



# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021

Newsletters and Events are posted on  
**GreaterFarmland.org**  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS...



**General Community Meeting, Thursday, Sept 9, 7 pm—9 pm**  
**I-270 Discussion with Councilmember Evan Glass**

Zoom link, below, is also posted GreaterFarmland.org  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87360254323?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87360254323?pwd=WjhNTWtPNmNqTXRzQzFreXF2QTE5UT09)  
[pwd=WjhNTWtPNmNqTXRzQzFreXF2QTE5UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87360254323?pwd=WjhNTWtPNmNqTXRzQzFreXF2QTE5UT09)

**Paul & Celine Silver Memorial 5K Walk/Run, Sunday, Sept 12**

To register, go to [PaulandCelineSilver.org](http://PaulandCelineSilver.org) (event not sponsored by GFCA)

**GFCA Board Meeting, Sept. 29, 7pm**

Via Zoom. Please confirm attendance with Ed Rich, [ejrich56@yahoo.com](mailto:ejrich56@yahoo.com)

**Halloween Parade, October 31, 3-4 pm**

*This is a new event for our community, so please watch the listserv and website for details.*

## PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: RESULTS OF THE COMMUNITY ONLINE SURVEY

In July, the GFCA Board conducted a survey to ensure we are hearing from you on the types of events and the ways we communicate that you find valuable. We asked that members of the community share feedback on past events, as well as ideas for the future. We received over 150 responses with a range of feedback. The Board met July 27th to discuss the results and to make plans to incorporate many of the suggestions. Thank you to everyone who completed the survey!

There was overwhelming support for holding events in person, outside, in a safe and compliant way. The GFCA Board agreed to follow Montgomery County guidelines regarding planning indoor and outdoor events. We hope that with this decision will provide clarity as to how we will approach planning and potentially needing to cancel events.

We have begun planning for a Halloween Parade, beginning outside at Farmland Elementary School in the late afternoon of October 31. We received wonderful suggestions on how we can gather outdoors this fall, and look forward to involving those of you who volunteered through in the survey. Popular suggestions included a farmer's market in a location that would not generate traffic within the neighborhood, kids' day & art events, a New Neighbor Welcome event, and events targeted to our adult community.

*Several blocks have organized their own parties this year. Contact us, [info@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:info@greaterfarmland.org), if you are interested in getting a block party started! We have a list of ideas and can assist.*

Watch the listserv and GreaterFarmland.org as we roll out plans to gather again, primarily next year, as many of these events depend on health and safety protocols.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JULY 4TH HOUSE DECORATING WINNERS!

The judges have thought long and hard. It was a hard decision, however...

The Winners Are:

- ◆ Best Overall—Heidema Household
- ◆ Most Original—Frank Household
- ◆ Best Door—Keohane Household
- ◆ Most Community Oriented—Lowrey Household
- ◆ Best Decorations by Children—Bizjak Household
- ◆ Most Environmentally Friendly—Vogel/Applestein Household



## OUR NEW DIRECTORY SITE— REGISTER ON [GFCA.MEMBERSHIPTOOLKIT.COM](https://GFCA.MEMBERSHIPTOOLKIT.COM)



**AtoZConnect**

POWERED BY MEMBERSHIP TOOLKIT

Our directory vendor, AtoZ Connect, has created a new directory platform to replace AtoZdirectories.com. Each homeowner will need to **create a new login and password to access our new site**. This software is secure, easy to use, and free to families in our community. The data in the old directory has been moved to our new site, [GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com](https://GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com), so we are all in there.

To register on the new site, edit your household information, and keep track of your GFCA membership status, go to **[GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com](https://GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com)**.

### 1. Click “Register”

Create your family’s new account and click “verify my email.” If you can, please use the same email you used in the old system. You will be able to edit it and other information after you’re registered in the new system.

### 2. You’ve got mail!

Check your email for a link to complete the process and verify your account. The link expires in 2 hours. If you don’t receive the email, check your spam or junk folders for it.

### 3. Finish your registration

The system will guide you through filling out your household information and selecting what information will be visible to others in the directory, Directory Publish Preferences.

### **Download the Membership Toolkit mobile app to access the directory on the go!**

Once you have created and verified your household’s account on [GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com](https://GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com), download the free Membership Toolkit mobile app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. There, you will be able to access all the features from the website on your phone or tablet.



Already registered with AtoZ Connect or Membership Toolkit for a different group?

You may have a registration already from the school directories. Visit [GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com](https://GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com). Log in with your existing AtoZ Connect registration and confirm your household information and directory publish preferences for Greater Farmland Civic Association. The whole process takes less than 3 minutes

Emily Mintz, Membership/Directory chair, [directory@greaterfarmland.org](mailto:directory@greaterfarmland.org)

Questions? Email [directory@GreaterFarmland.org](mailto:directory@GreaterFarmland.org).

## **JOSIAH HENSON MUSEUM AND PARK ARE NOW OPEN**

The museum and park are located at 11410 Old Georgetown Road, on the site of the Riley plantation, where Henson was enslaved from 1795–1830. The museum is open Friday through Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. Tickets are required and can be purchased at <https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/josiah-henson-park/>.

The Josiah Henson Museum and Park tells the life story of Reverend Josiah Henson, born into slavery yet became an author, abolitionist, minister, public speaker, and world-renowned figure. Henson’s 1849 autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada*, inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe’s anti-slavery novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

### **The Josiah Henson Museum & Park includes:**

- ◆ The Riley/Bolten House, dating to 1800-1815, and its attached log 1850 kitchen.
- ◆ 3,000 square-foot visitor center; an auditorium with film, gift shop, restrooms, & observation terrace
- ◆ 4-acre landscaped park with an accessible walking path, interpretive exhibits, & archaeological features

In addition to interpreting Reverend Henson’s life story, the museum features the history of enslavement in Montgomery County and the ongoing struggles for racial equity and justice. The Museum and Park is part of the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program.

### **Josiah Henson’s Life and Legacy**

Josiah Henson was born into slavery in Charles County, Maryland on June 15, 1789. After being sold away from his family, he was eventually traded to Isaac Riley and worked alongside his mother on the Riley plantation from 1795–1830, located along what is now Old Georgetown Road in North Bethesda. Henson rose to become the plantation superintendent. Henson became an ordained Methodist minister and escaped to Canada on foot in 1830 with his wife and four children. There, he helped established Dawn Settlement, a community composed of formerly enslaved persons, and became an international speaker and abolitionist. Henson led 118 people from enslavement in the United States to freedom in Canada as a conductor on the Underground Railroad. In 1849, Henson published his autobiography, influencing Harriet Beecher Stowe’s novel, *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* inspired the abolitionist movement in the mid-nineteenth century, and may have helped propel the country into civil war. Henson’s later work as a renowned speaker and author garnered him invitations both to the White House and Windsor Castle in London, England.

## **GFCFA OPPOSES I-270 WIDENING PROPOSAL – HERE’S WHY**

The project has cleared a number of hurdles, based on a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and incomplete budget information, and went to the Board of Public Works (BPW) for approval on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. The BPW consists of Governor Hogan, Comptroller Peter Franchot, and Treasurer Nancy Kopp. Kopp voted no; Franchot voted yes with Hogan. Now, the project proceeds to a federal air quality study and a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The state has already committed to the same company which operates the Virginia toll lanes along I-495. Once the contract is signed, the state will face significant financial penalties to pull out. Alternatives need to be considered before signing the 50 year contract. The County Executive has proposed a less costly and disruptive solution; make the two existing HOV lanes on I-270 reversible in rush hour.

Our civic association bylaws specify that the GFCFA advocate for the community with political institutions, and the board votes on positions for advocacy. For a complete discussion, expanded, and reasoning regarding this critical project affecting our community, county, and environment, go to [greaterfarmland.org/i-270-widening.html](http://greaterfarmland.org/i-270-widening.html).

I. GFCFA supports our 50+ neighbors whose properties will be directly affected by the expansion:

- Over 50 homes will be directly and adversely affected, including homes on Hounds Way and Whippoorwill Lane.
- Natural sound barriers will be lost and some of the existing sound barriers may be moved closer to homes.
- One neighbor would lose a flourishing backyard garden for construction of a storm water management pond.
- There is limited information about whether or not landscaping as a vegetation screen for homeowners will be done and no mention of restoration of destroyed private landscaping due to construction.
- Our area is already out of compliance with federal Air Quality Standards; the addition of toll lanes and squeezing of traffic on the free lanes will only serve to further degrade air quality.
- Montrose Road will be an access point to the toll lanes via new ramps and lanes. Montrose Road traffic will increase, per the DEIS report.
- The toll lanes will end at the Inter-County Connector and the Beltway merge with I-270 east, resulting in toll and regular lane merging both north and east of our neighborhood, creating bottlenecks around our community.
- The last time I-270 was widened, to 12 lanes, this community was PROMISED that it would never be widened again.

II. GFCFA concerns related to environmental health and climate change:

- Project focus on adding roadway instead of reducing the number of cars, accelerating climate change.
- Current HOV lanes, designed to promote carpooling, will be removed. Currently in use by everyone 22 hrs. per day, they will be replaced by 24-hr tolls, used by few.
- There is no Bus Rapid Transit program or funding, despite the DEIS report allowing commuter buses in the toll lanes.
- The private company that constructs and operates the toll lanes has first refusal over any competing projects for 50 years. It will have veto power over proposed highway & transit projects that would threaten its revenue for 50 years!

III. The state has pushed through this Public/Private Partnership (P3), exposing Marylanders to financial risk:

- MD’s Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) promised completion of the federally-mandated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prior to contract. The EIS has not been completed, and the DPW has approved proceeding with a design contract.
- The draft EIS did not consider known alternatives to reduce traffic on I-270 through (1) workforce desire to permanently telework full or part time, (2) staggered work hours, (3) improvements to rail and bus service (Metro, MARC, Monorail or rail service on the I-270 corridor, Bus Rapid Transit, and the Corridor Cities Transitway), and (4) Smart-Growth opportunities near Metro Stations.
- The traffic projections were done pre-COVID-19 and do not factor in likely permanent traffic changes.
- The Project does not account for infrastructure relocation on I-270, making us liable for the billions in cost to relocate water and sewer lines along I-270.
- MDOT has shown that it is incapable of entering into and managing contracts that ensure construction at no cost to us, as in Purple Line contract errors. MD taxpayers will be liable for funds to the private company if tolls fail to reach goals.
- MDOT has refused to share cost data for the Project, failed to provide the Treasurer, Nancy Kopp, with requested budget documentation, and refused to admit that the project will end up costing taxpayers for water & sewer relocation and for possible future losses by the private entity.

## **GREATER FARMLAND BOOK CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS**

Our club holds monthly evening meetings, usually on the second Tuesday, from 7 to 9 PM, rotating locations in members' homes, and our group currently consists of eight women. Current fiction is our general preference, but we're open minded about trying other genres. Some of the books we choose may not be readily available at libraries, so members should be prepared to borrow from friends or purchase books. Our gatherings are not about the food, but whoever is hosting usually provides light refreshments. The host or whoever recommended the book is also responsible for providing discussion questions to get the ball rolling.

If you are interested in seeing what we've read in the past, or learning more about our group, please contact Karen Fricke at [karenafricke@gmail.com](mailto:karenafricke@gmail.com).

## NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE

Greetings, neighbors! Did you know that **North Bethesda Village** offers nearly a half-dozen affinity groups for people with mutual interests? These groups meet monthly and new members are welcome to join at any time!

- ◆ Single Womens' Friendship Group: first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm
- ◆ Leisurly Strollers Walking Group: second Wednesday of the month at 10:30 am
- ◆ Art Discussion Group: third Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm
- ◆ Go Getters Walking Group: fourth Thursday of the month at 10:30 am
- ◆ Trivia Gaming Group: fourth Friday of the month at 2 pm

**Groups are targeted at community members age 55+** who live in the 20852 zip code area, but all are welcome.

For more information and registration links, please visit our website at [northbethesdavillage.org](http://northbethesdavillage.org)  
(NBV is not a GFCA organization)



Creating Community Connections

# Welcome

## NEW TO GREATER FARMLAND ?

We invite you to join our community listserv, our main source of communication.

Send an email to [GFCA+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:GFCA+subscribe@groups.io)

Also, please email [directory@GreaterFarmland.org](mailto:directory@GreaterFarmland.org) so we can get a Welcome Bag to you.



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

Contact us at [info@GreaterFarmland.org](mailto:info@GreaterFarmland.org) or visit our website, [GreaterFarmland.org](http://GreaterFarmland.org)

*The website has been updated, renovated, and is a wealth of current information—Check it today!*

For those who prefer to phone, call Pamela Levine at 301-468-6699.

Register your household in the new online  
directory at [GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com](http://GFCA.membershiptoolkit.com)

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

## Summer Newsletter 2021



Greater Farmland Civic Association  
Ed Rich, President  
11703 Hitching Post Lane  
North Bethesda, MD 20852