

Hi

SPRING 2005



Neighbor!

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

NewsBriefs

STOP YOUR SPEEDING!



Concerns have been raised about a few drivers who have been speeding down Rickover Road and who are residents. There have been some close calls. In the interest of the safety of all of us but most especially our children and pets, **PLEASE SLOW DOWN.**

Springtime Along the Black Path

Even though we didn't get in a full clean-up day in on the first weekend of April, the Black Path is looking pretty good this spring. Ten new forsythia bushes were put in by our friend **Helmut Jaehnigen** from *Benke's*, and now the bushes run from the top of the path to the bottom and look beautiful! As has been a tradition each year as new bushes are planted, donations for the cost of the bushes have been given by members of the neighborhood who wish to do so. The cost of each bush this year was once again \$20 a bush, if anyone would like to contribute to this

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For the past couple of years, our neighborhood cherry trees have been under attack by borers. An infestation of these insects will kill a cherry tree, particularly newly planted trees.

We have been given advice by Montgomery County experts who recommended treating the trees to kill the borers. That information has been distributed in the past and while some trees have been saved, many have died.



Last fall we learned of a program offered by *TruGreen-ChemLawn* that has been used in the Kenwood neighborhood to protect its historic cherry trees. Through this program, each homeowner in the neighborhood has an individual contract with *TruGreen-ChemLawn* to treat the trees on their property at a reduced group rate. This treatment has been very effective in protecting the cherry trees in Kenwood.

Save Our Cherry Trees!

Important News

The *Rock Creek Woods Civic Association* has contacted *TruGreen-ChemLawn* and discussed a similar program for treating our cherry trees. The company strongly recommends two treatments each year, one in May and the other in June.

A contract form was recently delivered to your door. PLEASE send the form directly to *TruGreen-ChemLawn* to have treatment provided for your tree(s). The rate on the form reflects the group rate since our entire neighborhood will be participating in this program. Please note that the contract form *must be submitted directly to ChemLawn* by **April 30, 2005**. The company will then come to our neighborhood beginning in May and treat the designated trees one at a time.

Please give our cherry trees a chance! Springtime in Rock Creek Woods won't be the same without the beauty of the cherry tree blossoms on every street. If you have any questions concerning this program, please call Dave Roth (933-2752) or Sarah Eresian (942-3753). Any technical questions concerning the treatment process should be asked of *TruGreen-ChemLawn* (Douglas Daley at 301-840-8090).

— Sarah Eresian

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beautification project, please make out a check or give cash to our RCWCA treasurer **Milt Socolar** (3916 Rickover) and make a notation that it is for the forsythia.

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Plant Sale at Good Shepherd Church To Take Place

Saturday, May 7

Once again, our friend from *Benke's*, **Helmut Jaehnigen**, will be bringing wonderful flowers and plants to our neighborhood for a **Spring Plant Sale**. The sale will take place from **8 to 10 a.m.** on **Saturday, May 7** and will be held outside the *Good Shepherd Church*.

There will be many annuals and a few perennials for sale at fairly decent prices. Last year was the first time we had this sale, and members of the neighborhood were thrilled with the quality of the plants and their beauty which lasted throughout the summer. All of Helmut's annuals are grown in large 4.5 inch pots meaning you need fewer plants and less water.

So do come early on **Saturday, May 7** for last year everything was sold out by 10 a.m.!



Meet Your Neighbors

The Deane-Gonzalez Family

On balmy winter afternoons, we would spot little Marina Deane-Gonzalez carried around the neighborhood in a “baby bjorn,” cozily zipped into her mother’s jacket. Marina could be seen peeking out through the top taking in the world. Now, seven months old, Marina has long advanced to the stroller.

Claudia works for the *Washington Post*. As Assistant Polling Director, Claudia organizes opinion polls to learn where the public stands on issues of the day. The recent article in the *Post* on Washingtonians’ views about traffic issues, such as building and financing the Inter-County Connector was based on Claudia’s survey. Claudia developed her expertise as a graduate student in Political Science at the University of Michigan.



When the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, Claudia did a survey on public reaction and discovered that most people still supported Clinton as President while at the same time disapproving of his personal conduct. Claudia’s findings broke with the then conventional wisdom that the public was totally abandoning Clinton. On election night 2004, Claudia worked with ABC news interpreting exit polls for the quarter-hourly news casts. From time to time, Claudia appears on MSNBC cable news and WTOP radio to discuss her opinion survey results.

Adam is a cellist by profession — a “freelancer” he calls himself. When the phone rings, he hopes it is an invitation to perform. Adam is the principal cellist with the Mid-Atlantic Symphony, which performs on the Eastern Shore. He is also the cellist with the Mariner String Quartet, based in Annapolis. Closer to home, we can hear Adam play with the National Philharmonic at Strathmore Hall. Adam has about twenty private cello students aged 6 to 82. He also does commercial recording work such as musical TV and radio spots for the National Geographic and the History Channel.

Adam had been cellist with the New Mexico Symphony for ten years before coming to Washington in 1997 to teach with what is now the Academy of Music in Gaithersburg. Adam studied music at Wheaton College (BA) and Boston University (MA in cello performance). His first job was with the Mexico City (Mexico) Philharmonic. Adam loves to sail and docks an “Islander 29” in Mayo, MD.

Claudia and Adam met at a concert. Claudia was a friend of a friend of a cellist friend of Adam. They later arranged to meet for dinner on President’s Day, February 2002, at what Adam understood was an Italian restaurant but which turned out to be a Mexican restaurant. Claudia stood by an Italian restaurant down the street until too chilled by the cold. As she drove away in her car, Claudia spotted Adam shivering in the doorway of the Mexican restaurant holding a bouquet of flowers. She stopped and honked the horn. Wedding bells sounded in November, and they have been our neighbors ever since.

— Tom Klein

Saying Farewell

Joe Nakamura

Our neighbor and dear friend, Joe Nakamura, died in the early hours of Sunday, April 10th, aged 85. He is survived by his wife, May, son John and daughter Jeanne. John works in New York for *Maxilla and Mandible*, a natural history emporium. John applies his artistic talent preparing specimens for exhibit, for example the skeleton of a Psittacosaurus dinosaur. Jeanne is a University of Chicago trained psychologist. She is Research Director of the Quality of Life Research Center of the Claremont Graduate University in California. Joe also is survived his brother Frank, who lives in Tennessee, and his sister Mary Tokuhisa of Illinois. There are four nephews and two nieces and their children.

Joe had a long career at the Patent and Trademark Office. Trained as a chemical engineer (BS, University of Michigan 1940), he began as a patent examiner in 1946. Joe studied law evenings at Georgetown, earning his LLB in 1951. He became a patent attorney at the Patent Office in 1961 and rose steadily. He was appointed Deputy Solicitor in 1970 and Solicitor—the top law officer—in 1973. Joe was the first Japanese-American to hold this position. As Solicitor, Joe was in charge of all litigation and was legal advisor to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. He retired in 1990.



Joe (above) and the beautiful garden in front of the Nakamura home on Ingersol Drive.



During his career, Joe received many honors and citations, including the Department of Commerce Gold Medal. Joe served on a number of committees, including the Advisory Committee on Rules of the Federal Court of Appeals.

Joe moved to Washington from his home town, Flint, Michigan, to take a job with the Census Bureau, following graduation from U of M. From 1941-46 Joe was with the Civil Service Commission where he helped design tests aimed at measuring the knowledge and abilities of job applicants for government positions in science.

May and Joe met here in Washington; they were both part of a crowd of young newcomers to DC. May came from Milwaukee,

Oregon. They married in 1945 and lived at first in SE Washington. By the time they started a family, they had moved to an apartment near Piney Branch and University. Joe and May moved to Ingersol Drive in October 1961. They are members of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Silver Spring; [A service for Joe will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2005]

Since retirement, Joe lived a quiet life. He and May liked walking in Brookside Gardens and attending lectures and concerts, especially chamber music. Joe

played the violin when he was young. His family was very musical, mother at the piano, sister Mary on the cello, brother Frank on the French horn, and another brother on the flute.

The past few years, Joe had been slowed-down by arthritis and osteoporosis. He spent much time reading, but his real joy was building a harpsichord from a kit he purchased 35 years ago and never had time to open. Joe passed hours assembling the small, delicate parts. It is not quite finished, a task which he has left to son John.

Joe was a wonderful friend, always there to help when you needed a hand. We shall all miss him.

— Tom Klein

Window Replacement

Most of us bought our homes for all the gorgeous windows and the “living in the outdoors” feeling they bring. Little did we know how much “outdoors” we were bargaining for! The single-paned glass panels and metal-framed windows are less than energy-efficient and often cause condensation problems that our damaging to the wood framing. Simply replacing the windows with what is currently available on the residential window market may seem like a simple solution but ultimately does not meet the goal of maintaining the architectural integrity of Goodman’s original design. Many residents have sought solutions to the problem. Roger Berner, at 3925 Rickover, recently found a compromise and offered to share his experience with his window replacement project.

When I bought the house in 1998 I did some remodeling. One of the first things that the architect said when he came to look over the remodeling project was that I “would have to replace all the single pane glass with double pane insulated glass.” I didn’t have the money to do that at the time.

The first winter I found that the house was drafty. The steel awning windows did not have any seal. After checking out how much replacing those windows would cost—I came up with a different plan. I took one of the interior screens to *Blaine Window Repair and Service* in Silver Spring and they made an interior storm window that fits in the same place as the screens. These have a weather seal on the back and stopped the draft. They cost about \$40 each. I was delighted how well they worked, how cheap they were to have made, and it did not change the appearance of the house.

This year I contacted *Campbell Glass* (Gaithersburg) and asked them for a bid on replacing all the stationary glass in the house and the old sliding glass door in the first floor den. I specified 3/4" double insulated glass. The bid came in at a little over \$8,000 for the glass and a little under \$2,000 for the replacement of the sliding glass door with a vinyl covered wooden Anderson door. I wanted new wooden stops [trim] to hold the new glass in place and they told me I would need to provide that. I was not satisfied with what I found at several lumber yards around Montgomery County. But then I found

DON'T FORGET THE
ROCK CREEK WOODS

Spring House Tour!

Sunday, May 1
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Smoot Lumber Company in Virginia. They had the perfect 3/4" x 5/8" glass bead. It was 24 cents a foot. I painted it myself. It fit perfectly.

The biggest surprise in the project came when the workers from *Campbell Glass* told me that most of my glass was not the standard 1/4" glass, but instead was only 1/8" glass (the same thickness that goes into a picture frame). The workmanship from *Campbell Glass* was excellent and I am very pleased.

I did not check out the cost installing new windows (with frames) in the place of the glass because I think that completely changes the appearance of the

house. However, I am confident that it is much cheaper to replace only the glass itself with new wooden stops. I can already tell that my furnace does not run as often as it did with the single pane glass, but the house is quieter and there is no condensation on the windows now when I run the dryer or the humidifier.

If anyone wants to write me, please do so at Prberner@aol.com. If you want to take a look at the windows, I would be glad to show you. I hope this is helpful. —Roger Berner

[Note: Neal and Heather Cox recently replaced their fixed-pane glass panels with 3/4" double-insulated glass. The contractor cost a bit more but he pulled off the old trim and cut it down from approximately 1.25" wide to .625" to accommodate the thicker double panes so the profile and detail would match the original as close as possible.]

Please keep in mind that now that our neighborhood has National Historic Register status, you may be eligible for a 20% tax credit on any restoration projects you do — but they must be approved in advance. Please consult the Maryland Historical Trust (<http://www.marylandhistorical-trust.net>) for more information.

Hi Neighbor! will have the goal of being published quarterly by the Rock Creek Woods Association as a service to the community. This issue’s contributors are Tom Klein, Cordie Goldstein, and Sarah Eresian. Design by Mariann Seriff. Please send questions, comments or items of interest to: Mariann Seriff, 3917 Rickover Road. Or e-mail: seriff@comcast.net.