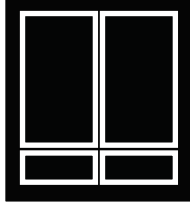




# Hi

SUMMER 2008



# Neighbor!

News & Information for Neighbors & Friends  
of the Rock Creek Woods Community

## Book Club Meeting July 16, 8:00 pm 4018 Ingersol



Love to read? The neighborhood book club is open to all readers interested in fiction as well as non-fiction, recent books as well as classics. Books are chosen for their content, as well as their availability, either through the library, bookstores or Amazon.com.

The club maintains a very long list of past book choices - recent selections have included F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, almost all of Jane Austen's works, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's *Love in the Time of Cholera*, *Atonement* by Ian McEwan and their most recent choice, the non-fiction work *Three Cups of Tea* (Mortenson/Relin). The Book Club is currently reading the novel *The Emperor's Children* by Claire Messud (2006) and invites neighbors to join in the discussion.

If you are looking for recommendations for vacation reading, the club is a great source of ideas and opinions.

For more information, contact Ruth Gruenberg or Helen Beachem.

## Neighborhood Is Looking Good

As one drives into the neighborhood, the new sign looks great, especially with the new mulch and summer plantings.

Holly Ketchel, with help from Jim and Catherine Roberts, prepared the soil and put in plants purchased by our civic association from Helmut Jaehnigen at the neighborhood plant sale in May. Payment for the plants was taken from a special neighborhood beautification fund that has been established with a kind and generous donation of \$200 from Pati Young. This will be an ongoing fund for the sign project and any other beautification projects needed in the neighborhood. Neighbors wishing to contribute to this fund in the future can send donations on to our treasurer.

Many thanks go to Pati, Holly, Jim and Catherine, and to all of those wonderful people who carry a plastic bag with them as they walk the service lane, picking up trash. It looks great!



## ☆☆ 4TH OF JULY FUN & ENTERTAINMENT ☆☆

### *13th Annual 4th of July Children's Bike Parade, July 4th, 9:45 am*

Younger kids (preschool through 1st or 2nd grade) decorate themselves and their trikes and bikes with patriotic flair and take a ride through the quiet neighborhood streets of Kensington. Grownups are invited to walk along with them. There are usually ice pops and prizes for the most amazingly decorated bikes afterward.

For more information call the Town at 301-949-2424.

St. Paul Park, St. Paul Street and Plyers Mill Road, Kensington, MD 20895

## ☆☆ Music and Fireworks ☆☆

Later, after your barbeque or day at the pool, bring a chair or blanket and come listen to the fabulous **Rockville Concert Band** play patriotic favorites immediately before the spectacular **Rockville Fireworks** display.

8:00-9:30 p.m.

Montgomery College athletic field, Campus Drive near Rt 355, Rockville.

## Farewell to Cordie and Neil

by Tom Klein

To our dismay, last February 1st a big van pulled up to 4012 Ingersol and moved our dear friends and neighbors, Cordie and Neil Goldstein, to Bethesda. It was on July 1, 1969, a typically hot and sweltering summer day that Cordie, Neil and 3-year old Grant moved in. Two more children followed, Bret (born 1970) and Marlo (born 1972).

Neil was born and raised in Brooklyn. Cordie was from Pittsburgh; she came to Manhattan after graduating Penn State to work for a literary agent. Cordie and Neil came here from New York in 1964 – right after they married. Neil had enlisted as a commissioned officer with the U.S. Public Health Service. His assignment was two years; he stayed on for thirty five, retiring in 1999 with the rank of Director (equivalent to Navy Captain). Neil served mostly as Director of Information Systems and Executive Officer of the Center for Devices and Radiological Health of the FDA.

Neil liked apartment living; Cordie preferred a house. Initially they lived in garden apartments in Rockville then looked for a contemporary style townhouse (a compromise between apartments and houses). Their realtor instead showed them a photo of the Ingersol Drive home. Reluctantly, Neil agreed to take a look. As they drove up, Neil spotted the basketball net in front of the Pelz home and at that instant was sold, much to Cordie's delight.



Cordie with her children in 1976, and working on the Black Path, right.

While the children were growing up, Cordie focused on their activities. First there was the Good Shepherd Cooperative Nursery School. Pat Billings got Cordie involved right away: Wouldn't it be wonderful if Grant could enroll and if we could find a few more 3-year olds so that we would have

a three-year old class in addition to the four-year old class? Cordie started as a volunteer. In 1979 she began teaching; in September 1983 Cordie became Director after Annabel Kaufman stepped down, and she continued until May 2002 when the school closed.

Under Cordie's guidance the school taught children "self-reliance, socialization, sharing and other skills." The school day (9:15 till noon) included free play time, teacher's circle with songs and games, story time and, finally, activities in the outdoor playground. With Cordie's imagination and enthusiasm, the children had a ball. Parents or substitutes had to help out. There were occasional field trips, requiring parents to drive. At graduation time, Cordie wrote a poem for each departing student. Writing little poems is one of Cordie's hobbies.

When Grant, Bret and Marlo moved on from nursery school to Rock Creek Palisades, Newport Middle and finally to Einstein High, Cordie joined the various PTAs and quickly became a leader - she was President of both the Rock Creek Palisades and the Newport PTAs. Cordie worked at the county level of the PTA for five years and became Area Vice President of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs. She was also the Einstein Cluster Coordinator. The Goldstein children are now all school teachers.

Cordie has been President of the Rock Creek Woods Association since 2006 and has worked hard to keep our neighborhood attractive. She continued the "trash pick-up" walks started by Bill Dunn, in an effort to keep the service drive area neat, and she has inspired others to carry on.

Cordie's biggest project was the "Black Path" area. Each year, she would get us all out on a mid-March Saturday to clear out brush and remove rubbish. She persuaded both the Church of the Brethren and the Templo Rosa de Sharon to join us. It was Cordie's idea to plant forsythia along the chain link fence bordering the town houses, planting some bushes in the spring of 2001 and then ten more in the spring of 2005. Cordie inspired a number of us to adopt this project, and we now have many interesting grasses and perennials in place of weeds. Cordie helped arrange the plantings of Leland cypress trees at the end of Spruell.



Cordie organized plant sales and encouraged our cherry tree replacement program. She made friends with Guy Turrene, a County arborist, who gave us solid advice on plantings. At Behnke's Cordie established a strong relationship with their expert, Helmut Jaehnigen who, thanks to Cordie, has become our botanical Godfather.

After retiring from the Public Health Service, Neil and two colleagues started Image Smiths, Inc., a company that creates software for medical imaging such as digital mammography. Neil also designs acrostic puzzles. About every other month one appears locally in the Saturday Washington Post. Neil also serves on the Board of Directors of a non-profit organization, Pain Connection, Inc., whose President is another RCW neighbor, Geoffrey Manifold.

While the Goldstein's now live in an apartment on Woodmont Avenue, their presence in the neighborhood remains. On Saturday, May 3rd, Cordie organized a flower and plant sale in front of the church with Helmut's help. Cordie's term as Association President continues until December 31st.

Next March, and every March thereafter, forsythia will burst into bloom along the black path, a permanent reminder of Cordie and Neil, friends who will never leave our hearts.



### ELECTION OF RCWCA OFFICERS

An election for new officers of the Rock Creek Woods Civic Association will be held on Monday, September 1 at our annual Labor Day Picnic.

Those nominated are:

- Kathy Waldman – President
- Gregory Arms - Vice President
- Pati Young – Secretary
- Jules O'Rear – Treasurer

Tom Klein, Betsy Binckes and Val Campbell made up the nominating committee. If anyone wishes to make any further nominations for these offices, please contact Tom.



### An Actor in Our Midst



Surely you've seen this commercial for Chase Bank – part of an intensive media campaign to re-focus public attention from the Chase Bank brand to the concept that Chase does things for people that really matter in their lives. "Chase what matters" is the new concept.

Much effort went into this particular commercial, called "Secret Agent Man." The Director was the famed Australian Steve Rogers; cinematographer, John Seale ("The English Patient," for which he earned an Oscar). It opened at the Super Bowl. Here's the Business Wire synopsis:

Scored to the original track of Johnny Rivers 1966 "Secret Agent Man," the ad shows a debonair, secret agent-like hero going through a series of action-packed adventures to stop another man from using a stolen Chase Card, ending with a jolt to reality where this hero is actually a man at a social event who had been able to act upon a fraud alert received from Chase. Filmed in many locations across New York City, including a dramatic scene at the 59th Street bridge.

And who is the debonair hero? Our neighbor, Patrick Welsh!

Patrick has made a career starring in national network TV commercials, with some 40 to 50 under his belt.

Are you a "Law and Order" fan? In a Criminal Intent episode, Patrick was a defense attorney. And in the opening scene of one Law and Order show, filmed by the waterfront, he played a New York fisherman who discovered a body.

Patrick also has had theater experience. When the Seattle Rep Theater opened some years back, Patrick played the title role in Dion Boucicault's Irish melodrama, "The Shaugraun."

We look forward to more news of Patrick's acting career.

# Rain Barrels and Other Options for Watering Your Plants

By Rick Stumpf

If you want to save tap water, or you want to use water that is not chlorinated on your plants, there are a couple of options. The first is a rain barrel, which holds over 50 gallons and will fill in any modest rain. If you have looked up rain barrels for sale, you have seen that they cost \$100 or more, and that is before shipping. If you are a bit handy or have a friend who is, and have a good downspout, you can make your own rain barrel for about \$20 and a few dollars in gas.

You can get some good information from the County at: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/Rain-scapes/pdf/barrel.pdf>. These instructions are a modification



of that design.

## For the Barrel:

- 55 gallon food grain plastic drum (see below) \$5

## For the input (where the downspout aims):

- A 6" plastic NFS sewer drain grate, ~\$4 (keeps big chunks out and holds the screen)
- About a 9" square of fiberglass screen; metal might work but it will probably rust; and it is less flexible (the screen keeps the mosquitoes out).
- 6" hose clamp (\$1.50); several cable ties can also work, although not quite as well.

## For the spigot:

- A brass 3/4" spigot, or "hose bibb" (outdoor type), ~\$4
- PVC 3/4" male adapter (thread on one end) and PVC 3/4" female threaded coupling (threads inside both ends, one side for the other PVC, the other side for the spigot).



- Rubber washer with a hole large enough to fit snugly around the PVC male
- A helper (for five minutes somewhere in the middle)

## For the overflow:

This is somewhat flexible depending on what you have for a drain hose. I used an old dishwasher hose with:

- PVC 1 1/4" male and PV 1 1/4" female adapter (threads on one end)
- You could use a length of 1 1/4" PVC and an elbow to get from the overflow to your splash block.
- The county uses a slightly larger connector which will work with sump hose; however sump hose costs about \$10.

## For the stand:

- A bunch of bricks, blocks or treated wood. Nothing rotten or broken, you will be putting 400 pounds on it.
- Some Teflon pipe tape or equivalent

## Tools

### To cut the holes:

- Sharpie marker
- A drill with a 1" bit (spade bit will work) for both the spigot and to start the downspout hole. (You can consider a 15/16" bit for the spigot, if you cut a perfectly round hole)
- A jigsaw or one blade hacksaw to cut the downspout hole. If you are using 1 1/4" PVC, you need to cut a 1 1/2" hole (spade bit)
- Channel lock pliers (or a large wrench)
- Piece of pipe (I used 1 1/4" PVC) that will fit over the handle of the channel lock while it is holding the 1" PVC.

## For the downspout:

- hacksaw

Caulk

## Painting (optional):

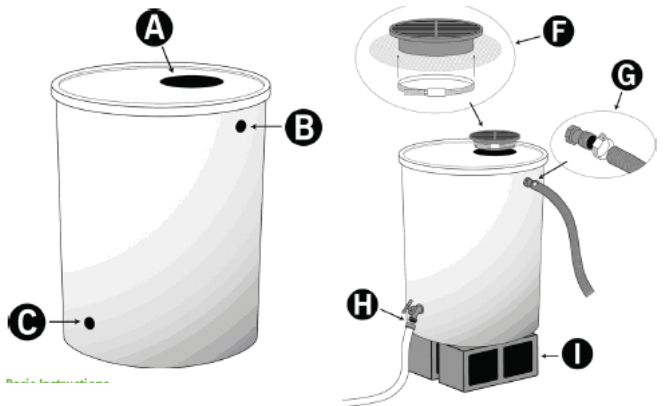
•Krylon spray paint for plastic (\$5; available at Hardware City). Krylon recommends a light wipe of paint thinner before painting.

## Barrel:

Go to the Pepsi Bottling Plant in Cheverly *with your checkbook* before 2:30, M-F, and get a drum. These are food grade and held the syrup used to make soft drinks. A drum costs \$5, and they only take checks—no cash and no Visa.

To get there, go around the Beltway, take the BWI Parkway toward DC. Get off at 202 and follow signs to Prince George's Hospital. Go past the Hospital; the road will change names a couple of times. You will come up to the plant on the left. Do not go in the main entrance. Turn left on Lydell Road, which follows the fence around the property and follow it all the way to the back to the truck entrance. At the gate, stop and say you are there for a barrel. You may have to wait a few minutes. Keep in mind, this is the truck entrance, and these are large trucks. You can buy several drums if you like. They sometimes even have some sizes that are smaller than 55 gallon.

Take it home, take out the bungs (you might need a 1 or 2" ruler or piece of wood to act as a screwdriver). Turn the barrel on its side and rinse the inside (a spray nozzle is good). It would have held Pepsi or Mountain Dew syrup (you will know once you start rinsing). Several rinses through the bung holes will do it.



## Make the holes

### Downspout hole (A)

Find the side with the imprinted “label”. That will be the back. Take a look at your downspout. Figure out where it will come out on the barrel. On the top on the backside, put a mark that will center on the downspout. Then center the sewer grate upside down on the mark and trace it (a circle). Turn the grate right side up, center in the first circle and trace it as another circle inside the first one. You will now have two concentric circles.

Drill a 1” hole inside of the outer circle so that you have a place to start, then cut a hole that lies halfway between the

two circles. This assures that the hole is not so big that the grate will fall through, or so small that it won’t fit.

### Spigot hole (C)

About 1” above the bottom on the front (the side without the imprinted “label”), mark a spot. This is where the spigot will go. You want the spigot to just clear the bottom, but not be placed too high, because it will not drain. Drill with the 1” drill (by the way, the spigot will screw into 15/16” hole, but most people don’t have one of these, and I don’t find the result for the spigot satisfactory). Drill firmly. Use a file to take the burrs off the inside of the hole. (A knife might work.)

### Overflow hole (B)

Next drill the overflow hole. This should be near the top, about 2” down on a side. Put your barrel where it will go and figure out the best side for the hole. Left or right are generally best, as the back will probably touch the wall, but the back could work nicely. Drill the drain hole with the 1 1/2” bit (or appropriate drill for your connector).

### Overflow connector

Use a paper towel to dry the inside of the barrel around the overflow hole. Put calk around the inside and outside of the hole. Slide the male coupling through the hole from the inside and screw on from the outside.

### Downspout cover (F)

Take the sewer drain; make sure it slides into the downspout hole. Wrap the screen around the inside (the screen keeps mosquitoes out or in), and secure with the hose clamp. Pop it in the hole to make sure it fits, then take it out. You will need to use the hole for the next part.

### Prepare for spigot

Now go get your helper, then take the 1 1/4” PVC male coupling. Put the rubber washer all the way on it. Put the unthreaded end in the channel lock and put the “extension” pipe over the handles. The extension has to lock the pliers so the PVC is secure and doesn’t fall out. If you have a 3-foot arm, you can do the next step by hand (I needed the channel lock). Put everything in the downspout hole and push the PVC threaded end all the way through the spigot hole from the inside. Now have your helper tighten the other coupling onto the one sticking out the spigot hole. It should be quite snug. This may take a couple of tries, because you might drop the pliers or not have a secure grip on the inside PVC coupling. Once this is done, your helper can now go get you something to drink.

Do not screw in the spigot until everything else is done. If you start rolling the barrel around you might shear the spigot off.

## Paint

If you are going to paint, wash and dry the barrel and follow the Krylon instructions. If you take the grate out to paint the top, then cover the hole so paint does not get in.

One can will cover the barrel if you DO NOT paint the back or bottom. Painting takes about 15 minutes with many light coats. Start on one side and lightly cover to the other side, then repeat. You can paint the connectors and the grate. The first picture shows Krylon dark green.

## Stand

Make your stand. It only has to be high enough to get a small bucket under the downspout. Keep in mind that 50 gallons of water weighs 400 pounds. Make sure the stand is solid and level.

## Install

Cut the downspout just above the barrel. It aims at the downspout hole, it does not go into it. You may need a curved piece of downspout to point at the downspout hole.

Put the barrel on the stand. Now take the spigot, wrap some Teflon tape clockwise around the spigot thread, and screw it into the PVC coupling.

## Use

Wait for rain. Connect a hose to the spigot if you routinely want to bring water elsewhere that is downhill.

Keep in mind that this is gravity fed, it won't flow uphill, and won't flow as fast as a sink. If hand watering, I use two buckets or cans, filling one while I am using the other.

You can connect two rain barrels. I put in another spigot to transfer the water from one to the other.

## Maintenance:

- Clean the fiberglass screen every couple of months.
- Drain the barrel before rain to keep the water fresh.
- Drain for the winter, and leave the spigot open, or move away from the downspout.
- During a drought, store your AC water in the barrel.\*

### *\*Another free water option -*

During the recent heat wave, our AC peaked at ½ gallon of water per hour. This is essentially distilled water. So put a bucket or a gallon jug under that drain hose, and check it regularly. But where to store all that water? That brings up the rain barrel. If we have a hot dry period, you can save that AC water in the barrel.

## Composting

**By Marina Stumpf  
and Maggie Toscano**

Composting is an environmentally friendly way to get rid of things like banana peels and coffee grounds and save money. Mixed with perlite, it makes excellent potting soil. Also, it's very easy. The first thing you need to do is choose a spot in your yard that you can put the compost in. You can use a wooden box, a large barrel, an area with a fence around it (and an opening or gate on one side), or a just a pile. Moisture should be able to get in at the top (e.g. rain) and drain from the bottom (e.g. make drain holes if you compost in a barrel). The container, box or fenced area should keep moisture in on the sides so the compost won't dry out.

Next, get a container with a lid for your kitchen counter, to collect the peels, etc. It can be anything from a Cool Whip container to a ceramic jar, but make sure it is big enough for your needs. You can empty it as often as needed.

It is also important to know what to compost. You should not compost animal products like meat, bones, cheese or whole eggs. Here is a list:

- Banana and orange peels, apple skins and cores
- Peach pits, cherry pits and stems
- Vegetable skins, bruised flesh, stems and seeds
- Coffee grounds and the thin paper filters
- Eggshells
- Chopped leaves (these must be wet)
- Grass clippings (need to mix these in)

It is important to make sure the vegetable matter is damp (kitchen scraps are already damp). If you want to add chopped up dry leaves, wet them with a hose or leave them out in the rain before adding them to the compost. You will have to wait 3-5 months for the vegetable matter to turn into proper compost, and you can compost over the winter. Fireplace ashes can also be added. In the spring, add the compost to your garden and watch the plants thrive. To get compost that is fully decomposed, scoop it from the bottom of the pile.

### Beach House For Sale LEWES BEACH, DELAWARE

3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, large screened porch, big back yard, fully furnished. It's great for kids and is a 4 minute walk to a very safe beach on Delaware Bay.

It's also a great income property-- many neighbors have visited.

Contact: Kelly or Dick Pelz, 900 University, Apt. 13P, Seattle, Washington 98101, phone 201-382-3171

## New Neighbors By Tom Klein

We welcome **Renana Keynes and John Levinson** to Rock Creek Woods. On June 12th they moved into 4016 Rickover, Marge Souder's former house, with their two little girls Ayla (age 3) and Davi (seven weeks old!). They had been in the Washington area since 2004, living first in Mount Pleasant and then in Bethesda.

Renana, an interior designer by profession and a graduate of the University of Manitoba, was fascinated by the layout of the Goodman houses. Renana and John particularly loved the location of Marge's house, on a rise with lots of shade trees. But, more important to them than the actual home, John and Renana were attracted by our community and look forward to becoming part of our neighborhood.

Renana was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba; John was born in Richmond, grew up in Memphis and later moved with his mom to Kansas City. They met in Massachusetts. Renana was living in Sommerville working as an interior designer. John was living in Cambridge, to which he returned after working in India and New Zealand for five years. Prior to going overseas, John worked for Senator Barbara Boxer of California following graduation from Harvard where he had majored in American History. While in New Zealand, John studied for an MA in international development at the Victoria University of Wellington.

A friend of Renana said John was just the sort of fellow she would like; after meeting John, she agreed, and they soon became a couple. In 2002 they set out on an overseas ad-

venture to Cambodia. To make themselves employable, they studied how to teach English to foreigners and quickly found work as ESL teachers in Phnom Penh. John later worked for CARE as a project coordinator for a rural development project in a heavily landmined area; Renana found work coordinating the Second National HIV/AIDS Conference and volunteered with various international and local NGO's. They were married in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2003 and then went back to Cambodia for a second year, this time living in Battambang.

In 2004 John and Renana moved back to North America, living a short while in Renana's home town of Winnipeg. John took a position with Rural LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) here in Washington, an organization dedicated to helping non-profit community organizations restore distressed neighborhoods and increase the supply of affordable housing. In February 2007, John joined the staff of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) where he is Managing Editor for their website

Once they settle into their new home, Renana looks forward to catching up on reading and outdoor activities – hiking, camping, horseback riding – while John anticipates spending time in the garden, outdoor adventures with the two girls and exploring the region. Ayla is adjusting to the new surroundings, loves the yard, looks forward to meeting other children in the neighborhood, but was a little disappointed that she did not get the master bedroom.



## Help us make our website useful! Contribute!

Our website ([www.rockcreekwoods.org](http://www.rockcreekwoods.org)) is a great place to find a service vendor, local restaurant, doctor or something to do. Visit the "yellow pages" section to find all kinds of personal recommendations. And we need your help to keep this list fresh! To recommend a service, restaurant, church or activity just send a message to [heather@millercox.com](mailto:heather@millercox.com) with details about name, location, phone number, and a short recommendation if desired (view the yellow pages for the basic format).

The Bulletin Board section is a great way to connect with your neighbors, whether you are selling a sofa, offering to babysit, or trying to get rid of something valuable (Jean Hoyt has been trying to give away her basketball hoop for a while now!). Maybe you'd like a tennis partner? The bulletin board is the place! Send info to [heather@millercox.com](mailto:heather@millercox.com) and items will be posted within a week or two at most.



## Seen at the Kensington Farmers' Market

Fresh broccoli, peas, berries, cherries, lettuces, herbs, squash, beets and greens are now available at the Kensington Farmer's Market at the MARC Station, Saturdays, 8 am to noon. You can also get flowers, bread, crafts, plants, seafood, grass fed beef, pork and free-range eggs.

Soon to come - tomatoes, peaches, melons, eggplants, and all the best of summer. Support a farmer and take advantage of the local market.

## The 2008 Labor Day Picnic September 1, 5 -8 pm



It is time to mark your calendar for the annual **Rock Creek Woods Labor Day Picnic** to be held from 5 to 8 pm at the corner of Spruell and Ingersol Drives.

There will be fun, food and friends galore. Election of new officers for the civic association will also take place.

Look for more information in August. If you are willing to volunteer to organize this ever-popular event, please contact Cordie Goldstein.

## Strathmore Hosts the 11th Annual Comcast Outdoor Film Festival Benefiting NIH Children's Charities FREE (Donations Requested)

Go to <http://www.strathmore.org/> and click on the calendar for August to see the film offerings, which include kid-friendly programs (Bee Movie, Harry Potter, Shrek the Third) as well as more grown-up flicks. Restaurants and grounds open at 6:30 p.m. Showtime 8:30 p.m.

Parking - Parking for the Film Festival is in the Grosvenor-Strathmore Metro garage. Enter the garage on Tuckerman Lane. Detailed directions are available at [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org/) under "Plan Your Visit," click on Directions & Parking. Parking is \$4.75, and a Metro SmarTrip card will be required to pay the \$4.75 parking fare in order to exit the garage. Metro does not accept cash or any other form of payment. Note - many people can park for free along Tuckerman Lane at the metered spots; just get there early.

Film Festival Food - Various food vendors will sell food along the fairway. A portion of the proceeds benefits NIH Children's Charities, so leave the picnic basket at home and eat for charity! Movies are free, please, no dogs allowed, bring a blanket or low beach chair.

**Hi Neighbor!** is a quarterly publication of the Rock Creek Woods Civic Association. To contribute stories or items of interest to the community, personal milestones, photos and announcements, please email them to the Editor ([mtoscano@sprintmail.com](mailto:mtoscano@sprintmail.com)). Contributors to this issue include Tom Kelin, Cordie Goldstein, Sarah Eresian, Ruth Gruenberg, Rick Stumpf, Marina Stumpf. Thanks!