

A MESSAGE FROM THE MHNA PRESIDENT

April 2023

Dear Neighbors,

First of all, help! MHNA membership is at an all time low – less than 100 paid members vs. over 200 a few years ago. Perhaps people are just too busy or our emails are going to spam or they don't know how to use the new membership portal?

Hopefully people are happy with our current leadership and the work we are doing to maintain and improve the neighborhood – if not please let us know! Your suggested \$20 annual donation helps us to maintain common areas and undertake various initiatives.

Some things happening in the neighborhood:

- A redesign of the front entrance at Oakton Rd. including removing invasive species, new plantings, and strengthening the stonework, led by Judith Schneider Fletcher with her daughter Rachel doing the garden design.
- We are moving ahead with a community ballot for the Miller Heights Traffic Calming Plan. We need your vote – to pass we need 159 households to submit YES ballots (an unreturned ballot is the same as a NO ballot in this case).
- As always, lots of invasive plant management in the neighborhood by Sara Holtz and her team.
- There is a new plan being developed for consideration by the Planning Commission for the AT&T campus on Chain Bridge Rd. – potentially one of the biggest new developments in Oakton in a long time.

More details inside the newsletter on many of these topics so please read on!

What a beautiful neighborhood to enjoy the springtime!

Doug Shuster

MHNA President president@mhnnews.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|----|
| Message from the MHNA President | 1 |
| Contacts , Officers and Social Media | 2 |
| Officer and Committee Updates | 3 |
| Neighborhood Connections | 6 |
| The Nature Corner | 9 |
| Comments and Input from our Residents | 14 |
| Miller Heights Real Estate Update | 19 |
| Fairfax County 2022-2023 School Calendar | 20 |
| MHNA Kid's Newsletter | 21 |
| Our Sponsors | 25 |



MHNA Annual Garage Sale

Saturday May 20th with rain date of Sunday, May 21st.

Watch for the eBlast for details and get started cleaning out your basements!

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 **589 members** and it is still growing with lots of posts.

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

The Miller Heights Nextdoor group has grown to 869 members as of now 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>

What to do with your cut brush? Think about building a habitat pile.

By Doug Shuster

According to Virginia's Department of Forestry, brush/habitat piles provide wildlife with cover for escaping predators, resting, feeding, sheltering from bad weather and sometimes for raising young. Animals that use brush piles regularly include mammals (e.g. rabbits, chipmunks, skunks, raccoons, foxes); birds (e.g. thrashers, cardinals, sparrows, bobwhite quail); reptiles and amphibians (e.g. fence lizards, box turtles and gray treefrogs) and a host of insects and other invertebrates. https://dof.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/Brush-Piles-for-Wildlife_pub.pdf Of course the brush pile should be on your property and not include any invasive species.

MHNA Board Officers

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

MHNA Committee Chairs

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Membership | Abheshek Narain |
| Hospitality | Adrienne Sleight |
| Trails & Environment | Sara Holtz |
| Landscaping | Judith Schneider-Fletcher |

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

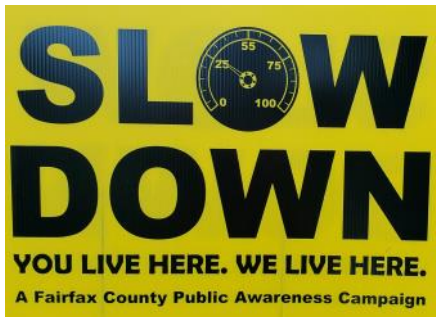
| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Emergency - Police, Fire, Medical) | 911 |
| Poison Control Poison Control (TTY) | 1-800-222-1222 711 |
| Police (non-emergency) | 703-691-2131 |
| Victim Assistance Network (Crisis Hotline) | 703-360-7273 |
| Animal Control | 703-746-4774 |
| Animal Shelter | 703-830-1100 |
| 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 | 703-324-8700 |
| Fairfax Water Authority (after hrs. emergency) | 703-698-5613 |
| Hazardous Trees | 703-324-1770 |
| Household Hazardous Waste Infoline | 703-324-5033 |
| 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 |

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

By Barry Ingram

As much as we have discussed, pleaded and warned drivers throughout the neighborhood, we are still seeing far too many instances of drivers, especially on Miller Heights Road, exceeding posted speed limits. As many of you are aware, we have been meeting with FFX County representatives to find better ways to reduce risks to our residents. We have many neighbors walking and enjoying the fresh air along the roads, children playing throughout the neighborhood and contractors providing service to our residents. Over the years, we have had speed bumps and speed limit signs installed and have asked the FFX County police to place speed cameras in various locations now and then. Now, we have added more visible yard signs to remind drivers to slow down and are also working with the County to install additional speed bumps/humps to help control speeds.



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

UPCOMING NEARBY EVENTS

Oakton Library Book Sale

April 18,19, 20 from 10 to 5:30 and Saturday April 22 from 10 - 4.

<https://www.friendsofoaktonlibrary.org>

Dulles Expo Center Events

[Events \(dullesexpo.com\)](https://www.dullesexpo.com)

Stamp & Scrapbook Expo

April 28 – 29 Fri : 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Sat : 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

[Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center | National Air and Space Museum \(si.edu\)](https://www.si.edu)

Thousands of aviation and space artifacts, including the Space Shuttle Discovery, a Blackbird SR-71, and a Concorde, in two large hangars

14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, Virginia 2015

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We send out over 560 emails to our MHNA residents each time we have MHNA announcements, meeting notices, Newsletters, and other communications. Although we have 560+ homes in Miller Heights, we only have email addresses for about 380 unique homes, and many homes have multiple email addresses and 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. They can provide this information by contacting us at: info@mhnanews.com or going to our website www.mhnanews.com for more information. When residents provide their information, such as address, phone numbers and email addresses, they have the option of keeping the information private if they prefer.

We also see that many who are receiving the announcements and newsletters are not opening their emails or their emails may be going into their JUNK or SPAM folders.

You can help get the word out

OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONT.)

Miller Heights Landscape Entrance Update

By Judith Schneider-Fletcher

April 10, 2023



First, thanks to each of the volunteers who crawled out of bed early, braved the windy morning and met us at the entrance with smiles and “how can I help” on March 18th, my heart was full.

What did we accomplish in Phase 1?? Barberry, burning bush, liriopse and the gold mop shrubs are gone, and we are ready to till, spread soil, and plant the stuff ordered in January. Small plants are starting to come in: Panicum – Heavy Metal, Schizachyrum (little blue stem), New England Aster, Amsonia Hubrichti bee balm, heuchera verlosa. I will get the three-gallon shrubs this week - winterberry holly, and red twig dogwood. We are also ordering a couple of pounds of coreopsis and wildflower seed to spread in the new area we want to dig out. If you have a tiller – I need you!!

Big thanks to Rachel! Huge thanks to Doug - The Rock King! Special thanks to the Dave and Kathy Goins for taking the barberry and gold mop off our hands. To Erin Pfiffner, Ab-heshek and Sia Narain, and Sarah and Rowan Frisby a huge thanks for supporting our efforts. Rowan, I think Doug may be calling you for future rock work.

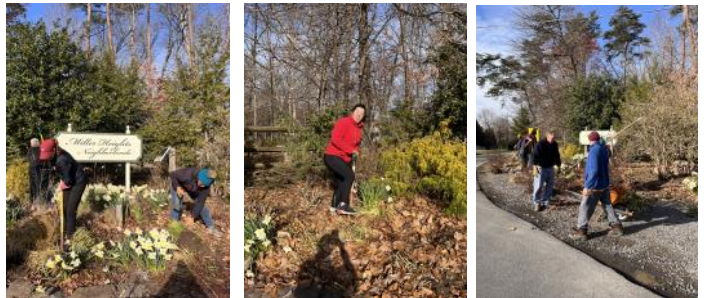
Next up: Phase 2- Finish the rock wall. Instead of removing the existing stone, we are going to design the wall with the boulders as focal points and the existing wall to fit in between. Trying for April 17th or 18th.

Also in Phase 2, we will get a load of topsoil delivered and rent a tiller or borrow one from the neighborhood...to finish the construction part. Phase 3 - plant. We ordered plugs and small plants for most of the stuff - cheaper and helped us stay in budget. They will be small the first year (or two) but will be nice to see it grow and thrive. If you want to contribute to the efforts, but can't physically help, Your DUES help pay for this work...So if you haven't paid dues, please support us - \$20.00 is all we ask for annually and when everyone joins, we accomplish MASSIVE things.

The drawing I shared a couple of weeks ago (thanks Rach) shows all the color. The color will spread out over the seasons, so there will always be something blooming, and even color in the winter. I'm pretty excited about the whole project, and a little nervous, but if our first phase shows what we can do in just three hours (yes, it was that fast!), we can do anything!

Thanks again to everyone. If you want to help with Phase 2, wall construction and tilling and bed prep, call or text me...703-999-6815.

Photos of the Entrance Work in Progress



And after the work -

**It
was
PARTY
TIME!**



OFFICER AND COMMITTEE UPDATES (CONT.)

OUR MHNA WEBSITE

As we mentioned in previous newsletters, the MHNA website is continually updated with new features and more information for you. The upgraded site is working very well and allows you to join MHNA, update your directory and sitter information yourselves. The **Member Portal** contains 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 our website at www.mhnanews.com

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

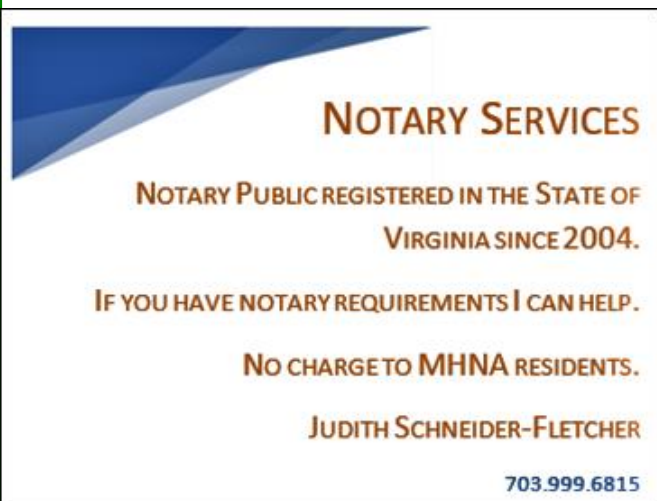
[MHNA Member Portal Login - MHNA Membership Portal \(mhnanews.com\)](http://www.mhnanews.com)

NEWSLETTER NEWS

This is your newsletter. We want to get community event updates, block party news, general neighborhood news, questions and answers about issues, opinions (not political), and just neighborhood stories written by our residents.

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. Photos are always invited and welcome.

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



NOTARY SERVICES
NOTARY PUBLIC REGISTERED IN THE STATE OF
VIRGINIA SINCE 2004.
IF YOU HAVE NOTARY REQUIREMENTS I CAN HELP.
NO CHARGE TO MHNA RESIDENTS.
JUDITH SCHNEIDER-FLETCHER
703.999.6815

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

by Abheshek Narain

As of March, 2023, Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association has 108 paid members, while over 200 have registered themselves on our site and are aware of the ongoing within the neighborhood. Unfortunately, this is a sizeable drop and we encourage you to speak with your neighbors and urge them to visit our website (www.MHNAnews.com), re-register and submit the annual donation.

Most recently, the Association has been working diligently with the County and developers to urge further traffic calming measures, both in our neighborhood and surrounding areas. Our association continues to work on behalf of the neighborhood and are often recognized by the County and County Leaders for our sense of community. New residents immediately recognize the neighborly feel after moving in and meet one another at block events, community meetings and at the recent Traffic Calming meeting with Fairfax County.

We continue to ask that you share your ideas of how MHNA can help you further and encourage your neighbors to join MHNA and participate. We are here as your neighborhood voice to support your interests.

As always, if you have any updates to your contact information, please visit our new Membership portal (<https://www.mhnanews.com/portal/login.php>), or reach out to membership@mhnanews.com. If you prefer to remit your donation by check, please feel free to submit payment to Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association

P.O. Box 538, Oakton, VA 22124

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

Abheshek Narain

Treasurer & Membership Chair

Miller Heights Neighborhoods Association (MHNA)

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS

FRIENDS OF THE OAKTON LIBRARY

Oakton Library News

The Spring Friends of Oakton Library Book Sale will be Tuesday through Thursday, April 18, 19, 20 from 10 to 5:30 and Saturday April 22 from 10 - 4. All FCPL branches will be closed on Friday, April 21.

Shop fiction and nonfiction, children's, DVDs and CDs, puzzles, unique, rare, vintage and giftable at bargain prices. We will discount on Saturday and not have a 'bag sale.'

All proceeds benefit the Oakton Branch and the Fairfax County Public Library.

For more information and to read our newsletter that highlights all the activities at the Oakton Library, please visit our website. There are programs for toddlers, kids, teens and adults!

<https://www.friendsofoaktonlibrary.org>

April is a busy month at Oakton Library! There are many wonderful programs planned for all ages. Our semi-annual book sale will take place with lots of great titles to choose from as well as games, puzzles and media. We hope to see you there!

Mary Colombi - VP Friends of the Oakton Library

BOOK DONATION INFORMATION

Your book donations help to finance Oakton Library's programs and FCPL's collections as a whole.

When donating used books please note:

- donations should be in good to excellent condition
- there is a limit of 3 grocery sized bags or small boxes per donation
- all donations should be left on the green cart just inside the Oakton Library lobby

We appreciate your support of literacy with your generous donations.
THANK YOU!

Community Branch Hours:

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| | 1-9 | 10-6 | 10-6 | 10-6 | 10-6 | 10-6 |

BOOK SALE APRIL 18, 19, 20, 22

OAKTON LIBRARY

10304 LYNNHAVEN PLACE
OAKTON VA 22124

Tues. Wed. & Thur. 10 - 5:30
Sat. 10 - 4:00

All FCPL branches
will be closed Friday, April 21



FriendsOfOaktonLibrary@gmail.com

FriendsOfOaktonLibrary.org



Handy Services and Capabilities Available at Fairfax County Libraries

Kanopy Streaming Video - NEW in 2022!

Kanopy is a subscription on-demand streaming video service. Kanopy works on PCs and Macs, on mobile devices and on many smart TVs. Each account is assigned 5 "play credits" per month.



Libby App

eBooks, eAudiobooks
and eMagazines



You may borrow 10 items at a time and there are no late fees. eMagazine checkouts are unlimited. The Libby app and libbyapp.com can be used interchangeably. There is a supplementary handout for Libby on Kindle; please ask!

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS (CONT.)

GREATER OAKTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Submitted by Jackie Davey-

The Greater Oakton Community Association (GOCA) is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history and environmental assets of our community, sharing community information and establishing programs to benefit the community. Its priorities are set at an annual meeting of local residents each fall. Much of the organization's work has so far centered on Oakton Community Park and the historic Oakton Schoolhouse on Hunter Mill Road. Working closely with the Fairfax County Park Authority and with the help of a great group of volunteers, the association has made improvements to the park including clearing invasive species, establishing a meadow field and walking trail, and installing a bike rack. GOCA has also been advocating strongly with Fairfax County for the installation of a sidewalk along Hunter Mill Road. The organization sponsors school and community events at the location including the annual Oakton Day in the Park. Upcoming events include a Civil War talk, a historical bus tour of Oakton, and a Spring birdwatching event. To learn more visit greateroakton.com and sign up for the quarterly GOCA updates by emailing contact@greateroakton.com.



Fairfax County Parks

Looking for things for you or your family to do? Classes to take? Recreation or exercise? Well, take a tour through the Parktakes Spring Guide from the Fairfax County Park Authority. 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>

Outdoor, indoor and virtual class options are available in a wide range of interest areas including:

- Outdoor and indoor fitness classes
- Learn to swim group lessons and private lessons
- Children's and Adult classes
- Nature & History programs
- Sports
- Scouting
- Golf lessons
- Gardening
- Virtual Classes and Camps – Fitness, nature, music, drama, coding
- Astronomy

The fitness centers offer a wide variety of cardiovascular machines, including treadmills, ellipticals and bikes, most with personal television viewing screens. For strength training, we have several lines of Cybex and Free Motion strength training machines as well as free weights.

A Special Note on Trash and Recycling

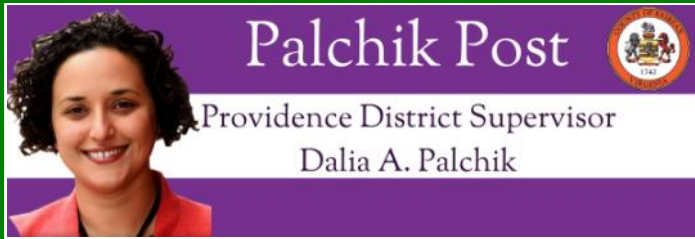
There is a lot of very good and helpful information on handling your trash, composting and recycling at the following Fairfax County link for the Fairfax Recycles Newsletter:

[Recycling and Trash | Public Works and Environmental Services \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling)

MHNA has been a big supporter of recycling and composting, an effort that Sara Holtz has championed for our neighborhood.

Check it Out

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS (CONT.)



You're invited!

Providence's Earth Day celebration will take place on Friday, April 21st from 2-5pm at the Providence Community Center. Come out and join my office, along with the Providence Community Center staff, Fairfax County Park Authority, Merrifield Garden Center, Citizens Climate Lobby, Green Springs Gardens, our former tree commissioner, Laura Beaty, and others while we spend the day honoring and learning about Earth and the many ways we can support and protect our environment.

We'll also be collecting diapers. Please bring any unopened packages of diapers to donate. All collected items will be donated to Fairfax Diapers.

Dalia A. Palchik
Providence District Supervisor

EARTH DAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2-5PM

Featuring:

- East Blake Lane Trail nature walk & clean up
- Plant & tree planting
- Seed Propagation Station & pot decorating
- Compost Education
- Battery drop off
- Snacks & more!

Diaper Collection:
Please bring any packages of diapers -any size, to donate. All collected diapers will be donated to Fairfax Diapers

PROVIDENCE COMMUNITY CENTER
3001 VADEN DRIVE, FAIRFAX

Dalia A. Palchik
Providence District Supervisor

Diaper Drive

Help support the Fairfax community by donating open or unopened packages of diapers of any size from April 21st through May 26th

Drop-off Location:
Providence Community Center
3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031
Monday - Saturday 9am-10pm

All collected diapers will be donated to Fairfax Diapers. Thank you for support and generosity!

For any questions, email Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 560-6946

Dalia A. Palchik
Providence District Supervisor

BIKE TO WORK DAY

MAY 19

Providence Community Center will be hosting its first Bike to Work Day pit stop on May 19th from 7am - 9am.

Register now!
BTWD (biketoworkmetrodc.org)

Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax 22031

Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs) Vacancies

The Providence District is looking for qualified individuals from our area from all different backgrounds to volunteer on one of our many community-steered advisory boards. As an extension of the Providence District Supervisor's office, we count on our dedicated appointees to advocate for the needs of our District and the County as a whole.

Currently, we have the following openings:

- **Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC)**: To advise the Board of Supervisors on environmental matters through ongoing review of the quality of the County's physical environment and to advocate and promote envi-

(Continued on page 9)

NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS (CONT.)

(Continued from previous page)

ronmental preservation, protection, and enhancement.

- **Tree Commission:** To advise the Board based on an annual reevaluation of the experience of the administration and implementation of the provisions in Ch. 104 of the Code and Article 13 relating to vegetation preservation and planting; to provide leadership in developing an understanding of the objectives and methods of tree conservation; and to assist the Urban Forestry Branch in the development and maintenance of technical specifications and guidelines.
- **Athletic Council Alternate:** The Council will assist the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, the Park Authority, the School Board, and the Planning Commission on the allocation, use, management, and future planning of County athletic resources.

To apply, please email your resume to Providence@fairfaxcounty.gov and indicate the BAC you are interested in.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a virtual public meeting on **Monday, April 17 at 7PM** to discuss the 2023 paving and restriping plans for Providence and Hunter Mill districts. Please join us to learn more about the proposed projects and provide your feedback.

[Meeting details and more information about the proposals can be found here.](#)

More Native Plant Beauties

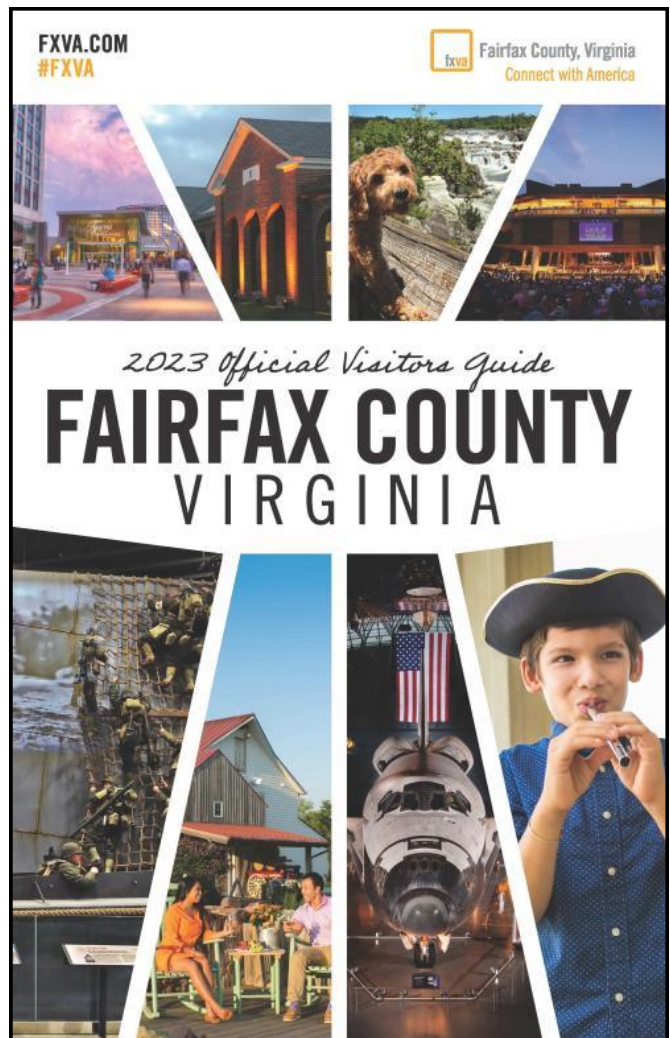


Fairfax County Visitors Guide

Are you looking for more events in Fairfax County or are you new to the area? The Fairfax County Visitors Guide may give you some help. Take a look—you might be surprised at all the places and events.

You can pick up one of these at your local library or read it online. You can also print it all or selected pages at home if you prefer that.

Click [Here](#) to get to the online site.



THE NATURE CORNER

TRAILS & ENVIRONMENT

By Sara Holtz

Want birds and butterflies? Plant native shrubs!



When it comes to the curb appeal of our houses and other buildings, the difference between starkly naked and softly clothed is the shrubs. What is a shrub, anyway? According to famous bird expert David Allen Sibley, “If you can walk under it, it’s a tree; if you have to walk around it, it’s a shrub.” Other than being multi-stemmed and relatively short, a shrub is pretty much the same as a tree and therefore provides the same environmental benefits, albeit to a smaller degree. And the difference between a native shrub and a non-native one is that the former will not only beautify a property but will turn it into a living landscape that supports the butterflies and birds.

Many people are looking at their yards and at public land and realizing that a lot of the space is being wasted. Turf grass has its advantages for certain purposes, such as providing a place to walk or play sports, but as a non-native plant, it does nothing



Winterberry Holly

for the ecosystem and requires a lot of input to maintain. Chipping away at the lawn with native shrubs can quickly cover the ground at a very low cost. Beyond the initial watering to get them established, they will require little or no maintenance from then on.

For small spaces, there are some native shrubs that naturally stay short, such as Shrubby Saint John’s Wort (*Hypericum prolificum*) with its bright yellow flowers. There are also smaller cultivars of larger shrubs, such as Winterberry Holly (*Ilex verticillata*) with its red berries that persist into January until they finally soften up and become a food source for hungry birds. If you use shrubs whose ultimate height fits the space you have in mind, the yearly shearing task will be eliminated. These and many other native shrubs are described on the [Plant NOVA Natives website](#), which also points to places to buy them.

Some native shrubs grow tall enough to provide shade and can be an alternative to a small flowering tree. Common Witch-hazel is an example of that. The twigs have been used for divining rods, and the leaves get cute bumps in the shape of a witch’s hat. This native shrub is also magical for the flowers that are revealed in November after the leaves have fallen off. Those bumps, by the way, are caused by the reaction of the plant to a chemical injected by a tiny insect, the Witch-hazel Cone Gall Aphid. The cone-shaped bumps provide food and shelter to the female aphids as they lay their eggs.

Native shrubs can fill in the spaces between trees. From an environmental perspective, this arrangement is ideal, providing shelter and food at multiple heights, something we have lost in many of our woods to excessive browsing by deer. (In fact, although “Nature’s first green is gold,” if you look into the woods of Northern Virginia right now, there is a suspicious amount of green, much of which is due to invasive species such as Multiflora Rose and Asian Bush Honeysuckle. The leaves of invasive plants often emerge earlier and persist later than those of our native shrubs.) In our own yards, we can take steps to protect plants from deer and to swap out invasive shrubs for native ones and thus help support our local ecosystem.

The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) is collecting data on how many trees are planted in Northern Virginia as it works toward the goal of 600,000 by 2025. For this purpose, shrubs count as trees, so VDOF is encouraging everyone to report plantings of both. A [reporting form](#) can be found on the Plant NOVA Trees website.

Credit: Plant NOVA Natives <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/post/want-birds-and-butterflies-plant-native-shrubs>

THE NATURE CORNER (CONT.)

SCOUT PROJECTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Planting Native Trees



[HTTP://BIT.LY/3K459MH](http://bit.ly/3k459mh)

**SATURDAY, MAY 6
FROM 4:00-6:00 PM**



Sarah's Girl Scout
Project At Difficult
Run Stream Valley
Park Across from
3119 Miller Heights
Road, Oakton

We have the most AMAZING volunteers!

Fairfax County Park Authority Invasive Management Area (FCPA IMA) site leaders Tucker Newberry, Nick Newberry & Sara Holtz have been extremely busy this spring advising Girl Scout Silver Award and Eagle Scout projects to remove invasive plants & planting native trees. So far in 2023, we've had nearly 100 volunteers spend over 200 hours restoring habitat in our parkland by removing invasive plants & planting native plants.

We rescued trees by removing invasive vines English ivy, wintercreeper & oriental bittersweet. We also planted about 60 native trees & shrubs including American elderberry, black chokeberry, gray dogwood & persimmon.

We'll be planting more native plants on Saturday May 6 at 4pm. [Please register to participate.](#)

Thanks to our AMAZING volunteers!

TREE RESCUING EAGLE PROJECT

If you are looking for an opportunity to help the environment and get service hours, visit the QR Codes!

When: Afternoon of April 23 (Rain Date April 30)
12:30-2:30 & 3-5

Where: Difficult Run Stream Valley Park
Meet across from 3025 Miller Heights Rd, Oakton

12:30 Session



3:00 Session



THE NATURE CORNER (CONT.)

NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO FREE YOUR TREES

Important as it is to be planting native trees - we need new trees just to keep up with the natural death rate - it is even more useful to preserve the ones that we already have. A mature tree has incomparably greater benefits than a sapling - far more stormwater capture, carbon sequestration, cooling, etc. But Northern Virginia trees are under constant threat from invasive vines.







Take a look at this brochure and look for these vines on your property.

Click the link below to pull down your brochure

[Library Posters TR \(plantnovatrees.org\)](http://Library_Posters_TR(plantnovatrees.org)) :

**Invasive Vines
KILL TREES**

Non-native vines smother and strangle trees, weighing them down so they lose branches or fall over.

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  ASIAN WISTERIA |  WINTERCREEPER |  ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET |
|  PORCELAIN BERRY |  JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE |  ENGLISH IVY |

also:

- Kudzu
- Mile-a-Minute
- Japanese Hops
- Sweet Autumn Clematis
- Multiflora Rose
- Thorny Elaeagnus
- Five-leaf Akebia

If you see garlic mustard in your yard, pull it & put it in the trash (not the yard trash!)



Now is the PERFECT time to hang your hummingbird feeder!



THE NATURE CORNER (CONT.)

Oakton Nature Instagram Page (@oakton_nature)

Check out this new Instagram account featuring beautiful photos & fun facts about nature in our amazing Oakton community.

- Follow us!
- Comment on our posts!
- Share your best photos of nature in Oakton (with or without captions) & we'll post them!
- Share Oakton_nature with nature enthusiasts!

(@oakton_nature) • Instagram photos and videos



To those of you on Instagram, check out our new account @oakton_nature & follow, like, comment, share our stories & posts. Message us through IG to share nature photos you take in Oakton



Native Spring Flowers From Our Parkland



COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS

Development of AT&T Property

By Jackie Davey

The Fairfax County Planning Commission met on March 23rd to review nominations for development in the Providence and Hunter Mill Districts.

EYA, the developer of the AT&T property (corner of Blake Lane and Chain Bridge Road) gave a summary of their proposal and members of the community were then allowed to address the Planning Commission. Fourteen Oakton residents spoke, all expressing concerns regarding the proposed development.

While most of the speakers from the community indicated they understood that some redevelopment of the site is inevitable, they also voiced hope that the current proposal could be modified to address their significant concerns with the potential impact on the character of the community, traffic volume and pedestrian safety, the loss of open space, and already overstretched local schools. Concerns were voiced regarding the scale and density of the proposed project that includes between 1200 and 1500 housing units - a combination of townhouses and apartments - plus two parking garages and retail space.

The Planning Commission ended the evening by accepting a motion to preliminarily approve the staff recommendation for the AT&T site to be adopted for further study as a Tier 1 priority, meaning that if accepted by the Commission and then the Board of Supervisors, it would get priority for the studies needed for final approval. Ahead of the vote, the Planning Commission chairman-- Providence District representative Phil Niedzielski-Eichner--offered special remarks about the AT&T nomination, noting that he, too, is an Oakton resident. He said that it was inevitable that the site was going to be developed, especially considering its current underutilization and large amount of impervious area, but that he was completely committed to the Commission's principle that the Comprehensive Plan is the community's plan, and he vowed to work with staff and the developer to make changes that would make the project more acceptable to the Oakton community.

Following the Board of Supervisor's expected vote to move forward, the Planning Commission intends to develop a planning study website.

It is important for the community to voice their opinions and concerns regarding this development by contacting Supervisor Palchik and the Planning Commission. Learn more about the plans, follow developments, and learn how to get involved: <https://www.optionsforoakton.org/home>

TREE TRIMMING AND REMOVAL THOUGHTS

Submitted by Anonymous

I've seen over the past year what seems like an excessive amount of tree trimming and removals. I've also experienced unscrupulous and pushy tree trimmers who have come to the door offering services, including one who claimed I needed work when I had just passed a tree inspection weeks ago with no issues.

Some homeowners are overly trimming and overly maintaining their trees. Generally, very little is required for trees unless they're clearly dead or have a clear, substantial structural defect. Our neighborhood characteristic is integrally linked with our tree canopy and residents should think very hard before initiating "maintenance" and seek multiple opinions from vetted professional, certified, and insured arborists.

Judith Schneider-Fletcher says:

My azaleas are humming with bees today!



COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

TAKE A HIKE!

By Barry Ingram

It's finally April and Spring has arrived. So, it's a good time now to get outside and enjoy the sunshine, warm weather, beautiful flowers and leafy trees. It's also a time when a good walk in the neighborhood can brighten up our day. And it's also a time when a good hike in the woods and open fields can just make us feel good.

Our neighborhood has some beautiful flowering trees and yards for us to enjoy as we walk. We also meet our friends and their pets enjoying the same. Some streets are pretty level, but most rise and fall to give us some good exercise and challenge. Even with the autos going past as we walk, it's enjoyable. Of course, we also have the trails available to us with several access entrances from our roads. These are quiet venues with many natural plants.

There are also many parks available in the area for walking and hiking and recently, our family took a couple of hikes in the Centreville and Manassas areas.

Our first hike this year was at the **Manassas National Battlefield Park in Manassas**. We began at the Old Stone Bridge parking area on Route 29. There are signs and maps available to guide you on several routes and you pick the one you want. The paths are well marked and easy to navigate. We happened to go on a weekend when the Bluebells were peaking, so we walked in the areas where they were close by, but you could see them also in fields. There are streams, old-growth trees and large vistas with signs and rest stops showing historical markers. It was interesting getting to see some of the historical battlefield areas and markers, but the most enjoyable was just the beauty and serenity of the trails and woods.



Manassas National Battlefield Park



Sign at Parking Area



The Old Stone Bridge



Bluebells



Manassas Bull Run Regional Park

Our second hike was to the **Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville** on Bluebell Weekend. Here, they have the Atlantis Waterpark, family camping, picnic shelters, playgrounds, trails and a variety of unique festivals and events. Bull Run Regional Park has scenic and historic

(Continued on page 16)

COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

(Continued from page 15)

hiking trails, including the trailhead for the nearly 20 mile long Bull Run Occoquan Trail. You can rent a picnic shelter for your family, enjoy a round of disc golf, or bring the kids for an afternoon at the playground. There is no charge for entering the park for N. VA guests. Just show your ID on entering.

All we were interested in doing that day was hiking on such a beautiful day. Once again, many bluebells as advertised. Some close by the trails and many on through the trees. The paths are wide in spots and very narrow in others. Like at the Battlefield Park, there are also bridges and boardwalks where there are muddy spots or creek crossings. On this particular day, there were many parents with children and dogs, but the paths accommodated us all. Since this was Bluebell Weekend, this should have been no surprise.



For both hikes, we really enjoyed getting out with nature in the fresh air and sunshine. On the paths we took, the Battlefield was the more enjoyable, but please try both and other routes and decide for yourselves

Enjoy Your Own Hike!

A Few More Pretty Flowers



COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS (CONT.)

ARTISTS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Submitted by Beth Eltinge and Eleanor Wang



ALMOST FORGOTTEN

New Work by Eleanor Kotlarik Wang

We are very fortunate to have many talented people in our neighborhood and try to feature cultural events that might interest our readers. This newsletter has previously reported on the work of artist Eleanor K. Wang who works out of her home studio in Miller Heights. We are pleased to be writing again about her upcoming solo exhibit at Studio Gallery from April 26 through May 20.

Studio Gallery, located at 2108 R St NW, is open to the public Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1pm to 6pm and on Saturdays from 11am to 6pm. Masks are recommended but optional. Information is also available from their website, studiogallerydc.com or by phoning (202) 232-8734. The opening reception for Eleanor's show is Saturday, April 29 from 3 to 5. The closing reception is Saturday, May 20 from 3 to 6.



Evening Serenade
By Eleanor Wang



Flowers and Ferns at the Camp of Gypsies
By Eleanor Wang

The inspiration for this show comes from some old sheet music Eleanor found that once belonged to her mother. Eleanor was drawn to the rhythm, shape and beauty of the musical scores, as well as to the Art Deco elements of the cover art on the sheet music. She also found her mother's violin, and kept that, along with a picture of her mother in the studio as a personal link to the work she was creating. While painting, she listened to variations of the music, and through paint and collage, interpreted her response to the emotions inspired by the music. The paintings evoke harmony and movement that seems to float through time onto canvases that are full of color, rhythm and energy. This exhibit is a nostalgic visual reflection about memory, music, nature and emotions.

(Continued on page 18)

COMMENTS AND INPUT FROM OUR RESIDENTS

OUR ARTIST AT WORK

(Continued from page 17)

Vintage piano and violin scores were recovered from the estate of the artist's mother. They became the stimulus for an exploration that unites nature and melody in abstract visual expressions. The paintings evoke harmony and movement that seem to float through time onto canvases that are full of color, rhythm and energy. This exhibit is a nostalgic visual reflection about music, nature, memory and emotions.

I was honored to be invited to be a part of Eleanor's show last year, and even more honored to be asked to contribute to her show this year. Following the music theme, I created some pieces using nothing but instrument strings. I also made a larger piece using wire, instrument strings, violin bridges, and other bits and pieces.



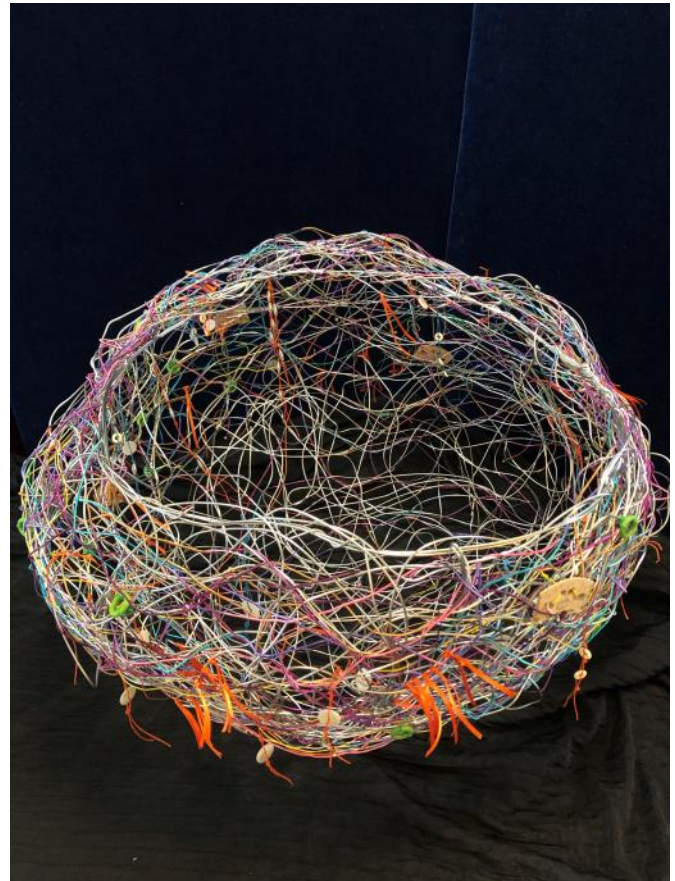
String Theory and Five Part Harmony

By Beth Eltinge

Vintage piano and violin scores were recovered from the estate of the artist's mother. They became the stimulus for an exploration that unites nature and melody in abstract visual expressions. The paintings evoke harmony and movement that seem to float through time onto canvases that are full of color, rhythm and energy. This exhibit is a nostalgic visual reflection about music, nature, memory and emotions.

A love of working with what is available drives much of my creativity. I find limiting my materials encourages me to be more playful and creative. I have a history of working with found objects and using unconventional things with conventional techniques. This was my first time using violin strings, and I really enjoyed working with them. Special thanks to Day Violins of Chantilly for their generous response to my request for used strings and violin parts.

We are eager to continue to feature other artists in the neighborhood. Please contact the editor (editor@mhnanews.com) or Beth Eltinge (beth.eltinge@gmail.com) if you have suggestions for area artists or events you would like to see featured in the newsletter. We look forward to your suggestions.



Odyssey

By Beth Eltinge

MILLER HEIGHTS REAL ESTATE UPDATE

APRIL 2023

Hi All -

Reasons Why It Is Still a Seller's Market in April

With all the news about changing real estate market conditions, you may have heard that prices are going down or staying flat. However, in this area nothing could be further from the truth. Traditionally, the real estate market heats up with the weather, and this year is no exception.



Here are some of the factors that are hitting home here in this area.

Low inventory. With fewer properties on the market, a home that's in great shape and shows well will stand out.

Strong demand. There are many well qualified prospective home buyers currently looking to buy a home at all price points among the limited options.

Decreased competition. With continued low inventory,

sellers are facing less competition, while strong buyer demand is creating multiple offers in some markets.

Rising interest rates. The Federal Reserve has signaled that rate hikes will continue, even if they're not as steep, and mortgage rates typically follow the federal funds rate. Buyers who qualify to purchase a home now may not qualify for that same price point once rates increase. This trend may push buyers looking for single family homes, from a high price to a lower price home as long as they are not sacrificing good neighborhoods and schools.

Real estate is hyper-local, so to find out more about what is happening in our area, contact me.

Best wishes for a happy spring!

Liz Potemra

703-581-7759

lizp@longandfoster.com

Long and Foster Vienna/Oakton

Recent Real Estate Activity in Miller Heights:

| Status | Address | Last/Next Update | Close Price | List Price | DOM |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| Closed | 10904 Willow Creek Ln | 3/27/2023 | \$1,885,500 | \$1,885,000 | 4 |
| Active | 11112 Lochinver Ln | 4/7/2023 | | \$925,000 | 21 |
| Coming | 3302 Mill Cross Ct | 4/13/2023 | | \$1,250,000 | 0 |

FAIRFAX COUNTY 2022-2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Fairfax County Public Schools 2022-2023 Standard School Year Calendar

July 2022

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

4 Independence Day
9 Eid al-Adha (begins sundown 7:00)*

August 2022

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | | | |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

NT New Teacher Training
SD Staff Development Day / Student Holiday
SP School Planning Day / Student Holiday
F First Day of School

September 2022

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

2-5 Labor Day Break
26 Kosh Hashanah (begins sundown 8:25 - sundown 9:27)*

October 2022

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

5 Yom Kippur (begins sundown 10:4 - sundown 10:5)
10 Indigenous Peoples' Day
24 Diwali*

November 2022

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

1-2 Dia de los Muertos
8 Election Day
11 Veterans Day*
23-25 Thanksgiving Break

December 2022

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

8 Bodhi Day
19 Chanukah (begins sundown 12:18 - sundown 12:26)
19 - 31 Winter Break
25 Christmas

January 2023

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

1 New Year's Day (observed January 2)
6 Three Kings Day/Epiphany
7 Orthodox Christmas
18 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
19 Orthodox Epiphany
22 Lunar New Year*

February 2023

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | | | | |

20 Washington's Birthday and Presidents' Day

March 2023

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

23 Ramadan (begins sunset 3:22 and continues with daily fast and nightly prayer until 4/21)

April 2023

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | | | | | | |

6 Thiruvada New Year
6 Passover (begins sundown 4:15 - sundown 4:13)
27 Spring Break
7 Good Friday
9 Easter
14 Orthodox Good Friday*
18 Orthodox Easter
21 Eid al-Fitr (begins sundown 4:20 - sundown 4:21)*

May 2023

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

29 Memorial Day

June 2023

| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |

19 Juneteenth
20 Optional work from alternate location
21 Optional work from alternate location



*Dates will continue to be recognized as student holidays through the 2024-2025 school year.

Legend

| | |
|----|---|
| F | First Day of School |
| ER | 2 Hour Student Early Release |
| QE | End of the Quarter |
| YE | Last Day for Regular Classes (179 days) Early Release |
| O | Religious and Cultural Observance(s) |
| SD | Staff Development Day / Student Holiday |
| SP | School Planning Day / Student Holiday |
| TW | Teacher Workday / Student Holiday |
| H | Student Holiday |
| NT | New Teacher Training |

Quarter Duration

| Quarter | End Date | Duration |
|---------|------------|----------|
| 1 | October 28 | 44 |
| 2 | January 25 | 45 |
| 3 | April 13 | 47 |
| 4 | June 16 | 43 |

Updated 1/10/23
Updated 5/26/22 per Board Budget Adoption



MHNA April Newsletter

Kids Edition

By: Avery, Julia, and Samantha

And other participants from around the neighborhood!







Welcome to the MHNA Kids Edition! We hope you enjoy the activities and fun stories that we put in here for all of you! If you have any ideas or want to include something of yours in the next edition, please email sammypecci@gmail.com. Enjoy!

Table of Contents

1. Recipes - Smoothie Spectacular
2. Picture Contest Flower Art
3. Recipe
4. Games
 - Word Search
 - Find the Center

Smoothie Spectacular

Sure, you can mix together any ingredients to make a good smoothie, but have you ever wondered about the combinations that make a truly delicious smoothie? If so, then here is a list of fruit combos that will make your smoothie quite spectacular!

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Strawberry Banana (SB)</p> <p>A classic, the SB smoothie is simple, but easily refreshes you in the summer. Check here for a recipe!</p>  | <p>Berry Blast</p> <p>Another classic, but there are a lot of variations of this smoothie. You can add any berries you want, blue, black, straw, etc. Another possible addition could be honey or maple syrup for some extra sweetness!</p> | <p>Blueberry</p> <p>The Blueberry has many interesting ingredients that could be included. Some recipes include carrots, cinnamon, banana, and yogurt. Click here for a recipe!</p>  | <p>Cinnamon Apple (CA)</p> <p>The CA is another smoothie where you could go simple or add a bit more personality to it. Some people like to include vanilla extract, chia seeds, hemp hearts, and more! Click here for a recipe!</p>  |
| <p>Strawberry Mango (SM)</p> <p>This recipe is simple but very refreshing! Similar to the SB, the SM has the perfect fruit combination to make it just delicious. Click here for a recipe!</p>  | <p>Oat Milk (OM)</p> <p>The OM has no limits! The main concept of the recipe is to add any fruits and other ingredients you want. Check here for a recipe!</p>  | <p>Peach</p> <p>A peach smoothie is perfect because peaches pair well with many fruits! You can add some banana, strawberry, mango, or really any fruit you feel would taste good! Here's a great recipe to try!</p> | <p>Coffee</p> <p>This is a bit different than the typical smoothie, but what better way to get your energy for the day than in a smoothie? Here's a great recipe!</p>  |

Flower Art

Ever wondered how to preserve flowers? Make some flower art? Well, this is the page for you! Learn a few different ways to use flowers to decorate your room!

- Air drying



1. Cut the stem of the flowers, leaving at least 6 inches.
2. Place the flowers on a flat surface for 3-4 hours to remove some moisture.
3. If you have a bouquet, tie it together with a piece of string or a rubber band.
4. Hang the bouquet upside down from a string in a dry, dark, and cool location.
5. Keeping them out of the sunlight will help maintain the color.
6. Leave the flowers upside down for one to three weeks and then take down.
7. Put the flowers anywhere you like to decorate! Enjoy!



- Pressing

1. Remove any parts of the flower you do not want in the picture.
2. On a piece of parchment paper, place the flowers (either whole or separated into petals) at least an inch apart from each other.
3. Fold the paper over (or add a separate sheet of paper on top of the flowers) and place these inside of a book.
4. Close the book and place a weight of some sort on top.
5. After 2 to 4 weeks (depending on the thickness of flowers) remove flowers. Decorate & enjoy!



Prettiest Flowers: by color

Have you ever wanted to make a spring bouquet? Well, here are some of the prettiest flowers (by color) to help you choose!

Be sure to send in a picture of any cool or interesting flowers you may see around Miller Heights! You can email them to sammypecci@gmail.com.

ROSE



DAFFODIL



DELPHINIUM



BIRD OF PARADISE



LIMELIGHT



IRIS



Spring Word Search

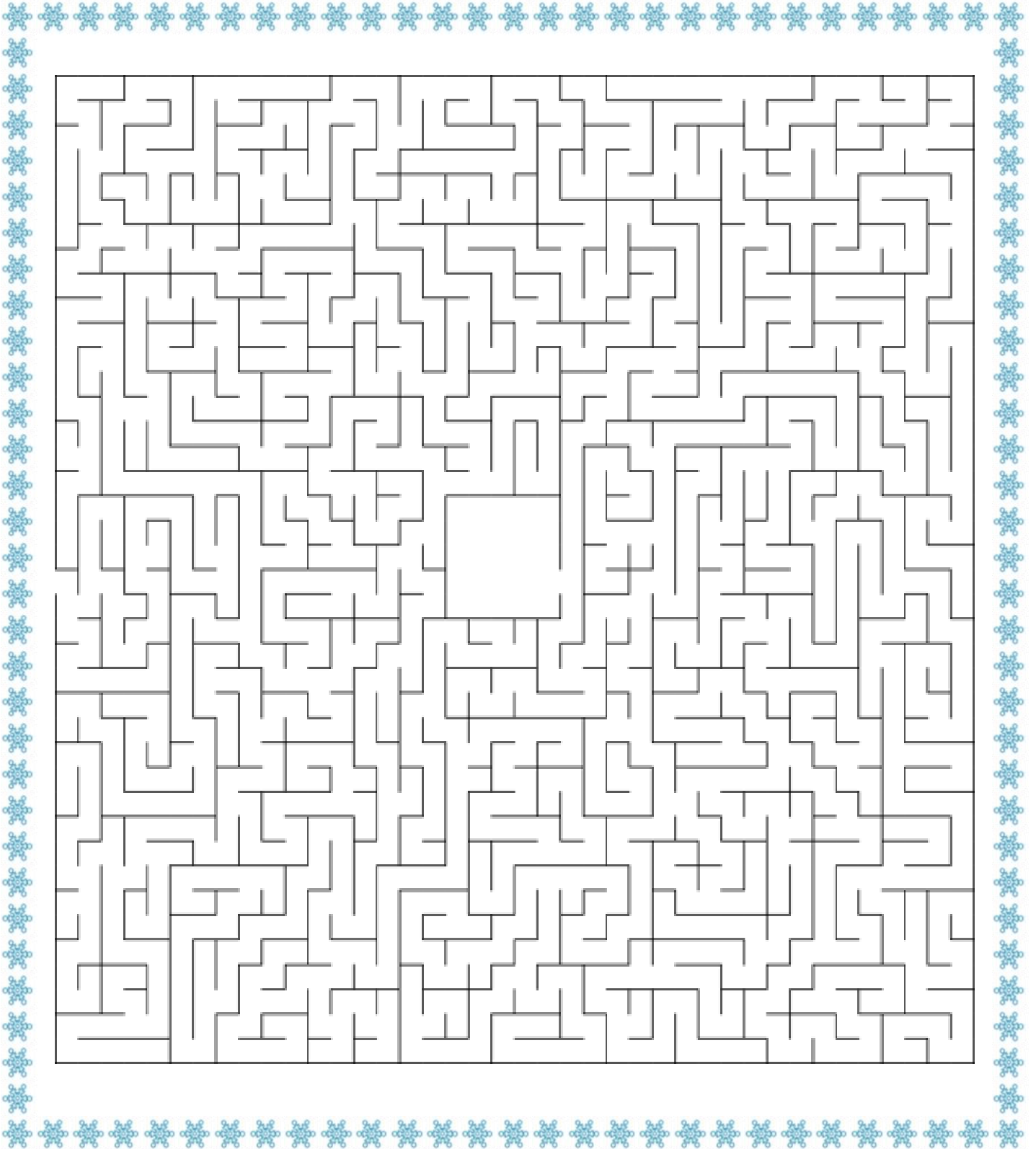
Spring Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| O | R | U | B | U | M | B | R | E | L | L | A | E | T |
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| U | W | A | A | W | O | I | L | T | W | R | B | T | I |
| T | O | O | D | O | D | S | U | A | A | B | R | B | G |
| T | R | R | D | Y | A | L | S | S | O | R | E | O | L |
| E | G | L | C | R | B | T | B | O | B | O | W | L | L |
| R | G | E | L | E | R | U | R | E | L | W | O | I | O |
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SOIL
RAINBOW
EASTER
BLOSSOM
CLOUDS
BUTTERFLY
LADYBUG
UMBRELLA
FLOWER
BLOOM
GROW
GARDEN

Play this puzzle online at: <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/5481462/>

Find the Center



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- Consistently recognized as a Top Dentist by *Northern Virginia Magazine* and *Washingtonian* and a Next Door Neighborhood Favorite

A 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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