

Neighbors Work to Clean Park, Honor Earth Day

How Many Neighbors Does it Take to Plant a Tree?

On Saturday, April 19 nearly two dozen McKenney Hills and Carroll Knolls residents came together to plant-- not one -- but two trees in McKenney Hills Park. The red maples capped off a morning full of volunteers who swept through the playground, soccer field, and stream as well as the tennis and basketball courts gathering piles of trash in homage to Earth Day 2008.

Our hardy neighbors found everything from tires and toasters to concrete blocks and other cast-offs -- and,

yes, even a kitchen sink. Participants of all ages -- from 10-months-old to the over-55 crowd did their part, collecting more than 24 bags of trash. One team of volunteers found what appeared to be construction debris from a kitchen or bath renovation behind one of the houses adjacent to park grounds. Sadly, that was a stark reminder of why this annual event is needed: even with trash cans and county trash service, many people who use or live near the park use it as a dumping ground.



Participants spanned the neighborhood, including several from outside our boundaries who nevertheless frequented the park and said they wanted to help preserve our suburban oasis. Several parents brought

their children along, either by the hand or in a backpack to do their part -- one neighbor expecting a baby in August even cheerfully combed the park for refuse. Besides trash, some participants tackled the growing number of invasive, non-native

weeds choking the park, pulling pesky garlic mustard and English Ivy. After the park clean-up, MH-CK Civic Association President, Malena Kaplan, dedicated the maple trees to two long-time and steadfast neighborhood activists: former association president Kit Pardee, who spent nearly two decades serving the group as well as maintaining its website, and Russell Belcher, who previously organized the Earth Day Park Clean Up for many years. Special thanks to all of our young helpers who planted the saplings. The county park service later finished off their good work and added crucial tree supports to keep them upright as they grow.

Can't wait to help out next year? You won't have to -- we're working on a second clean-up in the autumn. We'll collect more trash and target more weeds (see related story on the county's Weed Warrior Program). We're also working with county officials to try to restore and improve the park overall, including adding a path and community message board. Have an idea? Please send it to Susan Heavey at susanheavey@yahoo.com. In the meantime, here are a few tips to keep the park in good health:

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Good Plants, Bad Plants

That ivy growing up your tree out back looks so cool. Except that it is actually killing your tree, which besides providing shade is a valuable asset to your home. Trees also provide habitat and help curb erosion.

The same is true in our county parks, which count on valuable help from the Weed Warrior program to keep them healthy. Those who elect to help out can get certified to pull weeds from any county parkland after taking a simple online course and participating in one afternoon of hands-on training.

Getting rid of the bad non-native plants makes room for

good native ones. You'll not only be able to help keep our two neighborhood parks looking great, you'll help preserve habitat for native critters. We're looking to get some more residents certified so we can start regular weed pulling get-togethers in the park. -- *Susan Heavey* □

For more information:

Email - mcp-weedwarriors@mncppc-mc.org

Phone - 301-942-4709

Online - www.mc-mncppc.org/Parks

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Please detach this portion of the form and return it along with a check for **\$10** made payable to **McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association** to:

McKenney Hills – Carroll Knolls Neighborhood Association
Post Office Box 2102
Silver Spring, MD 20915-2102

Name: _____

Address: _____

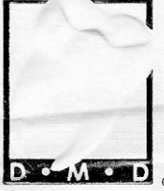
Phone (optional- for use on neighborhood list only): _____

Email: (optional- for use on neighborhood list only): _____

Paying your dues allows you to become a member of the Civic Association for the 2008 calendar year. All residents of the community (both renters and owners) are eligible for membership. These dues help pay for: neighborhood events such as the Community Earth Day Celebration and the Neighborhood Party, the newsletter, rental of meeting space and other items and activities that are vital to the Association. Thank you for becoming a member, or, if you are already a member then thank you for your continued support. We can not do it without you!

- Properly dispose of any trash you bring into the park; there is a trashcan by the playground.
- Bring your water bottles and other recyclables home and put them in your blue bin.
- Bag your dog's waste and properly dispose of it in a trashcan or bring it home to throw out.
- Don't mark on the playground or side walks; report graffiti to the park police at 301-949-3010.
- Become a county certified Weed Warrior and pull invasive plants when you see them (see related article: Good Plants, Bad Plants).
- Bring a bag with you every time you visit and collect any trash you see.

Together, we can make a difference! ☐



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News and Reminders

- **President, Malena Kaplan, has resigned her position** as she will be moving. Thank you, Malena, for all of your hard work! Ashley Del Sole is now the acting President and we are seeking volunteers to be appointed V.P. for the remainder of the calendar year. If interested please email mh-ck@hotmail.com
- The County has tentative plans to begin **repair/replacement** projects in Carroll Knolls starting in late June or July. If you have any road or sidewalk **repairs**, diseased trees, or other **existing** problems, please email them to Norman Kaplan at: nlkaplan46@verizon.net
- If you have not already done so, please **mail back your survey** from the previous newsletter to the PO Box listed on the dues payment. This information is vital to the Association and to the community. Thank you!
- There is always vital information being distributed by the **neighborhood list serve**. Join now and stay connected! Visit www.mckennyhills.org to find out how! ☐



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Trash 101

Have you ever put out a large load of garbage for pick-up Monday night, only to find it still sitting there Tuesday afternoon with a big orange sticker on it? Have you wondered how to get rid of those old paint cans? Have you wondered how your garbage must be packaged and how long your cans may stay out at the curb?

Well, hopefully these tips, pulled from the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste website (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste) will help you avoid this frustrating experience in the future and can answer some of your burning questions!

- Containers can be rigid plastic or metal and must have tight-fitting lid and have a capacity of 15-45 gallons. Loose piles of trash (not in containers) will not be picked up.
- Cans may be put out at the curb no more than one day prior to pick-up and must be removed within 24 hours of pick-up.
- Each household is allowed five (5) special collections for each calendar year for bulky items not able to fit in a trashcan. These can be scheduled by calling 240-777-6410 by 11:00 am the day before your regular trash pick-up.
- Appliances and scrap metal (items that are 51% metal or more) are picked up separately for recycling. Collections can be scheduled by calling 240-777-6410 by 11:00 am the day before your regular trash pick-up.
- To dispose of latex paint, it must be dried up so it will not spill. You can use paint hardener, kitty

litter, or shredded paper to help it dry out. Up to four (4) cans of dried latex paint can be put out with regular trash. More than that requires a special pick-up.

- The following items may not be picked up at any time: poisons, acids, caustics, gasoline, oil or other flammables, explosives, ammunitions, hazardous materials, infectious waste, dead animals, wooden fencing, lumber, liquid oil based paint, construction or building materials (other than what can be placed in two (2) trash containers and not weighing more than 45 lbs. per container) earth, rock, sod, parts of motor vehicles, tree trunks, stumps or fecal material.
- Items that may not be picked up can be taken by the resident to the Solid Waste Transfer Station at 16101 Frederick Road, Derwood, MD. There is no charge for disposal of loads up to 500 lbs. if it arrives in a privately owned vehicle.

For more information, visit:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/solidwaste or
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hazardouswaste
 or call 240-777-6410 between 8:30 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

By following these simple tips, we can all work to help make trash pick-up safer for the workers and to keep our neighborhood cleaner and free of vermin. □

All businesses and organizations advertised are neighbor - owned and/or recommended. Please let them know you found them here!



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS (CLIP AND SAVE!)		
Meeting	Thursday, June 26	8 -10
National Night Out	CORRECTION: Tuesday, August 5	7-9

