

Hi

SPRING 2006

Neighbor!

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



NewsBriefs

Community Website

Please tell us what you would like to see! At the Feb. 13 meeting of the Civic Association, the Website Working Group presented results of the community-wide survey on creation of a RCW website. The project was approved and the group will now begin to develop site content for presentation at the next community meeting on April 10.

We want to hear from all neighbors regarding your ideas and suggestions for this new neighborhood creation. Tell us what information you would like to see (or would not like to see) on the site and what features you would like to be able to use. The Neighborhood Directory will be included. *Don't count on someone else to submit your ideas!*

Send all of your suggestions to **Pati Young** at difrn8@aol.com (please put "RCW website" in the subject line) or drop them by 3920 Rickover Road.

Also, do let us know if you would be willing to help develop background pieces or story content. All volunteers are gladly welcomed!

We need to hear from you by
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When we finally had our first big snow of the year in mid-February around Valentine's Day, I was so pleased and proud to be part of this neighborhood.

The "shoveling day" was absolutely lovely weather-wise, and residents of all ages were out working together and helping each other clear the sidewalks. Those who were unable to shovel had their walks cleared by a neighbor or neighbors living close to them. Those who were away returned to find shoveled sidewalks and cleared paths to their doorways. And then, of course, the sun came out and did the rest!

Watching all of this made me think about how fortunate all of us are to have



What a Great Neighborhood!

such an atmosphere of caring in this neighborhood. This

Looking after each other

caring goes far beyond the shoveling of snow. Neighbors help one another when one of them is away by taking in mail/newspapers and keeping

an eye each others houses. Our early morning walkers take the newspaper up to the porches of those they know have a difficult time coming down steps or long walkways to get it. People notice and contact their neighbors if patterns of their everyday activities change. This happened recently when a person in the neighborhood who lives alone hadn't been seen for a couple of days and it turned out that the resident had the flu, couldn't move, but was indeed very grateful someone cared enough to call.

We do have several residents some of whom live alone and are getting up there in years who I think it is especially important for us to continue to be aware of their day to day patterns and needs. It is also important for them to let their neighbors know if they are in need of anything — a prescription picked up, a ride to the doctor's office or even a quart of milk.

These are exactly the kinds of things Rock Creek Woods residents do, and I am delighted to live here and be a part of such a great neighborhood

— Cordie Goldstein

NewsBriefs

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March 15 in order to organize subjects and suggestions before the next meeting of the Working Group.



House Numbers

Neighbors are reminded that house address numbers need to be visible from the street. This is important for use by emergency vehicles, as well as by visitors. Please check your house—don't wait for an emergency and then notice that your house numbers are too small to read or are not visible in the dark.

WHAT: Tasting of Spanish Wines

WHERE: Marcis residence at 3926 Rickover Road

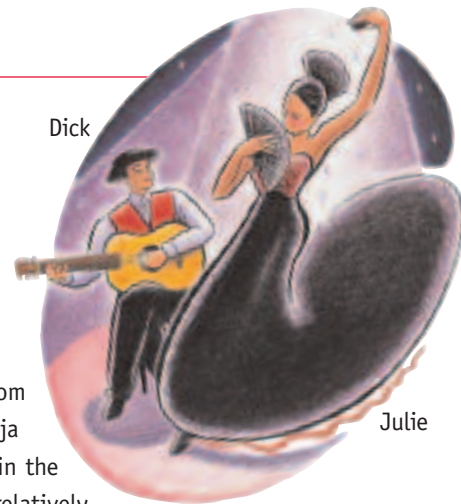
WHEN: Friday, April 7th at 8:00pm

Julie and Dick Marcis will be hosting a tasting of selected Spanish wines.

This fun event will review, taste and evaluate wines from some of Spain's major wine growing areas such as Rioja and Ribera del Duero. Despite dramatic improvements in the quality of Spanish wines in recent years, they remain relatively unrecognized in the world wine market and offer some of the best wine values today. One white, four red wines and a dessert wine will be served.

This event is open to everyone and you needn't hesitate attending because you consider yourself a wine novice. Perhaps the only prerequisite is an interest in learning more about wines and/or an appreciation of the finer things in life. This is designed to be a fun and social event—no "wine snobs" permitted.

There is a \$15 per person fee to cover the cost of the wines. Any net proceeds will be donated to the Rock Creek Woods Association. Attendance is limited to 14 people so reservations are required. **Call Julie or Dick at 301-962-3233 to reserve your wineglass for this event.**



Dick

Julie

Cherry Tree Report

If you haven't already, it is now time for neighbors to renew treatment contracts with Tru Green- Chem Lawn (TG-CL) for the borer treatment of our cherry trees.

The treatment spray is to prevent borers from entering the trees. The borers carry and transmit a fungus, which attacks and clogs the vascular system of the trees. This is why the young trees die so quickly once they are infected.

Having as many trees sprayed as possible should reduce the borer population in the neighborhood.

Invoice Confusion. There has been some confusion on the subject of TG-CL invoices—receipt, timing, cost, number and kind of treatments. By now, everyone who participated in the treatment program last year should have received an invoice from TG-CL. The invoice needs

to be signed and returned to TG in the next week or so to meet their deadline. If you have any questions at all about your invoice (type of treatment, amount, number of trees) or if you have not received one, please contact **Doug Daly** at TG-CL, **301-840-8090**. Doug is the service representative assigned to RCW. He has visited the neighborhood and is familiar with the condition of our trees.

Treatment Details. Doug has told us that pheromone traps are used in the spring to determine level of borer activity and gauge when to apply the first spray treatment. The first spraying usually occurs by mid-May, with the second treatment applied 4-5 weeks later.

ASTRO is the insecticide used to spray the trunks of the trees from the ground up to 4-5 feet or to the first branch. This spray takes about 30 minutes to dry and

children and pets should be kept away from the trees for about 24 hours.

Cost. The neighborhood cost of the insecticide treatment is \$9.90 each for the two applications (\$19.80 total per tree per season). The neighborhood cost for an optional one-time root zone fertilization is the same.

The TG-CL contracts also have the option of committing to the service for 3 years, which will ensure the neighborhood rate for each year of the service.

We would like to encourage everyone who has trees to sign contracts. For more information, please call Tru Green's service manager Doug Daly at 301-840-8090 (office) or 301-674-7507 (cell). You can also talk to neighbors Dave Roth at 933-2752 and Gregory Arms at 942-1822.

— Sarah Eresian



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Saying Farewell

Frixos Alexis

Our neighbor, Frixos Alexis was an exuberant, zestful person. If you can recall the film “Zorba the Greek”, I think you can get a glimpse of his personality. He was very much a man who enjoyed people and life. He would always welcome one with a hearty “Hello darling”! Who could help but respond to a greeting like that with pleasure. He hunted, fished, boated, golfed and partied—enjoying the company of all. Frixos died on January 7, after a long illness. His memorial service was a perfect fit for his life—a bountiful buffet with many, many friends visiting and enjoying each other’s company, and lively Greek music accompanying it all. He will be missed by many.

— Ruth Gruenberg

Jinny Engelman

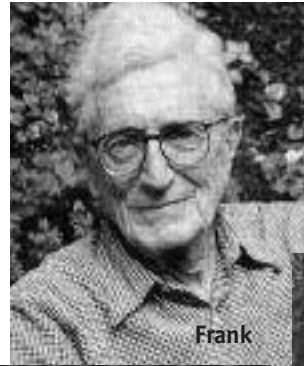
Jinny Engelman and her husband Gerry were original Rickover owners moving to 3924 on December 29, 1959. The purchase price was \$25,000 and Jinny continued to live there until 2001 when the house was sold to Heather and Neal Cox. Jinny died on December 15, 2006.

At her funeral, her son Robert wrote a eulogy that we will share some excerpts from here:

“There’s something graceful and sweet about a life that is long and lived in relatively good health, by someone devoted to those she loves. That was our mother, Annabel Dodge

Johnson “Jinny” Engelman. She was born in 1914 and among her earliest memories was that of veterans of World War I marching in St. Paul after returning from Europe.

Her long career as a psychiatric social worker, dealing mostly with the bookends of life—childhood and old age—and her general absorption in other people and in a number of beloved animals expressed her conviction that life



Frank



Jinny

PHOTO © MICHAEL HOYT

was about helping others.

She took in strangers and on one or two occasions we found ourselves sharing our home with someone who needed shelter.

She worked for years as a chief x-ray technician and trainer, married, completed a master’s degree in social work and in five short years went from having one son to four children.

She worked in social work for more than 20 years at several local agencies—and continued to work until she was 70 years old. After her husband, Gerry, died in 1994 she continued to live in and maintain the Rickover house into her later years. She was a joy to be with, always, to the end of her life.”

—submitted by Mike Hoyt

Frank Burnet

Friends and neighbors were saddened by the death of Frank Burnet December 30. He was 84.

He and Mary were original owners of their 3917 Rickover Road house and had only recently moved from the neighborhood to a nearby apartment. The home and neighborhood served as anchor in the lives of an active foreign service family whose postings to Southeast Asian countries were interspersed with returns to the old neighborhood. Longtime residents will remember their four daughters Julie, Carol, Kit, and Francie.

Frank led a life of adventure—serving in WWII with the Army Air Force in Italy. Later, as a foreign service officer, he served in embassies in Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, the Philippines and Taiwan. His last assignment was political counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan.

In 1978, he suffered a massive heart attack to which he responded with enormous focus and discipline.

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Frixos

PHOTO © MAY NAKAMURA

PHOTO © MICHAEL HOYT



PHOTO © JULIE MARCIS

Saying Farewell

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Neighbors remember his daily four-mile, fast-paced walks, rain or shine, which always included one major hill. With Mary's help, he maintained a diet and life style that kept him alive for another 27 years.

A neighbor from across the street, Marlyn Socolar, remembers him for his gallantry and wit. After replacing a front yard cherry tree, he realized, as did Marlyn, that he had the wrong variety. But when the glorious double blossoms of his tree bloomed earlier than the other neighborhood trees, he snipped a large bouquet and brought it to her door in apology for his mistake and continued to do so every spring until he moved.

Frank seemed to enjoy and gather meaning from just about everything he did. He was an avid sailor and made it

a point of passing on this skill to each of his grandchildren during summers in Michigan and Delaware. He also felt a need to do what he was able to serve society. He served as President of Community Ministries in Rockville and was a regular volunteer at the Common Cause national office for the last 20 years of his life.

His daughters describe him as one who understood, accepted and embraced the natural changes of life and stayed true to himself throughout life. In his *Anthology of Chinese Literature*, they discovered he had marked a passage — "For not nature only, but man's being has its seasons, its sequence of Spring and Autumn, Summer and Winter".

We will miss him.

— Catherine Roberts

Spring Clean Up Day

Mark you calendars now for our annual spring work day at the **Black Path**. It will be on **Saturday, March 18** from **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and

the rain date for it will be Saturday, March 25.

We will be working together with members of the congregations of both the *Good Shepherd Church* and the *Templo Rosa de Saron*, and perhaps family and staff members of the *Rock Creek Montessori School* which is also located in the Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren at the corner of Spruell and Ingersol.

The bottom of the path is an area that needs some attention, and of course, there will be the regular raking of leaves, picking up of branches and clearing of flower beds along the path and on the church grounds.

This year, if enough people show up, we hope to also work

PHOTO © MICHAEL HOYT



on sprucing up the grounds at the entrance to the neighborhood where our Rock Creek Woods sign is located.

This will be a fun day working together, and it will be full of hard and rewarding outdoor work. All are welcome to participate.

Also as spring arrives, Tom Klein welcomes people's ideas and suggestions as to what plantings and arrangements of them would

enhance **Nancy's Garden**. A clean up there would also be desirable before the wonderful bulbs come up. Contact **Tom** at **301-949-0036** if you would like to volunteer.