

# WOOD ACRES

*A Real Estate Letter from Matthew Maury of Stuart and Maury Realtors*

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January, 2011

Dear Wood Acres Area Resident,

Where to begin? 2010 was as schizophrenic a year for real estate in our area as I can ever recall. After a very dark 18 months between July of 2008 and December of 2009, the market took off, amidst raging snow storms in early 2010. In fact, the time period between January of 2010 and late June 2010 was the second best six month period of my 30 year career. I tend to talk about the “slingshot effect” that occurs when the market slows, as it did in 2009. Sellers and buyers don’t abandon their mobility dreams, they defer them. Eventually, those who wish to purchase or sell a home eventually are able to do so. Thus, after 18 difficult months, buyers surged back into the marketplace in the close-in Bethesda area in January of 2010. I held a house open on Kirkwood Dr. in Springfield in the first 15 days of 2010 and had well over 60 people at the open house. Where in the world had all those people been for 18 months? Well, they were “thinking about it.” The market was robust from January to June of 2010, spurred by appealing interest rates. Selection, while not great, was satisfactory enough to allow buyers to find something that pleased them. Things seemed pretty good, the economy appeared headed in the right direction and consumer confidence was improving. Whatever troubles the rest of the country and the world might have been struggling through, OUR area was recovering nicely.



Things changed in July. Buyers slowly stepped back. The news of the day turned decidedly more challenging. National unemployment numbers stubbornly refused to move down, even as our area held its own. As a people, we seemed to lose confidence in the future. Slowly, buyers renewed their concerns about whether a “double dip” in real estate prices might occur. If a buyer worries that home prices may fall in the future they can become gripped with indecision. “Let’s wait and see where this thing is headed,” is a very common viewpoint in that kind of environment.

This perception persisted throughout the Fall of 2010. Thus, with a few notable exceptions, there has been very little real estate activity in our area and in Bethesda in general in the last few months. My industry will always attempt to paint a rosy picture of the future and indeed, in this exhaustive summation of 2010, there is in the data a lot to be excited about. There is little benefit in being “negative” in my business. However, the words “realistic” and “frank” are appropriate at this juncture. Your home went up in value in 2010. So did your neighbor’s home. We can be very proud of this fact. The Washington Post lead article on 12/29/10 had a headline that touted “DC area skirts home-price slump.” The Washington DC metropolitan area led the nation with a 3.7% increase in home prices last year, one of only four areas to see positive gains (LA, San Diego and San Francisco were the others). Many close-in Bethesda communities easily topped the 3.2% gain, for this we can thank the engine of government for fueling job growth, even as the rest of the country continues to struggle.

It is very hard to tell where we are headed in 2011. Quietly, almost without notice,

interest rates have crept up. If you slept on the incredible rates during July through mid-November of 2010, you may have missed out on a once in a generation opportunity, they were that low. Many wise homeowners refinanced while the getting was good. While rates are still historically attractive, 30-yr money has risen about 5/8% since the government announced "QE2". We don't need to go into detail on what that policy is, but suffice to say that rates have risen, the bonds in your portfolio are struggling, and the days of 4.125% for a fixed rate mortgage up to \$417K are gone. We are still under 5% however and rates that good should fuel a respectable market in the coming year, assuming they don't rise too much further, and we can get some good news on the economic front.

Conventional wisdom is suggesting that 2011 could be a very good year for the USA and that our economy and the stock market could finally take off. Wouldn't that be nice. For every pundit predicting such good news, there's another guy with equally compelling arguments suggesting that we are facing dark days ahead. It's understandable that consumers feel knocked around like a pinball. I have often said, buyers make important life decisions when they feel confident in their future. We need to continue to rebuild confidence. All of the elements that make living in the close-in Bethesda community we call home are still present: great architecture, a quick commute, superior schools, and excellent services (Pepco excepted!). Homes will be sold. I am reminded often that reasonable liquidity in your principle residence is critical to life decisions. Sit on my shoulder as I meet with a couple in their early '80's as they make important decisions about their future housing needs and their plans to sell the family home. Listen in as I delicately balance competing interests in a divorce scenario. Observe the difficulties I face when homeowners who bought their home at the peak of the market face the challenges of selling the home now in order to move to another city. You will more easily come to understand the consequences of whether their home can be sold, and for a good price. My job is not about money, it's about people and their lives.

In late December the Post also published an article about rising rents in the DC area. I found it very interesting. The article advances the notion that the rental market, in some areas, is on fire, as continued job growth in our very lucky DC region butts up against the reluctance of the public to commit to buying a home. We added 50,000 jobs in the DC Metropolitan area in 2010.

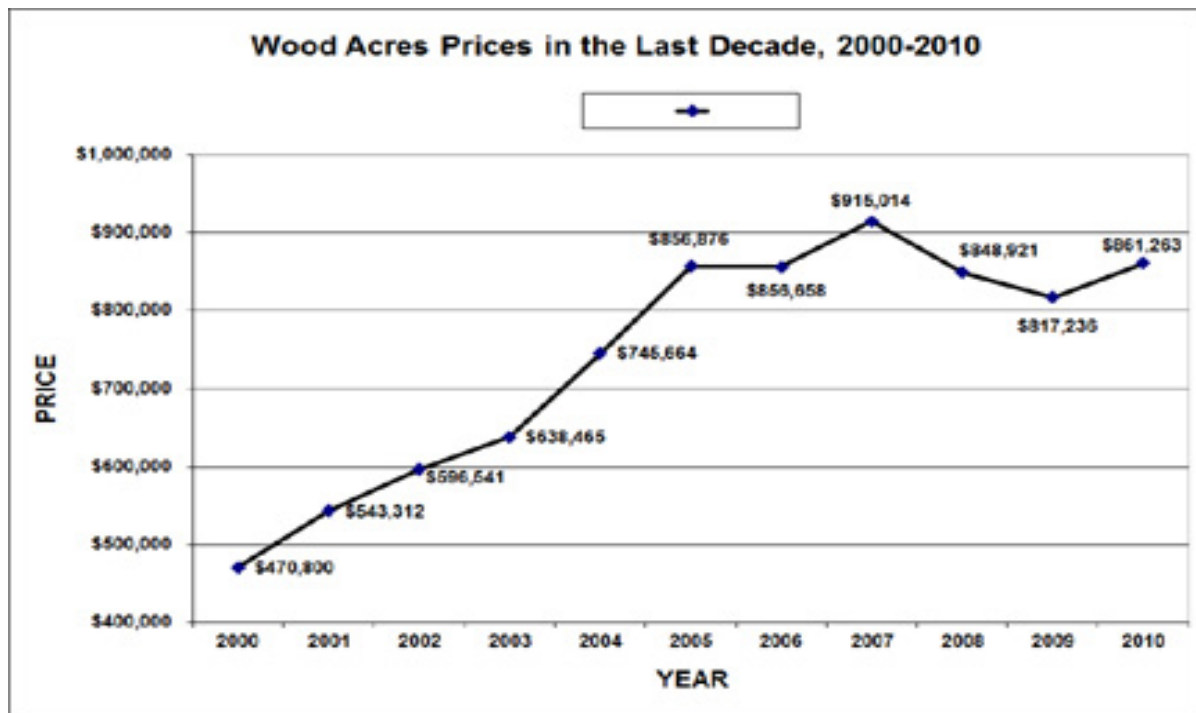
The Great Recession of 2008, as it is often called, seems to have resulted in a burgeoning generation of renters. The notion goes that these people are simply unwilling to commit to putting down roots, fearful of falling real estate prices, and the costs of purchasing and then having to sell if they lose a job or must move to another city. These residents prefer the flexibility of being able to pick up and go and not have to worry about whether they can sell their home. The rental market in the DC area is always healthy, fueled by the diplomatic corps, the IMF, the World Bank, and a slew of corporate jobs that are of questionable duration. Add in an entire new crop of people who could easily afford to own a home and put down roots who now are reluctant to do so, and it is not surprising that rents might rise. That's simply a function of supply and demand.

What are the long term consequences of a "renter generation?" My anecdotal observation from managing rental properties in our area for 30 years is that the kind of person who rents in our area is a high quality individual with excellent credit, good assets, and high personal responsibility. We should be pleased they are our neighbors. However, rental homes just never receive the same kind of attention to detail that homes owned by an occupant do. It's the nature of the beast. Most landlords want to keep their homes up and hopefully, the ones that I manage are in good shape. But rental properties don't get the \$300,000 renovation, they don't get aeration, lime and seed in the fall, they don't get the same attention to detail, they are more often modest homes. It is fair to say that it is more difficult for tenants to fully engage in a community. They may well coach the little league baseball team and help out at the kindergarten Halloween event, but more often, it is the domain of those fully "invested" in the community that make streets into neighborhoods. Take a look at those in your community who serve on the Association Board, hand out cookies on traffic day, lobby the County for services, cook burgers on the 4th of July, organize the Parade etc. It is OWNERS that drive and fuel a great community. There is a reason that home ownership has been a governmental priority for the last two or three decades. It is the building block of solid, productive and thriving

communities. As a society, did we overdo it politically over the past twenty years, trying to encourage “home ownership?” Surely, we did. But I think our hearts were in the right place. There is a “connection” when people own and it benefits us all. Here’s hoping that as the economy evens out, and that the virtues of home ownership will continue to be appreciated.

I know one thing. The seniors in our area have depended in great part on the build up of equity in their homes to carry them through the prodigious costs associated with assisted living, nursing care, etc. I don’t know where these residents would be without the enormous equity in their homes. If we are to experience a prolonged era of low appreciation or none at all in housing prices, the next retiring generation will face staggering challenges. My generation (mid boomer) is in the midst of helping our parents sort out their options. Thank goodness their homes appreciated hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years in the Bethesda area. Will our children’s generation be able to rely on this source of retirement stability? It’s a frightening thought.

2011 marks my 31st year in the real estate business. Sometimes I think I’ve seen it all. And just when you think that, here comes something new that rocks your world. Foreclosures? In our area? Nah. People who might not pay next month’s rent? Nah. Prices going down? Nah. Only five homes sold in the entire 20816 ZIP code in October? Nah. You get the point. We never know what is around the corner. My Stuart & Maury associate Bob Jenets has this wonderful expression. “If everyday we get up and try to help somebody, by the end of the year, it’ll all work out.” **Let’s take a look at the price trend for your community over the past 11 years:**



You know the drill and the format. Here we go again, for the **31st year in a row**, the information below will provide you with the details of an important transitional year:

- Okay, puff out your chest and call your relatives in Peoria, the average price of a home sale in your community in 2010 rose from \$817,236 up to \$861,263. This is a meaningful increase of 5.38% from the previous year’s average. If you step back and look at the performance of Wood Acres homes during the downturn, it’s really impressive, the graph above indicates that prices last year slightly exceeded the average prices in your community in 2005. How many neighborhoods can boast that record? Sure, we are off the peak of 2007 when the average almost inexplicably rose over \$915,000, but what a great testament to Wood Acres values! By

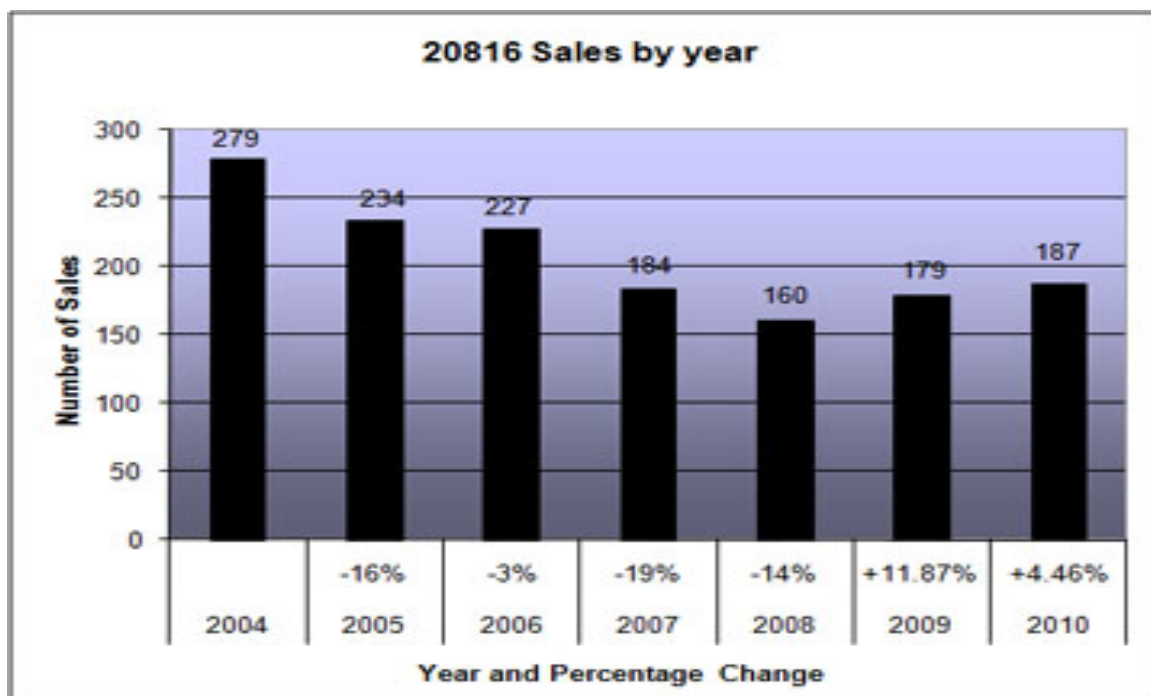
the way, I wrote this in last January's newsletter: "*I expect this average to rise in the coming year as more buyers start making life decisions again.*" It's nice to be right every once in awhile.

- We had 19 sales in the Wood Acres community in 2010, that's three more than the 16 posted the year before, but still well off the 30 year average of around 23 homes sales a year. In general, about just under 5% of our 400-home community sold their home last year. I will say, that property value is protected when supply is scarce. It makes every last home to come up for sale special and it is much better to have low supply than to be overstocked. Areas in which prices are falling have too many homes for sale, our problem is the opposite. I'm very excited to report that in the first days of 2011, I listed and sold 5910 Welborn Dr. (no sign), which went on the market for \$1,095,000. This special home can be seen on my web site with a great virtual tour. It sold in the first few days of it being listed. Additionally, a home that had not been able to sell previously on Cobalt Rd. also went under contract right away at an asking price of \$899,000 in January of 2011. What a great way to start the new year!
- The high sale in Wood Acres in 2010 took place on lower Ramsgate Rd. for \$1,129,000. This Stuart & Maury, Inc. sale took place in the spring and featured a huge two-story addition with a two-car garage, although interestingly, the home remained a three bedroom house upstairs. This IS the highest three bedroom sale ever in the community. Additionally, a home on Newburn sold for \$1,095,000 in 2010 with the classic two-story, fourth bedroom/third bath Homestretchers addition on the back. The high Wood Acres sale the previous year in 2009 was \$1,005,000 on Cranston, a home not dissimilar from the configuration of the Newburn \$1,095,000 home which sold this year.
- The five lowest sales in Wood Acres last year all occurred in the second half of the year. The low sale was the last home to settle in 2010, on Cromwell Dr., for \$729,000. That home started much higher, at \$799,999 and was not a home in poor shape or affected by road noise or other such disadvantages. It was a very good home, in fact, it was purchased for \$746,000 in February of 2005. It's disappointing that almost six years later, with respectable maintenance and minor improvements, the home sold for \$17,000 less. The other low sales at \$759,000, \$762,000 (really \$745,000 with seller closing help), \$770,000 and \$795,000, all took place in the second half of the year. They were all somewhat more modest three bedroom homes in the classic configuration for the most part. They all had dens on the first floor, but not family rooms. Still, we ran through a goodly period of time in which homes such as this were selling over \$800,000, including the first half of the year, so it was disappointing when the marketplace forced these homes into a price range in the mid to high \$700,000's.  
Note that no Mass. Ave. homes were sold in 2010. The low sale for the previous year in 2009 was on Mass. Ave. for \$675,000. One home that was offered for sale at 6103 Mass in both 2009 was eventually rented. The owners of that home have been trying to sell it, on an off, since 2006 when they started asking \$849,000. The home was bought in 2004 for \$600,000 from an estate. It is currently under contract now and was asking \$649,000.
- Once again, Wood Acres homes were consistent in selling for about 98% of their asking price in 2010. This number has been pretty steady for the past couple of years. I believe that a good job of initial pricing has a lot to do with this impressive stat. Very few Wood Acres homes are severely priced at the outset.

- The number of days it took to sell a Wood Acres home rose gently to 34 days. It was 29 days in 2009, and 39 days the year before that. The rise is attributable to two homes that were on the market for 165 days (6005 Welborn) and 123 days (6103 Cromwell). Again, the culprit of a long marketing arc is almost always incorrect initial pricing.

Let's step back now and take a wider look at the market in the **20816 ZIP code in 2010**:

- **The number of single family homes sold in the 20816 ZIP code increased again to 187, up from 179 in 2009, and way up from the low 160 sales in 2008.** Our total 20816 sales are still way less than the great years of 2004-2006, when the average was 246. We DID exceed the 2007 level of 184 sales which can be considered an achievement. While the Wood Acres area may not have had many home sales, our ZIP code was clipping along and recovering, especially in the first half of the year. Follow the trends in this graph:

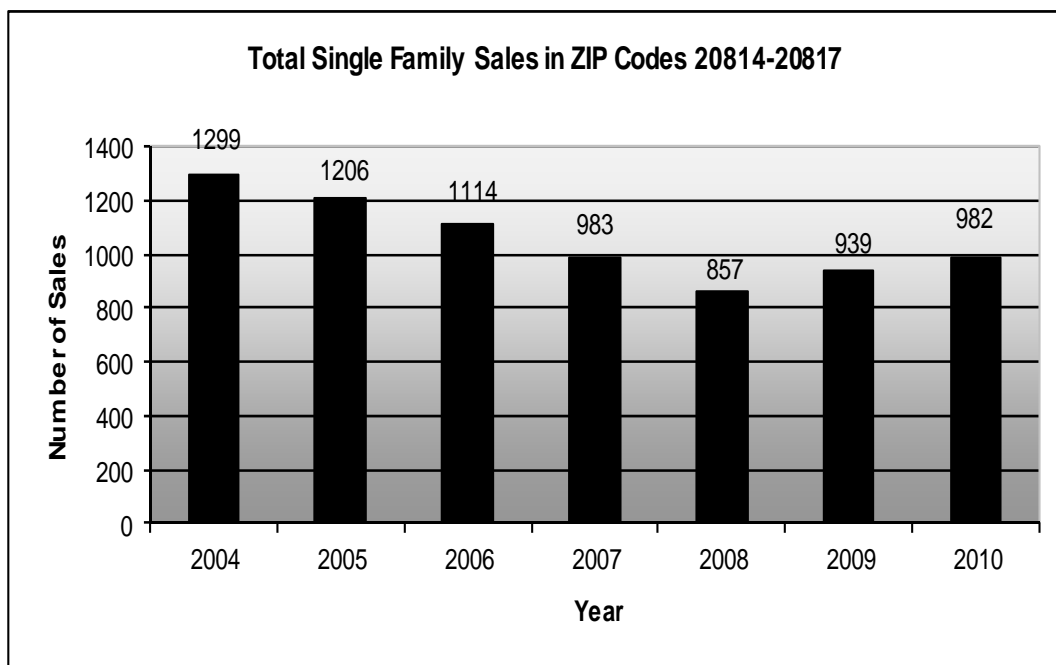


- Once again, the 187 sales in our 20816 zip code have been determined by not only running MLS (167 sales) but also painstakingly reviewing public record transactions to find the homes that were sold “off the grid.” There were a remarkable 20 of them last year, especially in the lower price ranges of Glen Echo Heights, where builders troll for potential knock downs. Still, there were three homes sold at \$1,450,000, \$1,315,000 and \$1,185,000 that were not in MLS. Agents may have been involved in those sales, but we do not know for sure. Any data that you receive from other agents regarding the “average” selling price in your zip code may include condos (such as Sumner Village etc), and almost certainly will NOT include the 20 homes that were not in MLS. Those 20 sales averaged \$834,125, pulling down the overall 20816 zip code average slightly.
- Single family home sales held somewhat steady in 2010, dropping slightly to \$935,598, down 3.3% from 2009’s average of \$967,323. Time to eat crow, I wrote the following in last year’s summation in January: ***“You can write it down now if you wish, the price average for the 20816 ZIP code will be up in 2010.”*** We had dropped precipitously from a

2008 average of **\$1,052,137**, I thought we could get back to positive territory in 2010. We would have too if the second half of the year hadn't fallen over on itself. We can take comfort in the rising prices in our own community, even as the average price in the 20816 ZIP code wandered down again slightly over the past year.

- The number of days it took to sell a home in the 20816 ZIP code improved substantially, down to only 55 days versus 75 the previous year. Note, if you will, that the average days on market in the Wood Acres area was 34 days, so we are running ahead of the pack in this regard. It only takes one of two properties to seriously skew this stat however. As an example, the current listing on Mass. Ave. has been for sale for awhile now, if and when it sells it is likely to raise the overall average substantially.
- The high sale in the 20816 ZIP code in 2010 was a relatively modest \$2,150,000 in Glen Echo Heights. We have had many years in which that number was much higher. Geez, one year we had a sale closer to \$7,000,000 in Glen Echo Heights! More interestingly, there were only two homes sold over \$2,000,000 in the 20816 ZIP code in 2010 and the home on Newington Rd. in Springfield next door was one of them.
- The low sale for the 20816 ZIP code was on a little known street called Park Ave, just off Western Ave. near Brookdale. It sold for \$355,000 and was one of those "off the grid" sales. The lowest sale in MLS was on Bayard Blvd in Crestview for \$415,000. There were a couple of years there between about 2004-2007 in which NO detached home in our ZIP code sold under \$500,000. In the past year, there were only three. In fact, there were only 16 homes that sold under \$600,000 in the 20816 ZIP code last year, an impressive stat.
- 55 homes were sold over \$1,000,000 in our ZIP code last year, down gently from the 61 homes sold in the 20816 ZIP code in 2009 and 60 in 2008. There were 13 homes sold over \$1,500,000 last year, our community was well represented with four of them.

Now, let's step back and analyze trends in the wider Bethesda-Chevy Chase area, defined as the ZIP codes of 20814-20817. The following tables break down the sales information for these four critical area ZIP codes from 2004-2010:



- **The number of sales in 2010, in total for all four ZIP codes, was 982, UP 4.5% from the previous year.** The 982 sales brings us back to the Bethesda/Chevy Chase volume that was present in 2007, but still a far cry the pre-crash levels of 1299 total sales in 2004, which was the peak since I started keeping track of such things.
- Prices rose in three of the four Bethesda area ZIP codes last year. Our 20816 ZIP code dipped slightly by 3.3% while the others advanced. After declining 13.6% in 2009, the 20817 ZIP code (mostly out Bradley Blvd) recovered and was UP **6.2%** to an average price sale of \$987,245. The average price for the 20817 ZIP code was over \$1,000,000 each year from 2005 to 2008, so that ZIP code is still not back all the way however. The number of days it took to sell a home in the 20817 ZIP code improved in 2010, down to 67 days from 93 the previous year. The number of sales in this ZIP code (372) was the highest since 2006.
- The 20814 ZIP code along Old Georgetown Rd. posted a gain of **2.86%** during the past 12 months, slightly besting the average posted in 2005. The period of time to sell a home dropped from 71 days to 60 days. And the number of sales was about the same as the previous year.
- The Chevy Chase zip code of 20815 posted a gain of **2.7%** in average price in 2010, and dropped the number of days on market from 97 to 73. The number of sales in that ZIP code also went up, from 212 in 2009 to 238 in 2010. Last year, I predicted: *“I am very confident that these declining ZIP codes, 20814, 20815 and 20817, will post gains in the coming year.”* If you are keeping score that’s two correct predictions and one not so right prediction so far!
- If you compile the data for all four ZIP codes, the average single family detached home in the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area sold for \$989,407 in 2010, UP 2.7% from the previous year’s posting of \$963,000. Will next year be the year that the *average* home goes back over a million dollars? We’ll see.
- On average, it took 64 days to sell a home in the Bethesda/Chevy Chase area in 2010. This reverses the trend of the past several years, which rose from 65 to 74 to 82 days. This is all part of the consistent “good news” inherent in the numbers strewn about these pages. It’s impossible to pour over this data and not conclude that things were indeed “better” in 2010. Period.
- Finally, the number of million dollar sales charged UP during the past year to 341 from 304 in 2009. This is in line with the million dollar sales totals of 2008 but still way below the whopping 398 in 2007. It has been said that the better off among us are almost certainly surviving the economic downturn in better shape than the middle class. The increase in million dollar plus sales would seem to support that notion in our area.

The charts on the next page summarize the findings on all four ZIP codes for the past year:

				20814			
YEAR	# Sales	Avg. Price	% Change	Avg. Days on	Hi Sale	Low Sale	# Sales over million
2010	185	\$880,579	2.8%	60	\$4,000,000	\$400,000	50
2009	183	\$856,019	3.73%	71	\$5,025,000	\$424,000	47
2008	167	\$854,198	-13.80%	74	\$2,000,000	\$470,000	41
2007	201	\$991,000	7.50%	61	\$4,000,000	\$495,000	67
2006	197	\$921,272	7.30%	39	\$4,000,000	\$385,000	51
2005	254	\$858,370	13.60%	34	\$2,400,000	\$449,000	60
2004	231	\$755,282	14.40%	37	\$2,700,000	\$363,000	33
2003	257	\$659,804	11.02%	39	\$2,250,000	\$315,000	26
2002	261	\$592,915	8.02%	41	\$1,895,000	\$263,000	17

				20815			
YEAR	# Sales	Avg. Price	% Change	Avg. Days on	Hi Sale	Low Sale	# Sales over million
2010	238	\$1,118,148	2.70%	73	\$3,800,000	\$450,000	102
2009	212	\$1,088,199	-3.90%	97	\$3,175,000	\$395,000	98
2008	189	\$1,131,255	-10%	74	\$3,250,000	\$395,000	91
2007	231	\$1,278,097	1.70%	61	\$5,300,000	\$490,000	122
2006	248	\$1,256,417	9.40%	42	\$4,500,000	\$515,000	135
2005	270	\$1,147,586	15.30%	34	\$3,850,000	\$489,000	136
2004	274	\$994,501	22.40%	36	\$3,675,000	\$375,000	98
2003	304	\$812,448	1.80%	44	\$2,500,000	\$319,000	68
2002	305	\$797,323	+19.8%.	35	\$3,150,000	\$242,500	56

				20816			
YEAR	# Sales	Avg. Price	% Change	Avg. Days on	Hi Sale	Low Sale	# Sales over million
2010	187	\$935,598	-3.30%	55	\$2,150,000	\$355,000	55
2009	179	\$967,323	-8.10%	75	\$4,050,000	\$380,000	60
2008	160	\$1,052,137	-1.80%	66	\$6,600,000	\$460,000	60
2007	184	\$1,071,393	5.40%	63	\$2,400,000	\$490,000	74
2006	227	\$1,016,243	6.30%	36	\$4,100,000	\$530,000	78
2005	234	\$955,672	16.20%	21	\$2,156,000	\$499,000	73
2004	279	\$822,471	7.00%	36	\$3,300,000	\$320,000	51
2003	236	\$768,377	19.90%	40	\$2,350,000	\$388,000	30
2002	210	\$640,650	10.60%	28	\$1,693,480	\$350,000	7



				20817			
YEAR	# Sales	Avg. Price	% Change	Avg. Days on Market	Hi Sale	Low Sale	# Sales over million
2010	372	\$987,245	6.20%	67	\$3,500,000	\$392,500	134
2009	353	\$929,165	-13.60%	93	\$4,462,500	\$325,000	103
2008	341	\$1,055,590	1.50%	80	\$4,695,000	\$300,000	137
2007	370	\$1,073,706	3.30%	70	\$4,700,000	\$351,000	138
2006	422	\$1,039,543	1.00%	47	\$5,500,000	\$463,000	139
2005	448	\$1,029,247	17.10%	34	\$4,500,000	\$440,000	146
2004	515	\$878,320	14.00%	39	\$3,900,000	\$370,000	120
2003	500	\$769,802	11.40%	42	\$3,925,000	\$315,000	85
2002	520	\$690,531	15.5	44	\$3,395,000	\$257,500	67

Let's commence a brief discussion on what took place inside nearby communities in 2010. Springfield area homes rocketed in value last year from a five year low of \$892,500 in 2009 to this past year's posting average of \$1,105,500. This increase was fueled by four sales over \$1,539,000, including the second highest sale in the 20816 zip code on Newington Rd. of \$2,055,000.

Once again, there was lots of action in Glen Echo Heights, where 28 home sales took place, including a high of \$1,865,000 and a low of \$500,000. There were nine sales under \$700,000 in Glen Echo Heights last year, several to builders who are starting to ramp up again after being essentially dormant over the past few years. There's good news/bad news when it comes to development. New homes fuel a certain market excitement and a rise in zip code averages, but their proliferation over the years, especially in Glen Echo Heights, is certainly one of the factors contributing to overcrowding at Woodacres Elementary. With that school now overcrowded (even though it was built new in 2002-nice planning!), there are meetings underway to examine what to do about it. Will the County build an addition on Woodacres? It would almost certainly need to go on the rear blacktop down near Searl Terrace if built. Will the County rewrite Woodacres Elementary boundaries and build an addition on Bannockburn? That possibility is going to make a lot of people upset. This is serious stuff, it's important for homeowners to be involved.

Every year I stand in awe of the real estate activity in the Westmoreland Hills/Overlook/Spring Hill community and this past year is no exception. 26 homes were sold at an average price of \$1,266,096, by far the highest average of any 20816 community. The housing stock in that community is exceptional, and yet, few Wood Acres residents move to Westmoreland Hills, citing an interest in staying in the Pyle/Whitman school district.

This year for the first time, I decided to analyze sales in the popular Sumner Village community at the end of Sangamore Rd. Many of our senior residents consider a move to Sumner Village, it's close by, well run, convenient and has many amenities. In fact, my father Deane and his wife Nancy live there and love it. Included in the data on the community averages page you will find that prices in Sumner Village are still decidedly off from their peak but have struggled back to 2004 levels.

I'm starting to get phone calls from owners surprised by their triennial tax assessments from the State of Maryland. With rare exceptions, everybody's tax assessment appears to be quite a bit lower than the previous round of assessments three years ago. This is troubling to many owners. "Has my house really gone down THAT much," is a constant refrain. It is my sense that

the assessments are probably lower than your true value at this point. Remember if you will that the data collected to determine your assessment was assembled from the first half of 2010, possibly running a bit behind our recovery this year. During the past couple of years, I think many were under the impression that our tax assessments were too high. In theory, the State is trying to get it right, but the variables are enormous. I almost see the current round of assessments as a “make up call”. I believe that in most cases, your house is going to be worth MORE than the new assessment. Should we worry about buyers and the somewhat ridiculous “Zillow” web site using the data and determining that your house is worth less because that’s what the State says? Yes, we should, the job falls to professionals to educate the public but it’s one more obstacle in the way of a successful transaction these days.

Want to read an amazing stat? The top 19 homes to sell in your community last year sold over the old assessment. The five lowest sales all sold BELOW the assessment. It should be interesting to see if that stat changes in the coming year. The assessment all looks so official when it comes in the mail, but it’s a wild guess, calculated by algorithms we can only imagine. I remain skeptical about whether the actual TAX bills are going to be lower. If they don’t have the necessary funds NOW to support their expenditures, how are they going to afford substantially lower tax bills from a third of the State? Might the tax rate rise to shore up the shortfall? Stay tuned.

Here comes the annual personal stuff. I sold NINE Wood Acres homes last year, bringing that total to over 360 homes sold in Wood Acres over the past 30 years. Geez, there are only 400. I sold \$29,000,000 worth of real estate in 2010 and my career sales record now exceeds \$575,000,000. **For the 26th year in a row, I was the #1 real estate agent in the 20816 zip code.**

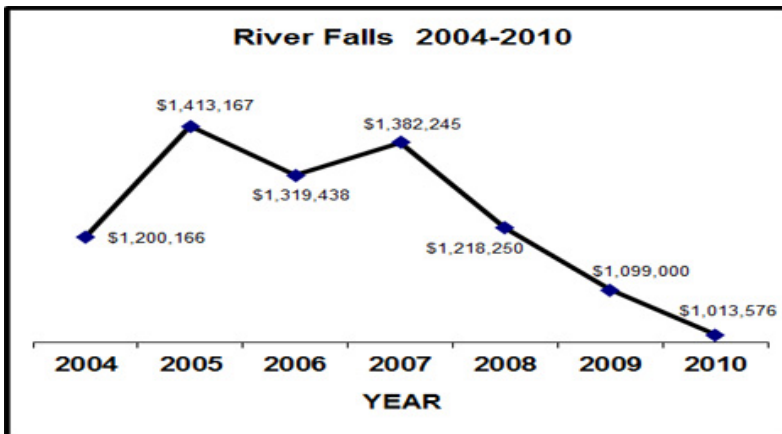
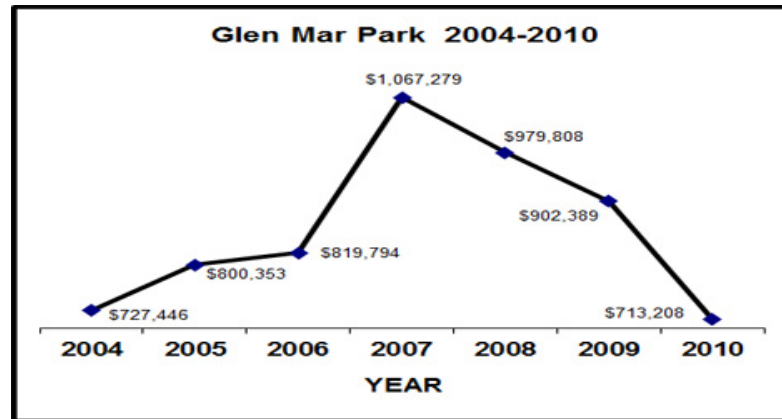
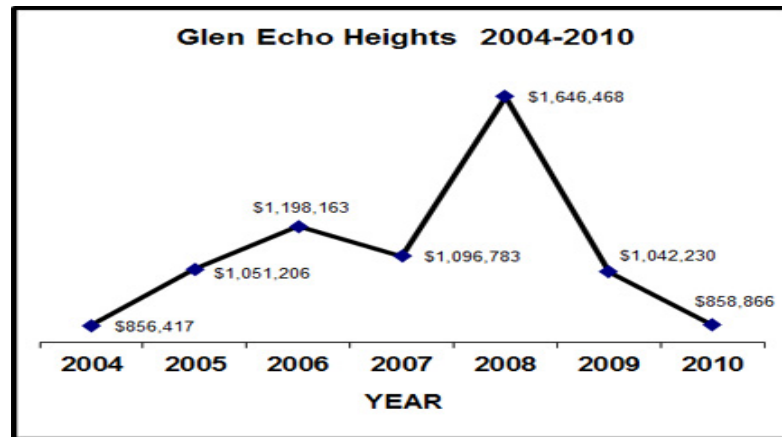
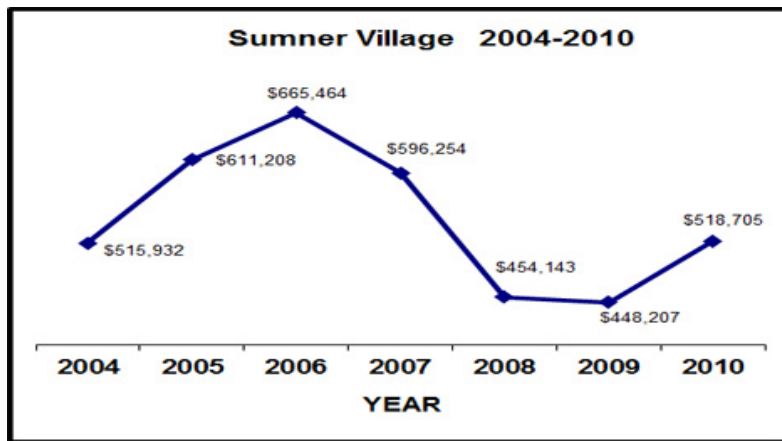
My kids are doing great, Andrew, the budding music producer and recording engineer, is thriving in New York City and traveling the world, Patrick is a senior at The University of Vermont and will be graduating in May. Barbara and I enjoy getting away to Rehoboth when we can. WAMBA, the Wood Acres Men's Basketball Association continues marching along, 15 years into it, being Commissioner of “my baby” is still a labor of love. Our treasured Golden Retriever Cody died suddenly at 11 in March of 2010, one of the saddest days imaginable. We miss him. Finally, I rediscovered one of the great joys of my life in 2010 when I returned to the art of making music. I was an electric bass player in another life from 1972-1992. I quit cold turkey back in ‘92 and hadn’t played in 18 years, but when the call came to participate in a band for our 40th reunion at Whitman, I couldn’t resist. What started as a reunion band has morphed into great fun and ongoing phenomenon of sorts. The joy of playing all sixties music (Beatles, Stones, Who, Animals, Yardbirds, etc) has been wonderful. The mighty VI-Kings are rocking out! If you want more info, email me and I’ll put you into the VI-King email database!

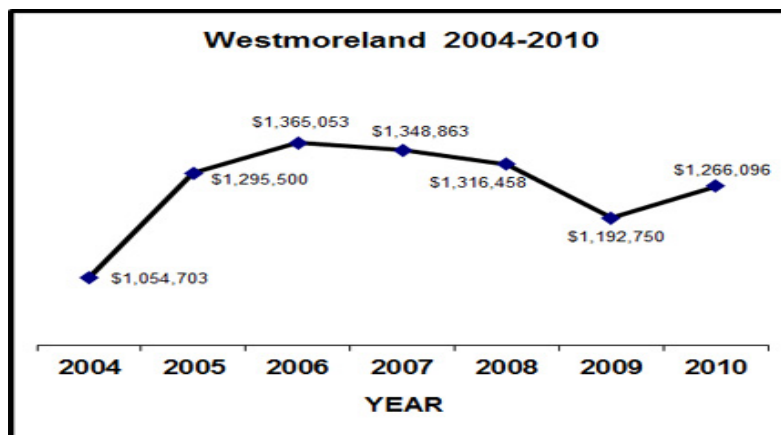
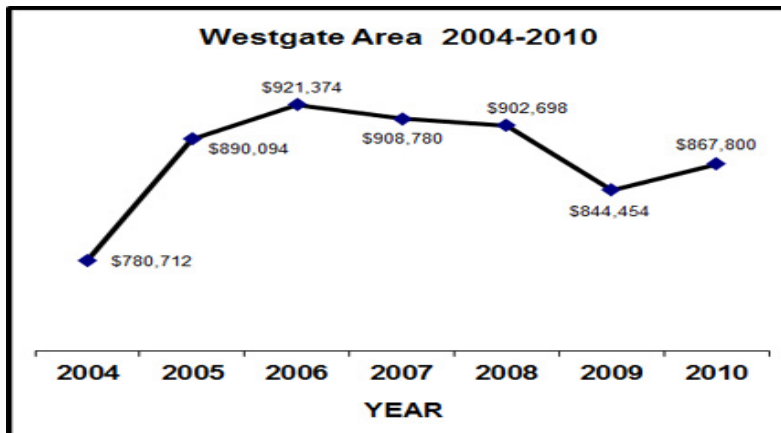
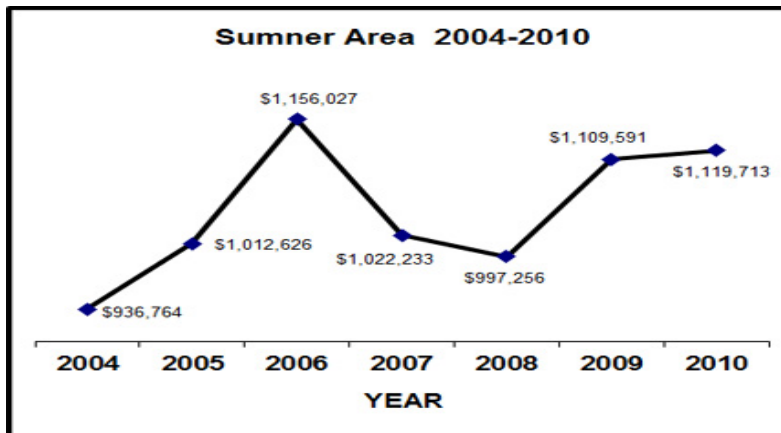
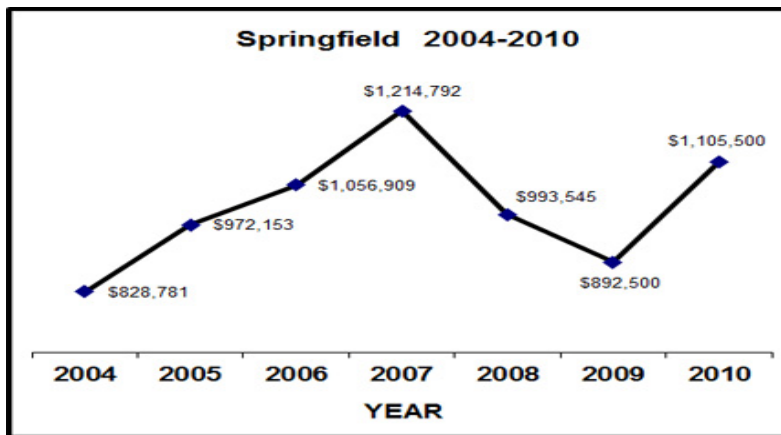
“Shredder Day”, which I sponsored for Springfield and Wood Acres in early November, was a huge success, the company I hired said it was the best community turnout they had ever seen. We’ll do it again! I look forward to helping many of you in the coming years.



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P.S. This newsletter can be found at [www.matthewmaury.com](http://www.matthewmaury.com)





## Wood Acres Sales Recap

	Address	Original price	Final price	BR Tot	Full Baths	Half Baths	List Month	Days on market	Settlement Date
1.	6103 Ramsgate Rd.**	\$1,139,000	\$1,129,000	3	3	2	May 10	12	06-24-10
2.	6208 Newburn Dr.	\$1,095,000	\$1,095,000	4	3	1	Apr 10	17	05-7-10
3.	6110 Cromwell Dr.	\$975,000	\$943,000	3	2	2	May 10	27	07-02-10
4.	6106 Cromwell Dr.*	\$975,000	\$940,000	3	3	1	Apr 10	43	06-25-10
5.	5703 Gloster Rd.*	\$919,000	\$905,000	4	3	1	Jan 10	1	03-01-10
6.	5903 Gloster Rd.*	\$849,900	\$897,000	3	3	1	May 10	12	05-24-10
7.	6204 Welbom Dr.	\$895,000	\$895,000	3	3	1	May 10	12	06-24-10
8.	6308 Avalon Dr.*	\$844,000	\$844,000	3	3	1	Apr 10	5	06-17-10
9.	6104 Welbom Dr.*	\$849,000	\$842,500^	3	3	1	Jun 10	1	08-16-10
10.	6004 Milo Dr.*	\$899,000	\$840,000	3	2	1	Mar 10	66	06-23-10
11.	5916 Welbom Dr.*	\$835,000	\$835,000^	3	3	0	Jan 10	1	3-31-10
12.	6101 Wynnwood Rd.	\$825,000	\$800,000	3	2	1	Mar 10	25	07-13-10
13.	5606 Gloster Rd.*	\$799,000	\$800,000^	3	2	0	July 10	4	08-05-10
14.	6102 Welbom Dr.	\$839,000	\$800,000+	3	2	1	Mar 10	14	04-28-10
15.	5602 Gloster Rd.	\$839,000	\$795,000	3	2	1	Jun 10	59	09-15-10
16.	5905 Cobalt Rd.	\$800,000	\$770,000	3	2	1	Jul 10	48	10-08-10
17.	6005 Welbom Dr.	\$799,000	\$762,000^	3	2	2	Nov 09	165	05-27-10
18.	6006 Welbom Dr.*	\$775,000	\$759,000	3	3	0	Aug 10	8	09-28-10
19.	6105 Cromwell Dr.	\$729,000	\$729,000	3	3	1	Jul 10	123	12-15-10
	Average:	\$877,889	\$861,973 98.18%				Average Days on market	34	

\*Matthew Maury Sales \*\*Bob Jenets/Stuart & Maury Inc. sale

^Final sales price was adjusted downward by seller closing cost payments

+ Final price adjusted was upwards to allow for lack of coop commission at sale.

# Wood Acres Sales History through the Years!

YEAR	AVG. SALES PRICE	HOUSES SOLD	GAIN/LOSS
1979	\$136,120	11	**
1980	\$149,300	11	9.60%
1981	\$153,785	12	3.00%
1982	\$148,456	20	3.20%
1983	\$159,808	23	7.00%
1984	\$179,280	29	12.20%
1985	\$194,000	26	8.20%
1986	\$209,543	31	7.50%
1987	\$276,972	22	32.10%
1988	\$319,808	25	15.40%
1989	\$358,000	19	12.10%
1990	\$328,626	19	-8.20%
1991	\$335,810	29	2.20%
1992	\$323,795	22	-3.60%
1993	\$343,366	29	6.00%
1994	\$354,481	27	3.20%
1995	\$355,411	18	0.02%
1996	\$347,846	13	-2.10%
1997	\$351,105	19	1.00%
1998	\$396,528	17	12.90%
1999	\$436,842	38	10.10%
2000	\$470,800	20	7.80%
2001	\$543,312	24	15.40%
2002	\$596,541	25	9.80%
2003	\$638,465	19	7.00%
2004	\$745,664	28	16.80%
2005	\$856,876	21	14.9%
2006	\$856,658	22	Even
2007	\$915,014	11	7.0%
2008	\$848,921	14	-7.23%
2009	\$817,236	16	-3.73%
<b>2010</b>	<b>\$861,263</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>+5.38%</b>

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