

Hi

FALL / WINTER 2005

Neighbor!



NEWS & INFORMATION FOR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS
OF THE ROCK CREEK WOODS COMMUNITY

NewsBriefs

Community Website

A working group has been established to explore the possibility of developing a community website. **Sarah Eresian, Heather Cox, Pati Young, and Lester LaForce** have distributed a questionnaire to each home looking for community input. Please help by taking a few moments to fill it out and return it to Heather and Neal Cox at 3924 Rickover Road. Thanks!

Medicare Forum

A big community thank you to **Betsy Binckes** who arranged a meeting on Tuesday, October 25 at the *Church of the Good Shepherd* to inform people about the new Medicare Prescription Drug Program. Leta Blank, who is in charge of the Senior Health Insurance Program for Montgomery County, spoke on Medicare Part D, the Prescription Drug Project which will go into effect January 2006.

Nancy's Garden Cleanup

Many thanks to those who celebrated the first day of sunshine

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During the past eight years our community has benefited greatly by the leadership and dedication of three very special people who have served as officers of the Rock Creek Woods Civic Association.

As President, **Roseanne Clausen** has not only fulfilled this role responsibly, but she has done it with grace, style and professionalism. She is a great facilitator. Civic association board meetings have been run with efficiency, along with respect for all those participating. Larger community



Roseanne Clausen



Sarah Eresian



Dolores Battle

PHOTOS COURTESY: MAY NAKAMURA

Eight Years of Excellence

Saying Our Thanks

meetings have been enhanced by her

gracious and knowledgeable introductions of special guest presenters and her wonderful ability to move the meeting along so that they have not only been informative, but also constructive. Throughout the County, she has represented our community beautifully.

Roseanne's support for neighborhood initiatives over the past eight years, all of which are too numerous to mention here, has been unending. Some highlights, of course, include the Rock Creek Woods development being placed on the state's National Historic Registry, receiving neighborhood beautification grants and awards from the County and, along with Phil Clausen, establishing a wonderful communication vehicle via the neighborhood email list that has been so beneficial to all.

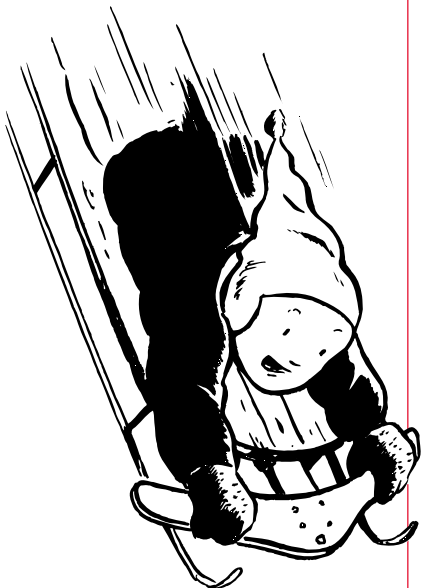
Roseanne's ability to listen to and support all ideas and endeavors brought forth by members of the community has been uncanny, and her thankful

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NewsBriefs

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in October by joining together in the clean-up of Nancy's Garden: **Dolores Battle, Don Byrne, Neal Cox, Jan Downing, Jean Hoyt, Lester LaForce, Jim Roberts** and **Mariann Seriff**. Also present was **Miss Kendall Cox** who first observed from her stroller (pushed by her mother, Heather) and then moved to the wooden bench where she sipped a bottle of water while surveying the sawing of tree limbs by Lester with his chain saw, the pulling of weeds and the bagging of brush—39 bags by the end of the morning! I hope Kendall was impressed. I sure was. —Tom Klein



Excellence continued from page 1

recognition to all who have been involved in neighborhood projects, meetings, etc. is greatly appreciated.

As Vice President of RCWCA these past eight years, **Sarah Eresian** has been a true workhorse in supporting many issues that have arisen during many a board meeting. She has headed up or worked on various committees throughout the years, all of which have come to fruition. Some of these include the creation of the RCWCA by-laws, the cherry tree preservation projects and, of course, the establishment and the updating of the wonderful neighborhood directory.

Sarah's files and great memory on neighborhood issues and projects have been extremely helpful to Roseanne and she has fulfilled the role as Vice President superbly.

Dolores Battle who has served as RCWCA's recording secretary is truly a professional. Her efficiency in reporting all that has taken place at board meetings over these past eight years has been filled with objectivity, correctness and a sense of importance for all issues. Along with excellent writing, it has been quite obvious that before sending the minutes out to members of the community all of the facts have been checked and double-checked.

While serving as recording secretary, Dolores also put together the RCWCA newsletter for the first four years of her tenure. Her professionalism and efficiency in this endeavor was also ever present in these periodicals.

At the same time Dolores was serving as recording secretary and newsletter editor, she was a member of the National Historic Registry committee and was involved in numerous other neighborhood activities.

These three ladies have been, and will continue to be, outstanding and supportive members of the Rock Creek Woods Civic Association, and the new officers look forward to working with them in the future. All of their past and continuing service to the community is greatly appreciated by one and all.

—Cordie Goldstein

Election Results!

At the September 2005 Rock Creek Woods Civic Association meeting, Phil Clausen reported on the results of the election conducted on September 5th at the Labor Day picnic. All of the proposed slate were elected by 54 votes. Each ran unopposed. They are:

Cordie Goldstein, President; Gregory Arms, Vice President; Milt Socolar, Treasurer and **Kathy Gillard, Secretary**. Their terms will begin January 1, 2006. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who participated.



New President, Cordie Goldstein

PHOTO COURTESY: MAY NAKAMURA

Saying Farewell

Nobuko Duggan

Our neighbor, Nobuko Duggan, collapsed and died on the doorstep of her house on Tuesday, October 11th, aged 69. She was born Nobuko Tomioka in Kyushu, the most southern of Japan's four main islands. Her upbringing was very cultural; she mastered traditional Japanese flower arrangements and played the koto, a Japanese stringed instrument similar to the zither.

In school, she studied English intensively. She moved to Tokyo as a young woman, finding jobs where English was required. Her goal was to study art history and Nobuko settled in Kunitachi, a suburb with two universities and a school of music. She frequented a local coffee house, typical of districts with a large intellectual population, where in the evenings western classical music was played on the phonograph. The coffee house attracted artistic people who socialized over a cup of tea or coffee and a slice of western-style cake.

Among that crowd was a young American, Jim Duggan, who had come to Japan in 1960 to work for a US aircraft maintenance company. Wanting to experience Japanese culture and meet Japanese people, Jim rented a traditional Japanese-style house in Kunitachi, and learned to speak Japanese. At the coffee house, Jim made friends and in due course, Jim and Nobuko crossed paths and fell in love. They



PHOTO COURTESY: MAY NAKAMURA

Nobuko at the 1991 Labor Day picnic

married in 1963 shortly before Jim was transferred to California. In 1968, Jim's work brought him to the Washington DC area and they bought the house at 3934 Rickover.

In Japan Nobuko was an instructor with the famous Ohara School of Ikebana and continued this career in the States. (www.ohararyu.or.jp) Nobuko was also active in the Japan-America Society. She and Jim liked to travel and took many long trips to Europe. They were both opera fans and would go to New York frequently; Jim had a box at the Met!

Just a few years after moving to our neighborhood, Nobuko developed a serious illness and eventual-

ly she and Jim divorced. Over the past thirty years Nobuko coped as best she could with her disability. She found solace with the Buddhist religion and became an active member of a Temple. At home, she would execute a religious rite, striking a ceremonial drum for hours on end. To shop, she would walk into Kensington or to Viers Mill and Randolph, sometimes coming home on the bus; most of the time returning on foot. The exercise kept her trim, but in the past year her feet and ankles began to swell.

Nobuko was very grateful to those who were kind to her. If you would give her a lift in your car, she would come by the next day with some delicacy that she specially concocted. "How is Richard?" Nobuko would ask me year after year; our son Richard had cut her lawn as a teenager, mid-1970s.

Poor health finally caught up with Nobuko. It was either a heart attack or a stroke that suddenly carried her away. Besides her ex-husband Jim, Nobuko is survived by one brother and two sisters who still live in Kyushu. Nobuko's remains were cremated. A memorial service is planned. — Tom Klein

"A day or two after one Halloween, there was a knock at the door and there was Nobuko with a bag of Halloween candy. She smiled shyly and said, 'This is for you.' I was so surprised and delighted. I smiled and thanked her and she said 'Welcome' and she left. Just a small thing, but it showed that she had a kind and thoughtful heart even though she must have struggled greatly." —Valerie Tate

"I remember a party the Duggans held. Dick and I were invited. We didn't know what to expect and we were blown away by a lovely table laden with sushi and other foods perfectly presented. (Nobuko was very attractive at that time, and sweet.) I recall lovely flowers. As you probably know, she was a gifted Ikebana flower arranger and, I believe, artistic in many ways."

—Kelly Pelz

"About fifteen years ago, the *Washington Post* ran an article about the interior of Nobuko's home in its *Home* section. A memorable part of the article was a photo of her downstairs area, the main focus of which was a raised platform that incorporated several traditional Japanese elements. I recall in particular a large bare tree limb similar to those found in some Japanese print winter scenes. The platform was covered with tatami mats and her koto was at its center." —Jim Roberts

Forsythias and the Black Path

The ten new forsythia bushes planted last Spring at the bottom of the path took hold very well due to the tender loving care given to them by **Gregory Arms** and **John Everett** early on when they needed watering. It was a tough summer because of the heat, but they did survive because of John lugging out all of the hoses he possessed and giving them a good soaking during the height of the dry season.

Along with **Cordie Goldstein**, John also trimmed the older bushes, and they are not only really filling out beautifully, but they are also spreading. Hopefully they will spread up the hillside to meet some of the wonderful flower beds that have been planted over the past two years.

The cost of the new bushes has been completely covered by wonderful donations from **May Nakamura**, **Dolores Battle**, **Jeff** and **Betsy Binckes**, **Phil** and **Rosanne Clausen**, **Tom** and **Judith Klein**, **Kathy** and **Tom Waldman** and **Pati Young**.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

That balmy first Saturday in November 2005 was exactly like the Saturday back in November 1965 when we discovered the house that would be home for ourselves and our five children. We watched the falling leaves glistening gold, red, and yellow in the gentle late afternoon sunshine. What a wonderful place to live! And we hadn't yet felt Rock Creek Woods' sense of community. The children have long gone, but after forty years, 4008 Ingersol is still where we live.

—Tom and Judith Klein

If you have memories or experiences about the neighborhood you'd like to share — we'd like to hear them! Please send them to: seriff@comcast.net or drop them by 3917 Rickover Road in person.

Plans to add four more bushes next spring will have them going from the top of the path to the bottom. Donations for this new planting are most welcome, and contributions can be sent along to RCWCA treasurer, **Milt Socolar**.

— Cordie Goldstein



On July 28, 2005 a tree-sized limb dropped across Rickover Road knocking out power and causing a lot of trepidation. Thankfully, no homes or people were injured — and the brand-spanking new, spiffy red sports car survived as well!

Thanks to **Mike Hoyt** for the photos!

