

A MESSAGE FROM THE MHNA PRESIDENT

June 1, 2021

Dear Neighbors and Friends,



Cicadas.....I don't need to say anything, just listen. LuLu thinks they are delicious, the noise is crazy, and in just a few days they will be gone. In 17 years, they will return, what will Miller Heights be like? My hope is that the traffic is slower, the invasives in the park are under control, and we are all safe and happy. You never know what life has in store for you, so take advantage of it every day. Life is short, don't waste a minute, tell those you love that you love them – every day. Life is long, relax and enjoy the hum in our trees.

We have a new membership portal (I am dancing a little when I say that). A special thanks to the web team: Abheshek, Doug, Barry, and webmaster Rick Hemsing for making MHNA membership registration process easy and seamless. If you haven't joined or updated your information, please go to:

<https://www.mhnanews.com/portal/login.php>

Our efforts cost money, and while we are very frugal in our spending, we have recurring expenses and we want to continue to bring events and services to you – we need your help.

Speaking of events, Invasive Plant Removal projects, Traffic Calming Task Force, Blood Drives, Food Drives, Little Libraries (a 2nd one!), Yard Sales, and National Night Out are just a few of the events we are organizing. If you have an idea for a service or event that Miller Heights can get behind, let me know. We are always looking for ways to make Miller Heights a better place, so that the next time the cicadas emerge from the bottoms of our trees, they will say to each other in their little Cicada voices, "Oh, Miller Heights, what a great place to live!"

Be well, be safe, and keep in touch,

Judith - MHNA President

#BestNeighborhoodEver!

MHNA Website Update

The MHNA Website has been updated and contains more information for you. We have added the Member Portal, containing the MHNA Directory and the Sitter/Helper Directory. You can quickly pay your MHNA dues on the site and your information there can now be easily updated and accessed by you.

Check out the new site at www.mhnanews.com

To claim your household, register and update your profile and pay your dues, go to:

[MHNA Member Portal Login - MHNA Membership Portal \(mhnanews.com\)](http://www.mhnanews.com/portal/login.php)

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CONTACTS

MILLER HEIGHTS FACEBOOK GROUP

The **Miller Heights Neighborhoods Facebook group** is for residents of Miller Heights in Oakton, VA, to share news, information and upcoming events that might be of interest to our neighborhood. This closed group has grown to 505 members and it is still growing with lots of posts.

The Facebook group is a popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, send messages and keep in touch with neighbors.

You can be invited to join by your neighbor or you can request to join yourself. Check [Here](#).

NEXTDOOR MILLER HEIGHTS

Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And, it's free. People are using **Nextdoor** to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help watching for a lost dog or cat
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Finally call that nice person down the street by their first name
- Let neighbors know about free or for-sale items
- Pass along local event information

Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods

The Miller Heights Nextdoor group has grown to 779 members as of now (77% of all households) and it is growing every day,

You can be invited by your neighbor or sign up directly on the website. The link to the site is :

<https://millerheightsva.nextdoor.com>

MHNA Board Officers

President	Judith Schneider-Fletcher
Vice President	Doug Shuster
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Abheshek Narain
Communications	Barry Ingram

MHNA Committee Chairs

Membership	Abheshek Narain
Hospitality	Adriane Sleight
Trails & Environment	Sara Holtz
Landscaping	Leslie Lilly

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency - Police, Fire, Medical)	911
Poison Control Poison Control (TTY)	1-800-222-1222 711
Police (non-emergency)	703-691-2131
Victim Assistance Network (Crisis Hotline)	703-360-7273
Animal Control	703-830-3310
Animal Shelter	703-830-1100
Fairfax County Fire Dept. Hdqtrs.	703-246-2126
Fairfax County Health Dept. (Code compliance)	703-324-1300
Fairfax County Health Dept. (sewer/septic)	703-246-2201
Fairfax Park Authority	703-324-8702
Fairfax Water Authority (after hrs. emergency)	703-698-5613
Hazardous Trees	703-324-1770
Household Hazardous Waste Infoline	703-324-5068
Miss Utility (underground utility marking)	1-800-552-7001
National Weather Service	703-652-1210
Storm Drainage Flooding (after hrs. emergency)	703-323-1211
VDOT (road hazards and conditions)	1-800-367-7623
Washington Gas emergency	703-750-1400
Power Outage (Dominion Power)	1-800-366-4357
Report Potholes (VDOT)	1-800-367-7623

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

FRIENDS OF OAKTON LIBRARY Bags 'n Bundles Sales

The Friends of Oakton Library are re-booting their Bags 'n Bundles Sales via e-mail, selling clean and gently used books in fun grab bags or colorful bundles curated by genre, theme and reading level. Each bag or bundle costs just \$5, sometimes less, payable by cash, check or credit card at safe and socially distanced pick-up at your convenience in the Oakton Library parking lot.

They currently have bags/bundles of: Board Books, Picture



Books, Easy Readers, Chapter Books, Young Adult Fiction, Adult Romance, Mystery, Fiction/Literature and Non-Fiction. If you are interested in purchasing a bag or bundle, please e-mail info@friendsofoaktonlibrary.org and Barbara Hippe (Book Sale Chairman) will send you a current list of offerings. Your suggestions and requests are always welcome!

Book donations are still not allowed at the library; however, the Friends are accepting pre-arranged donations of gently used books - drop us a line at the address above.

Mary Colombi - VP Friends of the Oakton Library

LINKS FOR GOOD IDEAS FOR THINGS THAT KIDS CAN MAKE AND SELL

<https://realandquirky.com/20-things-kids-can-make-sell-right/>

<https://www.whatmommydoes.com/17-best-things-for-kids-to-make-and-sell/>

OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL PANTRY

Thank you, MHNA neighbors, for your continued and generous partnership in helping us support Oakton HS students in need. This past school year, The Pantry has had to constantly adapt how we reached out to students and their families based on restrictions imposed and adjusted by FCPS with regard to Covid-19. One of the most challenging aspects of the pandemic was knowing that there were students who relied on school meals for their nutrition and sustenance. When schools were closed, those students had to find other resources.

Fortunately, the OHS Principal, Jamie Lane, allowed Pantry volunteers to return to the building one day a week as soon as FCPS gave the green light. Every Monday, small groups of student volunteers have been organizing donations and bagging groceries so that school staff can then hand out those groceries to families later in the week. In a time of great uncertainty, this weekly grocery pick-up has been a source of comfort and hope.

The Pantry is 100% supported through community donations and, simply put, we couldn't have helped as many students as we did this year without the generosity of Miller Heights residents. Thank you for everything!

The Pantry will be closed over the summer, but our Pantry team will be working with school staff members to prepare for the new school year and to continue improving our outreach.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Cathy or Eli at oaktonpantry@gmail.com.

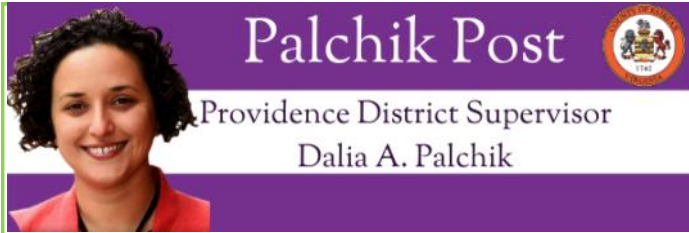
LEMONADE STAND

The Miller Heights Neighborhood Lemonade Stand is available for any interested child entrepreneurs or other events - it's not just for lemonade, use your imagination!

Just send an email to dougshuster@gmail.com and we will arrange to get it to your location.



FAIRFAX COUNTY NEWS ITEMS



Palchik Post

Providence District Supervisor
Dalia A. Palchik

NEWS FROM DALIA PALCHIK

Dear Residents,

Tomorrow is Juneteenth, a holiday to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. President Biden signed a bill yesterday establishing Juneteenth as a federal holiday, the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was signed into law in 1983 by President Reagan. On June 19, 1865, the last enslaved African Americans were granted their freedom in Galveston, Texas, months after the Confederate army's surrender ended the Civil War, and more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. I will spend the day tomorrow celebrating with my friends at the First Baptist Church and I welcome you to join us. You can find the Facebook event [here](#).

We have several Providence District announcements to share today, including construction updates for I-66, the schedule for the 2021 redistricting and reapportionment of the Board of Supervisors election districts, and info on how local makers can join the Made in Fairfax network. The Pivot Grant applications are opening on June 23rd for restaurants, hotels, retail, and arts organizations. I'm also looking forward to the return of [Nottoway Nights](#), with Project Locrea as the opening act on July 8th, and a pop-up roller skating Pride celebration at Mosaic next weekend, which we will share details about soon!

Remember that you can sign up for weekly updates on I-66 construction at [Transform66.org](https://transform66.org), follow on Twitter [@VaDOTNOVA](https://twitter.com/VaDOTNOVA) and receive email updates by signing up [here](#).

In this newsletter, you can find the following Providence District updates:

- Juneteenth Celebration
- Fairfax Vaccine Update
- I-66 & Transportation
- 2021 Redistricting of the BOS Election Districts
- Made in Fairfax Network
- PIVOT Grants
- Boards, Authorities and Commissions Appointments
- Featured Events

Link to newsletter <https://conta.cc/3vDDdmR>

Happy graduation to all of our seniors!

With Gratitude,
Supervisor Dalia Palchik



FAIRFAX COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Looking for things for you or your family to do? Classes to take? Recreation or exercise? Well, take a tour through the Parktakes Summer Guide from the Fairfax County Park Authority. It is full of information about activities throughout the county. You can pick up a copy at the various Parks and Recreation facilities. Of course, the Oak Marr Recreation Center is the closest one to Miller Heights. You can also view the guide at the Park Authority website:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes>

NEWSLETTER NEWS

This is your newsletter. If you have information, items of interest to our community, or human interest stories you would like included in the Newsletter, send it to us. We want to get community event updates, block party news, general neighborhood news, questions (and answers) about issues, opinions (nothing political, and just neighborhood stories written by our residents). **Photos are always welcome.**

If you do have input or ideas about content, contact Barry Ingram at: editor@mhnanews.com

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

LANDSCAPING

Every month or so I pick up the trash on lower Oakton Road, not because I'm a felon as someone yelled at me "you deserve it"..... I do it because any trash that gets washed down the road will ultimately end up in the Chesapeake Bay and the Bay needs our help. But I also live here and I drive Oakton Road a lot and personally, don't like driving home staring at trash on the roadside. I've been picking up trash on



Leslie Lilly

it since my first Difficult Run cleanup..... eegads almost 20 years ago. It's a dangerous road to walk, so please, when you see me, just slow down. **DON'T CHANGE LANES TO GIVE ME A WIDE BERTH** you can cause a crash swerving out of your lane — **JUST SLOW DOWN.** I am very aware and I know you are coming and I will be standing still, off the road, watching you.

I've noticed a few things over the years, I call it Oakton Road Trashology. Besides the constant bits and pieces and sometimes large plastic car parts, what I pick up (using my handy dandy EZ Reacher) on that particular stretch seems to be mostly thoughtless litter tossed out the window on purpose (which I believe is probably 90% of what I pick up) or "accidentally escaped trash". I imagine a lot of it is tossed out by teens "getting rid of the evidence" of their behavior before returning home. Over the years, I have noticed some curious trends. One is the empties now days are more expensive brands. Maybe it's showing our rise in affluence with better stocked liquor cabinets or teens are just getting better allowances.... more full size bottles of liquor, vodka is the most popular and nice wine bottles. Whatever happened to Ripple ?? Used to be mostly Budweiser bottles and soda cans - now it's flavored water and imported beer! Often there's a full six pack (empty bottles) or more tied up in a plastic bag. Fast food bags and napkins have gone natural instead of easy to see white. One year someone loved Taco Bell and threw out all the extra hot sauce packets in handfuls and last year before the pandemic, every month, I would pick up A LOT of creamer cups. I can only imagine someone picking up coffee (hopefully the passenger and not the driver) every morning at 7-11 and putting the creamer in while driving down Oakton road and tossing the creamer cups out the window before heading off to work in Reston. When the shut down happened, the creamer cups stopped and haven't returned. I do hope they're still working, maybe remotely and they can use a carton of cream at home instead of environmentally unfriendly creamer cups. A few years ago was the season of fruit flavored vape cartridges and for a month or two I found several teeny tiny zip lock baggies, the kind used for drugs. Graduation and prom time brings more liquor bottles and this May, I noticed

at least 6 (maybe you can get a case discount?) Plan B packages and a blue and white bra. Masks are the new addition to my litter bag. Over the years, I've found several golf balls, tennis and lacrosse balls and tools, but my most unusual find was a bowling ball. Never found any money but there seems to be a never ending supply of chewing tobacco containers and cigarette butts.

Please, remind your kids to keep the trash inside the car until they get home and remember - the little ones are watching you and soaking up your words and your actions! Be good role models!

LITTER REACHER PICK-UP TOOL

We planned to sell these Reachers at our meetings but who knows when we will be able to meet againso you too can become a "litter warrior" during our Age of Covid with a bright orange Reacher to assist your efforts to pick up trash along our streets, parks and trails. Leslie has a limited number of Reachers available for \$15 each (payable to MHNA) on first come basis. She was able to obtain 2 dozen of these grabbers at cost. The grabbers retail for \$19.60, but Leslie will be selling them for \$15.00. **The proceeds will go to MHNA!**

Leslie is offering them for sale to our members. They work great on items small and large and are indispensable helpers around the house too. Call Leslie at 703-864-3360 and let her know when you can pick one up!

Leslie's hope is that this will increase the number of litter fighters in our neighborhood.

Don't miss out on getting one.

Orange-U-Tongs PRO Pick Up Tool



MHNA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - AUGUST 3, 2021

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE - SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONT.)

TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT

By Sara Holtz

Eagle Projects in Miller Heights

Difficult Run Stream Valley Park trail users and wildlife benefitted from two Eagle projects this May.



Jonah mobilized over 40 volunteers to remove invasive plants multiflora rose, Japanese barberry, wineberry, garlic mustard, and Japanese honeysuckle at the intersection of the CCT and the social trail between Lochinver & Blenheim where the cement bridge with the railing is located. Jonah will host two more removal sessions in July and August, and a native planting in late September, dates TBD

Jonah Photos– Before and After



Beck's Eagle project removed the same invasive plants near the fire hydrant and guard rail on Miller Heights Rd between Lochinver and Blenheim. He replanted the area with native plants & trees including flowering dogwood, redbud, golden ragwort, sedges, American holly, hornbeam, winterberry holly, and arrowwood viburnum .

Beck Photos– Before and After



Need service hours?

Join our effort to remove invasive plants from parkland in Miller Heights and replace them with native plants, for the benefit of local wildlife such as birds and pollinators/ butterflies

Contact Sara Holtz at sh12sh34@gmail.com for upcoming dates

BLOCK PARTY SUPPORT

To help encourage more neighborhood block parties on your street, while you practice social distancing , MHNA will provide for a \$50 donation to our members to get your party started. Contact Abheshek Narain, MHNA Treasurer, at info@mhnanews.com.

We do ask that you provide a short write-up and a few photos after the event so that we might include the event in the next issue of the newsletter. Again, we need you to ensure everyone is safe and practicing good physical distance rules during these trying times.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONT.)

TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT

Miller Heights Fleece Blanket Project

By Sara Holtz

1160 fleece blankets by Miller Heights blanketeers!

Thanks to all the amazing volunteers in Miller Heights along with Girl Scouts and youth groups, we made 1160 fleece blankets for Project Linus Fairfax County. Recipients of these fleece hugs include HealthWorks Herndon, Sanctuary Food Justice DMV, Salvation Army, Mobile Hope, Nest Collective, Gracing Spaces, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, and several FCPS Title I schools. **Thank you!!**



Join the Greater Oakton Community Association

Did you know Oakton has an association to improve and preserve the attributes of the greater Oakton community?

The [Greater Oakton Community Association](#) (GOCA) was established in the spring of 2019 and acts as a non-political conduit for sharing community information; helps establish new programs benefiting the community; and works to preserve the area's historic and environmental assets. Priorities are determined by the community at GOCA's semi-annual community meetings held at the Oakton Library or other appropriate locations in the years ahead. GOCA is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization as designated by the IRS. Check out the [GOCA website](#) for Oakton history, articles, manuscripts, facts, news of note, upcoming meetings.

Membership in GOCA is free and open to all interested Oakton residents. [Please email to become a member.](#)



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We send out over 500 emails to our MHNA residents for MHNA announcements, meeting notices, Newsletters, other communications. Although we have 550+ homes in Miller Heights, we only have email addresses for about 360 homes, as many homes have multiple email addresses and the others have not supplied their email addresses. If you know some of your neighbors are not receiving our mailings, please suggest they provide their email addresses to us so we can keep them in the loop also. They can provide this information by contacting us at info@mhnanews.com or going to our website www.mhnanews.com for more information.

We also see that many who should be receiving the announcements and newsletters are not opening their emails or their emails are going into their JUNK or SPAM folders. Please check to see if you and your neighbors are getting their MHNA Information emails.

You can help get the word out.

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONT.)

TRAFFIC CALMING FOR MILLER HEIGHTS

Submitted by the Miller Heights Traffic Calming Task Force (John Geddes, Crystal Philcox, Robert Norwich, Justin Baer, Doug Shuster)

In 2006, after a tragic car accident on Miller Heights Rd. that resulted in the death of a 16 year old Oakton High School student, MHNA worked with Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) to develop a traffic calming plan that led to the placement of the three current speed humps and a 4-way stop sign at Miller Heights Rd. & Blenheim Dr./Willow Creek Ln.

Over the past few years, a number of residents have expressed serious concerns to MHNA, to local police, and through other forums (e.g. social media) about speeding on Miller Heights Rd., especially regarding the dangers to pedestrians, bicyclists and children playing or even just getting on the school bus. A number of reports have been made of vehicles passing cars that are doing the speed limit and even passing school busses with their flashing red lights on.

In accordance with FCDOT's Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP), MHNA reached out to Supervisor Palchik's Office to request a traffic calming study by FDOT for the full length of Miller Heights Rd. FCDOT performed an initial traffic engineering study and determined that a traffic calming study was merited based on the traffic count and speeds (2111 vehicles in a 24 hour period and 85th percentile speed was 38/40 mph (S/N).

According to RTAP guidelines, MHNA was asked to establish a Traffic Calming Task Force to work with residents and FCDOT to develop a plan that will have broad community support. We established the Task Force and FCDOT has been evaluating various measures that could be deployed in the neighborhood such as additional speed humps, speed tables, and center medians. From their initial assessment, FCDOT did not consider that chicanes, chokers or radar speed signs would be well suited for Miller Heights Rd.

We held a public meeting for Miller Heights residents on June 24 to get community feedback on various potential traffic calming measures. 25 residents participated in the meeting and shared their ideas. Some new issues/questions that were raised included:

- Is it possible to narrow the entrance from Oakton Rd. to slow vehicles down entering the neighborhood?
- Could the community install and maintain its own radar speed signs?
- Does Fairfax County have a photo speed enforcement program that could be used in the neighborhood?

We will continue working with FCDOT to answer these questions and develop an initial plan that will be presented to the community for additional feedback. When a plan is finalized that we feel reflects the desires of the community, balloting will take place to ensure a majority of households support the plan.

Please find supporting documents here: https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yladpc27qbdaezb/AABQIK0ZL87ptNIEGZB_xPMBa?dl=0

Please contact Doug Shuster at dougshuster@gmail.com if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Abheshek Narain

MHNA is very excited to announce the newly launched new Membership Portal ! (<https://www.mhnanews.com/portal/login.php>)

In less than a month after its launch, over 22% (126) of residents registered and confirmed their household information, including 116 residents who submitted their annual dues. The new portal streamlines the process of registering and sharing your information, including access to a newly improved online Membership Directory, accessible to all Members.

Furthermore, the new portal provides an easy to use process to pay your annual dues via PayPal and record the payment into our automated system, so that you can track your registration and update information at your convenience. However, as always, if you prefer to send a check, please feel free to submit payment to Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association, but please do register on the portal at the same time!

P.O. Box 538, Oakton, VA 22124

Since our last newsletter, our residents have organized community food drives, cleanups of the trails, bike rides for all ages and many other activities. We are very proud of how the neighborhood continues to come together as we slowly see the light at the end of the tunnel. As we enter the summer months, with hopes and well wishes, we should continue to support one another in a safe manner, continuing the theme that "We are all in this together."

We welcome our new residents and look forward to meeting them in person very soon.

As always, if you have any updates to your contact information, please visit our new Membership portal and submit your information, or reach out to:

membership@mhnanews.com

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association and its goals and activities. We look forward to your continued participation and sharing information about MHNA and our activities with your neighbors.

Abheshek Narain

Treasurer & Membership Chair – MHNA

COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS

Musings.. Thoughts about what I see in the neighborhood.

by Judith Schneider-Fletcher

Well, I needed to take a break, so Musings is on vacation and will return next time



A Simple Thank You

by A Miller Heights Neighbor

"We've all driven by the Fire Department/EMS Station on Rosehaven many times, probably giving very little thought to what these folks do.

"But on a recent Sunday morning, reality snapped a few things into focus. Performing a perfectly ordinary household task, I tripped and landed on my shoulder and head. (No, there wasn't a ladder involved) The flashing white stars cleared after a few seconds and I realized that something was broken. After a few seconds of self-checkup, my wife called 911 to request emergency medical service. Couldn't have been more than two minutes before the ambulance and fire truck arrived from the Oakton fire station.

"The Emergency Medical Technicians immediately took charge, asking lots of questions just to see if I was still thinking clearly. With a comforting professionalism, they moved me safely from our house into the nearby ambulance. The ride to Fair Oaks Inova hospital seemed bumpier than usual as I was beginning to feel sharp pains in mysterious places. The technicians kept apologizing for the bumps but we were joking back and forth realizing this would soon be over.

"Though I was too 'out of it' to get their names, I sent a thank you note to the EMTs at the fire station complimenting them on their professionalism and their comforting assurances that this crisis would be over in just a few minutes.

"Equally comforting was the help provided by the 911 operator who stayed on the line with my wife until the EMTs arrived. She is another one who deserves a big "thank you."

"I only share these details with my Miller Heights neighbors to reassure you that we are so fortunate to live so close to a neighboring fire and emergency medical team. With luck, you may never need their services, but if you do, based on my experience, you'll be in good hands."

Using Cicada Wings

By Beth Eltinge

I confess I have eagerly awaited the emergence of the seventeen year cicadas. Seventeen years ago our children were in elementary school and we delighted in them. We collected a big box of their molted shells, and we collected dead ones for a friend who used the wings by embedding them in resin to make jewelry and paper weights. This time I wanted to try using the wings myself. I collected the wings and coated them with a product called Mod Podge, which is basically a watery white glue. The glue goes on white and dries clear, resulting in a beautifully pliable wing while, I hope, also preserving it. The flower is my first effort at creating with these wings.



Drying Cicada Wings

COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

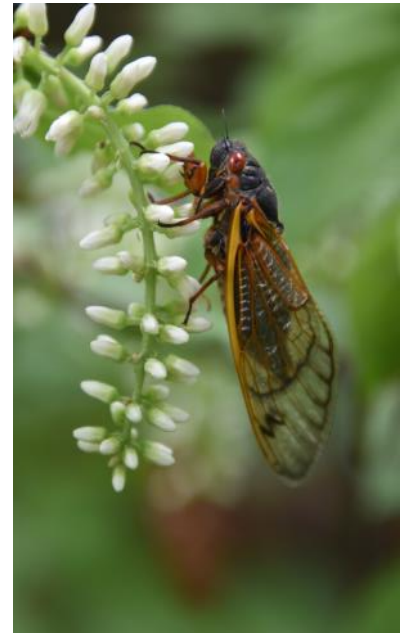
CICADAS—HAVE ENOUGH YET?



Milkweed Cicada



Red Chokeberry Cicada



Virginia Sweetspire Cicada



Devil's Walking Stick Cicada



Just a Hitchhiker



**HAVE
ENOUGH
NOW?**

COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

MUCH PRETTIER THAN CICADAS



COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

PLANNING AND PREPARATION WITH FARMER BROWN

By Gordon Brown (Farmer Brown)

Farmer Brown does not think we could have asked for a more perfect spring. There were some challenges with the high winds and the recent dry spell but nothing to dwell on.



When it comes to veggies, I continue to employ intensive square foot planting and have been sharing my leafy greens with the neighbors. As a rule of thumb – *if you grow it for the root or fruit you need full sun, if you grow it for the leaf, sprout, stem then partial shade is okay*. Many of my greens were planted were grown indoors, under lights, and I highly recommend this approach to get ahead of the season. My latest seedlings added are peppers and egg-plants - both started indoors but very late, so the lights helped them get a *giddy-up*. My herbs have done well enough so far this season to start dehydrating and drying for use this year. One recommendation — if you are looking for a culinary suggestion is Sage. It is a hardy herb and versatile in the kitchen.

Earlier this year I took advantage of the Fairfax Soil and Water Conservation Native Seedling Sale (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>) and I'd recommend

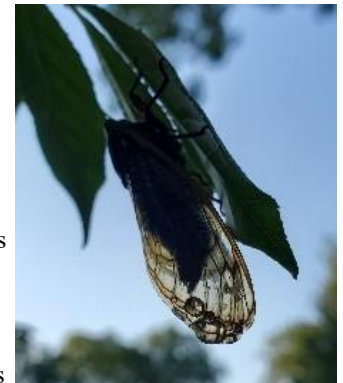
this for next year if you are looking for quality native varieties for your garden. I am now removing a couple of barriers around my trees as they are tall enough to be out of the hungry deer's reach! My biggest disappointment so far though, is that all the Pawpaw fruit have not been able to get going. Here is hoping next year is better. My poor Methley Plum has succumbed to Codling months for a second year running – even with me spraying the tree with neem oil. I will try trapping them next year to limit the damage – and in the meantime, I will hope they missed a few so we can gobble those.



My strawberries, mulberries, currants, and gooseberries all look good. Elderflower cordial is next up and if anyone is looking for hops for their home brew – let me know, as I have Cascade, Centennial, Chinook and Nugget. Exciting!

After a combination of bad luck and inexperience last year, I've decided to double up and take another shot at beekeeping. My kids helped me get the 2 hives situated and installed!

And of course... CICADA's! I was telling my family back in Zimbabwe about the expected migration and they laughed because back there, we knew them as "Christmas Beetles" because that is the time of year they come out! Still, my kids have thoroughly enjoyed looking for them under stones and other items in the garden. They even painted them. We've have also even eaten a few! And, even with my wide plant inventory I have seen them do no damage! Even when they die, their bodies are nitrogen rich so will make a great addition to your compost pile or simply blow the carcasses around the bases of your trees or shrubs.



COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/sites/code/files/assets/documents/pdf/animal-noise.pdf>



Animal Noise

When is Animal Noise a Violation of the County's Ordinance?

- ◆ Sect. 108.1-4-1 of the Fairfax County Code (Noise Ordinance) establishes limitations on any owner or person in control of any animal that allows or otherwise permits any such animal to bark, howl, bay, meow, squawk, quack, crow or make such sound.
- ◆ Noise from animals is prohibited that is plainly audible and discernable:
 - ◇ Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. that is plainly audible in any other person's residential dwelling with doors and windows closed.
 - ◇ Between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. when the sound is plainly audible across real property boundaries or through partitions common to residential dwellings AND can be heard for more than 5 consecutive or nonconsecutive minutes in any 10 minute period.
- ◆ The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to any animal that, at the time of sound or sound generation, was responding to pain or injury or was protecting itself, its kennel, its offspring or a person from an actual threat. Additionally, it does not apply to police dogs that are engaged in the performance of its duties at the time of making the sound.
- ◆ Animals located in a dog park are not regulated between dusk and 7 a.m. Sunday through Thursday OR between dusk and 8 a.m. Friday, Saturday, and the day before a Federal Holiday.
- ◆ There may be additional Zoning regulations on the keeping of certain kinds of animals.

To report a possible violation OR for more information contact:



Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711

Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code

For after hours noise concerns, please call the Non-Emergency Police 703-691-2131



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.
This Fairfax County, Va. publication (July 2019) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.

INTERVIEW WITH AN ARTIST

Submitted by Beth Eltinge, Eleanor Wang and Jan Simone

We recently visited with Jan Simone to learn more about her art. Jan's husband, Mike, was in the Army and they lived all over the world. We were especially interested in how this travel impacted her approach to art.

When did you first become interested in art? What was your first drawing or painting?

My first drawing was black dots. I was sitting in a high chair wanting to get out; my mother wanted me to stay put. She gave me a black crayon and paper and I proceeded to pound in frustration. Her response was to exclaim "Oh, what lovely bugs!" Until then I didn't know I could draw bugs. My kindergarten teacher told my mother I had added details to a little book we were required to draw showing different aspects of our home and family. I had even included the flowered bathroom rug. I guess I started at a very early age to draw what I saw.

What training have you had in art?

As I got older I considered becoming an art teacher but it was the 60's and realism was not in vogue. I could not get excited about modern art at the time; the teaching goal faded away and I turned to history and political science.

I have no formal art education but among my experiences were a few sessions with a private teacher in high school, two or three years spent oil painting in the garage of a woman who would become a famous Alaskan artist, a portrait class at an Alaskan community college, a still life class when we lived in Oklahoma, sessions in Moscow with a very serious Russian whose long gray bearded face would have made an amazing portrait (wish I had), and a visiting American watercolorist who set up the paper for her live model portraits vertically so paint drips were part of the composition. (After that, I refrained from portrait painting for years). Beyond that, I am self-taught.

You and Mike have traveled and lived in many different places, how do you feel this has influenced your work?

I cannot leave out the importance of being able to view art in some of the world's best galleries as well as the beauty all around us everywhere we lived. Our family was posted in Europe for 12 years: two different regions of Germany, Russia, and Austria. I did nearly all of my oil painting in Alaska, which was my husband's first military assignment. It was a very inspiring place, with my introduction to the Alaskan art world being painted gold pans. While in Europe I would go to the museums and marvel at the works of the masters. I was not a working artist - I was always busily reinventing myself depending on where we lived. We also had two daughters so art didn't happen much for years. Still, I can recall walking through galleries and noticing how daubing complementary colors next to each other made them vibrate, how to create the effect of glass or metal or water with light, shadow, and color, how certain artists pulled their work right into the frames, making them integral to each piece, how Rubens painted skin and the Dutch masters painted light. And it was not just painting in Europe that I studied, I also became aware of some of the influential schools of architecture and design. I discovered Art Nouveau in the Gorky House in Moscow before I saw it in France - the marble staircase carved to resemble a wave, the ceiling painted as if one were looking up from the bottom of a pond. In Darmstadt, Germany I discovered Jugendstil, their version of Art Nouveau. In Vienna, it was Klimt and the Secessionist movement. What I had not studied in any school was right there to experience.

Though I did not formally study art, I taught it for two years. When we lived in Garmisch, Germany the teacher had not shown up. I was asked to take over and teach art 1st-8th grades one day week. That was quite a challenge - being in a foreign country, no internet to look up resources, just working with what they had for us to use. I told the principal, who pretty much had to put up with what I wanted, that I would only grade on effort. I never felt it was fair to give a child with more talent a higher grade, I wanted to encourage each child to find his or her inner muse.

I have been most inspired to paint in Hawaii. My sister-in-law has lived there for years and we are fortunate to have visited

(Continued on page 15)

INTERVIEW WITH AN ARTIST (CONT.)

(Continued from page 14)

her several times. I have done a number of Hawaiian pieces and if I could live there, sigh..., I would paint all the time. I love painting water in all of its moods and colors, especially the unique aquas of the Hawaiian surf.

You have a Masters Degree in History. How does your academic background fit with your love of art?

I think those who study history may often be visual learners. They try to imagine the past as they gather the primary source material and the readings that paint a picture of the past, and my focus in history was on "history from the ground up", an approach which I won't delve into but which essentially means looking at all of it - weather, markets, epidemics, everyday life, ART, and so on, layering events on top of that.

What piece of your work are you the most proud of?

I am happy with a recent painting of my older daughter, intended for her 40th birthday. I had never done a watercolor portrait but was determined to try. I guess I am second proudest of the oil portrait I did of her sister when she was three, a mere 34 years earlier.

How do you decide what you want to work on?

My oils have all dried up, sadly. But I have brand new colored pencils and some of the best watercolors (Daniel Smith) with the essential addition of the best quality paper. I decide what to paint or draw based on what memories I want to preserve. When I begin, my goal is to get better with each piece. I have definitely found creative solace in teaching myself watercolor during the pandemic (also making a couple of complex quilts). Watercolor is challenging so before I began the portrait of my daughter, I studied some of the generous online artists who offer their talents and skill for free. Speed, the right sorts of brushes, and learning how to control water as a medium are key. Years ago I learned from my Alaskan friend and mentor how to gray down color to achieve a more natural

look for anything from landscapes and beyond. I began to see more, the undertones and subtle shifts of hue.

If you run into difficulties with a work, how do you approach finding a solution?

Well, a specific example: who knew that a light touch with a Mr. Clean Magic Eraser can remove unwanted pigment? I watched the demo of a clean line pulled through a cityscape so an umbrella handle could be created. There is a lot of collective wisdom among the artists of both today as well as the past. You can watch it on video, read a book, or just observe.

What piece do you think you learned the most from?

That is the most difficult question you have asked. I probably learn something each time - perhaps what not to do.

How do you know a painting is finished?

It must not be overworked. It must have a balance of repeated color, even where you might not expect it. I might see a bit of a blue cloth reflected on a green vase in a still life. In reality, it may not be visible at all but by adding it I make the observer's eye move around, the colors blend and sparkle, contrasting and complementing. There are sometimes design details that really make a piece. How surprising to see a reflected faces in a copper vase that at first glance are just shapes. One of my teachers did such a painting I have never forgotten. The best and most revered artists master the realism I have been working on so diligently and then discard it for their own essential styles. Perhaps that ought to be my goal. Art is a process of discovery, for the creators and the viewers alike. I am still discovering.

We really enjoyed our time with Jan and learning more about her art. We wish her the best as she continues to explore and enjoy her talent.

PAINTING PHOTOS ON FOLLOWING PAGE

INTERVIEW WITH AN ARTIST (CONT.)

SEE A FEW SELECTED PHOTOS OF JAN'S BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK BELOW AND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE



Bundy– Australian Shepherd



Polar Bear Gold Pan



Hawaii Rainbow Falls



1951 Portrait - Mom and Dad



Sailboat in Sunset



Our Home in Frame

Even More on the Next Page!

INTERVIEW WITH AN ARTIST (CONT.)

A FEW MORE FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT



Trees and Snowy Peaks



Alaska Wetlands—Oil



Cats Watercolor



Trees and Snowy Peaks



Portraits of Grandsons

Are you an artist? You could be interviewed also and exhibit some of your pieces. Our neighbors would enjoy the chance to meet you.

MILLER HEIGHTS REAL ESTATE UPDATE

JUNE 2021

Hi All -

I trust that everyone is enjoying the spring weather and getting out into the world again! As you all know from reading this column, the real estate market continues to remain hot. In particular, it is still very much a seller's market. In case you are thinking of selling in the near or far off future, I thought I would explain one of the ways that sellers list their houses without going on the public market. It is called a "private exclusive listing" and it is a selling point of several well known brokerages these days.



The Lure of a Private Exclusive Listing

Some real estate brokerages promote their ability to sell homes privately—a practice commonly known as a private exclusive, or pocket listing. But does the practice serve buyers and sellers as well as a home sale on the open market?

What is a private exclusive listing?

A private exclusive listing can only be inwardly marketed within a real estate brokerage. It can't be listed on the brokerage's website, on other popular real estate sites, can't be advertised and can't have a sale sign outside. The only way to market a private exclusive listing is to share it with agents within the brokerage, who can then share it with their clients.

Why would a homeowner sell via a private listing?

If you're a celebrity, or you own a massive estate that few buyers can afford, it might make sense to limit the people who can see your house. However, it's not really in your best interests. To overcome privacy concerns, show it by appointment only or ask buyers to provide a prequalification letter.

With low inventory and homes selling quickly, does a private exclusive listing make sense?

Private exclusive listings are harmful to buyers when inventory is low because it limits their options even more. When properties are sold as pocket listings, sellers could miss out, too. Their brokerage sells a home within their own company—profiting off both sides of the commission. Meanwhile, the homeowners might have been able to sell for a higher price if more buyers knew about it.

It's the law of supply and demand: the more people who know about your home, the more likely it will sell quicker and for more money.

If you have any questions about other ways to list your home, let me know.

Enjoy the spring!

Liz Potemra, Realtor
 Long and Foster, Oakton/Vienna Office
lizp@longandfoster.com

**The information contained in this letter is not intended to be and does not constitute financial or investment advice.*

Status	Street Name	DOM	Date	Close Price	List Price
Closed	3100 Wheatland Farms Ct	2	6/9/2021	\$2,050,000	\$1,799,000.00
Closed	3180 Wheatland Farms Dr	1	6/1/2021	\$1,400,000	\$1,370,000.00
Active	11120 Tattersall Trl	3	5/27/2021		\$925,000.00
Closed	10932 Blue Roan Rd	2	5/21/2021	\$1,150,000.00	\$985,000.00
Closed	2888 Melanie Ln	1	5/14/2021	\$884,000.00	\$899,900.00
Closed	11014 Blenheim Dr	8	4/30/2021	\$940,000.00	\$925,000.00
Closed	3304 Mill Cross Ct	4	4/29/2021	\$915,000.00	\$875,000.00
Closed	10996 Tradewind Ct	4	4/27/2021	\$2,050,000.00	\$1,998,800.00
Pending	3115 Windsong Dr	5	4/26/2021		\$1,799,900.00
Closed	3105 Wheatland Farms Ct	3	4/22/2021	\$1,394,999.00	\$1,350,000.00
Closed	11004 Blue Roan Rd	5	4/16/2021	\$1,250,000.00	\$985,000.00
Closed	11183 Tattersall Trl	5	4/16/2021	\$963,000.00	\$885,000.00
Closed	3195 Ariana Dr	1	3/31/2021	\$2,200,000.00	\$2,200,000.00
Closed	2907 Melanie Ln	5	3/17/2021	\$1,106,025.00	\$998,800.00

This is not intended to suggest any of these homes were sold by Liz Potemra or Long & Foster Realtors, and is not intended to be a solicitation of your business.

MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER!

Kids Edition

The Editors

Sammy



Avery



Julia



The Editors

By: Avery, Julia, and Samantha
And other participants from around the neighborhood!

Miller Heights



Kids



Newsletter

THE YEAR OF THE CICADAS

Table of Cicada Contents

1. The 17 Year Cicadas
2. Coloring Pages
3. Activities For Summer
4. Cicada Word Search
5. Online, or In-Person?
6. Microwave Blueberry Muffin
7. Summer Safety Tips



The 17 Year Cicadas

Cicadas: We'd heard of them before, and vaguely paid attention to the fact that they were always looming on the horizon, waiting until the perfect time to strike. Well, die. Not strike. The 17 year cicadas spend most of their lives underground, just living their best lives. They have their babies in the trees when they come up from underground, and then they live about a month after that before they die.

But what about the baby cicadas? They go underground again, carrying on their longstanding tradition of living underground for 17 years before coming up again. The cicadas won't come out and die in heaps again until 2038, 17 years from 2021.

MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)



MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)



MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)

Dear Neighborhood kids,

This is a kindness tree that I drew that you can print it out to add more kindness to spread. Please send the finished drawing to the MHNA P.O. box. Remember: there is always kindness to share.

Thank you,
Siyal Narain
Fifth grade
Maples Mill elementary school

MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)



MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)

Activities For Summer

Now that Memorial Day, the unofficial start of summer, has passed, school's almost over, and it's getting warmer, we need to start thinking about SUMMER! So, with that in mind, here are some ideas for this summer:

- * Go bike riding! The Difficult Run trail is close by. Or, if you would rather have a paved trail, check out the W&OD Trailhead on Hunter Mill Rd! It's a smooth, paved ride. Or, you can go for a walk or run there! You can even bring your furry companion!
- * Go camping in your backyard. Something that is extremely easy and fun to do is to take out any old tent and set it up in your backyard! You could even ask your parents to invite some friends for a safe, socially distanced camp-out! Tell scary stories, roast some marshmallows, and enjoy a beautiful night of looking at the stars!
- * Go on a drive! See if you can convince your parents to go for a drive! You and your family can drive to D.C. and check out some amazing sights! Visit some of the monuments and memorials, or go for a walk around the National Mall!
- * Make some crafts. Have you ever had trouble getting a birthday present for your family? Well, then look up fun craft ideas such as [this](#) or [this](#). You don't need a great assortment of supplies, just everyday objects found around your house!



- * Write a story. You could start writing a book this summer! I know it doesn't sound like much fun- *more writing during summer? That sounds like torture!* But wait- hear me out! If you write a poem, short story, or full length novel, you could submit it in a writing contest to win **money!** [This](#) writing contest is great for short stories, and [this](#) one is great for poems!



MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)

Cicada Word Search

G S J R L O K B U D P N F O J
N M V J H O C B I U N U F U G
V D A H V A A R T L E U N P E
Z J M L S W P C E N L E O T J
A D A C I C E E X E E I Y R F
W E F F L S K O O E O Q O A G
H U E A N C M X S T U Y Q N M
D P X I X A F L K N C F T M S
P F J U R O E I E E M X Q W W
L O U D E S U T L V O L G C V
E U Q R P H N A E E E Z Z U B
U Q L Y X D I S T S Z R V B V
S D P J I G K T O W N G O I O
X U Q U P X S R N I V Z D H Y
G H X I S J X M S G J J Z I X

skeletons

June

Seventeen

Buzz

Ground

Loud

Loud

Billions

Cicada

Insect

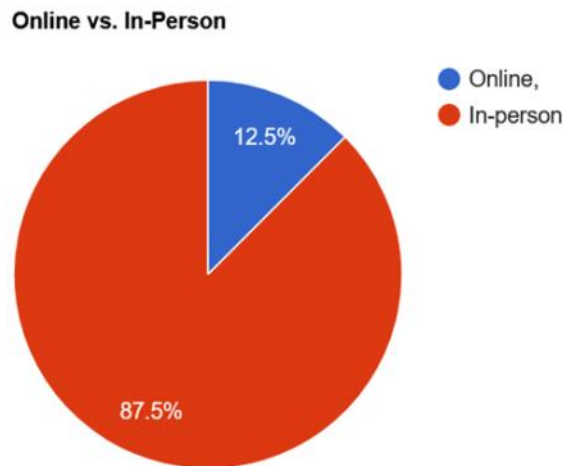
May

MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)

Online, or In-person?

We've asked kids and teens of all ages from around the neighborhood to tell us whether they enjoy online, or in-person schooling better, here were their thoughts.

We found that one in every 8 people enjoyed in person school better than online. One of the most common reasons we found that students enjoyed in-person school more was that they got to interact with fellow students and teachers.



Microwave Blueberry Muffin!

- 1/3 cup flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest



First, In a microwave safe cup/mug, mix the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together. Then, mix in the milk, butter, and vanilla until smooth. Next, mix in the lemon zest and blueberries. Microwave for 1½-2 minutes, when the cake is puffy. Let the cake cool, and enjoy!

Recipe adapted from: <https://tasty.co/recipe/blueberry-mug-muffin>

MHNA KIDS NEWSLETTER! (CONT.)

Summer Safety Tips

Summer is almost here, and everyone (including the teachers) is ready! But if we want to have the best summer we can, follow some of these super easy tips to keep us safe during our break!

- ⇒ Sun Protection
 - ◆ Wear sunscreen and cover up exposed skin
- ⇒ Hydration
 - ◆ Drink, drink, drink! Anything works, including fruit juices, popsicles, and watery fruits such as watermelon!
- ⇒ Road Safety
 - ◆ When biking, skateboarding, and walking, make sure to stay on the left side of the road, and always look when crossing.
- ⇒ Heat Stroke
 - ◆ Drink lots of water, and make sure you don't stay out in the sun for too long!
- ⇒ Plant Safety
 - ◆ Ask parents before picking new plants and try to stay away from plants you do not recognize.

Citations

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/pharaoh-cicada>

<https://coloringpagesonly.com/pages/hello-summer>

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Advertising of resident family member services; baby-sitting, dog/cat sitting, etc. will be included in the Newsletter or Directory for free.

Questions about the advertising policy can be directed to Judith Schneider-Fletcher, MHNA President, at: president@mhnanews.com. If you wish to place an ad in the newsletter, please send an electronic copy of your ad to editor@mhnanews.com and send your check payable to MHNA to the following address with your final ad copy to:

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The advertisement for Children's Dentistry of Oakton features a portrait of Dr. Niloo Mofakhami, a smiling woman with dark hair wearing a white lab coat. To her right is the clinic's logo, a blue whale with a yellow flower on its back. Below the logo, the text reads "CHILDREN'S DENTISTRY OF OAKTON", the website "www.childrensdentistryofoakton.com", and the phone number "703.255.3424". At the bottom of the graphic, it says "Serving Northern Virginia Families Since 20...".

Meet Dr. Niloo Mofakhami
Board-certified pediatric dentist
Consistently recognized as a Top Dentist by *Northern Virginia Magazine* and *Washingtonian* and a Next Door Neighborhood Favorite

Miller Heights resident and Oakton High School alumna, Dr. Niloo brings a small-town feel to her practice. Dr. Niloo and her team offer high-quality, comprehensive care for infants, children, and adolescents using the most current dental technology, including laser dentistry and digital x-rays.

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