



# The Lamplighter

Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association



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WWW.SLEEPYHOLLOWWOODS.ORG

## A Message from the President

Fellow Neighbors,

Welcome to Spring! I hope you and your family are in good health. It finally looks like we are getting a handle on this pandemic as more and more of our neighbors are vaccinated. It's been a rough year for everyone and for our community association as we have remained socially distant. I am sad to announce that we are unable to hold our Community Picnic again this year; it's just still a bit early to hold a large social gathering. As things improve, we will look to get together when it is safe to do so, possibly this fall. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this great Spring weather and get out and meet your neighbors at least in small groups. We have so many new families in the neighborhood and hopefully we can all get to know each other a little better as things begin to return to normal.



As for SHWCA, we continue to manage the functions of the organization as best we can. It still isn't possible to hold meetings, but if you have questions or concerns, feel free to e-mail any of the executive committee members. In the

meantime, we managed a somewhat successful membership drive. By the way, it's never too late to join. Joining is completely voluntary, but critical to continue the work of the Association. The small fee of \$30 annually makes a big impact. The bulk of the funds goes to maintaining the community entrances. This pays for mowing, mulching, leaf removal, landscaping, painting and repair of the stonework and signs, and maintenance and operation of the gas lamps. It also helps pay for community events when we can hold them again. The Association depends on the volunteer spirit of our neighbors.

One event we will hold this year is our community yard sale. The yard sale will be held on May 15th from 8 am-2 pm. In the event of inclement weather, the raindate will be May 16th. The Association will provide advertising and signs for the event. If the weather is too bad, we will look at shifting to the following weekend. This event always gets a lot of traffic, so maybe you'll want to declutter, unload some of those pandemic

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sweatpants, or just make room for some upgraded items for your home. Finally, in a special wish for Mother's Day and Father's Day, we'd like to extend a special shout-out to all our mothers and fathers in the neighborhood! Enjoy the glorious Spring and Summer, and we'll see you around the Woods!

Charles Becker  
**SHWCA President**

**Please Note: Fairfax County will no longer accept yard waste in plastic bags. Yard waste must be in rigid, reusable, containers or paper bags only. ( see story page 3)**

## The Grimsley Home —Saved!

by Bob Schreiner

Nearly all of us Sleepy Hollow Woods homeowners have made improvements to our 1950-60s homes over the years, yet there has been a common theme to these upgrades: none should be so dramatic as to change the original character of our community, lovingly called “The Woods.” Our Civic Association since its founding has worked diligently to protect this SHW “way of life,” even though there have been long-time fears that housing trends throughout northern Virginia might ultimately invade our single-home neighborhood. Of special concern were the two trends of replacing original homes with “mega-mansions’ or, even worse, having an outside developer somehow gain permission to build a multi-unit complex, be it a condominium or apartment building. These fears were especially felt in recent years by us SHW residents living in the Ivydale Drive-Forest Grove Drive-Rosewood Street triangle. In the center of this triangle sits “The Grimsley Home,” the original farmhouse of our community that has existed since before the Civil War. Much of what “The Woods” consists of today was built on the cropland that for years surrounded that home—which in a way, makes the home and its nearly three acres the very heart of our community. When dear Martha Grimsley died last year, many Woods’ residents,

particularly we whose homes abut the home, wondered aloud “What will happen now to the property and to the Woods?”

With his permission, I am pleased (and relieved) to report that Jim Stepka— friend and acquaintance to numerous SHW families—has bought the home and property and is actively working to renovate the home and spruce up the recently neglected property. Jim has long shared the desires of many of us not to have the home and land be developed. “I started worrying about it the moment I heard it went up for sale,” Jim said. “I didn’t want the house to be demolished and replaced by something out of character with Sleepy Hollow Woods,” he added. Jim and his wife Maria Gonzales—and their new puppy, Kona—intend “to give the Grimsley home the TLC it deserves.” In fact, Jim is determining if there is a way in which the home can be protected long term through a conservancy plan.

Planned interior improvements include bathroom and kitchen upgrades, reconfigurations of several rooms, replacing an outdated oil-heating system, hooking up the home to Fairfax County water, and building a two-car garage next to the home. On the spacious grounds surrounding the house, dying trees are being removed and bushes being

trimmed—a true Spring clean-up. (Who knows, the property might once again host croquet parties so famous in the Grimsley home’s history!)

Jim has a long association with SHW. His family purchased a home on Maplecrest Drive in 1964; Jim fondly remembers playing on the Grimsley property as a boy. He has been a property owner here since 2002. He has specialized in home improvement and renovation work, focusing on SHW properties. Over the past 20 years, Jim has helped more than 130 SHW homeowners update their homes, including several entire makeovers, always with the intent of preserving the SHW neighborhood character and style. Renovating and modernizing the Grimsley home might be one of Jim’s biggest challenges, but one we fellow SHW homeowners are happy that he has taken on. It is Jim’s and our hope that “The Woods” will not change for a long time.

*(For further information on the Grimsley home and its earlier history, please read my article in the 2021 Sleepy Hollow Woods Directory.)*

The Lamplighter is published by the Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association (SHWCA)

## SHWCA OFFICERS (2021-2012)

Charles Becker.....President  
Patricia Petersky.....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Vacant.....2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Beth Schreiner.....Treasurer  
Debra Becker.....Secretary  
Michael Wisniewski.....Past President  
Art Foley.....Advertising  
Mike Wisniewski.....Archivist  
Jim Councilor.....Covenants  
Kim Grutzik.....Directory  
Kim Grutzik.....Hospitality  
Tim Koczanski.....Lamplighter  
Tim Koczanski.....Website  
Don Johnson.....Neighborhood Watch  
Beth Schreiner.....Sleepynet  
Open.....Social

## FOLLOW US



Like us on Facebook  
(SleepyHollowWoods)



Follow us on twitter  
(@SHW\_CA)

*Like to write? Have something you want to share with the community?*

Comments, articles, and letters are welcome. Please contact Lillie Tobash for the deadline. Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

## SHW Community Yard Sale to Take Place May 15<sup>th</sup> (Rain date, May 16<sup>th</sup>)

The annual Sleepy Hollow Woods Community Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am to 2 pm. In case of inclement weather, the rain date for this event is Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, from 8 am to 2 pm. The civic association will advertise the yard sale in the Washington Post, Nextdoor.com, Yardsales.net, and on the community Facebook Page. If you plan to hold a yard sale

and want your home included on this year's Yard Sale Map, please email [beckerc58703@yahoo.com](mailto:beckerc58703@yahoo.com) with the following information: your name, address, and email.

A Yard Sale Map will be emailed to those participating on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Each household may then print copies of the map for distribution to customers and neighbors. Happy Selling!

## Bag Yard Waste - But Use Paper (or Containers), Not Plastic

Fairfax County is doing its part to keep plastic from being reintroduced into the environment by eliminating the use of plastic bags for disposing yard waste. Instead, residents and business will use **paper yard waste bags or rigid, reusable containers**.

When plastic bags are shredded during the composting process, pieces of the bags often end up mixed in with the compost, which is then applied to gardens, yards and other projects. Using paper bags helps get rid of plastic pollution. You can place grass and grass clippings, leaves, flowers, small prunings, straw and brush and twigs in your paper bags.

Yard waste does not include soil, mulch, sod, stumps, whole trees, large branches or limbs, materials from land clearing, or home renovation projects.

Each year, from March through December, yard waste must be collected separately from trash. When you set out yard waste for collection, use paper yard waste bags. **Items placed in plastic bags may not be collected.** You also have the option of disposing of yard waste on your own by taking the items, in paper bags or reusable containers, to the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill. For more information, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov).

## SHW News Briefs

**SleepyNet** –Sleepynet, SHWCA's email distribution list, is one of the best ways to get information on community happenings as well as notifications. If you are not currently receiving Sleepynet emails and would like to receive them, please contact Beth Schreiner at [bobeth@cox.net](mailto:bobeth@cox.net) to get added.

# Sleepy Hollow Woods Market Report



Kim Grutzik 703.851.3942  
Lillie Tobash 703.625.4675  
Sleepy Hollow Woods Experts

Status	Address	Beds	Baths	Close Date	DOM	Sale Price
ACT	3918 Moss Dr	4	4			\$665,000
PND	3625 Buckwood Ct	4	3			\$639,000
CLS	6812 Rosewood St	4	2/1	11/30/2021	22	\$610,000
CLS	6807 Capstan Dr	4	2/1	1/19/2021	58	\$614,000
CLS	6809 Capstan Dr	5	3	1/29/2021	4	\$685,000
CLS	3807 Ivydale Dr	4	3	11/12/2020	6	\$705,000
CLS	3705 Sprucedale Dr	4	3	2/10/2021	6	\$733,000
CLS	6813 Maplecrest Dr	4	3	3/3/2021	5	\$752,750
CLS	6727 Rosewood St	3	3	3/26/2021	6	\$755,000
CLS	6751 Fern Ln	3	2/1	3/15/2021	5	\$755,000
CLS	6819 Murray Ln	4	2/1	11/11/2020	4	\$781,000
CLS	3718 Ivydale Dr	4	3	4/9/2021	26	\$1,050,000

Data is for  
last 180 days

Source: Bright MLS. Information believed to be accurate but should not be relied upon without verification. Information obtained is not the exclusive listings of the agent. If your property is currently listed with a broker, this is not intended to be a solicitation of that listing.



## Sleepy Hollow Woods Civic Association (SHWCA)

The Civic Association is a successful and worthwhile activity. If you are not a member, please join! If you are a member, come to the meetings, meet your neighbors, volunteer a little time, and help make Sleepy Hollow Woods an even better place to live.

The Civic Association is a volunteer organization. It was established to protect and benefit the residents of Sleepy Hollow Woods. For a small annual fee, residents can join the association. The association prints an annual directory of members and additionally provides a wealth of other useful information. In order to help defray the cost of publishing the directory, advertisements in the directory are accepted.

**Our main functions:** Represent the community in various Fairfax County related matters; Publish and distribute the annual directory; Sponsor various community and social activities; Coordinate and provide information to residents through newsletters and other means; Maintain the entrances and sponsor neighborhood improvement projects; Provide a forum for discussion of local issues; Sponsor the Neighborhood Watch Program; and Encourage compliance with the covenant.