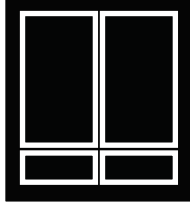




# Hi

WINTER 2008



# Neighbor!

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

## Black Path Clean-up Saturday, March 15

Mark your calendars for the annual Spring clean-up at the Black Path for Saturday, March 15 (inclement weather date – Saturday, April 5) from 9 am to 1 pm. This has been an on-going neighborhood work day for over 15 years done in conjunction with members of the Good Shepherd Church and Templo Rosa de Saron congregations, and some times family members from the Rock Creek Montessori School join us.

Members from the Good Shepherd Church congregation have graciously provided coffee, tea, water, oranges, bagels and doughnuts for those who are working.

All in the neighborhood are welcome to pitch in for it's a great opportunity to meet and work with each other, and the area always looks great and ready for Spring to arrive!



### Cherry Trees

Chemlawn service agreements are out - the RCW rate to spray each tree should be \$9.90. Some contracts reflected services beyond spraying; individuals simply crossed unwanted items off the contract. If you have questions or are new to the neighborhood and want the special RCW rate, call Brett Daly at Chemlawn (301-840-8090) for the RCWCA account.

## New Neighborhood Sign

The reviews are in! Many, many people in the neighborhood really like the new Rock Creek Woods sign. Those who worked on this project should be proud to know how much their neighbors appreciate all of the effort that has gone into this endeavor.

The cost of replacing our old sign with the new one added up to about \$1200, which was taken out of the RCWCA treasury. Almost this entire sum has been replaced by donations to the sign project. As of January 1, 2008, \$1,017.00 was contributed by some lovely people living here in Rock Creek Woods. They have all been thanked personally, and they know that their contributions are greatly appreciated.

Thanks also go to Milt Socolar, our treasurer, for keeping track of all of these "high finances" over these many months.



### *Friendly Reminder:*

If it ever actually snows this winter, please remember that Montgomery County requires all residents to keep the sidewalks in front of their homes clear of snow. Please assist any neighbors around you that may need help shoveling their walks. Thanks! ❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️❄️

## Rehabilitation Tax Credit from Maryland Historical Trust

Just in case anyone in the neighborhood is thinking of applying for a **Tax Credit** for rehabilitation work done on your home, we thought a short Primer on the procedure might be helpful. Neil Klopfenstein helped us get started. We had our fixed pane windows replaced and added storm inserts, and have received approval for the tax credit from the Maryland Historical Trust. We haven't filed our 2007 tax return yet so we'll let you know how that goes later.

Go to the website for the Maryland Historical Trust at [www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net](http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net) and find the tax credit section. There are a few pertinent forms to download and print, including the 11-page **Homeowners Tax Credit application**, in three parts. Instructions for the application, photographic documentation and other FAQs are included in separate downloadable files. The application fee\*, which was not in effect when we applied, is indicated on the form. The application is a bit formidable and takes a while to fill out. Take it one step at a time and keep it simple.

There are a few things you must gather before applying. **Part I (Certification of Significance)** asks for description of physical appearance, date of construction/source of date, date(s) of alteration(s), a statement of significance, and for the attachment of photographs/slides and maps. Getting an estimate of the cost of the work and photographic documentation of the area to be rehabilitated will be the most time consuming. If you're planning on getting windows replaced, some pictures taken during these very cold days, when the ice is forming inside the panes, might be persuasive. The initial application takes from 4-8 weeks to get approval.

**Part II (Description of Proposed Rehabilitation)** requires detailed description of rehabilitation work for each "Architectural feature" involved, as well as the approximate date of feature, a description of the existing feature and its condition, photo(s), and a description of the work and impact on existing feature. All "before" pictures you submit must be re-shot as "after" pictures showing the improvements.

**Part III (Certification of Completed Rehabilitation)** is submitted after the work is done. Expect this to take an additional 4-6 weeks to be approved. Notice I only refer to approval. They will send a form that will accompany your tax return for the actual credit.

Remember that this is a program designed to help you preserve your home with its architecturally significant aspects maintained\*\*, so any change you make must be within the scope of Mr. Goodman's concept. Good luck. Any easy questions can be fielded by Mariann Serif or Val Campbell (who contributed this article).

*"The Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Program, administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, provides Maryland income tax credits equal to 20% of the qualified capital costs expended in the rehabilitation of a "certified heritage structure." The rehabilitation expenditure in a 24-month period must be substantial, exceeding \$5,000 for owner-occupied residential property, and the greater of the adjusted basis of the structure (generally the purchase price, minus the value of the land, minus any depreciation taken)..."* Read more at the Website.

\* Fees – "...Maryland Historical Trust will charge a fee for the review of Homeowner Heritage Preservation Certification Tax Credit Applications ... set at 1% of the amount of the tax credit for which a single-family, owner-occupied rehabilitation would be eligible based on the greater of the estimated or final qualified expenditures for the rehabilitation project. The fee will be due and payable: 1) \$10 at the time of the Part 2 Application submission; and 2) the balance prior to the Trust's approval of the Part 3 Application."

### Homestead Property Tax Credit

According to the *Washington Post*, there is an application inside the Maryland Property Tax Assessment notice (mailed to us) which must be filled out in order to apply for the Homestead Property Tax Credit. This credit was automatically given to you in the past, if you were eligible, which most of us are. This year you must apply for it. The homestead credit limits the amount of assessment increase on which a homeowner will pay property taxes in that tax year on the one property actually used as the owner's principal residence.

The State Department of Assessments and Taxation encourages you to file your application for the homestead credit as soon as you receive it. You can file electronically at the Department's website (<http://www.dat.state.md.us/>) or by mailing the paper form in the postage paid envelope included in the assessment notice. Homeowners not reassessed until 2009 or 2010 can wait until then to submit a Homestead Tax Credit application.

If you have further questions you can visit the Maryland Department of Assessments website at [www.dat.state.md.us](http://www.dat.state.md.us)

*\*\*According to the fine print on the MD Historical Trust website, remodeling and replacing of old bathrooms and kitchens does not count for this tax credit - only rehabilitation to make the house livable.*

## Medical Pioneers - Katherine and Thomas Waldman

In Rock Creek Woods we are very fortunate to have so many "above average" neighbors, whose skills, talents and generosity are what makes us a true community. This month we spotlight two original owners – Drs Kathy and Thomas Waldman of 3910 Rickover, who have lived here since 1960. Since then the Waldmans, who met while both were in internal medicine training at Massachusetts General Hospital, raised three kids while pursuing their medical careers, Kathy at the County Health Department and Thomas at the National Cancer Institute. Kathy worked in the well-baby clinic, then in the school system as Chief Physician. In the early 1980's Kathy's work centered on a new and frightening disease – AIDS. Her early outreach efforts to discuss the disease and its transmission led her to join the new HIV-AIDS clinic on Dennis Avenue, where she cared one-on-one for AIDS patients. Thomas, a cancer researcher and Chief of the Metabolism Branch of the National Cancer Institute, has worked to refine chemotherapy to attack only cancer cells and not healthy tissue. His work in the 1980s and 1990s focused on creating specific laboratory versions of antibodies to target cancer cells and carry anti-cancer treatments directly to those cells. Many patients were successfully treated via his groundbreaking approach, and research continues.

It is significant that two of the Waldmans' kids are also physicians; Like Kathy, their daughter Carol cares for patients with special needs – the homeless in Boston. The Waldmans now have 7 grandchildren and continue to enjoy the perks of living in RCW, including the Book Club, Lunch Bunch and the Labor Day Picnic.




Thomas and Kathy Waldman at the 2007 Labor Day Picnic. Photo by May Nakamura


### ***Hi Neighbor!*** has a new Editor

Maggie Toscano of 4010 Rickover has taken over the Editor's job from Mariann Serif, who is pursuing graduate studies. Maggie invites all neighbors to contribute to the next issue - please send by late April. Photos are especially welcome.

## ***Comings & Goings***

 **Margery Souder** (4016 Rickover) has moved:  
Ms. Marge Souder  
Grand Oaks, Apt. 322  
5901 MacArthur Blvd., NW  
Washington, DC 20016

**Cordie and Neil Goldstein** have moved:  
7500 Woodmont Avenue  
Unit # 715  
Bethesda, MD 20814

 **Aiko Smith** has arrived, joining her big brother Nobu and her parents Donna and Mike on September 28th. Aiko means "one who spreads love" in Japanese!

**Audrey Victoria Deane-Gonzales** was born on May 26th to Adam G and Claudia D, and joins her proud big sister Marina!

Welcome to **John Freymann** and his son **Daniel** (3934 Rickover) who moved here in late summer.

### ***In the Running***

**Steve Dempsey** (4008 Rickover) ran the DC and NYC marathons back-to-back this past fall and had his best time ever on the second one.

**Val Campbell** and **Maggie Toscano** ran the "Jingle All the Way 10K" on Dec. 9 in a cold drizzle around the Tidal Basin (with bells on their shoes). Maggie (a novice runner) ran a personal best 11:36 mile pace, but Val, who patiently waited for Maggie to finally finish, won her age group by running a swift 7:40 mile pace while nursing a broken toe. Go Val!

**Heather Cox** will be doing the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer from May 3-4. Support Heather's team by going to <http://walk.avonfoundation.org/>

## 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.



## ***The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capitol***

has just launched its Complete 2008 Film Program online. Visit: [www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org](http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org) to view the schedule as well as:

- Clips and Trailers for 2008 Festival Films
- Interactive Map of all Festival screening locations
- Filmmaker Bios
- Welcome Video featuring Philippe Cousteau

Films are offered in diverse locations including museums, embassies, local libraries, the National Geographic Society and various theaters. Many are free. The festival runs from March 3 through March 22, 2008.

## ***Did you know?***

There is still a Farmer's Market at the Kensington MARC Station on Saturday mornings. You can get flowers, limited storage crops such as potatoes and apples, as well as pies, dried fruit and breads. The seafood vendor is also there.

New to the market - grass fed beef, pork and free-range eggs. Support a farmer and take advantage of the winter market.

## **Recycling - What can I put in my blue bin?**

Did you know that it's OK to recycle clear and colored plastic bottles with necks (regardless of resin number)? Labels and the little rings around the neck from the lid/cap are OK too. However, Montgomery County does not recycle any plastic containers without narrow neck openings. That means no yogurt containers, no margarine tubs, no pint-sized baskets for fruit, no beverage cups, and no salad bar containers. Also, you can not recycle bottles from hazardous products such as automotive and garden products. Further, the county does not accept lids/caps from plastic bottles. Please put these lids/caps into the trash.

Questions: visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste) or call 301-840-2370

## **Digital TV is Coming: What You Need to Know Now**

In February 2009, all over-the-air television broadcasts will be made only in digital format. That means if you use an antenna with any television, you will need a digital converter to receive the digital signal. The FCC is providing coupons (two per household) to offset ~\$40 of the cost of these converters.

Sometime in late February or March 2008, the digital converters, that will cost ~\$40-\$50 (before the coupon) will become available in stores selling televisions. To get the coupons, go to [dtv2009.gov](http://dtv2009.gov) and fill out the forms.

You do not need the converters for cable or satellite TV or if you already have a TV with a digital tuner. However, if you ever use an antenna (say when the cable goes out, or for the TV in your shed) you should get the coupons. As soon as you have the converters installed, you can begin to view the digital broadcasts currently available.

***Hi Neighbor!*** is a quarterly publication of the Rock Creek Woods Civic Association. If you wish to contribute stories or items of interest to the community, personal milestones, photos and announcements, please email them to the Editor ([mtoscانو@sprintmail.com](mailto:mtoscانو@sprintmail.com)). Contributors to this issue include Cordie Goldstein, Sarah Eresian, Heather Miller-Cox, Rick Stumpf, Val Campbell, Mariann Serif, and Diane Dickson. Please let Maggie Toscano know if you like the slightly revised format. Thanks!