

## **Item 11- Correspondence**

**From:** [csguigna@aol.com](mailto:csguigna@aol.com)  
**To:** [Estrada, Luis](#); [Leftwich, Troy](#); [MCP-Chair](#); [boe@mcpsmd.org](mailto:boe@mcpsmd.org);  
[Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmember.Friedson@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
**Subject:** Woodward High School  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 15, 2020 2:10:41 PM

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To the MC Planning Board, Councilmember Friedson, and the MCPS Board of Education,

I'm writing this email to voice my concerns about plans for the proposed Woodward High School on Old Georgetown Road that include destruction of the County-owned Edson Lane Forest. I'd like my comments to be considered for the scheduled July 23rd Planning Board Hearing.

I write from the perspective of a mother with two (very athletic) children in WJ Cluster schools; as a homeowner in Old Georgetown Village, which abuts the proposed school; and as a pediatrician in North Bethesda who serves the children in this community.

MCPS has requested to clear 2.68 acres of forest from the proposed site, including the Edson Lane Forest, in order to construct athletic facilities that include a stadium with grandstand/concession area, and separate baseball and softball fields.

Our children need a new high school, and it should have top-notch athletic facilities. However, in the past 10 years our community has seen an excessive amount of development (North Bethesda Market, Pike and Rose) and deforestation (Montrose Parkway, in particular). The area has become congested and overcrowded. Urban forests are crucial to the well-being of our communities--they clean the air, cool neighborhoods, and are associated with better mental health. It would be short-sighted to destroy the Edson Lane Forest.

I'm aware there are strong feelings in the residential communities that abut the Woodward High School site about it's construction, in part due to the size of the student body, in part because our homes are so close to the proposed athletic facilities. We envision an increase in foot and motor vehicle traffic, noise, lights, and litter in our neighborhoods, all very valid concerns. Preserving the Edson Lane Forest would leave a natural buffer between us and the new school that would help mitigate those concerns.

I'm confident MCPS can set priorities and work with the community to devise a plan for high quality athletic facilities that spares the Edson Lane Forest. We just need the right spirit and enough goodwill to find a solution that satisfies all stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention.

Carla Sguigna MD  
11215 Empire Lane  
Rockville, Md. 20852



**From:** [edwreich@aol.com](mailto:edwreich@aol.com)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Comments on Montgomery County Planning Board July 23, 2020 Agenda Item #11  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 11:22:51 AM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

**Comments on Montgomery County Planning Board July 23, 2020  
Agenda Item #11  
Charles W. Woodward High School. Mandatory Referral 2020022  
and Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan 2020022**

My name is Edward E. Reich, and I am President of Georgetown Village Condominium, a 304-unit mid-rise condominium community in North Bethesda. Two of the entrances to our community are on Edson Lane. Thus, the Charles W. Woodward High School is practically on our doorsteps.

My community, as well as the other communities along Edson Lane, have very serious concerns with the proposed redevelopment of the Charles W. Woodward High School. While we understand the need for the new school and do not oppose it in concept, we have numerous concerns with how the project may take shape.

Five of the six communities along Edson Lane, between Old Georgetown Road and Rockville Pike, sent an e-mail to Seth Adams and Shiho Shibasaki on July 2, 2020, broadly outlining our concerns. The e-mail raised issues about construction traffic and staging, bus routes to the school (particularly as they might affect Edson Lane), potential parking by students and school staff in our neighborhoods, and numerous issues relating to the potential impacts of the proposed stadium. These impacts included destroying much of the tree buffer of the Edson Lane Forest, and noise and lighting impacts from use of the stadium.

The five communities whose Presidents signed this e-mail were Georgetown Village Condominium, Old Georgetown Village Townhomes, Village Gate, Fallswood, and Timberlawn. The sixth community, Old Georgetown Village Condominium, sent its own letter on July 14, 2020, raising most of the same issues.

We recognize that issues relating to the stadium are covered by Phase 2 and thus are not within the scope of the present Mandatory Referral. We have been assured by Seth Adams that nothing in the Mandatory Referral will limit consideration of future options for the stadium. And I was assured by Troy Leftwich that that was true relative to the Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan as well. That is critically important in light of our

concerns about the potential destruction of Edson Lane Forest.

Representatives of the six communities had an excellent Zoom meeting this morning with MCPS representatives. They expressed an understanding of our concerns, and a willingness to work cooperatively with us to seek resolutions compatible with the other considerations they need to address. We welcomed their invitation to continue the dialogue on an ongoing basis.

Of course, individual communities may have unique issues that they need addressed as well. I note that Village Gate already submitted an excellent letter to Mr. Estrada detailing such issues.

At this point, I simply wanted the Planning Board to be aware that we did have concerns, and ask that it encourage MCPS to work with the neighboring communities in finding solutions, as it has pledged to do.

Thank you for your consideration.

Edward E. Reich  
President  
Georgetown Village Condominium

**From:** [Anita Smallin](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Woodward HS Referral MR 2020022  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:21:21 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I am on the staff of Trinity Lutheran Church, North Bethesda, which is directly across the street from Woodward.

Our comment concerns the proposed traffic light for Woodward HS. The pictures in the site plan put this light directly in front of our existing driveway.

We already have residents of the Luxmanor neighborhood using our driveway/parking lot as a cut through to the neighborhood. There is some concern that people who cut through our parking lot are driving with excessive speed.

Furthermore, Manor Montessori School uses our building for their programs. The parking lot is the school's drop off and pick up location.

Our concern is that there would be additional traffic cutting through our parking lot, especially at the start and end of the school day.

Our concern could be mitigated by a sign for users of the Woodward parking lot stating "no through traffic" at the stop light. This sign would decrease the number of people cutting through our parking lot, allowing for safe use of our parking lot for Manor students and for our congregation members.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Anita K. Smallin

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Anita Smallin (She/Hers)  
Director of Youth & Family Ministry  
Day off: Monday  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
11200 Old Georgetown Rd.  
North Bethesda, MD 20852  
301-881-7275

**From:** [manor.kathyd@gmail.com](mailto:manor.kathyd@gmail.com)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Woodward HS Referral MR 2020022  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 11:35:58 AM

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Dear Chairpersons:

I am the director of The Manor Montessori School located in the Trinity Lutheran Church 11200 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda, which is directly across the street from Woodward. The Manor School has leased space from the church for over 45 years and has educated hundreds of children in the neighborhood.

Traffic flow is very problematic on Old Georgetown Road. Our concern is the proposed traffic light for Woodward HS. The pictures in the site plan put this light directly in front of the church's existing driveway. There are already residents of the Luxmanor neighborhood using the driveway/parking lot as a cut through to the neighborhood. There is a huge concern that people who cut through the parking lot are driving with excessive speed.

The Manor Montessori School uses the parking lot for the drop off and pick up our children ages 2 – 5 years. Our concern is that there would be additional traffic cutting through the parking lot, especially at the start and end of the school day.

Our concern could be mitigated by a sign for users of the Woodward parking lot stating "no through traffic" at the stop light. This sign would decrease the number of people cutting through our parking lot, allowing for safe use of our parking lot for Manor students and for the congregation members.

Thank you for your time,  
Katherine Damico  
Director  
The Manor Montessori School

**From:** [RICHARD JOHNSON](#)  
**To:** [MCP-Chair](#)  
**Subject:** Tilden Middle School Plan  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:59:32 AM

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**[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Exercise caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

I am a member of Trinity Lutheran Church which is located directly across the street from Tilden Middle School. The planned exit in the construction plan would be directly across the street from our parking lot entrance which would encourage people to go straight and use our parking lot as a shortcut to Luxmanor to avoid the light and backup at Tuckerman. I would request that left turn only and right turn only signs be installed at this exit to discourage people from going straight across Old Georgetown Road into our parking lot. Thank you. Richard Johnson, Trinity Lutheran Church Property Committee

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10