do You Want To Contact Your
GFCFA Directors, Committees, or Your Block Captain?**

You can get information or leave a comment for us at info@GreaterFarmland.org.