

# The Gobbler

The Official NewsLetter of Farmington Village

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

WINTER 2007

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- **New Pool Passes** with photos will be issued this year.
- **Holiday Lights** Contest winners are 400 Little Marvel Court and 8102 GreyStone Lane
- **Neighborhood Watch** Suggestions

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## Round Two !

Well, after some minor glitches we got the first, of what I hope to be many, newsletters off the ground. There were problems with the printing and delivery and where to put them in the town homes, but I hope we have figured all of that out. This issue is not nearly as long as the first but we have some good stuff as always. The winners for the Holiday Decorating contest are here and on the website, which I will be shamelessly promoting yet again this issue. We also have pool and Recreation committee

news. Also a special article about how to help out the many different birds we have in our community. I hope you enjoy it, and please, send in articles for the next issue because as I said in the first one, this is your newsletter not just mine. I want to thank those who contributed this issue and hope that they will continue.

Happy Holidays ,  
Jamie Colomb  
Editor



## Pool News

In the deep of winter probably one of the last things on your mind is the community pool, but the Board of Directors and pool committee are already working on ensuring that the pool opens smoothly and runs efficiently.

The Board of Directors has recently approved to have a new none slip floor installed in the bathrooms, hallways and guard shack. This low maintenance floor will improve the appearance of the restrooms, increase safety, and provide years of service.

Pool passes will now have a photo of the individual. In February, you will receive a letter from the management company containing the pool pass application. In addition to the application you will need to mail in a 1" x 1" photo of each family member that wants a pool pass. Please make sure to label the photos with the individuals name so that the right pass and photo can be matched up. Nobody will be allowed into the pool without one of the new pool passes. Remember each household is allowed up to 5

guests a day (\$2 per guest per day) and the guests must be accompanied by a community member. All children under 12 also needed to be escorted by an adult.

Due to problems with pool rentals in the past, the pool will no longer be rented. The new pavilion also can not be reserved or rented.

Happy New Year and we hope to see you at the pool.

# News from the Rec Committee

The Recreation Committee has had a busy fall! Although our first scheduled Movie Night was cancelled due to rain, we plan to re-schedule that event for some time in the spring.

Our Annual Fall Fest was held (in the clubhouse due to rain again!) on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The costumes were adorable, the crafts were fun and the donuts were yummy.

Thanks to everyone who came out to that event.

Our first Donuts with Santa event was held on Saturday morning, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. What a turnout! We collected many, many toys that were donated to Toys for Tots! The Severna Park Long and Foster Collection Site was very grateful for our generous donation. This will definitely become an annual event. Thanks to everyone who contributed to make this even such a success! And many thanks to Santa for stopping by that morning! We know it's a busy time of year for you.

On Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 52 Villagers (and Friends of Villagers) braved the cold and wind (6 degree wind chill-Yikes!) on our Annual



**400 Little Marvel Court**

Bus trip to the New York City. While a few in our group braved the cold and spent the entire day shopping in the Big Apple, many of us warmed up mid-day with the always-captivating Radio City Christmas Spectacular. We have already tentatively book 2007's trip for Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>!

who have made our busy Fall Season so much fun!

Just a note, we will be having a Spring Yard Sale, so start saving your treasures now.

Submitted by Amy Lynch

Finally, choosing the winners of our Annual Holiday House Decorating Contest proved to be very difficult this year. We chose the Yackley Family of 400 Little Marvel Court as the winner of "Best House" and The Collins Family of 8102 Gray Stone Lane as "Best Townhouse." Each homeowner was awarded a \$25 Home Depot Gift Card. Maybe they'll use them to purchase more decorations for next year! Thanks to everyone for helping make Farmington Village shine this holiday season!



**8102 GreyStone Lane**

Please check the Farmington Village website often for notices about upcoming events and thanks to all the families

*"Hold that Date –  
December 7th,  
2007, Farmington  
Trip to New York  
City"*

# Neighborhood Watch

I wanted to add something small about the Neighborhood watch. There is a poll on the website and it seems that everyone thinks it's a great idea, but can't afford the time to help or patrol. I can appreciate this as, like most of you, my life is very full with a full time job and spouse working full time and two active kids. We can all do things, however, that will help keep our neighborhood safe regardless of whether or not we are out patrolling.

1. Make sure you have working lights on the front and back of your house, which are on from sundown to sunup. This includes any walk-outs you might have into your basement.
2. Ensure that there are some lights in

your house that are on a timer. That way it appears you are home, whether you are or not.

3. Don't leave things like portable GPS systems, MP3 players and such in plain view in cars that are not in the garage. These are easy prey for "smash and grab" thieves.
4. Keep an eye on your neighbors. If you notice that their garage door is up, and its 10pm, call them or walk over. One of many things that makes this community so great is the people that live in it. Robert Frost said "Good Fences make good neighbors". Be a good neighbor, and watch out for those across from you, next you and behind

you.

5. Lastly, report suspicious activity. If there is someone you don't recognize hanging around the street, or walking slowly past lines of parked cars, get a good description and call the police.



## Winter, Water, and Warblers

Many people feed wild birds in the winter, but did you know that water is just as crucial to birds that spend all or part of the winter in Farmington Village?

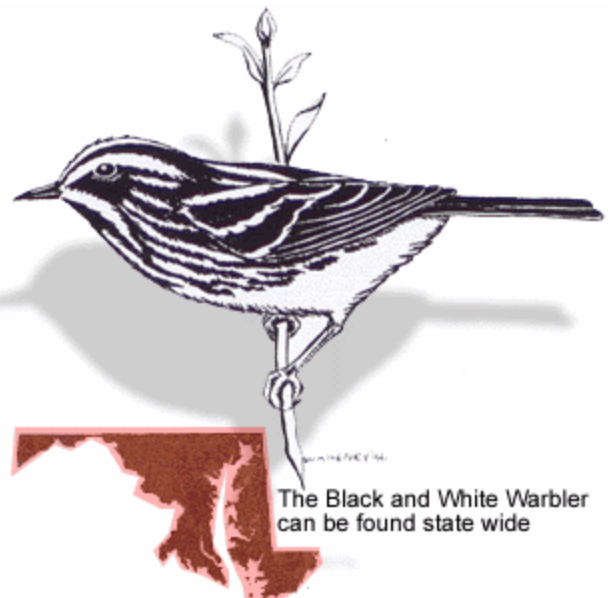
In the coldest months of the year, when the ground is frozen and snow or ice covers most of our yards, birds still need clean water to drink—and even bathe! The large retaining ponds near Early Pride Court and North Star Drive are too deep even at their edges to lure small songbirds, who instinctively avoid water in which they might drown.

What can you do to help? Installing a store-bought birdbath is one option, but you can also make your own by placing a tray of water on the ground or on your deck. The water container for your birdbath should be wide, shallow (water should be no more

than 2 inches deep), and sturdy enough to withstand freezing weather. A large terra cotta or plastic saucer of the kind used to catch overflow from potted plants is ideal.

Choosing a tray or saucer in a dark color and placing it in a spot with high sun will help your birdbath absorb heat and keep the water from freezing. Putting a few rough-textured rocks in the middle of your water tray will also give birds an additional surface with good traction to stand on as they drink and help to anchor your birdbath against strong winter winds.

Birds are sensitive to harsh chemicals, so you  
(Continued on Back Page)

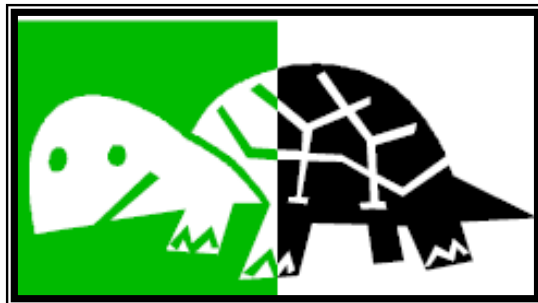


# Newsletter Name Swim Team News Announcements

Remember this is **YOUR** newsletter, There has not been much interest in changing the name of the newsletter from "The Goobler", but if you have a unique name that you have come up with, please email your suggestions to [newsletter@farmingtononline.org](mailto:newsletter@farmingtononline.org) and be sure to put "Newsletter name" in the subject box. Once we have a couple of suggestions we will have a poll on the website to pick the new name.

Registration begins soon. More Information will be posted on the website when available

Please feel free to email me at [Newsletter@farmingtononline.org](mailto:Newsletter@farmingtononline.org) with announcements like births, yard sales, birthdays, etc. Also keep in mind that if you own your own business, you can advertise for free with a simple ad emailed to me. I am not sure about the rest of you, but I am more inclined to give work to a trusted friend and/or neighbor than a stranger.



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Anyone interested in joining the Newsletter Committee please send an email to the [Newsletter@farmingtononline.org](mailto:Newsletter@farmingtononline.org) with Newsletter Committee in the subject line

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

## Future Ideas for Articles

- Pool Committee
- Architectural Committee
- From the President
- Neighborhood watch
- Recipes
- Anything else the neighborhood wants in here

## Winter, Water, and Warblers (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

should not use detergents, bleach, or other related products to clean your birdbath. I've found that plain water and a stiff brush are generally sufficient to clean off any dirt or stuck debris. Birds are much more tolerant of a little dirt than a little Clorox!

For dedicated winter birders, electric and solar-powered heaters can keep the water temperature in your birdbath above freezing and are especially useful in spots that don't get a lot of sun. "Wigglers" are also available for use in summer or winter. These battery-operated agitators sit in the center of your birdbath and create continuous ripples on the surface of the water, keeping ice crystals from forming. Wigglers also work well in the summer to keep mosquitoes at bay (mosquitoes require stagnant water in which to lay their eggs). In our past hot Maryland summer, though, water never stayed in my birdbath

long enough to support mosquitoes—I had to refill it each day because of a combination of evaporation and all the birds splashing and drinking!

By providing fresh water for birds throughout the cold months, you may attract even more (and more kinds of) birds than you would with a feeder. Shy species that do not normally approach feeders nevertheless seek out water and find it irresistible when supplies are scarce in the winter—good luck watering the birds!

Darcy Herman

National Wildlife Federation Habitat Steward

In the spirit of lessening the burden of area landfills, please recycle this newsletter. Also, if you wish to have it emailed to you, please send me an email at [newsletter@farmingtononline.org](mailto:newsletter@farmingtononline.org) with your address in the subject line. I will then add you to the electronic distribution list and my kids will have less weight to pull in the wagon.

## For Sale

Eldrich Milles Table and Chairs. Solid Oak set from one of Maryland's finest furniture makers. Seats six, photos available upon request. Paid over \$2K, asking \$1200.00. Send inquiry to

[Deport96@cablespeed.com](mailto:Deport96@cablespeed.com)