

VALENTINES IN THE FOREST

Wayne and Lou Ann Harman—60+ years. They were married on the same day, 30 years apart from their parents AND grandparents. Their day was further blessed with the birth of their niece. Wayne knew early on he would marry Lou Ann when as school-mates “his crayons melted”.

Al and Jane Budacz—56 years. They have two granddaughters graduating from Bachelors and Master’s programs this spring.

Bob and Karen Williams—50 years. You will hear more about their efforts on behalf of the FFCA in the next newsletter!

Mort and Evelyn Wood—48 years. Mort shared that he and Evelyn were married in the midst of two winter storms. He was asked by his bride to shovel his future in-laws driveway on the day of their wedding—and after a little protest, he said “yes, dear” and he’s been saying that ever since.

Rob and Mary McGowan—44 years. They met on a blind date.

Steve and Carol Blakely—43 years.

John and Barbara Hamill—43 years. They have a new grandson, Ryan!

Nelson and Debbie Bentley—42 years.



Fellowship Forest



February 2017

Greetings From the President

Happy New Year Neighbors! Hopefully everyone received the updated Fellowship Forest Directory that was distributed in early January. Special thanks to Merritt Keffer who helped compile the info and to Meaghan Grim who formatted the directory and created our new Fellowship Forest logos. We will be using these new logos in “branding” our website and future communications. If you haven’t checked it out already, go to our neighborhood website, www.fellowshipforest.org. The website offers a great overview of our neighborhood for any potential buyers and provides some great resources for current residents (e.g., Neighbor Handbook, previous newsletters, etc.). If you have any good photos you would like to share that illustrate the peace, beauty and friendliness of our neighborhood, please send them to Stewart Lucas at tstewartlucas@gmail.com.

Since our last newsletter, the board was alerted to a property owner in our neighborhood who was issued a correction notice for operating an illegal boarding house (county regulations prohibit renting any single family residence to more than 2 unrelated people). In response to the correction notice, the owner filed a petition with the Baltimore County Zoning Office to seek official permission to use his residence as a boarding house and a special hearing was scheduled in January. The FFCA Board was very concerned about the prospect of allowing a boarding house in our neighborhood and the precedent it might set. We used the FFCA email blast list to communicate what was happening and asked for neighbors to either come to the hearing or send letters to the judge voicing their concerns. Ultimately, we were informed that the property owner withdrew their petition the day before the hearing. Under county regulations, withdrawing the petition within 10 days of the hearing prohibits the property owner from submitting another petition for at least 18 months. Thank you to those who offered their assistance and/or took the time to write to the judge about your concerns. We will continue to monitor the situation and inform you of any new developments.

And finally, for those unable to attend the recent Winter Party, it was a relaxing evening with great fellowship. Special thanks to Linda Galati and Elsie Dare for hosting.

* (One correction to note in the directory is that Merritt’s correct email is mekeffer@gmail.com)

Dues Notice

Please note your dues letter included with this newsletter. Last year we had just under 100 households of our 130+ participate. Your dues support ongoing neighborhood protection and improvements (triangle beautification, legal fees related to zoning) and to social events such as the Wine and Cheese Party, Christmas at the Lake, Adult Winter Party, Spring Gathering, and the July 4th Cookout.

If you wish to round up your dues payment, it will go towards your designation (Fireworks, COP, etc.) or to the Rainy Day fund for the FFCA. Treasurer Nancy Reigle has established a PayPal account to make your dues payment even more convenient. Lets aim for 100% participation this year!



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Valentine's continued

Marty and Bev Thompson—40 years - and quadruplets to boot!

Bob Peters and Nancy Mastellone—40 years

Bob and Nancy Reigle—40 years. They honeymooned in Hawaii!

Craig and Leslie Wietscher— 40 years. Their families have know each other and attended the same church since the 50s.

Roger and Gayle Voight—40 years. They were married in Sydney , Australia, where it was so hot that Gayle had to wear fly spray instead of perfume. Candelabras melted and the wedding cake slid apart due to the heat. They have three children, all grown.

Bob and Marilyn Bonnett—37 years. Best friends and partners for life.

Bill and Kim Stansbury—30 years. They have a new granddaughter, Eloise.

George and Davene Good - 30 years. More about their partnership and how the Forest benefited from it for almost 20 years in this newsletter.

Jeff Bucci and Indira Palanki—25 years. They have a daughter graduating from the Park School in June!

Aaron Wachhaus and EveGurian—22 years

Rich and Cathy Armstrong—22 years.

Charlie Goodman and Carla Sinclair—19 years. Married in the company of their soon to be blended family at the Rusty Scupper with a view of the Inner Harbor to last a lifetime!



"GEORGE AND DAVENE COOKING FOR JULY 4!!

Davene and George Good have lived in Fellowship Forest for over 20 years where they raised 2 children (Matt is 25 and living in Boston, and Meredith will be 21 in the spring and attends UMCP). George has served as a past Vice President and as a two term President of FFCA. (He has also been "Griller Non-Pareil" for every July 4th in recent memory). Most notably, George was instrumental in encouraging—demanding—that Baltimore County re-design Hillen Road as it passed before the homes in the mid 600's of the road. Neighbors used to call it the "chute" and it was a hazardous speedway for all who lived or travelled on it; it was his labor, along with others, that created the triangle as it is today. George got involved with the FFCA Board almost from the moment he and Davene arrived to the Forest, and even when not in office, has been a critical asset to our neighborhood. Davene, in her own right, has served as past Newsletter Editor and is a current Member at Large of the Board. They both agree the Forest has been a 'Good' place to live! And we are very thankful for their service and their example.



Meghann McMahon and husband, Neal, daughters Molly and Finley

Imagine being in labor with your second child and receiving the news that you have been inducted in the Lacrosse Hall of Fame! Such a joy was felt by our neighbor Meghann McMahon recently, as she was in the hospital expecting her daughter. Meghann was a three sport athlete at Catonsville High School (basketball, lacrosse, and soccer) and was the Catonsville Times Athlete of

the Year three years running. She was the recipient of All American and All Star status in her high school years, highlighted by the Wendy's Heisman Female Athlete of the Year award as a senior. Meghann went on to play midfield for the UNC Tar Heels, and earned First Team All ACC honors in her junior year. Selected as co-captain of her team Senior Year, Meghann was selected again as

an All ACC First Team athlete, and was named to the first team All South region by the IWLCA. Meghann's induction ceremony was at the Hillendale Country Club in Phoenix. Meghann and her husband, Neal, and daughters Molly and Finley live on Dogwood Road. Congratulations, Meghann!!

Hall of Fame Inductee Meghann McMahon, our neighbor in Fellowship Forest!



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Potholes, Patches, and Power: Kevin Koepenick

Over the last 5 years, it seems like we have been enduring nearly constant construction in downtown Towson as well as in our neighborhood. It started with the road widening and addition of new sidewalks along Hillen Rd, and was then followed by 3 years of the modernization of the Towson Reservoir. While that was going on, BGE recognized a serious deficiency with the power supply in our area and began replacing and upgrading the poles and power lines. This was almost immediately followed by the installation of a new 42-inch water line stretching from York Rd and Bosley Ave up to edges of our neighborhood at the Towson Reservoir. There has also been nearly constant re-development in the downtown Towson area from developments such as Towson Green, Towson Circle and now the on-going eyesore of Towson Row. Needless to say, all this activity has left many of the roads in our area a mess. As reported in the last newsletter, I was assured by Baltimore County DPW that re-paving of Bosely Ave, Towsontown Blvd, Hillen Rd, and parts of Stevenson Lane were scheduled for fall 2016. Obviously, that has not happened so I called DPW and this is what learned:

- The re-paving was delayed due to upgrades to the traffic light system on Bosley and other related sidewalk improvements and utility work.
- Other than repairing potholes and emergency patching, road resurfacing projects do not generally occur during the colder months of November through March.
- The resurfacing of Bosley Ave, Hillen Rd and parts of Towsontown Blvd is now scheduled for April 2017.
- The section of Towsontown Blvd between Bosley Ave and York Rd will not be re-paved until the Towson Row project is complete. (I have heard that the Towson Row project was delayed to due to the presence of shallow bedrock which has required them to redesign the buildings.)

And in case you are wondering why they are continuing with construction at the Towson Reservoir, I was told that they are upgrading the electrical sub-station, adding a back-up generator and will eventually be upgrading the old pump station too. So work there may be on-going there for another few years!

Annual Spring Meeting

The FFCA Board has planned for the Annual Meeting to be on Saturday May 6th. In the last few years, this has been a family event, with children welcome. The Board will provide Pizza for all and drinks for the young people, and the adults can BYOB. Side dishes will be welcomed.

We are looking for someone to host this event. Board Members will help with set-up and clean-up and provide ALL that is needed for YOU to host this event. Please consider opening your home to your neighbors.

If you are willing, please email Kevin Koepenick:
kkoepenick@baltimorecountymd.gov

Valentines continued

Kevin and Lisa Koepenick—12 years. They met through roommates, and both couples are now married. They literally swapped roomies!

Trey and Meaghan Grimm—11 years. Thanks to Meaghan for the Fellowship Forest graphics, and to Trey for his work on the Club Fence.

Bob Maglia and Kathleen Naughton—11 years. They met at a party Bob crashed. When Bob shouted to Kathleen, from across a deck, “Kathleen, will you marry me?”, she replied: “What’s your name again?” They have been at it ever since.

A Forest Welcome to:

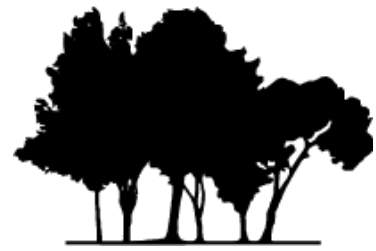
Joe and Lisa Wilbourne and son, David to Hickory Lane

Aaron Wachhaus and Eve Gurian, and children, Lown, Nani, and Gus to Hillen Road

Please send your families’ accomplishments (graduations, births, marriages, etc.) for inclusion in the next newsletter to Kathleen Naughton naughtongoodale@msn.com Or call 410-435-7041 with your news!



Fellowship Forest



Triangle Beautification: Kevin Koepenick

In our last newsletter, I mentioned giving some much needed “TLC” to the area at the corner of Hillen Rd and Putty Hill Rd that we refer to as “The Triangle.” This public space was created back in 2006 when the county reconfigured the intersection to minimize traffic on the 700 block of Hillen Rd and direct them to Goucher Blvd via Putty Hill Rd instead. With the permission of Baltimore County, residents from our neighborhood planted this area and have provided general maintenance over the years. But after 10 years, the site was looking generally overgrown and in need of attention.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of many Fellowship Forest residents, the site was revitalized in October 2016 with the pruning of trees and removal of invasive, dead or dying vegetation. Despite the effort, I came to realize that the site has so much more potential. So with the support of the FFCA Board and the much appreciated assistance of our resident landscape architect, Lyndon Hart of Hoehn Landscape Architecture, LLC www.HoehnLA.com, I proposed that we highlight this area as one of the gateways to our neighborhood by installing a sign declaring the boundary of “Fellowship Forest” and enhancing the space with a new landscaping solution.

Lyndon has designed the landscaping with maintenance in mind—he anticipates that, once established, other than annual mowing of the native grasses, the space will need cleaning up once or twice per year.

Once the plan is finalized, we will be looking for help from the community to make this vision a reality—this could be in the form of physical labor to prepare and plant the site, or in the form of a financial contribution that will go towards the cost of buying the plants and paying for a landscaping labor. Our hope is to keep costs very low by getting plants at wholesale costs through Lyndon, and finding a landscape contractor willing to supervise and work with a crew of residents to get the project done. If you want to contribute a dedicated amount to the “Triangle Beautification” please include that amount with your annual FFCA dues and make a note of it along with your check. If you want to help with the labor please contact me via email, kkopenick@baltimorecountymd.gov. We are hoping to get most or all of the project completed by spring of 2017 so please act soon. The projected appearance of the triangle is on the next page; thanks to Wisa Kompayak for its preparation.





Illustration prepared by: Wisa Kompayak (Hoehn Landscape Architecture/ Emfesis, LLC)



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FELLOWSHIP FOREST
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 Kevin Koepenick, President
 Mike Harty, Vice President
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 Davene Good
 Merritt Keffer
 Donna Scarbrough
 Stewart Lucas

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 Jason Fitzsimmons
 Mary Lou Kaestner
 Mary McGowan



**Please consider
 volunteering your
 time to your com-
 munity. We are
 always in need of
 additional mem-
 bers to support our
 social activities and
 neighborhood
 preservation.**

A Special Valentine Couple: Ann and Hartwig Balke

Ann was on vacation in the southern part of England, near Devon, when she met Hartwig. He had travelled from Germany on a student exchange so that he could become more proficient in English. A popular form of entertainment at the time was ballroom dancing, and it was at such an event in Torquay, England that Hartwig and Ann met. A photographer snapped pictures of them, and Ann felt obligated to send them on to Hartwig; they exchanged correspondence, but Hartwig took Ann by surprise when he announced that he would be coming for a Christmas Visit! Ultimately, Ann took a job in Germany and the couple were married there. In 1989, the Balke family moved to the US, as Hartwig took employment with an engineering firm in Sparks, MD. At first they planned not to stay, and lived in Courthouse Square but they liked the US well enough to continue on, and moved to their home on Dogwood Lane in the early 1990s. Their daughter, Kirstin, attended the Baltimore School for the Arts, with a focus in Ballet, and earned several college scholarships for her dancing ability. Originally, she attended Goucher, but then chose to finish her college career at Loyola University, studying International Business. Ann and Hartwig are blessed with two grandsons, Jack, age 11 and Owen, age 13. Since his retirement, Hartwig has kept himself busy with designing and drawing, and captured the attention of Kevin Plank, of Sagamore Farms (and Under Armour). Hartwig was kind enough to share a small sample of his Sagamore Whiskey, and as a result, I needed to re-clarify details for this article! Ann and Hartwig both find it remarkable that they live in such a wonderful neighborhood, with so many different nationalities; on their street alone, Greece, China, and Italy, England and Germany are well represented. When they suffered a house fire a few years ago, they were struck by how immediately their neighbors came to render assistance. Isn't it great to live in Fellowship Forest!!!

**Please Send in your Dues
 Today!
 Your Neighborhood thanks you!**

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