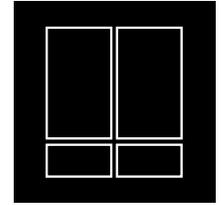


Hi Neighbor!



Newsletter for friends and neighbors of the Rock Creek Woods community

Changes

Siobhán White, Michael Laphorn, and their children, Quinn, 13, and Lucy, 11, are settling into their new home at 3917 Rickover Road. Michael is Chief of Design for the National Gallery of Art and Siobhán worked with Time, Inc. magazines for 17 years. Lucy is at Sligo Creek French Immersion and Quinn goes to North Bethesda Middle School. Their Chihuahua is named Betty. The family moved from Minnesota where Laphorn was Exhibition Designer at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. Prior to that work, he was at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan for nine years.



Create a rain-friendly yard

As a homeowner, you can help the environment by allowing water to infiltrate your property instead of sending it off-site through storm drains. Infiltration is nature’s way of slowly cleansing, storing, and releasing water into the aquifer. That’s why creating a permeable landscape that absorbs stormwater is one of the best things you can do to improve water quality and reduce runoff. Without structures and pavements, 50% of rain is absorbed into the landscape. With buildings, driveways, and streets only about 15% of precipitation goes back into the soil. If you have gutters insert rain barrels in downspouts or connect them to planted areas. Add rain gardens with deep-rooted native plants and permeable paving when possible. About 160 gallons of water an hour is shed from an average-sized roof during a moderate rain storm. Try to keep that water on your own land.



Famous Linden Oak

The Linden Oak, located at junction of Rockville Pike and Beach Drive, is estimated to have been seeded in 1718. The Red Line was designed to arc around so as not to disturb it. Named Maryland's Bicentennial Tree in 1976, it is one of the tallest white oaks in the United States.

Native white oak (*Quercus alba*), Maryland's official tree, is just one of 21 species of oaks native to Maryland. These 21 oaks are essential components of Maryland's forests, rural open spaces, cities, and towns, from the eastern sandy Coastal Plain, through the hilly Piedmont to the summits of the western mountains. White oak trees get their name from the whitish color of the undersides of their leaves. It is the "standard by which all other oaks are measured."



Happy Birthday, Acorn Park

Memorial Day weekend marks the 66th anniversary of the dedication of Acorn Park, 8075 Newell Street, Silver Spring, site of a mica sand-infused spring that sparkled like silver in sunlight. Tiny Acorn Park is all that remains of Silver Spring, summer estate of Francis Preston Blair, Sr. The acorn-shaped gazebo was originally constructed in 1850. Blair was very proud of his spring and enjoyed showing it off to important visitors, perhaps President Abraham Lincoln included. The spring may have been discovered by his daughter Elizabeth's horse, Selim, who was found drinking from it. Papa Blair then looked around the area with its surrounding forests and decided he had found his perfect country home site. His son, Montgomery Blair, became Lincoln's Postmaster General.



Did Julie discover frog eggs in her pond?



On staff of Montgomery Blair High School newspaper

Marina Deane-Gonzalez, daughter of Rock Creek Woods residents, Claudia Deane and Adam Gonzalez, a junior at Montgomery Blair High School, serves as an Executive Business Director of *Silver Chips*. Marina chose the school because she is able to continue coursework and activities she was involved with at Eastern Middle School. The 32-page school newspaper, published under the auspices of the Communication Arts Department, is distributed six times year. Nearly 20,000 copies of the paper are printed annually. The award-winning publication is supported by advertising and two fundraisers each year. For more information or to receive a print copy, please email Marina at silverchips.business@gmail.com



St. Joseph's Creek restoration's destructive results

In 2005, homeowners on lower Rickover and those across St. Joseph's Creek on Byrd Road granted permission for stream restoration work. Montgomery County planned an expensive upgrade to the area with grading, large stone bank armor, tree removal, and tree planting. Heavy construction equipment entered the area at Black Path intersection. Work was done over several weeks. The result was very pretty until Mother Nature decided otherwise. Storms created erosion and produced deep cliffs along creek edge. Fallen trees, with more likely to go down, and deep sediment changed the water's course and pooling patterns. Large installed rocks slid toward the center removing ferns and preventing vegetation growth. Planted trees are all gone - eaten by deer or washed away. Water bugs are present but not in large numbers with nothing thriving at the bottom of the creek but possibly minnows and tadpoles. There are no fish visible. Sixty Rock Creek Woods residents signed Ken Bawer's petition, *Montgomery Coalition to Prevent Stream Destruction*, informing the county about the stream restoration results. - Julie Marcis

Young snake kills rodents but has enemies

This juvenile eastern rat snake (*Pantherophis alleghaniensis*), seen in our neighborhood, has many predators such as hawks, great horned owls, foxes, raccoons, and domestic cats. A common visitor in our backyards, it is Maryland's largest snake and has been recorded at over eight feet in length. The adult eastern rat snake is a shiny black with weakly keeled scales and an irregular black and white checkerboard belly pattern. Don't be alarmed if you see one, they are nonvenomous and would rather flee. At Baltimore's Maryland Zoo, black rat snakes are on exhibit in Maryland Wilderness.

(Photo by Kendall Cox)

 In memory

Daniel Markoff

December 19, 1926 -- December 14, 2019

Geraldine (Geri) Markoff

March 19, 1931 - December 25, 2020

We remember our neighbors of 3914 Rickover, Dan and Geri Markoff, some of our last original owners. Both New Yorkers, Geri grew up in Brooklyn where from childhood she showed artistic talent and a strong sense of creativity. She attended a renowned high school for the arts. Dan lived in Manhattan's "Hell's Kitchen," where he learned basketball, and evolved into a City College star. For two years he was a professional basketball player for the Philadelphia Spars. Drafted for WWII, Dan was involved in the Liberation of the Philippines. Following Dan's discharge from the army, Dan and Geri met working at a Catskills Mountain camp near Napanoch, NY where Geri was a counselor and Dan head of waterfront activities. They ran into each other years later at a Madison Square Garden basketball game. From that point, Dan and Geri started seeing each other regularly which lead to their marriage.

Markoffs lived in Brooklyn for three years before moving to Arlington, VA when Dan took a job with the General Service Administration, advancing rapidly into the Senior Executive Service. He was the youngest federal employee at that time to achieve this rank. He moved to the Department of Transportation where he eventually became Deputy Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. Geri devoted herself to art, and became a prolific artist, creating a variety of works across a multitude of mediums, several of which received critical acclaim from the Washington DC art community. A few of her paintings were acquired by the Baltimore Museum of Art. Geri also raised a girl, Jody, and two boys, Brad and Douglas, in the house built on the lot they bought at 3914 Rickover Road in Rock Creek Woods. Following Dan's retirement, Dan and Geri became snowbirds. For the next 25 years, beginning in the fall, they would stay in Hilton Head SC for five weeks and then six weeks in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. This routine lasted until Geri's health deteriorated from fibromyalgia and then dementia. Dan remained in good shape until May 31, 2019 when he tripped on a garden hose, was crippled from a head injury and passed away December 14. When he was failing, Dan instructed Jody to write on his tombstone, now standing in the Menorah Gardens section of Parklawn Cemetery, Rockville where now Geri and Dan lie together, "We had a Great Ride." All three children married. Jody now lives in Gaithersburg MD with husband Steve Shapiro. Douglas and his wife, Michelle, live in Reston VA, and Brad and his wife, Hazel, live in Los Angeles. Among them, they have given Geri and Dan seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



- Tom Klein