

FROM

Owings Mills  
TIMES

## Owings Mills Column: Tollgate Wyndham Preserve kept up by a dedicated team

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Owings Mills

NeighborSpace is a nonprofit land trust that promotes more livable communities in established neighborhoods throughout Baltimore County. Land is acquired for small parks, gardens and natural areas.

The Tollgate community has been enjoying the Tollgate Wyndham Preserve for several years now. Dave Fuller, the property manager, went to work with volunteers to clear debris, mulch the trails and label the area's flora and fauna.

The preserve is available to students at Owings Mills Elementary and High School, providing educational opportunities in an outdoor setting. Residents of the community are also afforded passive recreational activities, such as walks through the woods, or sitting quietly on a bench, observing nature.

The hard work of Fuller and his dedicated volunteers paid off recently when they received the Spring 2010 Stewardship Salute Award from NeighborSpace. This honor recognized the efforts of property managers and affiliated organizations that have given selflessly of their time and talent to improve a NeighborSpace property for the betterment of the community.

The award was presented on July 14 at the Gwynn Oak Avenue Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. This property, an undeveloped lot near Woodlawn, was purchased in 2009 by NeighborSpace and is managed by the Graystone Community Association. A \$5,000 grant from the Baltimore Community Foundation allowed the association to erect a sign on the property. Now it is up to the community to decide how the land will be used: a park, public gardens or flower gardens?

As more and more land is developed, it is so important to keep green, open spaces. NeighborSpace has indeed been a good neighbor when it comes to preserving land in our county.

Almost every family has been touched by cancer in some way. It is particularly difficult when children are dealing with a friend or family member battling the disease. There is hope, and a place to ask questions and express feelings.

The Cancer Support Group for Middle and High School Students meets on Monday nights at the Westminster United Methodist Church from 7-8:30 pm. The church is located at Main and Center Streets and provides a place for kids to talk, ask questions and find ways to help support someone living with cancer. For more information, please e-mail Karen at karenhaughey@baltimorecancersupportgroup.org.

One way to prevent some diseases is by eating healthy, and for many consumers that means buying only organic fruits and vegetables. The Owings Mills Farmers' Market, in the parking lot of the Owings Mills JCC, is the place to purchase fresh, local produce each Sunday. The market is open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m., Get there early for the best selections! If you miss Sunday's offerings, head over on Thursdays to the Irvine Nature Center on Garrison Forest Road for its Farmers' Market. Lunch is even served there, with food demonstrations as well.

Volunteers from the Westminster Astronomy Club will host a stargazing program at Soldiers Delight on Aug. 14, from 8-10 p.m. Rain or shine, this free event will explore the death of stars and the sun's future. There is even a meteor shower the morning of Aug. 12.

To register for the stargazing please call 877-794-0606. Soldiers Delight is located at 5100 Deer Park Road in Owings Mills.

Get in that last hurrah of summer and celebrate on Aug. 29 with a crab feast at VFW Post 521. The event runs from 2-6 p.m., with the food portion ending at 5 p.m. The Post is located at 214 Tollgate Road, and tickets can be obtained by calling 410-356-6578.

My next column appears Sept. 9. The kiddies will be back in school, and Labor Day will be past. Enjoy these last weeks of summer!

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