

NORTHWOOD NEWS

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Waiting for the Grass to Grow at No. 4 Corners Park

By Carolyn Ibici

Recently, a group of civic board members met with North Four Corners Park project manager Marian El-sassar, construction manager Bob Kane, and new park manager John Boyd for a walk-through of the park. While there is nothing they can do to bring back our nice local park, they did try to reassure us that everyone is working hard to bring varying schedules together and overcome setbacks, so the project will be



The wide, impermeable walkway next to University Blvd.

completed in stages.

The playground is now open. It is already full of kids playing and running around. However, the playground lacks adult-sized seating; the “benches” currently installed are the bright blue squiggles that look like they are part of the playground equipment. The response is that they will look into installing a bench with a back once the contract work has been completed.

The basketball and tennis courts are available too, albeit in the midst of a construction zone. Of course, the main question we had was when we could look forward to the actual grand opening.

The “soft” opening—when the project is basically completed—will be sometime be-

fore the fall; no date provided as yet. The official ribbon-cutting opening will be this fall, a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Next Meeting on Wed., June 10th

The next meeting of the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association will be held on Wednesday, 10 June 2015, at 7:30 p.m. at Forest Knolls Elementary School. The school is located at 10830 Eastwood Avenue, just off Caddington Avenue (there’s no access from other sections of Eastwood).

All residents of the Northwood-Four Corners-Forest Knolls area are invited to attend and express their views. Please note that only paid members of the NFCCA are eligible to vote. (Annual dues are \$10 per household and may be paid at the meeting.)■

INSIDE

How to Choose the Right Green Landscape Designer5

How Much Would You Be Willing to Pay for Transit?7

New Silver Spring Library to Open Saturday, June 2010

RFKM Wins ‘School Activist’ Azalea Award from Takoma Park11

Local Author’s First Book on Publishing Wins Award13

Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat in Your Garden14

Rachel Carson Made History Here in Silver Spring18

JUNE

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

Waiting for the Grass to Grow

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

year behind schedule.

However, the reason behind all the upheaval to our park—the soccer field—will not be open for some time. Evidently, the first application of seed was a bust and they had to redo this, so the field will not be ready for permitting until *next spring*. By the way, “adult-sized” soccer field means 11 years old and up.

During the walk-through, we expressed concern regarding the condition of the trees. Elsassar did say a Maryland forest ecologist will be surveying the site and provide feedback. While there is a certain amount of overplanting done, they will have trees replaced if they are obviously not thriving. Invasive plants will be cut back one more time and they will be sprayed as well. Once the park is open, the maintenance will be turned back over to the park manager.

One topic discussed throughout the walk was the storm-water management system being put in place. The objective is that it will allow rainwater to filter down rather than run off. These areas will be wet but should not hold water for “more than 24 hours” (this timeframe grew to 48 and 72 hours over the course of our walk) and will not be a breeding ground for mosquitoes due to the materials beneath the ground.

They made some revisions to the initial work done to the Royalton Road side for this new stormwater management. Grasses and plants do need to grow before they can observe if this management system is working there and in all areas of the park. Elsassar assured us there will be monitoring and that adjustments will be made as needed.

Another concern was the restroom status; there will be

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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NORTHWOOD NEWS

Northwood News is published by the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association. The NFCCA represents the ~1,485 households in the area bounded by Colesville Rd. (Rte. 29), University Blvd. (Rte. 193), Caddington Ave., and the Northwest Branch.

Any resident of this area is eligible to join the NFCCA. Annual dues are \$10 per household and may be paid at any Association meeting or mailed to the treasurer.

The *Northwood News* is published five times a year—in October, December, February, April, and June. To place an ad or discuss a story, please contact the editor.

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Visit Our Website
www.nfcca.org



NFCCA representatives Fiona Morrissey (in hat), Carolyn Ibici (pointing), and Jim Zepp met with North Four Corners Park project manager Marian Elsassar (center) and new park manager John Boyd (left) in May to discuss our concerns.

Waiting for the Grass to Grow



All Story Photos by Jacquie Bakow

The new playground behind the rec center is now open. The curved piece (foreground) is an uncomfortable bench for adults.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

two porta-potties installed under the enclosure that looks like a bus shelter next to the University side parking lot. There will not be any additional water fountain other than the one next to the rec center.

Many folks have expressed concern that we now have the view and noise of University Boulevard traffic clear across

the park. There is also a lack of shaded seating. Answer: we need to wait for the trees to grow and provide more of a screen. So, sunscreen and a hat for now. Earplugs?

Like it or not, the park is here to stay in its new form. It is up to us, as residents, to stay invested in our park by continuing to follow the progress of the project and do our part to keep it safe and clean. ■



The fenced ~185-year-old black walnut tree abuts the new soccer field. Since the newly planted trees in forefront have no watering bags, will they survive the brutal heat of summer?

NECCA BOARD

The Board of Directors for the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association serves for one year and meets every month except July and August. Current officers (until October 2015) are:

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How to Choose the Right Green Landscape Designer

By Carole A. Barth

General Questions to Ask

■ What proportion of your business involves using green best practices or conservation landscaping?

■ Are you familiar with Rainscapes, Rain Check Rebate, River Smart Homes, and other regional incentive programs? Have you attended any training classes for those programs?

■ Are you familiar with the 8 Essential Elements of Conservation Landscaping and the Sustainable Sites Initiative? [www.chesapeakelandscape.org/resources/the-eight-essential-elements, www.sustainable-sites.org]

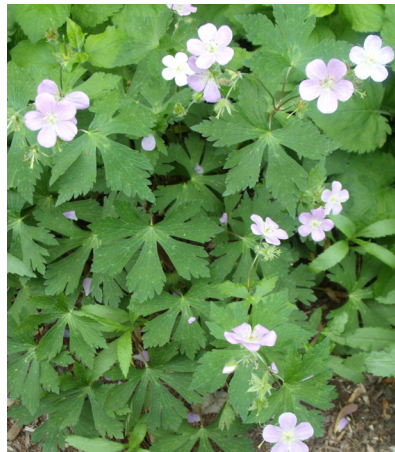
Questions for Designers

■ Will you perform a soil test? *Answer: Testing the soil will let the designer pick plants that will thrive in the existing soil conditions, which saves you from having to buy expensive soil amendments.*

■ Do you use regionally native plants? *Answer: Native plants have been naturally present in the region since the last ice age. Properly sited native plants are already adapted to our local conditions. Once established, they require little or no watering, fertilizing, or pesticide use. Native plants also support native pollinators, birds, and butterflies.*

■ If you use nonnatives, are they regionally appropriate and not invasive? *Answer: Native plants are preferred. If nonnative plants are used, they should be a good match for both regional and site*

conditions. For example, a tree like the Silver Birch, which requires cool summers, will not perform well in our region. Some nonnatives are invasive, meaning they escape cultivation and damage natural ecosystems. For example, garlic mustard spreads rapidly in local forests, displacing native wildflowers. Chemicals in the plant are toxic to native butterfly larvae, so, as garlic mustard spreads, the butterflies decline. Invasive plants should not be used under any circumstances. [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm]



■ Have you designed projects which qualified for Rainscapes or other incentive programs?

■ How much experience do you have designing rain gardens, BayScapes or Baywise conservation landscapes, pervious hardscapes, and green roofs?

■ Do you design easy-care landscapes? Will your design be tailored to how much maintenance I'm willing/able to perform? *Answer: There*

are many ways to design an easy-care landscape. For example, close plantings are easier to weed than plantings which leave lots of bare space for weeds to colonize. Connecting trees with mulched beds or under-plantings simplifies maintenance because you no longer have to mow and weed whip around the trees, and you don't have to rake up as many fallen leaves from the lawn.

■ Do you prepare a maintenance plan as part of the design? *Answer: Ideally you will receive a plan and list of the plants used in your landscape, instructions for basic care while the plants are new, and some long-term care information. Pictures are very helpful for recognizing the plants.*

■ Do your designs provide energy conservation benefits? *Answer: When properly placed, mature trees can reduce the interior temperature of a building by as much as 20 degrees, reducing summer cooling costs by 25–49 percent. [www.arborday.org/globalwarming/summer-shade.cfm] Benefits can be realized even before the trees are full-grown: Montgomery County planted trees to shade air conditioning units and parking lots at multifamily dwellings. After eight years, they took temperature readings and found a 30–40 degree reduction, even though the trees were not yet mature.*

■ If you're not an installer, can you recommend one who is knowledgeable about conservation landscaping? ■

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How Much Would You Be Willing to Pay for Transit?

By Jim Zepp

The County is currently pursuing a large number of transit projects (the Purple Line light rail, the Corridor Cities Transitway, and 10 Bus Rapid Transit routes) as well as a new six-mile highway (the M83) that will each cost billions of dollars to construct, maintain, and operate. Competing with these new projects for funding are existing roads and bridges in the County that need repairs and replacement as well as the regional WMATA subway and bus services and the County's Ride On local bus service.

In addition, there are oth-

er community needs—such as schools, public safety, health care, affordable housing, libraries and cultural facilities, and parks and recreation—to consider in terms of what County taxpayers are expected to fund through their income and property taxes. The County is at its maximum limits for income and property taxes, which County Director Joe Beach described as being “under pressure” in terms of adding more expenditures and looking for new revenue sources to maintain current obligations.

The County Executive's recommended operating

budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (which starts on July 1, 2015) is \$5.1 billion. As a point of comparison, the State of Delaware's FY2016 recommended operating budget is only \$3.9 billion. How this affects individual County households is illustrated in the charts below.

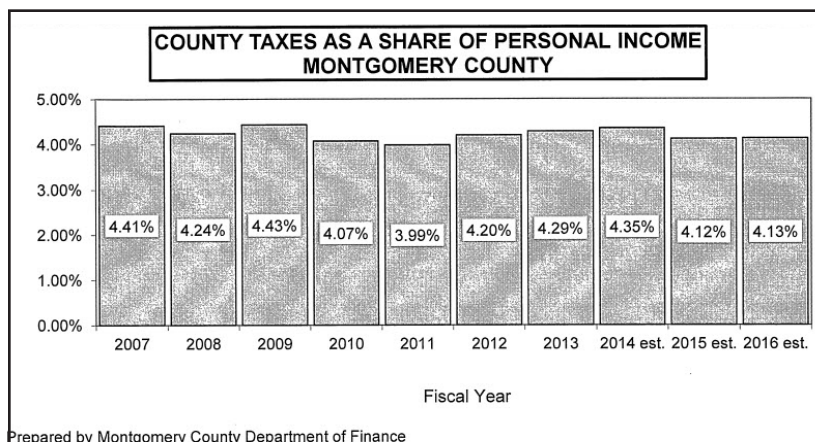
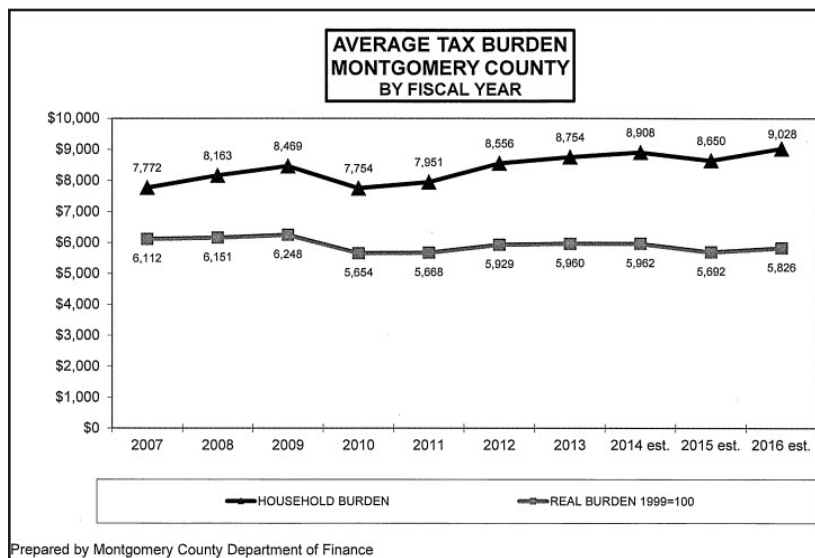
The Tax Foundation (<http://taxfoundation.org>) prepares annual comparisons of the relative tax burdens for each of the states. In its most recent report, Maryland is considered to have the 40th worst business tax climate. However among the different types of taxes included in this analysis, the two main categories driving this ranking are personal income taxes (46th worst) and property taxes (41st worst) and not those taxes normally associated with businesses.

The Independent Transit Authority

Since both Federal and State funding for transportation and other public facilities and services are also being constrained, the County is challenged to find funding for all of the new transit projects that it wants to build. Consequently, the County Executive requested new state legislation (MC-24-15) last January that would allow the County to create an Independent Transit Authority (ITA). This new agency:

• would be governed by five individuals appointed by the County Executive;

• has responsibility for all of the County's transit-related services, i.e., the Ride On



(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

How Much Would You Be Willing to Pay?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

buses, BRT, subways, tunnels, and parking districts;

• could create new agreements with other governments and companies;

• could condemn private property for its facilities;

• could issue bonds to finance construction and operations of facilities and services that would be funded through County property taxes in addition to those already paid by residents and businesses; and

• could exceed the County's Charter limit on debt to be paid through property taxes.

Oversight by the County government would be limited to approval of the ITA's capital improvements budget, but specifically not the ITA's operating budget. It is unclear whether the County Inspector General would have the authority to investigate the ITA. The County's union employees, who operate the Ride On buses, would be transferred to the ITA. After their current

contract expired, the union would be subject to whatever it would negotiate with the ITA.

A public hearing for the ITA bill was scheduled by the County State Legislative Delegation one week after its introduction on the following Friday. Due to requests by citizens, the hearing was moved from Annapolis to Rockville and rescheduled from Friday afternoon to Friday evening. Despite this short notice, the Council's auditorium was filled to standing room only as citizens and union members turned out to protest the bill's provisions. It became apparent that this proposal had been introduced without any input by the County Council, the union, or the public.

Consequently, the County Executive responded to this outpouring of opposition by withdrawing the bill for that Legislative Session. However, he also declared his intention to submit the ITA bill in next

year's session if there are no other alternatives identified for funding the planned BRT routes.

The Transit Task Force

To this end, on April 6th, the County Executive reactivated the Transit Task Force that in 2012 had originally recommended the 164-mile BRT network covering 26 major roadways. This was subsequently reduced by the MNCPPC Planning Board and County Council to 82 miles and 10 routes.

Several new members were added to the revived Task Force—including myself—to slightly broaden its representation beyond various public officials and advocates for the BRT. Its purpose is to consider possible improvements to the previously proposed ITA legislation that would improve its chances of passage, study other funding alternatives for the planned

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

Potential Cumulative Impact of BRT Projects on Real Property Taxes

<u>Proposed BRT Projects</u>	<u>Estimated Construction Costs</u>	<u>Estimated Annual Cost to Real Property Taxpayers</u>	<u>% Annual Increase in Real Property Tax</u>
Rockville Pike, Viers Mill Road, and Colesville Road BRT Routes	\$1.8 billion	\$234 million	15%
Plus Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT)	\$3.6 billion	\$429 million	27%
Plus Seven Other Planned BRT Routes	\$4.7 billion	\$589 million	37%

Notes:

- The above estimates do not include any operating costs for the BRT routes or costs associated with the Purple Line.
- Research on major public works projects have found that most cost estimates tend to be substantially less than the actual construction costs. "Cost overruns in the order of 50 percent in real terms are common for major infrastructure, and overruns of 100 percent are not uncommon." —*Survival of the Unfittest: Why the Worst Infrastructure Gets Built* [<http://oxrep.oxfordjournals.org/content/25/3/344.short>]

How Much?

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

BRT routes, and provide some opportunities for public input on the proposed ITA and BRT funding. The Task Force or its two working groups will be meeting almost weekly through the summer with the goal of producing a final report to the County Executive by September 30, 2015.

Jerry Garson, the Montgomery County Civic Federation's Transportation Committee Chair and a CPA, has calculated the likely impact on individual property tax bills for building the various BRT and Corridor Cities Transitway using the most recent cost estimates for these projects, shown in the table on the previous page.

Other factors that could substantially increase these figures include:

§ The related operational costs for these projects.

§ The estimates are based on the MNCPPC recommended BRT configuration. The County Council changed some of the recommendations, e.g., the 4.5 miles of Colesville Road south of White Oak was switched from the BRTs traveling in mixed traffic (which would have cost less) to more expensive dedicated lanes.

§ The estimates are only for the BRT-related construction costs. However, when the state "opens" a roadway for construction projects, it is now required to build what is termed "complete streets," which means that bike lanes and other pedestrian-related improvements must also be included.

§ The VHB estimates do not include the cost of signal prioritization equipment that would increase BRT vehicle speeds by giving them preference at signalized intersections and are considered a necessary part of a BRT system. In 2001, such a project cost \$10 million for Los Angeles to implement in two corridors [www.itscosts.its.dot.gov/ITS/benecost.nsf/ID/6105A5CEB6C12C9C85256DB100458915?OpenDocument&Query=CApp].

§ In discussions during the Transit Task Force meetings, Tom Street, the County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, said that the ITA would

need a healthy reserve fund to be able to deal with possible future property tax revenue shortfalls. The ITA will have to raise its tax rate early in its operations so as to build up such reserves.

There will be a public meeting where citizens can express their concerns about these issues. Information about the Transit Task Force, meeting dates and agendas, and materials can be accessed at www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/cex/transit2015.

If you want to speak about how much you are willing to pay for all of this, please attend. ■

MoCo Seeks to Help Veterans Here

The Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs (MCCVA) is planning to salute Veterans of the Vietnam War. The "Welcome Home" event will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2015, from 10:30 a.m. to Noon and be held at the Universities of Shady Grove.

A documentary and interviews are planned.

An estimated 14,000 Vietnam Era veterans live in the County.

Among the goals of the MCCVA is to be the most comprehensive and knowledgeable local source of veterans:

■ programs,

■ benefits,
■ entitlements, and
■ services.

By law, MCCVA cannot ask the local military-affiliated organizations to share their rosters, which would still be only a small percentage of county veterans. The

MCCVA is asking local veterans to self-identify so that that the MCCVA can distribute germane information. Name, address, and email address would be helpful.

If you have ques-

tions, or would like

more information, contact Jim Campbell (Lombardy Road) at 301.754.1942, jim@jrcampbelljr.name. ■



New Silver Spring Library to Open Saturday, June 20

By Linda S. Perlman

The new Silver Spring Library—a 90,000-square-foot building with five floors and a basement (the library is on the third, fourth, and fifth floors)—will have its grand opening on Saturday, June 20, 2015.

The only thing that you absolutely have to know, is the location of the library.

—Albert Einstein

In addition to the library, the first two floors will have mixed use office and retail space and an arts nonprofit organization. There will be a pavilion coffee bar operated by Kefa Café. Books are going on the shelves and green roof plants have been planted. There will be public-use computers and a computer training lab, along with a teen



The new Silver Spring Public Library, shown here still under construction in May, is scheduled to open Saturday, June 20.

area, media lab, early literacy space, and disability resource center. It will be a state-of-the-art library and part of the Montgomery County Public Library system.

The new library is located at 900 Wayne Avenue, at the intersection of Wayne Avenue and Fenton Street, in downtown Silver Spring. There are

two building entrances from Wayne Avenue and one building entrance on Fenton Street, with an escalator and elevators to the library and the rest of the building. The drive-up library lane, from Bonifant to Wayne, will have a curbside drop off zone for customers to put books into the book drop.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)



“The Old Tavern” by Russian-born Nicolai Cikovsky—a muralist, painter, lithographer, and teacher at the Corcoran School of Art—shows the artist’s conception of Civil War Union soldiers (circa 1864-65) reading their mail and relaxing in front of the Eagle Inn, which stood on the southwest corner of present day Georgia Avenue and Colesville Road in the village of what was then called “Sligo.” The 1937 6’ by 16’ mural has hung at the S.S. library since July 7, 1997.

RFKM Wins 'School Activist' Azalea Award from Takoma Park

On Sunday, May 17, the Takoma Foundation awarded Karen Devitt and Lindsey Parsons, cofounders of Real Food for Kids-Montgomery (RFKM), the Azalea Award for School Activist. Devitt lives on Cavalier Drive.

Since beginning in 2012 with a meeting of parents who were concerned about the nutritional value of the meals in Montgomery County Public Schools, RFKM has built a coalition of more than 3,900 supporters, including parents representing 180 of the 202 schools in Montgomery County. In addition, they have 60 official representatives to MCPS schools who are taking a leadership role in changing the food environment and policies at their children's schools.

"About 1,700 residents in Greater Takoma voted for the Azalea nominees," said Howard Kohn, Takoma Foundation Vice President, "and Lindsey and Karen received the highest number of votes. I'm sure that voters were impressed not only by their positive, healthy agenda but by the fact they are making on strong impression on the powers-that-be."

The Azalea Awards are given to friends and neighbors who have done so much to help the Takoma Park community be the place it is, and inspired us all to make it even better. The 11th annual awards were given out at the Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elem. School as part of the Celebrate Takoma Festival on May 17th. ■



Karen Devitt and Lindsey Parsons, cofounders of Real Food for Kids-Montgomery, show the Azalea Awards for 'School Activist' they received in May from the Takoma Foundation.

New S.S. Library

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10)

The new Silver Spring Library has no parking. Public parking will be in the Wayne Street garage, across Wayne Avenue from the library. There will be a charge for parking (currently \$1.00 per hour) from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Customers using handicap parking in the Wayne Street Garage must pay the hourly rate. Weekend and evening parking is free.

My experience with public libraries is that the first volume of the book I inquire for is out, unless I happen to want the second, when that is out.

—Oliver Wendell Holmes
"The Poet at the Breakfast Table"

County Executive Leggett, in his FY 2016 recommended budget, included funds for two hours of free parking (with validation) for library users in the Wayne Street garage. However, the Montgomery County Council Health and Human Services Committee voted against including funds for free parking at the new Silver Spring Library.

I am pleased to note that the new Silver Spring Library has not completely forgotten its history. The library's 1937 Silver Spring Post Office mural, "The Old Tavern" by Nicolai Cikovsky (on page 10), on display since 1997, will be removed, cleaned, and transferred to the new library. ■



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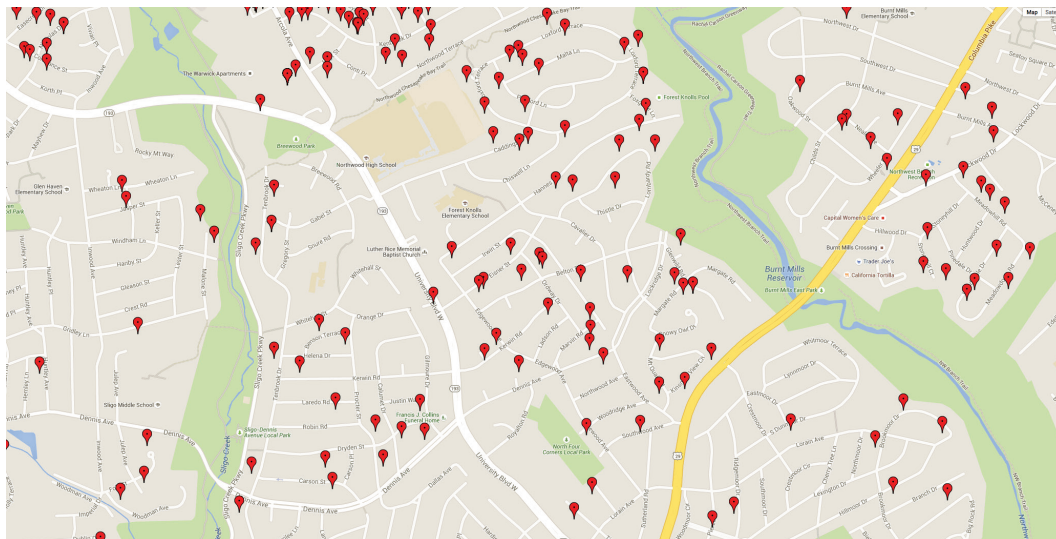
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Local Author's First Book on Publishing Wins Award

By Jacquie Bokow

A how-to book for authors about publishing their own books, written by an editor in the neighborhood, was nominated for two "book of the year" awards and won one of them in April. Katherine Pickett, who started Hop On Publishing with her husband Chris, wrote *Perfect Bound: How to Navigate the Book Publishing Process Like a Pro*, which they published in September of last year. The couple and their daughter live on Ordway Drive.

In March, the Picketts found out that *Perfect Bound* had been named a finalist in the Writing category of the 17th annual *Foreword Reviews*' INDIEFAB Book of the Year Awards and in the Reference category of the 2015 Independent Book Publishers



Katherine Pickett founded a publishing company with her husband Chris. Their first book was nominated for two "book of the year" awards.

Association Benjamin Franklin Awards. In April, the book received a silver award from the IBPA, a not-for-profit trade organization for independent publishers.

The other award will be announced during a program at the American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, Calif., on June 26. Foreword Magazine, Inc., is a media company whose quarterly print magazine *Foreword Reviews* and website review independently published books.

"I set out to write a book that would help new authors create the best book possible and avoid costly mistakes along the way," said Katherine. "The recognition that comes with these awards will help us achieve that goal."

The book gives authors

the low-down on publishing houses, self-publishing, whether to sign with an agent or not, developing a manuscript, copyediting, design and layout, fine-tuning and proofreading, printing and binding options, marketing and publicity (i.e., getting used to self-promotion!), and much more.

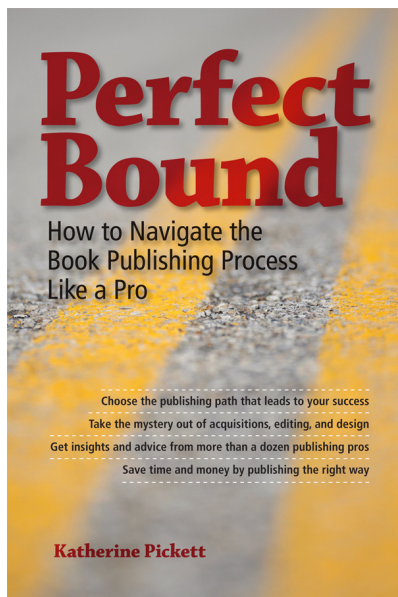
Perfect Bound is the first book published by Hop On Publishing, LLC. For more information, visit their website at www.hoponpublishing.com. Our congratulations to both of you! ■

Donate Books To Our LFLs

If you plan to attend the June NFCCA meeting—and even if you do not—consider donating a book or two to the four Little Free Libraries that will be installed in our neighborhood during the summer.

The NFCCA voted to install four LFLs throughout its territory, asking that sponsors who will host the boxes split the cost. Nine individuals stepped up; four were chosen in order to space the boxes throughout the neighborhood. Each sponsor must agree to pay \$150 each (half the \$300 cost) and be stewards of a box to be placed in front of their homes. The NFCCA will pay the balance, construct the boxes from the kits, and install them at each home.

You can bring any books to the June meeting for distribution among the boxes when they are installed. ■



Katherine Pickett's book, Perfect Bound, won a silver award from the Independent Book Publishers Association.

Create a Certified Wildlife Habitat in Your Garden

By Jacquie Bokow

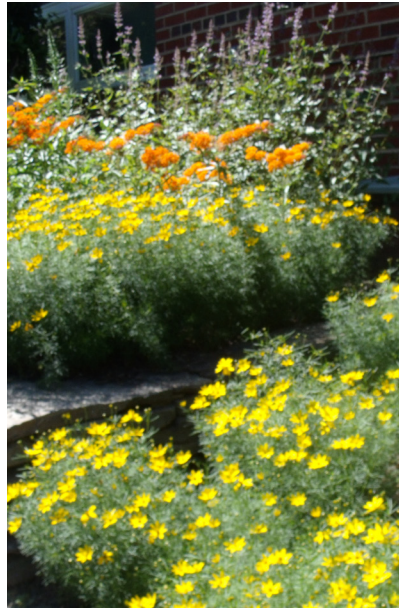
I've written in the past about the importance of planting native species. When you do, you create a garden that both attracts wildlife and helps restore habitat. By providing food, water, cover, and a place for wildlife to raise their young, you not only help wildlife, but you also qualify to have your yard become an official Certified Wildlife Habitat, a designation from the National Wildlife Federation. Here's some information on creating a wildlife-friendly garden from the NWF website.

Provide Food for Wildlife

Planting native "forbs" (which means a herbaceous flowering plant other than a grass), shrubs, and trees is the easiest way to provide the foliage, nectar, pollen, berries, seeds, and nuts that many species of wildlife need to survive and thrive. You can also incorporate supplemental feeders and food sources.

Native plants are well adapted to survive in a particular geographic area according to the climate, soils, rainfall, and availability of pollinators and seed dispersers. And because they are indigenous to a specific region, native plants usually require little maintenance and are welcomed by wildlife, serving an important role in the local ecosystem.

In times when natural food sources are not as available, it is important to also provide bird feeders, hummingbird feeders, squirrel feeders, and butterfly feeders to add to the native food



Plants that are native to our area thrive with little care. Choose perennials and they'll return year after year.

sources for resident and migrating wildlife.

■ *Your habitat needs **three** of the following types of plants or supplemental feeders:* Seeds from a Plant • Berries • Nectar • Foliage/Twigs • Nuts • Fruits • Sap • Pollen • Suet • Bird Feeder • Squirrel Feeder • Hummingbird Feeder • Butterfly Feeder

Replacing lawns with native plants may seem unconventional, but it can pay off, both for homeowners and for wildlife. According to the National Association of Realtors, planting native species can improve the curb appeal of a home, boost its resale value, and decrease its time on the market.

Supply Water for Wildlife

Wildlife need clean water sources for many purposes, including drinking, bathing, and reproduction. Water sources may include natural features such as ponds, lakes, rivers, springs, oceans, and wetlands; or human-made features such as bird baths, puddling areas for butterflies, installed ponds, or rain gardens.

The easiest water source to install in your garden is a bird bath. Be sure to change the water at least weekly during warm weather when mosquitoes are breeding, so that any eggs laid in the water don't have time to hatch (which takes seven days). Consider buying a small heater available at wild bird feeding stores to keep the water from freezing during the winter.

■ *Your habitat needs **one** of the following sources to provide clean water for wildlife to drink and bathe:* Birdbath • Lake • Stream • Seasonal Pool • Ocean • Water Garden/Pond • River • Butterfly Puddling Area • Rain Garden • Spring

Create Cover for Wildlife

Wildlife need places to hide to feel safe from people, predators, and inclement weather. Native vegetation is a perfect cover for terrestrial wildlife. Shrubs, thickets, and brush piles provide great hiding places within their bushy leaves and thorns.

Even dead trees work, as they are home to lots of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Gardening Resources for Natives

Learning About Native Plants

Montgomery County Master Gardeners: <http://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/montgomery-county-master-gardeners>. Master Gardeners, part of the University of Md. Extension, are volunteers trained by Extension agents to help MoCo residents garden responsibly using Extension science-based methods. Among other services offered are several plant clinics where people can come in and ask questions, bring plant samples, etc., and get answers to their gardening questions. These are listed here: <http://extension.umd.edu/mg/locations/plant-clinics>.

Maryland Native Plant Society: www.mdflora.org. They hold field trips, classes, etc. They meet on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the White Oak Library, 7:30 p.m.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Native Plants for Wildlife Habitat and Conservation Landscaping: Chesapeake Bay Watershed: www.nativeplantcenter.net/guides/chesapeake-natives.pdf. [Or contact Kathy Reshetiloff (410.573.4582, kathryn_reshetiloff@fws.gov) at the USFWS's Chesapeake Bay Field Office for a free copy. Refer to this guide when purchasing plants. A few copies will be available at the June meeting. It will also be added to the NFCCA website.]

The Native Plant Center

for the Chesapeake Bay Region [online, searchable version of the publication just above]: www.nativeplantcenter.net.

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center: Plants of the Chesapeake Bay: www.wildflower.org/collections/collection.php?collection=usfws_chesapeake
Native Plant Suppliers: www.wildflower.org/suppliers.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Chesapeake Bay Field Office: Bayscapes: www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes.htm.

American Beauties Native Plants: www.abnativeplants.com.

Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council: www.chesapeakelandscape.org.

Purchasing Native Plants

Nature by Design
300 Calvert Ave, Alexandria, Va. 22301; 703.683.4769; plantfolks@nature-by-design.com; www.nature-by-design.com.

Nurseries in Maryland Carrying 100% Native Plants

■ **Homestead Gardens,** 743 W. Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035; 410.798.5000; www.homesteadgardens.com.

■ **Chesapeake Natives, Inc.,** 9827 Rosensteel Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910;

Upcoming One-Time Sales

Chesapeake Natives Spring Finale Sale

Sunday, 31 May 2015; 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Location: Mt. Airy Mansion Greenhouse, 9640 Rosaryville Rd., Rosaryville, Md. (P.G. Co.). Sponsored by Chesapeake Natives, 301.856.9656, www.chesapeake-natives.org,

Native Plants in the Landscape Conference

Millersville University, Lancaster Co., Pa.; www.millersvillenativeplants.org. Plant Sale Open to the General Public: Friday, June 5: 4:00–6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, June 6: 8:00 a.m.–Noon.

Native Plant Sale at Glendening Nature Preserve

Saturday, 6 June 2015; 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Location: Glendening Nature Preserve, 5702 Plummer Lane, Bristol-Lothian, Md. 20711. Free; no vehicle entrance fee. Sponsored by Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, 410.741.9330, www.jugbay.org.

www.chesapeake-natives.org. (No plant sales at this address, but see May 31 sale in sidebar above.) Christopher Puttock (202.262.9773, info@chesapeake-natives.org).

■ **Herring Run Nursery,** 6131 Hillen Road, Baltimore, MD 21239; 410.254.1577; www.bluewaterbaltimore.org/herring-run-nursery.

■ **American Native Plants** [wholesale, but have retail sales in spring and fall], 4812 E. Joppa Road, Perry Hall, MD 21128; 410.529.0552; www.americannativeplants.net. [Also will be selling June 3–6 at the Millersville Native Plant Conference (see box above).] ■

Wildlife Habitat

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

different animals, including some that use tree cavities and branches for nesting and perching. If natural options aren't available for you, consider constructing a birdhouse specifically for the types of birds you would like to attract to your habitat.

Providing these places of cover not only helps wildlife, it can also help your overall garden if you "branch out" to attract other helpful pollinators, such as bats or bees.

Ponds provide cover for aquatic wildlife, such as fish and amphibians. A "toad abode" can be constructed to provide shelter for amphibians on land.

■ **Wildlife need at least *two* places to find shelter from the weather and predators:**

Wooded Area • Bramble Patch • Ground Cover • Rock Pile or Wall • Cave • Roosting Box • Dense Shrubs or Thicket • Evergreens • Brush or Log Pile • Burrow • Meadow or Prairie • Water Garden or Pond

Give Wildlife a Place to Raise Their Young

Wildlife need places to reproduce, bear and raise their young, and see their young survive to adulthood, all safe from predators, bad weather, and human intervention.

Creating a wildlife habitat is about creating a place for the entire life-cycle of a species to occur, from tadpole to frog, from caterpillar to butterfly.

Many habitat features that serve as cover can double as locations where wildlife can



Taffy Turner's welcoming garden on Lorain Avenue is not only a Certified Wildlife Habitat, but also has received Master Gardener BayWise certification. For the latter, an inspection was done by two Master Gardeners on the BayWise committee, who toured her garden with a checklist and then interviewed her. Their focus was on sustainable gardening practices that ultimately contribute to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, the program was discontinued in Montgomery County in 2008 due to lack of resources.

raise their young: from wildflower patches where butterflies and moths lay their eggs and small mammals burrow into the undergrowth, to constructed birdhouses, ponds for amphibians and fish, or caves where bats roost and form colonies.

■ **You need at least *two* places for wildlife to engage in courtship behavior, mate, and then bear and raise their young:** Mature Trees • Meadow or Prairie • Nesting Box • Wetland • Cave • Host Plants for Caterpillars • Dead Trees or Snags • Dense Shrubs or a Thicket • Water Garden or Pond • Burrow

Help Wildlife Thrive with Healthy Habitat

Wildlife thrives in a

healthy habitat with the food sources appropriate to their ecosystem, clean water, and plants free from harmful chemicals. Practicing sustainable gardening with the use of native plants, water conservation, and not using pesticides or herbicides ensures wildlife abundance.

You're Ready to Get Certified

Once you have provided these essential elements to make a healthy and sustainable wildlife habitat, you are eligible to become part of NWF's Certified Wildlife Habitat® program. Visit their website at www.nwf.org/How-to-Help/Garden-for-Wildlife.aspx. There is a fee involved, and you pay for the official sign, if you want one. ■

Come to 2015 National Night Out on Tuesday, Aug. 4

Join your neighbors and communities across the country in celebrating the 32nd annual National Night Out. The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. NATW's National Night Out program culminates annually on the first Tuesday of August.

The NFCCA National Night Out celebration in-



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Tuesday, 4 August 2015
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Forest Knolls Pool
11105 Foxglove Lane

Come and meet your neighbors!

cludes swimming, music, a potluck dinner, and family fun. The County Police motorcade will also visit.

All residents are welcome to attend and encouraged to meet your neighbors. We can always use help with this event, ideas for activities/performances, or contributions for raffles/prizes. Please call 301.593.7863 if you would like to help.

Bring some food to share. If your last name begins with the letters A to H, please bring a side dish; letters I to P, bring a dessert; and Q to Z, bring a main dish. Please do not bring glass containers because of pool safety.

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Rachel Carson Made History Here in Silver Spring

By Ed Levy

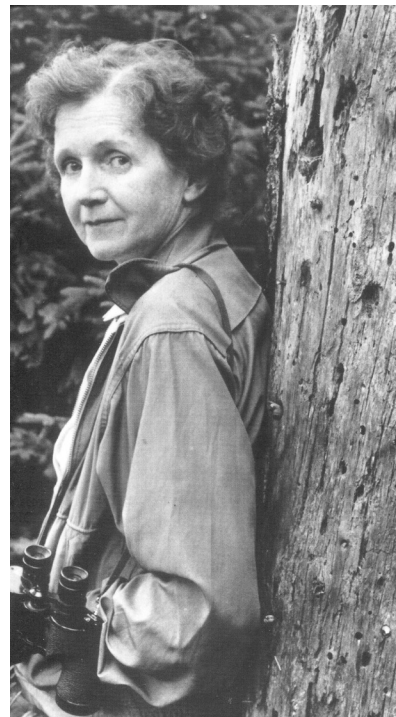
Biologist Rachel Carson proved that one person can change the world with the 1962 publication of her classic *Silent Spring*, which she wrote while living in Silver Spring. Carson's core message was that all life on Earth is interconnected. She warned against the dangers of unrestricted pesticide use and spearheaded creation of the modern environmental movement.

Carson's house, located at 11701 Berwick Road in the White Oak section of Silver Spring, is open to the public one spring weekend each year, this year on the first weekend of May (see sidebar). You will find enthusiastic representatives of the Rachel Carson Council [[www.rachel-](http://www.rachelcarsoncouncil.org)

carsoncouncil.org] eager to answer questions about living without pesticides, guest speakers, organic refreshments, and information about Ms. Carson's groundbreaking work.

Recent Council publications state that the threat from unwise pesticide use is greater than ever. They state that 40 percent of lawn care pesticides are classified as human carcinogens by EPA, and estimate that seven million wild birds are killed by pesticides each year in the United States.

Carson designed the one-story house herself to accommodate her aging mother and an orphaned great-nephew. She left half of the property untouched in its natural wooded state, a decision hon-



Rachel Carson in the outdoors she loved and championed.



Carson's Silent Spring is considered so important that the U.S. Department of Interior designated the house at 11701 Berwick Road, where she lived while writing it, a National Historic Landmark. The home is the only Maryland residence owned by Carson during the 30+ years she resided in the state. The house was custom built to her specifications in 1957 and is currently the headquarters of Rachel Carson Landmark Alliance.

ored by subsequent owners. The house was completed in 1957, and Carson lived there until her death in 1964 from a heart attack brought on by her battle against cancer.

Carson earned a Master's degree in Zoology from Johns Hopkins and, in 1936, became only the second professional woman ever hired by the Bureau of Fisheries (now the Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service). Her first three books—the most well-known of which was 1951's *The Sea Around Us*—all dealt with the oceans and gained her some renown. Her fourth book, 1962's *Silent Spring*, not only made her well-known but also made her a target of agribusiness and the chemical industry, which ridiculed her

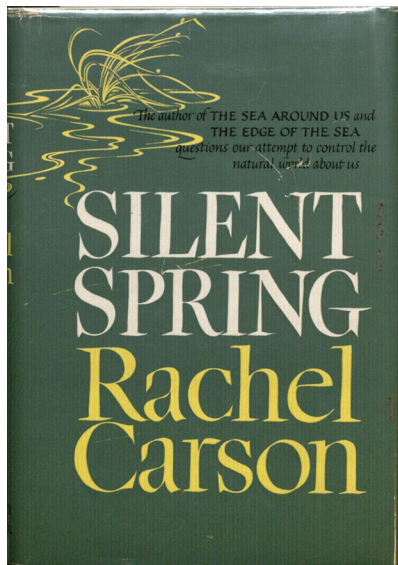
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Rachel Carson

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

concerns about pesticide use.

Her house is a few short blocks from the Northwest Branch section of the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail, which will, ultimately, stretch 25 miles from the Adelphi Mill in Prince George's County to



Late in the 1950s, Rachel Carson turned her attention to conservation, especially some environmental problems that she believed were caused by synthetic pesticides. The result was *Silent Spring* (1962), which brought environmental concerns to an unprecedented share of the American people. The book spurred a reversal in national pesticide policy, which led to a nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides, and it inspired a grassroots environmental movement that led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Carson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Jimmy Carter.

Patuxent River State Park, which straddles the Montgomery/Howard County line.

Currently, the Trail is open in three sections. The southernmost section runs along the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River, with 2.7 miles paved south of the Beltway to Adelphi Mill and 10.2 natural surface miles north of the Beltway to Wheaton Regional Park. Ample parking is available at the Burnt Mills Dam (10700 Colesville Road, just south of Trader Joe's). It's a great accessible place to hike and feel like you are many miles away from the city and the suburbs. Deer, beaver, and frogs are regularly sighted and heard, along with numerous birds.

Further north is the Underground Railroad Experience Trail section in Sandy Spring, entered via Woodlawn Manor Park (16501 Norwood Road near the intersection with Ednor Road, a continuation of Layhill Road). Not only are there beautiful hiking trails, but also free guided Underground Railroad hikes [www.UndergroundRRexperience.org].

Finally, the less-used but equally beautiful northernmost section of the Trail is accessible at 22201 Zion Road, off Md. Route 97 just south of the Howard County line. The six miles of natural surface trails are frequented by various wildlife and include riverside and rock outcropping vistas. All three existing trail sections are a fitting tribute to Rachel Carson and the world she envisioned in harmony with—rather than opposed to—nature. ■

Impressions

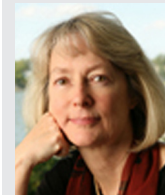
The following are NFCCA Board Member Fiona Morrissey's opinions of the Open House held May 2, 2015, at the Rachel Carson House.

When I attended the open house, I enjoyed several excellent speakers, including the writer William Souder. He talked about his book *On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson*. His book sounds a fascinating read and I thought it was a pity Mr. Souder brought no copies with him for purchase.



The other speaker I heard was poet Meredith Davies Haddaway, who read from her new collection *At the Narrows*. [These were] gorgeous, easily understandable poems lamenting the loss of real darkness at night due to light pollution and the declining number of bats, whose services to mankind include eating harmful insects in prodigious amounts.

I also enjoyed helping myself to chocolate-dipped strawberries and generous wedges of organic carrot cake!





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**Active & Under Contract Listings in Northwood/Forest Knolls/Kinsman
As of 5/15/2015**

ACTIVE	List Price	Style	Bedrms	Full Baths	Half Bath
10618 Cavalier Dr	\$409,900	Rambler	3	2	0
1116 Chiswell Ln ***	\$374,900	Split Level	4	2	1
409 Eisner St	\$399,500	Split Level	3	2	0
10616 Glenwild Rd	\$399,900	Rambler	4	2	1
318 Hannes St	\$471,500	Colonial	4	3	1
405 Irwin St	\$375,000	Split Level	3	2	0
79 Kinsman View Cir	\$360,000	Townhouse	3	3	1
35 Kinsman View Cir	\$349,900	Townhouse	4	2	2
319 Ladson Rd *	\$299,000	Cape Cod	3	1	0
11101 Lombardy Rd	\$397,000	Rancher	3	2	0
1134 Loxford Ter *	\$349,000	Split Level	5	3	0
1014 Loxford Ter	\$419,900	Split Foyer	4	3	0
920 Malta Ln	\$375,000	Split Level	3	2	1
10430 Mountain Quail Rd	\$519,000	Contemporary	3	2	1
1005 Playford Ln	\$450,000	Colonial	5	3	0
502 Royalton Rd	\$370,000	Rancher	3	2	0
101 Southwood Ave	\$459,900	Colonial	4	2	0
107 Southwood Ave	\$445,000	Cape Cod	4	2	0
216 Thistle Ct	\$409,900	Split Level	4	2	0
211 Thistle Dr	\$428,900	Colonial	4	3	0

CONTRACTS on the following properties:

10613 Cavalier Dr	\$359,000	Rambler	3	2	0
10614 Cavalier Dr	\$299,000	Rambler	3	1	1
507 Dennis Ave	\$825,000	Colonial	6	4	0
307 Dennis Ave	\$425,000	Cape Cod	3	2	1
416 Kerwin Rd	\$349,000	Rambler	3	2	0
317 Ladson Rd *	\$255,000	Cape Cod	4	1	0
10703 Lockridge Dr	\$459,000	Raised Rambler	4	2	0
11012 Lombardy Rd	\$414,900	Raised Rambler	4	2	0
10708 Lombardy Rd	\$370,000	Bilevel	3	2	0
201 Marvin Rd	\$409,000	Cape Cod	4	2	1
311 Marvin Rd	\$429,000	Colonial	3	2	0
10821 Margate Rd **	\$354,900	Rambler	4	3	0
10608 Margate Rd **	\$324,900	Split Level	3	1	1
222 Thistle Dr *	\$350,000	Split Level	3	2	1
211 University Blvd W *	\$352,000	Colonial	5	3	1

*Short Sale **Foreclosure ***REO/Bank



•• Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed ••

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