

Hi

SUMMER 2006

Neighbor!

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



NewsBriefs

Cable and Internet Service

The following does not constitute an endorsement of Verizon's effort to authorize FIOS television service in the county. Rather, it is intended to inform you of a source in the community for information concerning all aspects of FIOS service.

The Rock Creek Woods community has been wired by Verizon to provide fiber optic service. The service, called "FIOS" by Verizon, can provide broadcast television, in competition with cable and satellite, as well as Internet access.

Verizon is currently seeking authorization from the Montgomery County Council to provide TV service in the county. If you are interested in information concerning the proposed service, want to support Verizon's initiative to provide the service, or seek information about any other aspect of FIOS, our neighbor, **James Sutton**, who works for Verizon, would be happy to answer your questions. You can reach James at ABIP.USA@verizon.net or by phone at 301-949-8791.

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Susan Holbeck moved into 4009 Ingersol in Rock Creek Woods last July, and not only is she *finally* being introduced in the newsletter, she is giving up her role as the newest person in the neighborhood! Susan heard about the Pelz house from neighbor Leslie Eigner and when she saw it, she was sold. Susan had been living nearby in Colesville. She and Barney, her 15 year old yellow lab, are a welcome addition to the neighborhood. Susan works at NIH in anti-cancer drug discovery development. Besides being with Barney, she enjoys biking and gardening. She rents a plot for her vegetables since the landscape in Rock Creek Woods isn't ideal for that. Susan also likes to play bridge. She has already joined us at neighborhood functions, but if you missed meeting her at the Labor Day Picnic, now you will know a little bit about her to make her feel at home!

Welcoming New Friends

Stop and say Hello!

transplanted from Texas and lived in a Goodman townhouse called River Park in the waterfront area of DC since 2000. They decided it was time for a real house and after searching Silver Spring, they found their new home here in Rock Creek Woods. I'm sure the transition was helped by already living in a Goodman space. They brought with them two lively long-haired miniature Dachshunds named Cagney and Lacey. Mickey's passion (at least one of them) is playing tennis. Much of their travel is to places where he is competing in tournaments. Recreational bowling is on their list as a way to spend time with friends. While Mickey likes to play almost any sport, Steve enjoys running. Both are training for this year's Marine Corps Marathon. You may never see Steve running, as he gets up at 5:30 to do it before traveling downtown where he works as an administrator at a law firm. Mickey works in the insurance industry dealing with Medicaid Part D-the new drug plan we hear so much about. Both say they like the neighborhood and look forward to meeting more of us.

— Val Campbell

Our newest neighbors are **Mike, Donna, Nobu** and **Sachi Smith** who recently moved into 4018 Rickover Road. They are coming from Sligo

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Steve Dempsey and Mickey Braden recently moved into 4008 Rickover (formerly Liz Wedam and Sterling Scott's home). They are

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CAT SITTER WANTED

Some neighborhood residents are looking for a young person to house and cat sit for them when they are traveling. If you know of anyone you can recommend, please contact **Charles Strott**, 301.933.5473.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Since there are so many new residents in the neighborhood, it was suggested at the April RCWCA meeting that we revisit and update the *Neighborhood Watch* program which was put into place in Rock Creek Woods several years back.

Dick Pelz and **Jean Hoyt** worked on helping to establish this program. Since Dick is no longer in the neighborhood, we are looking for someone to work with Jean in pursuing how this program presently works and maybe setting up an informative neighborhood meeting with our police Community Relations officer sometime this coming Fall.

If interested, please contact **Jean Hoyt** or **Cordie Goldstein** at cmngns@comcast.net.



Saying Farewell

Lois Muellen, was born in Rochester, PA on November 29, 1919. Her father was a minister and her mother passed away when Lois was only 2 ½ years old. Lois's earliest memory when she was about five was of a tornado that went through the town. One of the ladies of the church took Lois to her own home for safety. It turned out to be an F-5 category tornado; the church and the parsonage were destroyed along with most of the town, but Lois and the "church lady" were found later in the lady's home which had been untouched.

Lois went to North Central College in Illinois where she met Ted who was also a "preacher's kid". On their first date they went to the movies and saw "Gone With The Wind"! Ted was inducted into the army, and Lois went back to Lorain to teach school where, even though her degree was in secondary education, the Superintendent suggested she teach in elementary school due to her "petite size and youthful appearance"!

After World War II where Ted served overseas, they moved to Cleveland from California where Ted taught high school science and eventually became a principal while Lois resumed her teaching career at Hathaway Brown School for Girls which both of her daughters, Linda and Sandi, attended.

In the late 50's, Ted was offered a supervisor's job with Montgomery County Public Schools, and they moved to "the neighborhood". Lois worked for MCPS first as a first grade teach at Twinbrook Elementary and then as a member of the group that began the Title I and Project Focus groups. She managed to raise two teenage daughters, teach full time and receive her Masters Degree from Hood College. "She made it look like a simple everyday occurrence!" says Linda.

Ted loved to sail and although Lois and the family spent many enjoyable weekends on Ted's sailboat, Lois was really terrified of sailing. True to form she made Linda promise not to let her father know how afraid she was of sailing.

Lois retired early to care for Ted after he had had several strokes and by-pass surgery, but shortly before his death, they were able to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. After his death, Lois did not go back on Ted's boat! Instead, she became active in her church, joined the neighborhood book club and began walking. It was while walking, first Holly (a poodle) and then Nicholas (a Shetland sheep dog) known to most of us as "Nicky" that she became acquainted with so many people in the neighborhood.

Lois is survived by her two daughters, Linda who shared the house with her mother after her father's death and Sandi. She had two grown grandchildren, Christopher and Katie and a great-granddaughter Eliza Ruth. While Linda and Sandi were helping make arrangements for Lois's funeral, Eliza, age 2 ½ went to Lois' study to pretend she was talking on the phone. Eliza said she was "talking to "MeMa" up in heaven, that the trip up wasn't bad and that heaven was really a pretty good place and everything was ok".



Contributed by Linda Muellen and by Helen Beachem who was Lois's friend and neighbor for 45 years who will sorely miss her.

The late April warm spring air, the freshly washed blue sky, the cherry blossoms and daffodils, the dogwood and azaleas, all this brought the neighborhood children out of their homes. What is so unusual in our small neighborhood is that nine of these little ones should be so close together in age, ranging from just a little under two and just a little over three.

Back in 1965, when we moved into Rock Creek Woods, children were everywhere. We had five, the Pelz family had six, virtually every house had at least two. These kids grew up, moved away, married and started families of their own while parents like us stayed put. The neighborhood gradually took on the air of a retirement community. While Rock Creek Woods has never been childless, over the last few years, more young people starting families moved in and once again children abound.

Here they are. The 2-3 year olds, in action.



Eddie de Leon is exploring his garden with a stick.



Sophie de Jesus, picking flowers for her mom and dad.

Little Children

by Tom Klein



Kendall Cox, surrounded by daffodils.



Oscar Brodtkin likes the swings.



Maeve and Eamon Smith on their third birthday, April 10th.



Lindsey Kennedy wore her big sister's hat for Easter.



Nikki Glenn, Miss Easter Bunny of 2006, blowing bubbles.



Marina Deane-Gonzales stores things in a special little sack.

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Park Hills, near Takoma Park and downtown Silver Spring. Mike and Donna have been in the DC area for the past 10 and 15 years, respectively. Mike hails from south-central Pennsylvania and Donna from the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Nobu is their 16-month old son. Sachi is the family Brittany dog, who will be sure to greet you during her twice-daily walks.

Mike is an international finance specialist. He works for a small, private company in DC that specializes in international debt work-outs, devising strategies to resolve problem debts between commercial creditors and emerging market governments and state-owned enterprises.

Donna’s career is museum management. It was her search for work in this field that prompted her move from beautiful Hawaii to the mainland. Currently, Donna is the Registrar/Collections Manager in the Curators Office at the White House. She is responsible for maintaining the permanent collection of furniture, textiles, paintings and sculpture. Prior to the White House job, Donna worked the Smithsonian’s Museum of American Art. In all, Donna has been in the museum field for 15 years.

Donna is an avid runner, and will be seen trotting alongside Sachi in Rock Creek Park. Mike and Donna both enjoy biking, and they look forward to long rides in the park, weather and Nobu permitting!

— Tom Klein

Black Path Additions

Because of the nice rainfalls that we have had recently, the four new forsythia bushes planted in April have taken hold beautifully. We’d like to thank Ann and Don Byrne for their kind contribution to the “2006” forsythia fund. If anyone else would like to contribute to this year’s fund, please send your donation on to our RCWCA treasurer Milt Socolar. These last four bushes only cost \$100.

People have been busy at the path. Julie and Dick Marcis planted some beautiful grasses at the top of the hill, and May and Cordie put in some cana and Russian sage recently. Perennials planted other years are all starting to come back, and it really is a lovely path to walk these days. If anyone would like to contribute plantings or do a little weeding, please feel free to do so. *Thanks!*

Cherry Tree Maintenance

Contributed by Sarah Eresian

Removing Dead Trees

If you have a cherry tree that has died, please call **Guy Turene** at **240-777-7631**. Guy is the botanist from the County Division of Highway Maintenance and he is familiar with our neighborhood and its trees. For the best response, it is important that you talk to him personally [*don’t leave a message*]. Explain the condition of your tree and be sure to mention specific conditions such as dead branches hanging over sidewalks, dead branches above areas where children walk and play, or dead branches that are hit by large trucks on a regular basis. In the past few months, the response time has been fast and the County crew has removed the tree and ground out the stump.

Requesting New Trees

If you would like to replace a cherry tree that has died [*located on the County easement*], call **Talmadge Schifflett’s** office at **240-777-7632** to request a replacement tree. [*He is with the County Department of Public Works & Transportation.*] Most likely you will be offered a “flowering tree”, but you can specify that you want a cherry tree of the Yoshino variety to match the other cherry trees in our neighborhood that were planted by the County. Be persistent if necessary.

Planting New Trees

When the crew comes to plant the new cherry tree, it’s very important to make sure that the new tree is planted in a different location from the removed dead tree.