

**Department of Parks
Director's Report
Thursday, May 12, 2011**

Highlights:

- **Arbor Day Recap**
 - **Parks Volunteers Updates**
 - **Park Police Updates**
 - **EZ Passes for Use of ICC**
 - **Josiah Henson Special Park Facility Plan - Rozier Property Demolition**
 - **Demolition of Steadman Property to Improve Upper Paint Branch**
 - **Poole's Property: Tenant to Move In House June 1, \$50K Bond Bill for Store**
 - **Deer Management Harvests 1,400 Deer this Fiscal Year**
 - **Darby Store Move**
 - **Lake Needwood Dredging Expected to be Complete by Mid-June**
 - **Thousands Ride Cabin John and Wheaton Trains this Spring**
 - **Pope Farm Makes Thousands Selling Surplus Trees**
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Events

- NOW – SEPTEMBER 18—Wings of Fancy Live Butterfly & Caterpillar Exhibit, Brookside Gardens, South Conservatory, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily, www.BrooksideGardens.org
- MAY 14—Archaeology Day, Needwood Mansion, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, www.ParksArchaeology.org
- MAY 14—Montgomery Bicycle Conference, County Executive Office Building, Rockville, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Organized by the Montgomery Civic Federation, sponsored by M-NCPPC Planning Department and the County's Department of Transportation. Parks Trail Planner Chuck Kines will present on how park trails fit into the overall bikeway system in the county and how to design trails for transportation versus recreation. Also will discuss the spectrum of park trails used by bicycles, from the Capital Crescent Trail (most transportation-oriented) to natural surface trails designed for mountain biking (most recreation-oriented).
- MAY 15—Bluebirds Forever Festival, Black Hill Visitor Center, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm, www.BlackHillNature.org
- MAY 21—Olney Day Celebration, Olney Manor Recreational Park, 3:00 pm – 10:00 pm. Planned activities include: games, contests and Olney Big Band music; the Sandy Spring Fire Department will offer truck rides and fireworks will start around 9:00 pm.
- JUNE 11—Children's Fishing Day, Black Hill Boats, www.BlackHillBoats.com
- June 12—South Germantown Driving Range ParTee, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, www.SGDrivingRange.com

Highlights

- We held a successful Arbor Day/Forest Friends Festival at Locust Grove Nature Center on Saturday, April 30. More than 120 attended, we brought in more than \$1,000 through our native plant sale, and learned about trees from talks, activities and displays. Chair Françoise Carrier joined me in hosting this event and presenting the tree awards. County Executive Isiah Leggett, County Council Vice President Roger Berliner and Councilmember Marc

Elrich participated in the ceremony, and all were first time visitors to Locust Grove and very impressed with the facility. Thanks to our horticulture crews, tree crews, nature center staff, park rangers and volunteers.

- At Arbor Day, the Department's first Tree Steward Program was introduced by Councilmember Marc Elrich. Volunteers will be recruited and trained to assist our urban foresters in monitoring trees in assigned parks for hazards. Long-time tree activist Joe Howard was officially named the first Tree Steward.
- The event to benefit Brookside Gardens and Community Gardens was a great success. Rosalind Creasy, pioneer in the field of edible landscaping, gave an inspiring presentation. Guests were invited to mingle over locally sourced food, shop for heirloom vegetable and herb plants, and meet Ms. Creasy during a book signing.
- Parks Volunteers:
 - This spring, parks volunteers have organized over 60 cleanups in Montgomery Parks. Over 14,000 pounds of debris and an additional 1,600 bags of trash have been removed from our local watershed. These efforts involved more than 1,500 volunteers contributing 3,800 hours of their time.
 - In the last month, there were 13 non-native plant removal projects led by Weed Warrior supervisors or Parks natural resources stewardship staff, with 122 volunteers spending more than 250 hours removing several hundred pounds of garlic mustard, plus vines and shrubs, at 8 parks.
 - On May 18, approximately 150 volunteers from Marriott will help Parks natural surface trails staff begin construction of the next phase of the Rachel Carson Greenway Trail, north of Randolph Road.
- Park Police:
 - Park Police officer Nancy Jones discovered the test site used for explosives by the Discovery bomber.
 - Park Police made arrests for the two malicious burnings at White Flint Park, which caused more than \$55,000 in damage.
 - Park Police instituted an anti-theft program—funded by a grant from Target—at the Martin Luther King Jr. swim center where patrons may use a lock in exchange for a photo ID.
 - Park Police Volunteer David Cohen received the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) Agency Volunteer of the Year award.
 - Congratulations to Lauryn McNeill and Matt Milbourne of the Park Police who were recently promoted to lieutenant.
- We have obtained EZ Pass transponders for all of our vehicles, enabling park employees to utilize the ICC without paying for service fees or penalties while on official business. This process will also allow our Facilities Management division to have a central billing process and to view our entire statement online.
- Update: We are planning to demolish the Rozier property (11410 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda) in late May. This demolition is part of a larger facility plan for the Josiah Henson Special Park. Property management, park development and cultural resources staff are

working collaboratively to prepare the site. We have received all the necessary state and federal approvals to demolish the house and garage to the south of the Isaac Riley House at Josiah Henson Special Park.

- The Steadman property, acquired about a year ago, located in the Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area is undergoing demolition preparations. When completed later this spring, this piece will complement the adjacent area where we demolished the former Grauel properties in 2008, which has been a significant beautification and enhancement to Upper Paint Branch. Drive by and take a look along Spencerville Road and you will see newly formed meadows and tree plantings.
- The Upton Darby house (formerly home to Poole family) has been fully painted and cleaned up inside and out. A new tenant is expected to move in June 1. We have also received a \$50,000 state bond bill for the Poole's Store property.
- Fiscal Year 2011 was our most successful deer management year, with over 1,400 deer harvested.
- We are preparing to move the Darby Store in Beallsville this month. A pre-construction meeting was held on May 4.
- Approximately 70 percent of the proposed work for Lake Needwood dredging is completed. The work started in early November and the project is expected to be completed by middle of June 2011. The removal of the sediment is being accomplished by mechanically dredging and transporting it by trucks to the disposal site nearby. We anticipate removing a total of approximately 160,000 cubic yards of sediment. As of now, we have removed approximately 115,000 cubic yards of sediment. We have almost finished dredging the upper lake area. We are working in the forebay. Upon completion of the project we expect to provide improved aquatic habitat, increase the lake depth for better recreational boating and fishing, and improve the ability for the forebay to remove sediment before it reaches the lake, which will extend the timeframe before we need to remove sediment in the future.
- More than 1,800 rode the Cabin John Train during spring break and the Wheaton Train & Carousel saw over 4,300 rides.
- Pope Farm continues to sell surplus trees and contract grow for county agency plant needs, with 112 surplus trees sold to the Public Works Department of Prince George's County for \$12,000. Parks staff is close an agreement with the Revenue Authority to purchase 1,200 containerized trees and shrubs from Pope Farm for a reforestation project at Falls Road Golf Course for \$42,000.
- I testified before the County Council on the FY 12 budget and FY11 CIP.

Mary R. Bradford

Director

M-NCPPC - Montgomery County, Department of Parks