

Save The Date for Upcoming Events

April 5 General Meeting and Elections Wed., 7:30—9 pm, Farmland ES
*Nominations for the 3 Director positions can be taken from the floor at this meeting.
 Featuring Fire Safety Presentation by Jim Resnick, Montg. Cty. safety educator*

June 10 or 11 (TBD) Community Block Party & BBQ Farmland ES Park
Bounce house, food, games, fun for everyone!

June 4 Neighborhood Yard Sale *This event may be canceled if a new chair is not found. After four great years, the 5th annual Yard Sale needs help. Organizational structure is in place. Outgoing chair is willing to mentor. Contact Karen, 301-468-1758.*

Keep an eye on the listserv, GreaterFarmland.org, and facebook.com/GreaterFarmland for further details and exciting plans for these events.

GRAND REOPENING PARTY FOR OUR RENOVATED TILDEN WOODS RECREATION CENTER



December 10, 2016 was a glorious, sunny day as we celebrated the grand reopening of the renovated Recreation Center. Everyone had a great time. Special thanks to the crew from the Recreation Department, Otis the Owl, Picasso the Park Police horse, and the Rockville Fire Dept., bringing Santa all the way from the North Pole. Thanks to the Hoffman family for helping to make this



event a success. Our state reps, Senator Susan Lee & Delegate Marc Korman, and Councilmember Roger Berliner helped us celebrate.

The Center has a brand new floor, new drop ceiling with LED lighting, new kitchen appliances and counters, new accessible bathroom fixtures, brighter LED lighting on the outside and, finally—air conditioning! It is now a truly four season facility. Future improvements will include wifi and more accessible walkways. The rent is very affordable, so consider it for your next event. To reserve the recreation center, go to montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/tilden-woods-local-park/ and click Check Availability in the Reserve Activities Building box.

COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS AND PLANS

GFCA's new contractor, Trillium Landscaping, will be providing improvements and maintenance to the common areas in a planned, phased approach, starting late Spring/early Summer 2017. The first phase will address all entrances, medians, and circles bordering Montrose Road, Tildenwood Drive, Tilden Lane, and Old Stage Road. The company representative will meet with the Beautification Committee volunteers to present and discuss a plan. The meeting will be at Pamela Levine's home, with the date to be confirmed.

Lettering will be replaced or improved on all brick entrance walls, where GFCA has access/easement rights.

We are researching establishing a GFCA Garden Club, open to all residents.

Pamela Levine

WHITE FLINT UPDATE

There has been a lot of activity happening in the White Flint area. At Pike & Rose, construction on the Second Phase is well underway. The new 177-room Canopy by Hilton is slated to open by fall of this year. The hotel will sit above ground-level businesses including Nando's, Peri-Peri Chicken, and Taylor Gourmet, and below a complex of 99 residential condominium units. The new REI should be opening in April. An apartment building with 272 apartment units is scheduled to open in July. Businesses on the ground floor of the apartment building, including H&M, Sur La Table and Sephora will open in late summer or early fall. Finally, work is underway on buildings that will house Pinstripes (an upscale business featuring bowling, bocce and a beer restaurant), and an L.L. Bean store.

Work is also underway on creation of new streets behind the Marriott hotel, opening the closed section of Towne Road, straightening Executive Boulevard and Old Georgetown Road and providing structured parking behind the Marriott.

The Planning Department is seeking public comment on its proposed plan for White Flint 2, which includes the area around Executive Blvd. The proposed plan may visually impact a portion of Luxmanor that backs up to office buildings.

The lawsuit between the owners of White Flint Mall and Lord & Taylor is coming to a close. A federal appeals court ruled in favor of the lower court's decision that Lord & Taylor is owed \$31 million for the White Flint owner's breach of a long-term contract. Hopefully, the mall owner will move forward with redevelopment plans.

GFCFA, as member of Friends of White Flint and the White Flint Advisory Committee, is making sure that future development does not negatively impact our neighborhood and is establishing relationships that will benefit our neighborhood.
Ed Rich

METRO

As you may already know, the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is proposing substantial cuts in Metrorail service for the Red line. Metro has proposed reducing service for all stations north of Grosvenor, including White Flint, increasing Intervals during rush hour to eight minutes and during non-rush hour to fifteen minutes. The budget also continues the current practice of ending every other train at Grosvenor, which means that, on weekends, White Flint will see a train only every thirty minutes.

GFCFA has partnered with the Friends of White Flint to speak out against the proposed service cuts. These efforts were recently mentioned by Dr. Gridlock in his column in The Washington Post.
Ed Rich

BULLETIN BOARD

We have a bulletin board at the corner of Old Stage Road & Tilden Lane, across from the park entrance. Posted notices, push-pins, and thumbtacks, have been removed. Please do not remove the notices and pins. Thank you.



OVER 80 LB. OF FOOD,
collected at the
WINTER ON THE
FARM(LAND) PARTY,
was delivered to
MANNA
FOOD CENTER.

THANK YOU,
EVERYONE!



2ND ANNUAL WINTER ON THE FARM(LAND)

On January 28th, the GFCFA hosted its second annual "Winter on the Farmland" at Farmland Elementary School. Neighbors enjoyed crafts, games and contests; cookies and hot chocolate generously provided by Summer House/Stella Bara restaurants at Pike & Rose; home-baked cookies pro-

vided by neighbors; Jacks are Wild, a wonderful dog show with two fantastic jack russell terriers; and hawks, owls and falcons from the Raptor Conservancy of Virginia. Even though snow and cold seems to have eluded us this winter, every one who came out and participated had a great time.

We can't wait for next year's party!



RADON AND A NEW MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAW

As of last Fall, Montgomery County law requires that anyone selling a house needs to have the house tested for radon gas within one year prior to selling the property. The requirement even applies to homes that have been tested in the past or have operating radon systems. Testing can be done by the homeowner, using approved devices, some of which can be found at Home Depot or Lowe's.

Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that occurs naturally in our area. It is not harmful unless it accumulates inside a home, typically on the lowest level. Concentrated, it can harm lungs and eventually lead to lung cancer. If an unacceptable level of radon is detected, remediation is usually rather simple. A venting system is installed through the lowest-level floor, venting air from below the house and directing it outside. Testing takes 2 days, remediation takes 1 day, and the cost is generally \$850-\$1250. Some homes in our neighborhood have to be remediated, and many others do not. You can learn more at epa.gov/radon.

Emily Mintz

WASHINGTON GAS RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS

You may have noticed that the Washington Gas Company has recently been spending a good amount of time in the neighborhood investigating of gas leaks and replacing a number of transmission pipes that run under our streets. After all, our neighborhood is now around 50 years old, meaning the transmission pipes have been settling and being jostled by street traffic for quite a while. Your Association has reached out to the Washington Gas Construction Manager for Montgomery County and requested that the company conduct a neighborhood analysis to determine whether any projects should be initiated to address any systemic issues. As a result of our inquiry, the Washington Gas engineering group is conducting a review of the state of our gas infrastructure. Washington Gas has reported to us that there have recently been 15 incidents in which the company has replaced sections of their pipes. We hope to have a comprehensive response soon. If you should notice a strong gas smell at your home or as you walk the neighborhood, make sure you either immediately call 911 to report it or contact Washington Gas at (703) 750-1400 or (800) 752-7520.

Ed Rich

MONARCHS AND MILKWEED

You may have seen the IMAX film "Flight of the Butterflies" playing in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (si.edu/imax/movie/71 for schedule). It depicts the amazing story of the annual migration of Monarch butterflies from all over the eastern US to a few acres of forest in Mexico. Monarch caterpillars depend on one plant, milkweed. Chemicals in milkweed make them distasteful to predators, such as birds.

Monarchs are in decline, largely due to the loss of habitat for milkweed plants, which are native to Maryland. Milkweed is often considered a "weed," and is widely poisoned, mowed or otherwise eliminated.

Since 2013, I have been searching our area for natural stands of milkweed. I found them in only one place, inside the exit ramp from I-270 South to Montrose Road. Every year, in October, I gathered the seeds from the ripe pods. I planted a few of them in my back yard, to perhaps entice some Monarch butterflies. One year, I ordered some tiny Monarch caterpillars (from monarchwatch.org) and we raised a few caterpillars into adult butterflies. (This is an excellent science project for kids, provided you have a steady supply of fresh milkweed leaves to feed them).

This past October, hardly any milkweed was left. The whole area had been overtaken by a rapidly-growing invasive vine (probably porcelain berry), which is spread by birds.

Consider planting some common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) in your yard, and look around the area for any places that are not plowed, where more milkweed can be planted. The monarchs, native butterflies and bees will love you for it!

I created an 8-minute video of my milkweed project -- it is at <https://youtu.be/sy3dCjO-RNk>.

Enjoy! Paul Arveson

2017 Membership—Renew or Join NOW
GreaterFarmland.org/membership--directory

Want to Contact Your Government Officials?

To see all of your elected officials in Maryland, go to mdelect.net

US Senator – Benjamin Cardin	202-224-4524
US Senator – Chris Van Hollen	202-224-4654
US Representative Dist. 8– Jamie Raskin	202-225-5341
MD Governor – Larry Hogan	410-974-3901
MD State Senator Dist. 16- Susan Lee	301-858-3124
MD State Delegate Dist. 16– William Frick	301-858-3454
MD State Delegate Dist.16– Ariana Kelly	301-858-3642
MD State Delegate Dist. 16– Marc Korman	301-858-3649
MD Comptroller—Peter Franchot	410-260-7801
MD Attorney General—Brian Frosh	410-576-6300

Greater Farmland Civic Assoc. Directors (as of 3/17)

Ed Rich, President president@GreaterFarmland.org
Tom Biggs, Treasurer treasurer@GreaterFarmland.org
Peggy Slye, Secretary

Toby Levin Meg Gold Peter Rumm Rick Gentry
Additional Directors to be elected at the April 5 meeting

Committees include
Membership/Directory, Emily Mintz
Beautification, Pamela Levine
Social, Kathy Hoffman
Welcome, Rick Gentry
Traffic & Transportation, Tracy Miller
Energy & Government Affairs, Paul Arveson
Newsletter editor, Emily Mintz

Questions? info@GreaterFarmland.org

PRESENTATION ABOUT PROGRESS OF TILDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
Come Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 pm, Farmland ES

Tom Biggs will be updating us on the renovation of Tilden Middle School and the student population move to the new building.

The final design phase meeting for Tilden MS and Rock Terrace School was held Feb. 22. The architects and planners are creating expanded and renovated schools. Tilden MS will relocate to the new building at Tilden Lane & Marcliff Road, and Woodward High School will reopen on Old Georgetown Road.

- The project is on track for occupancy in the fall of 2020. Funding is not complete, but is included in the capital improvement plan.
- For about two years, there will be substantial construction traffic on Tilden Lane due to Tilden MS and Luxmanor renovations, along with WSSC re-piping. Expect traffic congestion.
- In the end, we will have gleaming new schools—
Luxmanor ES and Tilden MS (2020) and Woodward HS (2023).

Specific design details for the site and interior are posted in Tom’s complete report on GreaterFarmland.org, [Facebook.com/GreaterFarmland](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterFarmland), and posted on the bulletin board at Tilden Lane and Old Stage Road.

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



Greater Farmland Civic Association
Ed Rich, President
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