

# Clarion

May 2023  
Circulation 3500

Greater Colesville Citizens Association, PO Box 4087, Colesville, MD 20914

[www.GreaterColesville.org](http://www.GreaterColesville.org)

## Upcoming Events Calendar

### GCCA Annual Meeting

May 24, 2023

Transfiguration Parish  
13925 New Hampshire Ave

#### Agenda

- 7:30 Election of Officers and Business Meeting
- 7:35 Speaker: Cicero Salles, White Oak Planning Mgr.  
Topic: Development in East County
- 9:00 Adjourn

**Nominations:** The slate of officers below is for the fiscal year that begins June 2023. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>President:</b>      | <b>Dan Wilhelm*</b>      |
| <b>Vice President:</b> | <b>Marguerite Raaen*</b> |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>      | <b>Noel Gregos*</b>      |
| <b>Recording Sec'y</b> | <b>Pat Corey*</b>        |
| <b>Clarion Editor:</b> | <b>Nancy Laich*</b>      |

\* Incumbent

#### May

- 24 **GCCA Annual Meeting**, 7:30 pm  
(see directions below)

#### June

- 3 **Paint Branch HS graduation**
- 7 **Springbrook HS graduation**
- 13 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm  
(see directions below)
- 14 **JH Blake HS graduation**

#### July

- 11 **GCCA Board Mtg.**, 7:30 pm  
(see telecon instructions below)

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

## Please provide your email address

As we reported a year ago, it has become too expensive to mail the Clarion four times a year to all 3500 houses within the GCCA boundaries. During the year we email news to those for whom we have an email address. We are mailing this Clarion to ask people to give us an updated email address if we don't already have it.

Please renew your membership and provide your email on that form. As an alternative, email your address to us at [GCCAColesville@gmail.com](mailto:GCCAColesville@gmail.com). Use this same address for any changes in the future. Please use the subject of "email address" when communicating the change. You can also renew your membership via PayPal.

To improve our communication with the community, we are also sharing more information on Facebook (Greater Colesville Citizens Association) and Nextdoor.

GCCA Officers and Chairs: President Dan Wilhelm, Vice President Marguerite Raaen, Treasurer, Noel Gregos, Recording Secretary Pat Corey, Clarion Editor Nancy Laich

# President's Message

I strongly encourage you to provide us with your email address, since that will now be the primary way to communicate with you.

You are welcome and encouraged to attend our monthly business meetings, which are held on the second Tuesday of each month (except in August) at 7:30 PM at the Transfiguration Parish. We have been meeting in person and on Zoom but it is harder to see and hear on Zoom because some attendees are too far from the computer. I encourage you to attend in person.

I have reached the stage in life where it is time to move to senior independent living, at Riderwood. I had planned to give up the role of GCCA President, but active board members want me to continue. I agreed since I expect a lot of effort is needed to address the needed infrastructure improvements to accommodate Viva White Oak and other development in east county. I can be more effective in that effort by remaining as president for a few more years and ensuring the interests of GCCA are represented.

I am also a member of the LABQUEST Community Association. That group is composed of citizens, business, and government individuals, many of whom worked for almost 30 years to locate FDA to White Oak. Over the last decade the group has focused on development east of US29 and between Cherry Hill Rd and New Hampshire Ave. The interest of GCCA aligns with LABQUEST, and together we are more effective.

East County is on the verge of substantial transformation with Viva White Oak, Hillandale Gateway, expansion at White Oak Medical Center, coming of two Montgomery College facilities, improved BRT (FLASH) on US29, additional BRT service on New Hampshire Ave and Randolph Road and restructured local bus service. I expect to be busy for the next few years!

Dan Wilhelm, President, GCCA

## Four Key Transportation Studies

**MC DOT FLASH US29 Reliability Study.** This study was completed last spring and the council appropriated funding to undertake the detailed design, which is now underway. The next step is to obtain construction funding. The design provides a dedicated lane in the median from Tech Road to downtown Silver Spring, with a few exceptions inside the beltway. This will allow Flash vehicles to operate in non-congested conditions when other vehicles are stuck in stop-and-go traffic. That will encourage more people to use the Flash and thus, reduce the congestion on US29.

MC DOT has applied for federal funding to purchase four BRT vehicles so the BRT FLASH service can be extended to Columbia in Howard County. Service to Maple Lawn is expected in two years.

**New Hampshire Ave BRT (Flash) Study.** This study is ongoing to develop a BRT design from Colesville (at Randolph) to the Ft Totten Metrorail station in DC. We have lobbied for this study to include a station at the front door of FDA rather than on New Hampshire Ave. At LABQUEST's urging, the county and GSA/FDA are addressing whether it is feasible to provide a direct connection from the FDA station between the self-storage business and garden apartments to the White Oak Flash station on Lockwood Dr. This will improve Flash service to FDA and reduce the need for its employees to drive.

**Old Columbia Pike Study** (east side of US29). DOT is studying improvements on Old Columbia Pike and Prosperity Dr. from Stewart Lane to Cherry Hill Rd. The Master Plan calls for a four-lane road and replacement of the long-closed bridge over the Paint Branch Stream. They are considering three alternatives: (1) no-build, (2) improve the road but the bridge would not be rebuilt for vehicle traffic, and (3) improve the road and rebuild the bridge for vehicle traffic.

Continued on page 3

## Four Key Transportation Studies (continued)

LABQUEST is advocating that the bridge not be rebuilt for vehicle traffic but rather provide a new road connection across the Paint Branch from Viva White Oak to the White Oak Rec Center and White Oak. As proposed, that bridge would be used by transit vehicles (especially BRT), walking and biking. That connection would allow the US29 Orange BRT corridors (from Briggs Chaney), New Hampshire Ave. Corridor and Randolph Rd. Corridor to provide greatly improved service to the three activity centers: Briggs Chaney, LifeSci, and White Oak. The US29 Blue line from Burtonsville (and Howard County in a few years) would not be changed since it provides direct and rapid service to downtown Silver Spring. The LifeSci center is the southeast quadrant of the US29/Cherry Hill intersection and includes Viva, WOMC, Montgomery College.

**Ride On Improvements.** The fourth study concerns improved Ride On: revising routes, increasing vehicle frequency and expanding coverage. DOT indicated at a meeting that this study is also considering connections into PG County in our area.

## Update on Projects

**Hillandale Gateway Project.** The Hillandale Gateway project is a partnership between the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) and The Duffie Companies and is located on New Hampshire Ave. at the Beltway. It consists of two 11 story buildings with a 691-car parking structure between them. The buildings will have 155 age-restricted units, 288 non-age restricted market-rate dwelling units, and 20 non-age-restricted Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs). Of the 155 age-restricted units, 96 are replacements for prior HOC facility. There will also be a stand-alone building near Powder Mill Road and New Hampshire Avenue that we understand will house a Starbucks. The plan calls for a future 59K sq. ft. commercial building near the parking structure. The developer expects to start earthwork by the end of this summer.

**White Oak Medical Center.** Since the hospital opened, there has been a shortage of beds (currently at 192) because the state would not allow them to have as many beds as they wanted. They have added the 8<sup>th</sup> floor but it can't be used until the state authorizes it. WOMC is working on the application to add 30 beds, which will free up space in the ER. They are also working on plans to add a second pavilion on the north side of the main building, which will include more OR capability and doctor's offices. Another parking structure will also be added to the north side. It is currently hard to find a parking space within the existing structure.

**Burtonsville Access Road.** MC DOT is designing an access road in Burtonsville on the north side of MD 198. It connects to MD 198 near the CVS and Tires Plus and goes in front of the Burtonsville ES.

**Burtonsville Crossing/Park and Ride.** Good News! After years of prodding, the owner of the largely empty Burtonsville Crossing Center is now remodeling the center. A separate housing development will be added to the existing Park & Ride Lot and structured parking will be added.

**Pedestrian Master Plan.** GCCA provided comments to the Planning Board on the staff draft. The Board will modify that draft and it will then be sent to the Council for another hearing and action.

**Fairland Briggs Chaney Master Plan.** We are reviewing the staff draft for this plan. As always, there are good and undesirable recommendations. We will testify on May 4. Subsequently, the Planning Board will modify that draft and then it will be sent to the Council for another hearing and action.

## Viva White Oak

At long last, the 12M sq. ft. Viva White Oak development is getting going. Global LifeSci Development Corporation has entered into a partnership agreement that will result in needed financing and development expertise to allow the development to proceed. This project is located off Cherry Hill Rd and Industrial Parkway extended on the east side of US29. The project will be built in phases over many years. They will start at the intersection of Cherry Hill Rd and FDA Blvd, adjacent to the White Oak Medical Center.



**Greater Colesville Citizens Association  
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## **GCCA DUES PAYMENT TIME - MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT**

**PLEASE JOIN GCCA:** The **annual dues** are **\$10.00 per person** per year (May 2023 through May 2024). Contributions are vital to GCCA's mission of improving our Colesville community. **Make checks payable to GCCA and mail to P.O. Box 4087, Colesville, MD 20914.** Or, go to [greatercolesville.org](http://greatercolesville.org) and pay on-line.

**NAME(S):** \_\_\_\_\_ **Area # (if known)** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

