

# Hi

SPRING 2007

# Neighbor!



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

## NewsBriefs

### Black Path Cleanup Day!

Saturday, March 24

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Get out your garden gloves, your rakes, wheelbarrows and saws (even chain saws if you have one), and join us in helping to clean up the Black Path area before our wonderful forsythia bushes begin to bloom. Also, wear or bring some boots, for we are planning to clean up the trash in the creek to enhance its restoration. If anyone has a pick up truck that we could use to haul brush to the dump, it would be wonderful if it could be used for this purpose.



### Annual Plant Sale!

Saturday, May 5

from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Our friend, *Helmut Jaehnigen* from *Behnke's*, will be returning to the neighborhood with a good selection of annuals and some perennials that grow well in partial shade. These will include Alyssum, Begonia, Impatiens, Salvia, Cannas and a variety of Hosta, just to name a few. The plants are of excellent quality,

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### *A note from Jim Roberts*

Our neighborhood sign committee has provided its recommendation for a sign revision that (1.) it sees as affordable, (2.) includes our designation as an historic site, and (3.) satisfies our need for a more durable display front than that of the present sign with its wooden lettering.

Last fall's unanticipated rejection by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the financing of the sign that was designed by Neal Cox brought the committee abruptly back to square one from the lengthy planning that had gone into the proposal sent to the HPC. With the rejection, it was clear that there was no practical way without County support to finance the proposed sign with neighborhood resources alone.

A more affordable option had to be found.

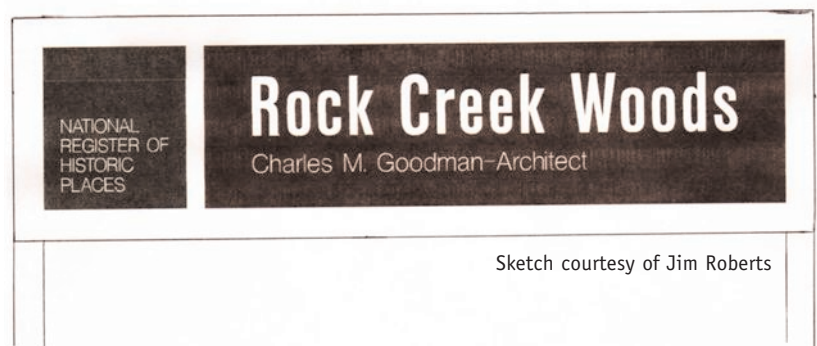
## It's a Sign!

### Spring Focus

The current recommendation calls for adapting Neal's design for use on the existing sign's basic structure. This renovation would involve superimposing two high-density plastic panels (3/8 inch thick) over the display area

of the existing sign. Lettering would be cut into the plastic, which is layered to provide sharp contrast between the outer coloring and the interior white color of the material exposed as the letters are cut. No paint or other surface coloring is necessary.

The cost of these panels would be \$630, an amount that could easily be raised by the community, or RCWCA treasury funds could be used.



Sketch courtesy of Jim Roberts

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come in large 4.5-inch pots and are priced reasonably. The sale is held in front of the *Good Shepherd Church* at the corner of Spruell and Ingersol.

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**Celebration for the Clausens**

**Sunday, May 6**  
from noon to 2 p.m.

Our former neighbors, *Roseanne* and *Phil Clausen* who contributed so much to our neighborhood for so many years, will be celebrated at a Sunday brunch at one of our homes early in May. All are welcome to attend, and specific details will be forthcoming. Those interested in helping with the planning of the celebration, please contact Cordie Goldstein.

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**Neighborhood Yard Sale**

**Saturday, May 19 at 9 a.m.**

Plans for a neighborhood yard sale are in the works. So far, plans are to hold it at the corner of Spruell and Ingersol with neighbors sharing tables that will be borrowed from the church. *Mary Lou Manifold* of 4014 Ingersol is heading up this endeavor, and those interested in working with her can reach her at 301-946-4976.

If funds are needed, one can choose to contribute half of their profits from the yard sale to go toward the cost of the new neighborhood sign.

So, as you are spring cleaning, put aside items that you don't want anymore and save them for the yard sale!

Welcome New Neighbors!

**John Collier** and **Marc Gagarin** are the new owners of *4014 Rickover*. John is a software engineer, and Marc is a graphic designer. For the past several years, they have been living together in Greenbelt and last autumn began thinking of moving into a larger home.

It was Marc who discovered Rock Creek Woods, searching the web for mid-20th century modern homes. He and John both knew about Goodman and were acquainted with homes in Holland Hills and the SW Co-op. They were very excited to see 4014 Rickover. They feel that it has "everything we want in a house." Marc likes modern furniture and sees this home as the perfect setting for his collection.

Marc and John share an interest in architecture and like to travel. One trip took them to Scottsdale, Arizona where they saw the Frank Lloyd Wright summer camp, "Taliesin."

John and Marc plan to move in soon. We send them a hearty WELCOME!

*(excerpted from an email by Tom Klein, 2/19/07)*

## In The Shelter of Each Other

by **Gregory Arms**  
3.21.07

This is home; Rock Creek Woods, the old Gehrels house. It feels safe here. I can walk the streets in silence at night or in the afternoon walk and talk with friends. Not just acquaintances, but friends. Over time I have tested my preconceptions and allowed my hidden self to emerge. I worry that it is filled with ignorance, malapropisms, and cynicism. But friendships

have developed in the wake of our encounters.

2006 was difficult for me. It was the year of the head and I worried about losing my creative dexterity, ability to explain my process, and the joy of watching light and motion. It is hard being less than I want and more frustrating still, feeling less than I was. Valerie would graciously say I am more courageous in my fear but I feel vulnerable in the unknown.

Maybe to really receive we have to be vulnerable, admit to need. I felt that to heal I needed to embrace everyone's care and I am grateful for so much care. Strangely enough, I had to find courage to accept the driving, great meals, cards and concerned e-mails. My first impulse was that of the introvert, to hide!

But maybe that is what community is about; people to say hello in there, a safe place to return at the end of the day or from travels near and far. I am comfortable with these streets and you who inhabit this place. In some sense this place becomes my sanctuary from and in the world. We share our lives with each other.

We have been joined by a common design, a community facilitated by wood and brick, glass boxes. This concept of place has become a meeting place allowing us to exchange stories around dogs, work, and family. I am enlivened with each new encounter and story to discover that you are not who I know but someone different.

Thank you all for the opportunity to expand into this space!