



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2025

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UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR—SAVE THE DATES!

**Featuring Maryland Senator Sara Love & Delegate Marc Korman
with MoCo's Kate Stewart's Chief of Staff**



The Annual Community General Meeting

Farmland Elementary School, Thursday, April 24, 7:30 pm

With all the rapid-fire changes this year, this is a great opportunity to meet our legislators, hear about what affects us, and ask questions. Our MD reps have the **inside intel on how Maryland is handling our concerns, addressing issues, and balancing MD's budget.**

Paul Ellis, the council president's Chief of Staff, will fill us in on **plans to install a sidewalk** on parts of Hitching Post Lane, traffic concerns, and county issues the affect our community.

We will also be holding our annual **GFCFA board of directors' election**. Your participation as a voter or nominee is vital to our community fulfilling its mission to promote cohesion and improve our neighborhood. If you're interested in joining the board, please email president@greaterfarmland.org.

Sunday, June 8, 1-4 pm, Behind Farmland Elementary School

GREATER FARMLAND'S FAMOUS ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY

Join us for the following, plus MORE

- Catered Mediterranean feast by District Falafel
- Bounce house
- Pony Rides
- Games
- Desserts
- Tents & chairs for adults to socialize



Our community party is open to everyone and is FREE for GFCFA members. Not a member? \$35 at the gate will admit everyone in your household. To join ahead of time, go to greaterfarmland.org/membership for easy online payment.

We could use volunteers for party day. Email Michele Stein, michelecutler@yahoo.com.

Follow plans on the GFCFA listserv and GreaterFarmland.org for these events:

JULY 4TH PARADE, HALLOWEEN PARTY, AND FALL COMMUNITY MEETING

Board Meetings are held bi-monthly and are open to all community members.

Zoom links are posted on the listserv and greaterfarmland.org.

We Need You



JOIN THE GFCFA BOARD

No time is better than the present to reach out to your neighbors and be a positive force. Our little band of volunteers could use some help creating great events and improving our community. Will you join the board? There is a minimal time commitment, and the rewards are legion! Contact president@greaterfarmland.org

WILL WE HAVE A COMMUNITY YARD SALE?

Several volunteers will assist, but, without a "lead" organizer, it may not occur. The methodology is in place, and previous leaders are on hand for guidance. If you will consider shepherding this event with the help of others, contact president@greaterfarmland.org or diana.j.keohane@gmail.com for details.

JOIN THE TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Interested in helping organize Safety Day events and joining other committee members in promoting safe streets? This committee needs more members and a chairperson. Contact president@greaterfarmland.org.



ALWAYS IMPROVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

IT'S BLOCK PARTY TIME!

If you and your neighbors want to hold a block party this year, the Greater Farmland Civic Association may contribute up to \$100 toward party costs. This year, GFCA has acquired traffic cones to assist with safety during your party. We have a Block Party page, GreaterFarmland.org/block-parties, with planning and resource information.

A NEW FREE LITTLE LIBRARY

for children's books is now open on the corner of Farmland Dr and Race Horse Ln -- along the route that many walkers take to Farmland Elementary School. Here is a photo of the first patron! It has books for children of various ages (from simple picture books through novels). Come check it out. Donations to the collection are welcome. The stewards of the library are Sarah & Steve Sorkin and Ilene Reid & Mitch Gerber. Huge thanks to Todd Keller and Marc Johnson for installation.



THERE ARE TWO MORE LITTLE LIBRARIES

in the neighborhood, located at 6719 Sulky Ln and 11405 Rolling House Rd, which have adult books of all kinds, as well as everything you can imagine. Bring some, take some, and read away!



WOW, BIG NEWS! WE'VE BEEN SELECTED FOR A Pilot Electronics & Battery Recycling Program

Montgomery County chose Greater Farmland as the first neighborhood to benefit from the new electronics and battery recycling collection service. On April 4, at 10 am, County Executive Marc Elrich, along with various media outlets, came to the Applestein/Vogel home at 6807 Breezewood Terr for the very first demonstration collection.

By calling 311, any homeowner in our community can schedule a pickup for electronics and batteries. For specific instructions, see our homepage, greaterfarmland.org.

HOW THE MAIN TRAFFIC ISLANDS ARE MAINTAINED

GFCA contracts with Trillium Landscape, which provides monthly maintenance of the common areas on main roads in the community from April to October. Locations include the traffic circle at Old Stage Rd & Stonewood Ln, medians on Tilden Ln and Old Stage near the park, Tildenwood Dr, and the signage bed at the intersection of Old Bridge Rd & Hitching Post Ln. Huge thanks to Pamela Levine for negotiating and managing this contract on our behalf.

IMPROVING YOUR CUL-DE-SAC'S ISLAND

The Greater Farmland Civic Association has a \$100 grant program for cul-de-sac island landscaping and hardscaping improvements. Come up with a plan and a budget, then contact Pamela Levine, pamela.levine@verizon.net.

OPPORTUNITY FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

The GFCA board has adopted a sponsorship policy for community events. If you live in the GFCA boundaries, you may provide a service or product at one event per year. Contact michelecutler@yahoo.com for qualifying sponsorships.

NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE NEWS & EVENTS



NORTH BETHESDA VILLAGE is a volunteer-led organization that supports community members, aged 55+, residing in 20852. For information about our upcoming events and to join our email list, visit northbethesdavillage.org or contact us by email at northbethesdavillage@gmail.com.

TEEN JOB LIST—NEED HELP?

Are you a teen looking for babysitting or odd jobs within the community? Or, are you a neighbor looking for someone to weed your garden, carry things, shovel snow, or babysit?

Wendy Perry runs the Teen Job List, wendyperry6713@gmail.com.



WE'VE GOTTEN TOGETHER

HALLOWEEN PARTY & PUMPKIN COMPOSTING

The weekend before Halloween, GFCA held a great party, costumes and all, at Farmland Elementary School. A week later, GFCA sponsored the collection of pumpkins for composting by Compost Crew after smashing some of them with a bat—total fun!



ANNUAL HOLIDAY CONCERT & HAPPY HOUR IN THE FARMLAND CUL-DE-SAC!

In December, we had a lovely concert by our neighbor, Kevin Gebo, and his US Army Brass Quintet, playing an informal holiday concert in the Farmland Drive cul-de-sac. They are an AMAZING group – playing at the White House, concerts on the Mall for Memorial Day and July 4th, and freelance concerts with Andrea Bocelli. This is not a formal engagement, thus, they are not in uniform, but we get the same great sound! How lucky are we?

JANUARY'S WINTER-ON-THE FARM PARTY

GFCA's big winter party included a kids' robotics & programming game, birds of prey presentation and discussion, desserts sponsored by Dierdre Lofft of Compass Realty, held a book exchange, and collected boxes of food for our local food bank. Sudoku and chess were enjoyed by many. The Environment group shared materials about the Homegrown National Park project, promoting native plants to encourage pollinators and songbirds to thrive. This annual event is open to everyone from the community. What a great way to start the New Year!

NEIGHBOR TALKS ZOOM SERIES: ECO-FRIENDLY KITCHEN & SHOPPING TECHNIQUES

Check greaterfarmland.org's environmental pages for more information, under the Of Interest tab.

All over the Greater Farmland community, neighbors are holding block parties, meeting in clubs and interest groups, and sharing with each other.



IT'S TIME TO PLAN FOR SPRING GARDENING

You are invited to join many neighbors in promoting songbirds & butterflies by planting native plants in your garden. When you choose your spring plants, we encourage you to select natives eliminate chemical lawn and garden treatments. When you do, you can post a GFCA Pollinator Patch sign at your curb. The QR code on the sign takes you to information and resources at greaterfarmland.org/homegrown-national-park.

SCHOOLS UPDATE

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is entering phase two of its boundary study, beginning a period focused on data analysis and initial community communication for a study that will affect 19 high schools. The initial community meetings are to help inform the public about the boundary study. The first meeting related to the Woodward High School Boundaries (designed to alleviate overcrowding in Walter Johnson, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, and Whitman High Schools in Bethesda as well as those in the Downcounty Consortium) will be held April 8 in person from 6 to 8 p.m. at Walter Johnson High School. The School Board will adopt new boundaries by March 2026, since new schools are scheduled to open in August 2027.

You can find more information at montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/boundary-study/

COUNTY COUNCIL NEWS: REDUCING PLASTIC WASTE

The full Council approved Bill 24-24, Paper Carryout Bags and Prohibition on Plastic Carryout Bags, also known as the **Bring Your Own Bag Bill**. Starting January 1, 2026, stores will not provide plastic bags and will charge 10 cents for a paper bag, encouraging shoppers to bring reusable bags when they shop. The goal is to reduce plastic waste in our environment, reduce plastic use, and save cleanup costs in our parks and along roadways. This policy has proven to be extremely effective in other localities across the nation.

IS YOUR INFORMATION CORRECT IN THE DIRECTORY? Emily Mintz, membership & directory chair

WILL YOU RECEIVE A PRINT DIRECTORY THIS SUMMER?

Paid-up members will receive one print directory per household. We anticipate distribution to occur sometime around August. Members also can view all household listings in the online directory and in the mobile app. If you haven't paid dues yet, there's still time to be included in the print distribution. Contact membership@greaterfarmland.org or call me at 301-704-2913, if you need instructions.



Please check your household listing to see if there's anything you want to change, add, or delete. To confirm your listing and



Welcome

NEW TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD ?

We invite you to join the Greater Farmland Civic Association and our community listserv, which is our major means of communication. Please email directory@GreaterFarmland.org, so we can get a Welcome Bag to you.

Join or Renew Your Membership



A Big *Thank You* to Those Who've Already Renewed for 2025! GFCFA Dues Pay For

* Community Day * Winter-on-the-Farmland Party * Halloween Party * Email Listserv * July 4th Parade * Website * Newsletters *
 * Landscaping Improvements and Maintenance * Online & Print Directories * General Meeting Programs * Block Party Support *
 * Advocacy for Community Interests * Environmentalism-at-Home Programs * Candidate Forums * New Neighbor Welcome Bags *

Online option 1: Go to the GFCFA directory at GFCFA.membershiptoolkit.com. If you're registered on this site, log in. If not, register a new account. Follow the prompts to purchase the membership length of your choice. Your membership renewal will be automatically reflected in the directory.

Online option 2: On our website, GreaterFarmland.org, select the number of years you'd like to pay for, and click Head to Checkout. Please fill in your address, where indicated.

Mail a check, payable to GFCFA for \$35, \$70, or \$105 to Emily Mintz, GFCFA membership, 6712 Sulky Ln, N. Bethesda

We are a volunteer organization composed of neighbors. Your membership builds and improves our caring community.

2025 Membership—Renew or Join NOW
GreaterFarmland.org/membership

Your Civic Association is an all-volunteer effort
 By Neighbors for Neighbors

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025



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