

Upcoming Events Calendar

President's Message

The last two months have been very busy in terms of meetings and hearings that affect us. Please read the articles found elsewhere to get an overview of them.

Property Tax Credit: Last year the Montgomery County Council passed legislation that provides a 20% property tax credit for people who are over 65 years of age and who either:

- Have owned (name on the deed) and lived in the dwelling for at least 40 consecutive years, or
- Are retired from one of the United States' armed forces (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy).

To receive the credit, the assessment must be \$650K or less. An application must be made each year of the five years the credit is available, and you must apply by April 1st. This tax credit will be issued on the annual property tax bill that is sent in July. The application can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Finance/

BRT Open Houses: You have heard me talk about the need for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). I encourage people to attend one of the BRT Open House events in March to learn about the service and get your questions answered. See the article on page 5.

Workforce Development: WorkSource Montgomery was established as part of Montgomery County's economic development plan with the goal to promote job training and placement for county workers and meet the workforce needs of county employers. The system established as part of this plan places responsibility for the county's workforce system outside of the county government's structure and in the hands of community business leaders and stakeholders.

With a newly created partnership, WorkSource Montgomery has been able to expand and set up a satellite office for the

(Continued on page 3)

March

- 14 **Council Town Hall**, White Oak Community Center, 7:30 pm
- 15 **US29 BRT Open House**
Silver Spring Civic Center,
6:30 - 8:30 pm
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 20 **US29 BRT Open House**
White Oak Community Center
6:30 - 8:30 pm
- 21 **US29 BRT Open House**
Blair HS Cafeteria, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

April

- 10 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm
(see directions below)
- 26 **Take our Daughters and Sons
to Work Day**

May

- 8 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm
(see directions below)
- 19 **Armed Forces Day**
- 24 **GCCA Annual Mtg.**, 7:30 pm
(see directions below)



Upcoming **GCCA Board meetings** will be held at 7:30 pm at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, 13925 New Hampshire Ave. Meetings are in the room under the sanctuary and are open to the public. For information contact GCCA President Dan Wilhelm 301-384-2698 or email address djwilhelm@verizon.net

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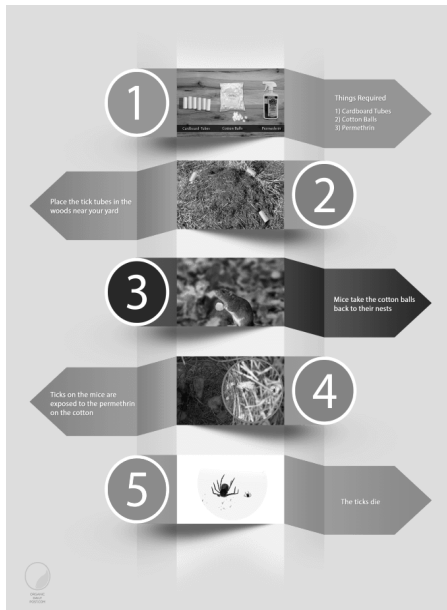
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Reducing Lyme Disease by Targeting Ticks in Your Yard

by Elisa Carbone

Two methods that have been effective in reducing the number of ticks and the percentage of ticks infected with Lyme disease and other tick borne illnesses are, tick tubes containing Permethrin; and mouse bait boxes containing Fipronil. These methods are preferred to broadcast spraying, as they target the ticks without killing bees and other beneficial insects.



Making tick tubes is simple. Start saving your empty toilet paper, paper towels rolls, and dryer lint now. Spray the dryer lint (or some cotton balls) with a solution of 7.5% Permethrin. Let it dry, and stuff it into the empty TP tubes. Place the tubes out around the yard, under some cover like bushes, leaves, or a shed. Put out one batch of 12 tubes in the spring, and a second batch of 12 in mid-summer. For a how-to video, see <https://organicdailypost.com>.

Mice find the sprayed lint or cotton balls and say, “This would be perfect for my nest!” In the nest, the Permethrin kills the tick nymphs that are feeding on the mice and being infected with Lyme disease by them. While deadly to ticks, a benefit of Permethrin is that it has low mammalian toxicity. That is, it's not very toxic to humans and other mammals. In fact, a form of it is used to treat scabies infections in humans. So, it does not hurt the mice. While some studies have failed to show promising results from tick tubes, other studies have shown tick tubes to be over 90% effective in

killing ticks and reducing the percentage of infected ticks. Tick tubes may also be purchased for \$80 for 24. Shop Damminix or Thermacell.

Mouse bait boxes containing Fipronil have shown success in several studies. They must be installed by a professional. Contact reginalpestmanagement.com (800-365-7827) for more information. The installer, Carl (443-324-1358), says a typical ¼ to ½ acre lot would cost around \$900 the first year, and \$700 per year thereafter.

Whether you treat your yard or not, remember to remain vigilant and protect yourself and your family from ticks with repellants, showers, and tick checks. Treat dogs with Fipronil (Frontline, etc.)

President's Message (Continued)

newest initiative, ***HIRE, Helping Individuals Reach Employment***. In this center they are able to provide residents with access to employment opportunities, trainings and workshops. Staff within the office are able to meet one-on-one with residents for job coaching as well. To better understand the needs of residents, they ask residents to complete this short survey:

<https://form.jotform.com/80368081632153>.

Our monthly GCCA meetings are open to everyone. They provide a means to learn what is going on and express your opinion on issues we discuss. I encourage you to attend.

Dan Wilhelm
President, GCCA

Recent Testimony on County Plans by GCCA

The GCCA board recently discussed and voted on positions for three County initiatives. Below is a summary of testimony that represents the interests of Colesville residents.

Capital Improvements Program (CIP) GCCA largely supported the County Executive's proposed CIP (see county web site for details - <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>). Specific items in our GCCA testimony to the Council were

- Support the county's thrust to reduce the amount borrowed to reduce costs.
- Oppose increasing the property tax rate (not proposed).
- Support appropriating funds to construct the US29 BRT (needed in July 2018).
- Support continued study of how to provide dedicated lanes on US29 south of Tech Rd.
- Add a project and funding in 2018 to design the station siting and road design for BRT on Randolph Rd and New Hampshire Ave. The New Hampshire Ave corridor will support economic development in Hillandale and expansion of the FDA campus while Randolph Road will support Viva White Oak. The designs are needed soon so that the Planning Board approvals can accurately reflect them. The design is also needed since developers within a few years will likely cover some of the construction cost.
- Accelerate the funding of the Burtonsville Access Road design and construction within this six year CIP cycle. The road is needed to address safety issues along MD198 in the Burtonsville commercial area.
- Support a five foot sidewalk on Good Hope Road to provide a safe walking path for children.
- Strongly support the three CIP projects to resurface or rehabilitate county roads. Many county roads are in poor shape and need to be fixed.
- Support continued funding for the Colesville/New Hampshire Ave Community Revitalization.
- Support renovation of the Hillandale Local Park (next to the fire station).
- Support the MLK Indoor Swim Center renovation.
- Support the Burtonsville Elementary School addition.

Highway Master Plan The purpose of this draft Master Plan is to address road classification inconsistencies that have accumulated over time in area master plans. GCCA provided two pages of comments to the Planning Board, largely supporting the staff, but also contending they failed to address all the inconsistencies mainly in the route US 29 area. Within the GCCA boundaries, we requested segments of a number of roads be changed from secondary residential to primarily residential. The change would not result in any change to the width of the roads or how they are used. Rather, it would increase the priority for snow removal. The roads were Kara, Wolf, Broadmore Rd east of Cannon Rd., Tamarack, Shaw, Springloch east of Springtree, and Springtree. These are roads that carry traffic from 400-500 houses to access Randolph or New Hampshire. The testimony is on the GCCA web site.

Bicycle Master Plan (BMP) In the January Clarion, we identified many problems with this draft Master Plan. While we support the need to provide more facilities for bicyclers, the proposed plan reads as if bikes are the only priority. It would require the taking of property, increase congestion for drivers, and in some cases, restrict our ability to travel on our neighborhood streets. It would also cost billions in county funds, which doesn't exist. We provided five pages of testimony to the Planning Board pointing out the problems and proposing changes. We would like to see the plan put the following limits on new bikeways:

(Continued on page 5)

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Mark Your Calendars for GCCA Annual Meeting in May

The GCCA annual meeting will be on May 24 at 7:30 PM. The speaker will be George Timko, with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. He will talk about steps that can be taken to reduce the number of deer.

Deer have over-multiplied so that they are no longer an attractive wild animal, but a nuisance that is eating most plants in our yards and also the woods. If this pattern continues, we would probably lose much of the naturally reproducing trees and forests. Deer are also so plentiful that there are many collisions with cars, which all of us observe many times when we are out driving.

George Timko has worked for 25 years for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on wildlife related issues ranging from Non-Game

Species to Nuisance Wildlife Issues and Urban Deer Management. Since 2002, he has worked on deer management issues for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and currently he works as Assistant Deer Project Leader for the Maryland Deer Project.

George will speak about deer management in developed areas being one of the most challenging tasks that wildlife professionals encounter today. This is due to the adaptable nature of deer, the developed environs they inhabit, and the public perceptions on how or if deer should be managed. George will discuss the issues Marylanders face with respect to deer and the potential options to manage deer in the Free State.

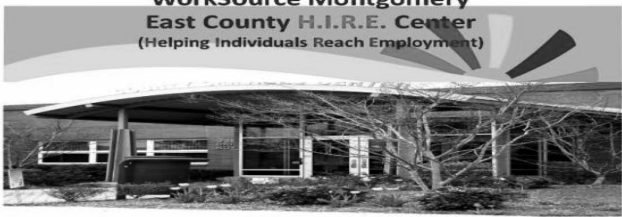
Montgomery Co. Joins Class Fraud Lawsuit - Synthetic Turf

It was reported in the Montgomery County Civic Federation February newsletter that Mike Riley, Director of Montgomery Parks, had made a surprise announcement that, after years of inaction, the agency is finally joining the nationwide class action fraud lawsuit against a manufacturer of synthetic turf athletic fields sold to the Parks Department and the Montgomery County Public Schools system. The article indicates that "after careful consideration of the condition and damage to various turf fields purchased from Field Turf, including the field located at Montgomery Blair High School, and legal options, the Commission will seek relief as a member of the class in the matter pending before the United States District Court—District of New Jersey, In Re: Field Turf: Artificial Turf Marketing and Sales Practices Litigation, Case No.: 17-md-02779 MAS.

In that case, it is alleged that Field Turf misrepresented the reliability, performance, and cost-effectiveness of its turf fields in violation of the Maryland Consumer Protection Act; knowingly provided turf fields which contained defects in materials that were never disclosed; and, other-

wise asserted that the fields provided were in merchantable condition and fit for their intended purpose, in breach of its express and implied warranties." A number of parents have been complaining for years about the negative effects of some types of synthetic turf including the ground up tires (the black particles) that are spread on the field that bounce up into player's faces and the excessive heat during hot summer days.

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County Chooses Child Care Center For Former Silver Spring Library Site

Montgomery County officials have chosen a proposal to create a child care center in the former Silver Spring library on Colesville Road over a competing pitch for affordable senior housing at the site. The county selected the Martha B. Gudelsky Child Development Center proposal, which would create a facility to serve about 150 children from birth to age 5 and employ about 50 people in part-time and full-time positions. The center's proposal calls for preserving the existing library building and renovating it.

The child care center was selected over a competing proposal pitched by the nonprofit affordable housing developer Victory Housing of North Bethesda. Victory had proposed a four-story, 92-unit senior housing development as well as a CommuniKids child care center to serve 80 to 100 children. Jeff Blackwell, a Victory vice president, said during a community meeting in October the developer would need a loan from the county's housing department to construct the building. At the time, he did not have an estimate of how much the project would cost.

Victory's proposal is not dead, however. The county and the developer of VIVA White Oak, Global LifeSci Development Corp., a division of Percontee Inc., agreed to provide Victory Housing with a site in the first phase of the White Oak life sciences project next to U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Percontee officials said in October they may be ready to break ground on the massive 12 million square foot development this summer.

If the agreement is approved, Victory will then have to work with Percontee and the county to determine the size of the building and number of units, although the project would not include less than the 92 proposed units in Victory's library site proposal. According to the letter Percontee is owned by the Gudelsky family, which has been developing land in the county since the 1950s. The family established the Gudelsky Family Foundation in 1968 to fund child development, education and environment-related initiatives in Maryland.



The County said in an interview Tuesday that the bookstore inside the former library will continue to operate until the Wheaton Library and Recreation Center project is completed sometime in the summer of next year and then move there. The Gudelsky Foundation will receive access to the former library site after the move to begin developing the child care center and expects to open it sometime in late 2020. Victory's senior housing project in White Oak could be completed the following year.

Due to the proposed agreement with Victory, the county is not requiring the Gudelsky Foundation to fund the 15 additional off-site affordable residences in the Silver Spring area it pitched in its original proposal for the former library site. The county had previously required proposals for the site to include affordable senior housing.

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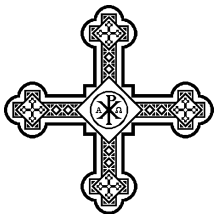


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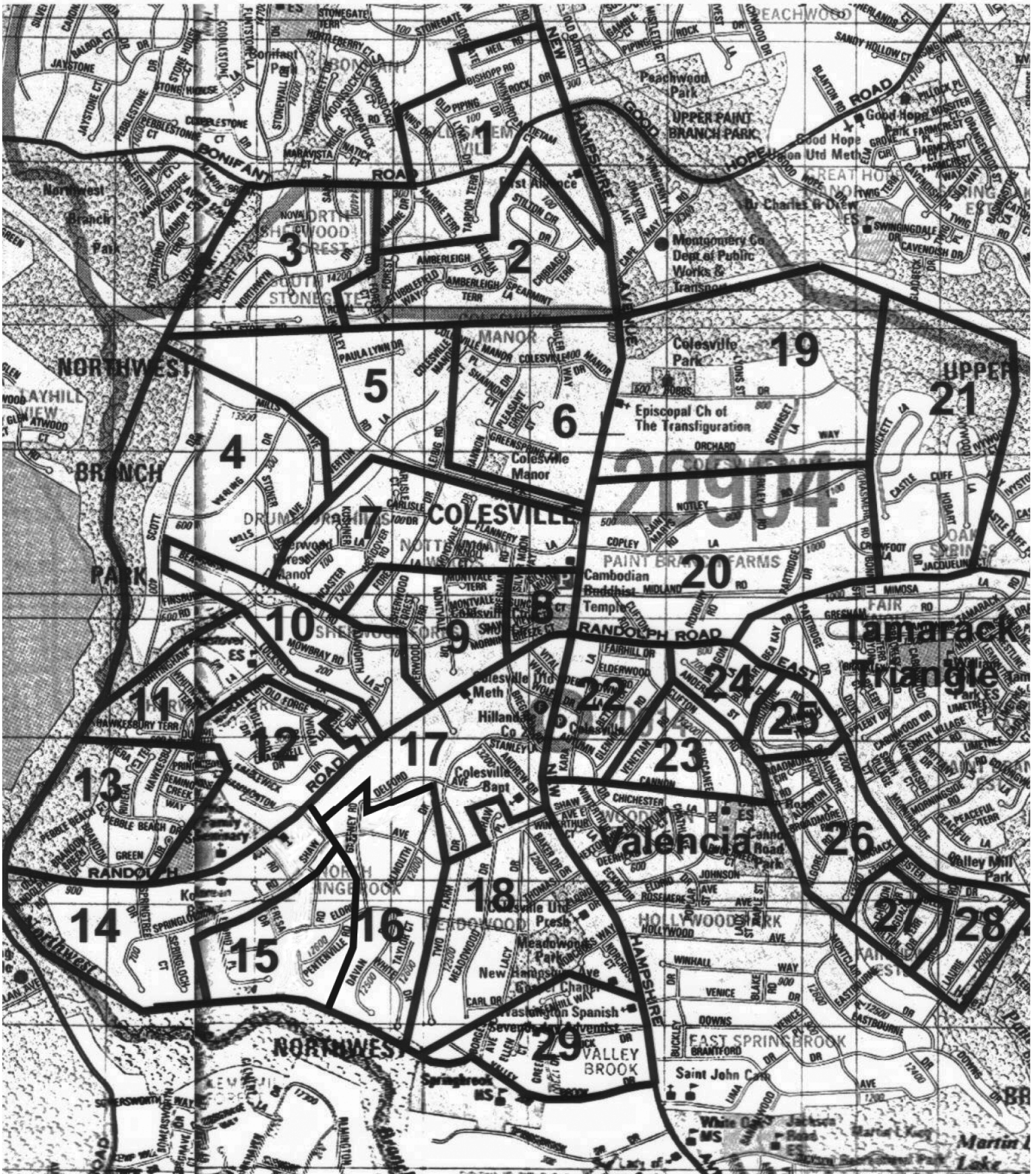
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1 Deborah Pilliam	144 Bonifant Rd.	240-440-1758	20 Chris Naughten	800 Midland Rd	758-3633
2 Open			21 Jay Hagler	1325 Crockett Ln	240-994-8993
3 Marguerite Raaen	14404 Sandy Ridge Rd	384-3307	22 Open		
3 Fred Stichnoth	14105 Cricket Ln	706-6828	23 Dan Wilhelm	904 Cannon Rd.	384-2698
4 Henry Morrow	13812 Mills Avenue	384-0827	24 Open		
5 Paul Daisey	13910 Overton Ln	651-7148	25 Ed Weiler	1008 Mondrian Terr.	236-5956
6 Bill Backof	13814 Shannon Drive	384-7354	26 Beverly Roof	12928 Allerton Lane	384-7247
7 Open			27 Open		
8 Open			28 Otto E. Lewis	12617 Billington Rd.	384-0567
9 Michael Persh	208 Montvale Terr	879-4560	28 George Ezikpe	1310 Leister Dr.	717-0625
10 Open			29 Alcira Groomes	204 Valley Brook Dr.	625-8919
11 David Michaels	508 Hawkesbury Lane	622-1805			
12 Open					
13 Open					
14 Robert Bartol	224 Springloch Road	622-5879			
15 Ken Himes	12704 Hammonton Rd.	622-3690			
16 Sharon Brown					
17 Pat Corey	41 Shaw Ave	622-5339			
18 Ray Rye	12820 Baker Dr.	622-2276			

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