

Your
Community
• Realtor •

Gary Ditto's Newsletter

MARCH 1993

CELEBRATING THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Happy Birthday to the Town of Kensington and to Noyes Children's Library, which begin their second century this year! We'll be following the celebrations throughout the year, bringing you news of the events marking 100 years of community life.

Happy 100th Birthday, Noyes Children's Library!

1993 is the year to celebrate the 100th birthday of Noyes Children's Library in Kensington. The actual birthday was January 9th. However, as befitting a grand occasion, the Noyes birthday celebration will continue with several "parties" over the next few months. A Victorian gala on April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. will feature a penny theater; tea, lemonade, and tea cakes; a sing-along; and games. The May Fair on May 1st from 10 to 2 is the occasion for the traditional Noyes Parade of favorite storybook characters. The Circle Manor Nursing Home will be the site for the games, book sale, and May Pole.

And on June 10th at 7 p.m. the "Stars Will Come Out Again for Noyes." Celebrities near and far will autograph their favorite children's books and send them on to be auctioned to benefit the library. Among celebrities who are helping this year are Richard Gere, Jody Foster, Dustin Hoffman, Goldie Hawn, Richard Dreyfus, and Kevin Costner. The affable John Chirtea will again serve as auctioneer.

Connie Morella is the honorary chair of the centennial year.

These efforts to help Noyes can also use more volunteer help. For additional information, please call Barbara Hutchinson (Volunteer Chair) at 933-4951, Jan Jablonski at 622-1041, or John Robinson at 949-5452.

Calling all "Outdoor" Alums

A few years ago, we featured Outdoor Nursery School, the unique "school in the woods," in the newsletter. Two Kensington residents, Evelyn Litwin of Parkwood and Barbara Hutchinson of Chevy Chase View, have taught at the school for many years.

Now they and the parents at the school are planning a celebration in May, in honor of the school's 60th birthday. They'd like to invite every "Outdoor" family, whether or not they still live in this area. If you know the addresses of former students or their parents, please call the school at 656-8871.



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A New Angle on Residential Remodeling

Have you noticed the remodelings under way in some of the homes in your neighborhood? Aided by low interest rates, tax deductions on home equity loans, and small houses on large, close-in lots, many homeowners are modernizing kitchens and adding family rooms and master suites -- and even second stories -- at a rapid rate.

Yet adding on to your home or remodeling your kitchen isn't simply a matter of ordering framing timbers and nails or tearing out old cabinets. While there are many outstanding contractors around, as well as handy homeowners capable of enclosing a porch or finishing a basement, many remodeling jobs would benefit from professional guidance. In particular, the "eye" and many technical skills of an architect can make a major difference, producing a distinctive and aesthetically pleasing effect.

Remodeling projects involve hundreds of details, ranging from permit applications to contract preparation. The role of the architect can vary, according to the homeowner's desires and needs. One possibility is to have the architect develop the basic drawings and plans based on the homeowner's own ideas. The homeowner then handles all the contracting and other details. Another possibility is for the architect to serve as the project administrator,

negotiating the bids with contractors and supervising the construction all the way through to the final inspections.

Another approach, which has become increasingly used in recent years, is called Design/Build, says Paul Gaiser, an architect in practice here the past 14 years. In Design/Build, the architect and contractor work as a team to ensure that the design decisions are followed, the schedule is met, and the job is kept on or under budget. The problems that can confront the homeowner in a remodeling project, such as discrepancies between the architect's plan and the contractor's ability to follow it, are resolved within the Design/Build firm. According to Gaiser, "Design/Build substantially reduces up-front design fees, speeds up construction, and minimizes homeowner hassles. It's fast becoming the project delivery system of choice for the busy homeowner of the 90's." To ensure quality, Gaiser recommends working with a Design/Build firm in which a licensed architect is either in the lead or on the staff.

Whatever you have in mind, it can be helpful to start by talking to your friends about their projects, going through some magazines to give you ideas, and thinking about your own goals for that dream room or addition.

Paul Gaiser, a practicing Design/Build architect in Bethesda, is the winner of three awards for design excellence from the American Institute of Architects. He has designed more than a dozen additions within a mile of his home in Chevy Chase View.



It's "Super Saturday" At Rosemary Hills School

Annual Fundraiser set for March 27

Pony rides, face painting, games -- all kinds of family fun will be showcased at the "Super Saturday" at Rosemary Hills Primary School in Silver Spring on Saturday, March 27 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This annual fundraiser for the school also highlights a great recycling effort: a sale of used books, toys, video tapes, audio cassettes, records, games, and puzzles. Sale items have been donated by the school's families.

Don't miss **Super Saturday** and a chance to stock up on lots of family fun!

Cheers to the Home and School Association of the Academy of the Holy Cross!

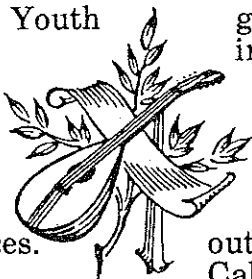
Once again, the dedicated parents and friends of the Academy of the Holy Cross staged their annual fundraiser for the school, a Monte Carlo night held on Saturday, March 6. While this newsletter won't hit the streets until after that date, we still want to applaud the hard work and enthusiasm that goes into supporting our local schools!



Sing A Song For Youth

Rob Guttenberg works with local area teens in his job as a counselor at Bethesda Youth Services. He also leads song writing workshops for teens and is a folk singer in his "spare" time. And for the past several years both teens and the community have benefited from the benefit folk concert Rob organizes for Bethesda Youth Services.

This year's concert will be held on Saturday, April 16 at 8 p.m. at the



Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. Musical guests include the Harrises who have played in Philadelphia and at the Kennedy Center. Through generous corporate matches for each ticket sold, BYS can raise as much as \$9,000. But they need your support. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12.50 at the door. Send your check, made out to B-CC YMCA, to P.O. Box 311, Cabin John, MD 20818.

The Interages Programs Are GRAND!

GRANDCARE[®]

Want to be paid for having fun? Grandcare[®] recruits, trains and refers older adults (55 and older) for paid, part time positions in child care centers. The next training program is scheduled for the last week in April. Call Ina Rae Kramer at 949-3551 for information.



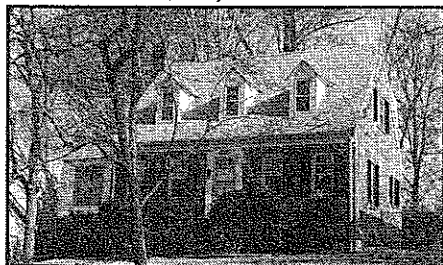
GRANDCRAFTERS

Do you sing, collect stamps, garden, play the recorder,...or have another hobby? Are you 55 or older? Then you are needed to share your hobby with grade-school children in an after-school enrichment program. Training for these volunteer positions will be held the last week in March. Call Interages at 949-3551 to reserve your spot in the training session.

The New Neighbors in Kensington

Come summer, there'll be new neighbors in Kensington when the retirement community, Sunrise at Kensington Park, opens on the former site of Kensington Junior High School at Saul Road and Kensington Parkway. The three Victorian-style buildings nestled into the hillside harken back to the early days of Kensington. Even the name of the independent living building, "The Highlands," has been adopted from the name given to the area in the last century. "The Highlands" is scheduled to open in July. As of mid-February, 89% of "The Highlands" studio and one- and two-bedroom apartments have been reserved. Two assisted living residences, "The Woodlands" and "The Groves," are scheduled to open in May. Over 50% of these one and two-room suites have already been reserved. If you would like further information about the residences, call Sunrise at Kensington Park at (301) 946-7700.

SOLD
\$183,000



413 Hamilton Avenue
Silver Spring

Cape on Cul de Sac 1 Block from Park. 3 BR, 1 1/2 BA, Rec. Rm., 1-Car Garage, Private Back yard with Patio.

SOLD
\$145,000



2425 Dennis Avenue
Silver Spring

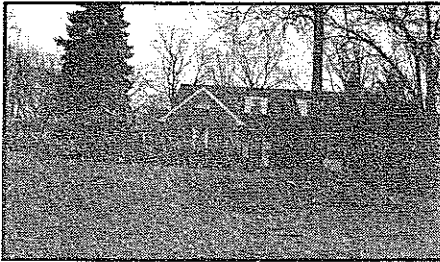
Charming Rambler in great condition. Liv. Rm. w/FP, Rec.Rm, 4 BR, 2 BA

SOLD
\$492,000



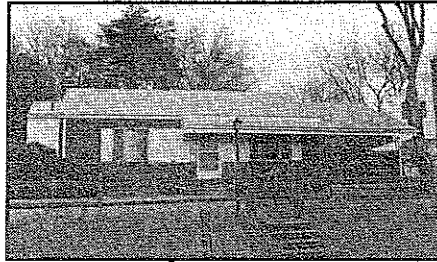
6600 81st Street, Cabin John
Contemporary Home w/ 4 BR, 4 BA, much more. Listed by Eleanor Balaban, L & F. Sold by Gary Ditto.

FOR SALE
\$399,000



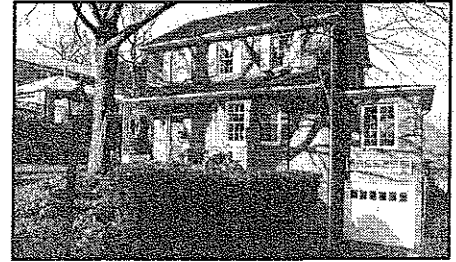
10107 Bexhill Drive, Kensington
Elegant Family Home. Liv. Rm.
w/FP, Din. Rm., TS Kit., Rec. Rm.,
New Sun Rm., 4 BR, 3 BA, Den.

FOR SALE
\$189,950



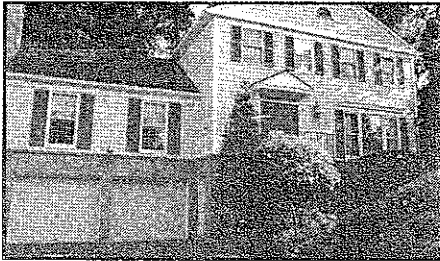
4509 Puller Drive, Kensington
Expanded Ranch.
Fam. Rm. w/FP, Liv. Rm., Mod. Kit.,
2 BR, 2BA, Large Lot

SOLD
\$368,000



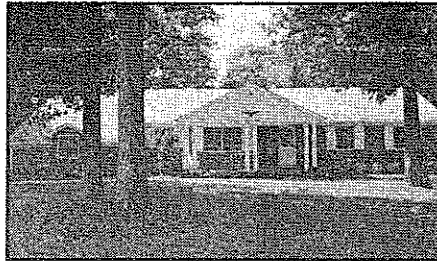
4013 Glenridge Street
Chevy Chase View
Beautiful Colonial in excellent
Condition. 4 BR, 2 1/2 BA.

FOR SALE
\$475,000



9530 Reach Road, Potomac
Elegant Colonial. Liv. Rm. w/FP.
Sep. Din. Rm., Fam. Rm. 5 BR.

FOR SALE
\$299,900



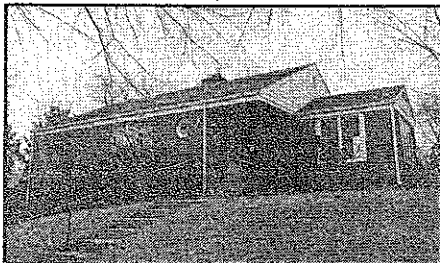
9116 Seven Locks Rd, Bethesda
Beautiful Rambler on Corner Lot.
Liv. Rm., Sep. Din. Rm., TS Kit.,
Rec. Rm., Den, 4 BR, 3 BA, 2-Car Gar.

UNDER CONTRACT



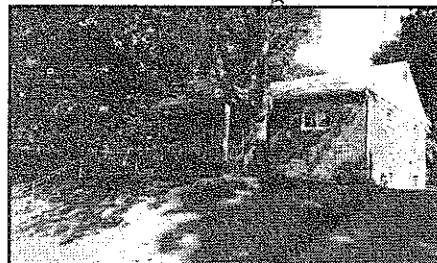
10122 Crestwood Road
Kensington
Charming Cape Cod. New Roof.
Porch. 3 BR. Liv. Rm. w/FP

FOR SALE
\$219,000



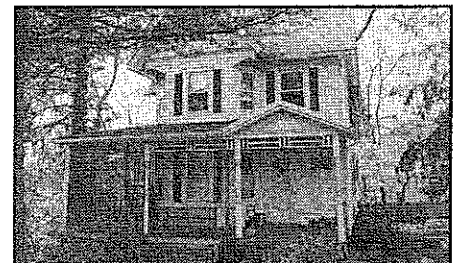
4501 Woodfield Rd, Kensington
Restored Rambler, all in "Like New"
condition. Liv. Rm. w/FP.
Sun Rm. w/ new windows.
3 BR, 1.5 BA, 1-Car Garage

UNDER CONTRACT



10412 Montrose Avenue
Bethesda
Perfect 2 BR Condo with
refinished Kitchen.
Backs to woods.

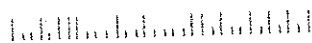
UNDER CONTRACT



9304 Warren Street
Silver Spring
Handyperson's Special. Large
100 year old Victorian in need of TLC.
6 BR, 2 1/2 BA.

Each home pictured in this newsletter is a Gary Ditto listing or, as noted, a Gay Ditto sale.

GARY H. DITTO, G.R.I.
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Our Neighbors At
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