



# Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2003

## Reilly, Greenip and Costa Offer Visions for Harwood

*Remarks at HCA Annual Meeting Show Concern for Area*

The annual meeting of the Harwood Civic Association was held March 19, 2003 in the Media Center at Southern Senior High School in Harwood. It boasted an impressive list of speakers with Ed Reilly, Councilman representing Harwood and Birdsville, sharing his agenda for the area and State Senator Janet Greenip and State Delegate Robert Costa unified in their support for the region.

Councilman Reilly explained the workings of the County Council and his activities in advocacy for the district he serves. "Of all the calls and comments we receive at the office, by and far most revolve around land use issues. People want to preserve open spaces and the beauty of the area," Reilly explained.

During an extensive question and answer session, the Councilman heard concerns about the enforcing of the small area plan and zoning laws.

*Story continued on page 2*

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## Message from the President

*By Joan Turek*

Greetings! As your new president, I wish to thank each of you for your support of the Harwood Civic Association. Your membership and participation in HCA activities make a strong difference to the quality of life here in the Harwood/Birdsville area.

The HCA officers and members of the board are committed to support the HCA and its membership through ensuring proposed development is consistent with the South County Small Area Plan recommendations for Harwood. Additionally, the Association leadership stands ready to assist its members with land use issues. Finally, the HCA has a commitment to sponsor activities and events which promote a sense of community.

Please contact any of us to express your concerns about what is occurring in our community. We will do our best to help you find the resource that can address the issue. Our names and contact information can be found on page seven in this news letter.

Participation with the HCA is not limited to its events or annual meeting. We need people to attend hearings. We need people to keep us informed of events and actions that directly impact the quality of life in our region. We need people to assist with writing articles for this quarterly newsletter and preparing our mailings.

Our association is only as strong as the commitment of its membership. So help us by encouraging new people to join the association and by becoming involved as a volunteer in our activities.

**MEETING** Continued from Page 1

Two sets of residents expressed frustration with noise coming from a local business apparently operating outside of the County Code. Others pointed out the seven year ground water monitoring gap that will occur when the 5 year required monitoring of the closed land fill on Sands Road expires. Since it will take approximately 12 years for groundwater to move from one end of the landfill to the Patuxent River, toxic seepage could damage wells and the river itself if not caught in time.

The Councilman agreed to look into both situations. He then mentioned the state had some funds available under a PST Grant for programs in the district. Harwood Civic Association Board of Directors member Mike Lofton suggested that perhaps these funds could be used to continue the monitoring of groundwater at the closed landfills. Mr. Reilly pledged to check into the possibility.

When asked for his impressions about the HCA meeting, Big Ed Reilly said, "I am very impressed with the organization. The people attending this meeting were astute, interested in communicating with me, and committed to making a difference in the county. I value those traits in my constituents. I am committed to being responsive to your questions and needs and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you."

State Representative Robert Costa and State Senator Janet Greenip both shared their commitment to representing the area. State Senator Greenip repeatedly pointed out the state budget concerns and the need to cut spending. Costa, a freshman State Representative, acknowledged the learning curve he faced coming into his position. "It's difficult to make things happen," he said. "You come up with some legislation that makes common sense, then the politicians get hold of it and it has to be studied and studied again. These are the 'studyingest' people in the world. I've had to get used to that."

When asked if they supported Governor Ehrlich's proposed legislation on slot machines, both Republicans expressed caution. "I told the Governor today that his arguments have not yet persuaded me to support the bill," Senator Greenip stated. However,

when the Senate voted on the issue later in the session, Senator Greenip did support the legislation.

Representative Costa had a different set of concerns regarding the legislation. "I am a member of a church and denomination that does not support gambling and I have strong moral reservations about the issue. However, I am also honor bound to represent my constituency and to do what is in their best interest. There are many horse farms in Southern Anne Arundel County and the horse industry strongly supports slots." Mr. Costa went on to have his own town meeting on the issue so he could best address the pending legislation. However, his effort to find balance came to naught when the legislation was blocked in committee before coming to the House floor.

HCA President Joan Turek kept the Association business portion of the meeting to a minimum, affording the guests more time to speak.

Members of the Association ratified the proposed board and officers at the meeting. Other presentations included a request for help with the Patuxent River Clean Up on April 5 and a promotion for the Great Harwood Yard Sale.

**Councilman Reilly Honors Pledge**

Following the HCA Annual Meeting, Ed Reilly reviewed the PST Grant and set up a meeting on the monitoring issue with the Maryland Department of the Environment. Joyce Maloney, Mr. Reilly's legislative assistant, joined the Councilman, Peter Perry and HCA Board of Directors member Sonny Tucker for the introductory meeting. The MDE explained its commitment to the five year post-closing monitoring required by law and its openness to effective long term monitoring beyond that. Ms. Maloney said, "The meeting was very positive with the MDE demonstrating its desire to work with the Councilman and HCA to address citizens' concerns."

Mr. Reilly added "I want to thank HCA Board member Mike Lofton for his suggestion about using the PST funds for this monitoring program. After this initial meeting I am more enthused about the possibility of such a use for those monies."

# SONNY TUCKER: Interview with a County Activist

*Charles “Sonny” Tucker, a member of the Harwood Civic Association Executive Board, remembers when Contee Road and South River Club Road were just ox trails. He grew up on a farm in the Birdsville area and remembers his father’s tales of hooking up a big “drag” to horses in order to smooth out the dirt road that led from Annapolis to Solomon’s Island. He has lived in the area for seventy-five years, apart from time spent in service to his country. Much of that time he worked for C&P as an engineer.*

*In the 1950’s Sonny began to notice rapid changes facing the region and became concerned about their impact. By the 1980’s he was spending much of his time in efforts to help protect the region’s farmlands and way of life. As a founder of the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association, his concern for protecting the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay led to the investigation of environmental issues regarding the impact of the water cooling of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant. Sonny was also instrumental in the creation of the Calvert Cliffs Coordinating Committee, which brought successful suit against the Atomic Energy Commission for not observing the National Environmental Policy Act. He helped to author the Farm Preservation Program for Anne Arundel County which currently holds ten thousand acres in permanently protected farmland with easements on approximately ten thousand more acres for a total of twenty thousand acres of district and protected easements.*

*When developer Michael T. Rose wanted to build approximately three thousand houses and one million six hundred thousand square feet of shopping and office space across the river from Annapolis, Sonny stepped up to work with legislators and community groups in voicing concerns. This resulted in a reduction of the project by two thirds, limiting development to six hundred homes north of Route 214, three hundred homes south of the road, and a total of two hundred and fifty thousand square feet of shopping space. As the holder of the covenants addressing the issues, he is currently engaged in ensuring that the county observes the agreements made regarding the development.*

**Editor: You have so many accomplishments. Which is dearest to your heart?**

**Sonny:** I have to say, it’s one that I had only a limited part in: I assisted with the writing of the Farm Preservation program. Working with Virginia Claggett and others, we were able to adapt the state Agricultural

Preservation Program to the specific needs of this county and preserve farms and open spaces. While the impetus at the State level is focused more on large agricultural enterprise, the County program we designed makes it possible to buy the residential developments rights on the type of agricultural enterprise that exists in this county, mainly small tobacco farms. Under County Executive Bobby Neale I chaired The Agricultural Preservation Program Oversight Committee which recommended a number of changes to the Agricultural Preservation Program, the foremost being the deferred payment program which was finally instituted by Janet Owens. This allows farmers a choice of cash for their easement or a deferred payment with tax free interest on their bond. Thanks to Janet Owens, we are on our way to realizing our goal of forty thousand acres of permanently protected farm land. Slowing sprawl defers an enormous debt to the county, reducing tax and debt burdens and brings down the expense of servicing new growth.

**Editor: Does this mean you are against growth?**

**Sonny:** No! We definitely need growth. But we need smart growth and redevelopment of areas with infrastructure in place. We don’t need to be eliminating what makes this place so attractive to business and residents – the beauty of our open spaces and the connection to agriculture. We don’t need to be degrading the environment. If we ruin these things, residents will flee the area, businesses will follow and then we will have lost both our land and our economic base.

**Editor: So there’s an economic benefit to keeping land rural?**

**Sonny:** People don’t realize that the cost of the infrastructure required for a development is borne by taxes, much of it paid for by commercial interests. At the current rates, it takes many years for that cost to be recouped. Thus, if we want to keep our county taxes low, we need to eliminate as much infrastructure building as possible. Redeveloping areas with existing sewer, water, and roads, makes great sense for the taxpayer. That really is smart growth.

**Editor: There’s been a fair amount of controversy about the proposed Sojourner-Douglas College at the intersection of Routes 214 and 2. Can you explain the concerns regarding that development?**

(TUCKER, continued from page 3)

**Sonny:** According to the covenants signed by the developers and the civic groups who shaped the South River project in Edgewater, the six acres south of Route 214 defined by the intersections of Central Avenue, Solomon's Island Road, and Stepney's Lane may only be used for educational purposes in conjunction with the Anne Arundel County Board of Education. To my understanding, the Board of Education is restricted by law and its own rules to using its resources for Board of Education projects such as elementary schools, middle schools, high schools or ancillary grounds. It cannot use its funds or resources to support state or private colleges and/or universities.

**Editor:** But a school of higher education can't be that much different in terms of land use.

**Sonny:** I don't think that people understand that the college does not own this land. The permits applied for are not in the name of the college. A developer is looking to put buildings on the land that will be leased to the college for a period of time. Only two and a half acres of the land are developable. The developer's plan calls for buildings to serve two hundred and fifty students, but limits the number of parking spaces to ninety-seven. This means that students and visitors will have to park in the K-Mart Shopping Center parking lot or the adjacent elementary school parking lot. In one case, it's requiring private property owners to provide services to the development. In the other, it is requiring Board of Education/taxpayer resources to provide those services. Either way, this renegade development in my opinion does not observe the covenants and it will have significant impact on the intersection. Already South River Colony (even in its smaller incarnation) has radically altered our way of life in Southern Anne Arundel. Development tends to breed more development and each time the intention of the covenant is abrogated, we come closer to losing what makes this area so special.

**Editor:** What's next on your agenda?

**Sonny:** I've worked a long time on these issues and now I'd like to step back and enjoy myself for awhile. I suppose you could say that the next thing on my agenda is finding someone to take over the covenant on South River Colony and keep up the effort to protect our lands and way of life here in Southern Anne Arundel County. I would like to continue to contribute to our county's Farm Preservation Program and to CEPA as an ex-officio board member in protecting our Chesapeake Bay.

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# Dark Skies: Light Pollution Harms the Quality of Life in Harwood

*Stopping Urban Glow Begins at Home*

The word “pollution” conjures up images of oil tankers spilling their cargo in pristine waters or industrial waste pouring onto land and seeping into wells. Car emissions, insecticides, fertilizers, sewage are all commonly feared pollutants. However, one form of pollution affects plants, animals, and humans in several harmful ways and most of us have no idea how we regularly contribute to the problem. The pollution comes from our misdirected nighttime lighting.

The indiscriminate use of lighting at night contributes to loss of native wildlife, plant life and ill health. 30 per cent of the lighting used at night is misdirected with the light actually wasted by going up into the sky instead of illuminating the desired object. This in turn causes unneeded generation of electricity, driving up fuel costs, and increasing air pollution. The orange urban glow that emanates from developed areas prevents us, even in Harwood, from enjoying the full beauty of the night sky. Bad street lighting and building lights (including porch lights) create glare, making driving less safe. Quality of life and property values are diminished by bad lighting from neighbors’ homes trespassing onto one’s property and even into one’s windows. And the cost of all of this misdirected and unneeded light? According to the International Dark-Sky Association: One billion wasted dollars.

Nighttime light is important and necessary for a variety of reasons, including improving visibility, security, and a sense of safety. But it is important to accomplish these goals with lights that minimize energy use, operational costs, and ugly, irritating glare.

The New England Light Pollution Advisory Group suggests using lights that provide just enough light for the task at hand. In other words, if the goal is to illuminate the steps leading up to the front door, then a bright light that shines beyond the steps wastes energy and creates glare. A small wattage light will accomplish the task for less.

Another way to minimize light pollution is to make sure all lights are aimed down at the terrain they should illuminate. Lights shining out to the side or up into the air create a trashy glare and do not help the visibility of the desired objects. Correct aiming and side shielding will help ensure that light does not trespass onto neighbors’ property.

Finally, whenever possible, turn the lights off if they aren’t really needed. Use motion detectors to minimize the amount of time lights are left on. Timers should be used for decorative lights, limiting the time they are illuminated.

For more information on light pollution and what you can do to help keep our skies dark, check out the resources at the International Dark-Sky Association web site: [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).

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## The South County Small Area Plan

*Enforcement Lies In Our Hands*

While a great deal of effort has gone into the creation of the South County Small Area Plan, Anne Arundel County relies on local citizens to enforce its recommendations. If a developer submits plans that are not in accordance with the SCSAP, it is up to the citizens of the region to bring the discrepancy to the attention of the County.

That is why the Harwood Civic Association needs your help in identifying potential developments and hearings for zoning changes. If you notice any improper development or even a petition for a zoning change, please notify any member of the HCA Board. A list of numbers is on page 7. You may also notify the Board via E-mail at [harwoodcivic@aol.com](mailto:harwoodcivic@aol.com).

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### 12th Precinct Pistol and Archery Club

450 Harwood Road  
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## Harwood History Event

*HCA Plans Summer Event for Membership*

Harwood Civic Association members will have the opportunity to hear local historian Sherri Marsh speak about "The Historic Properties of Harwood" at Oakwood, the historic home of Sprigg Harwood on Sunday, July 13, 2003 at 3 p.m. Ms. Marsh is part of the Office of Environmental and Cultural Resources for Anne Arundel County Planning and Code Enforcement. Following the presentation, refreshments will be served along and tours of a portion of Oakwood will be given by its current owner, Dr. Joan Turek, president of the HCA. The event is free to members of the HCA. The event fee for non-members is \$15.00. Space is limited to 40 attendees and reservations may be made by calling (410) 867-9600.

Sprigg Harwood was born into the planter class which ruled Southern Anne Arundel County before the Civil War. Harwood served as State Treasurer from 1860 to 1864. In 1865, he was elected to the Maryland Senate. His father, Osborne Harwood, previously served in the State House of Delegates. Sprigg Harwood was a key supporter of the failed movement for the secession of Maryland from the Union. With the assistance of ex-Governor Pratt, Harwood drew up the formal secession plan.

He built Oakwood in the mid-19th Century. This attractive, but not grand, plantation house represents the architectural taste of a middling member of Maryland's rural gentry. Oakwood was constructed at a pivotal time in the Nation's history and is important as an artifact of slave-based culture at the end of the antebellum period. Harwood sold Oakwood in 1866 following the abolition of slavery. It was purchased by Joan Turek and her former husband in 1978. Dr. Turek has focused on preserving Oakwood for future generations. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2000.

## HCA Treasurer's Report

### Annual Budget 2003

#### Income

2002 Balance Carried Over	\$1,986.87
Dues	1,400.00
Sponsorships, Donations	180.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$1,580.00**

#### Expenses

Postage	\$ 619.64
Printing	307.13
Administrative/Supplies	122.12
Food and Beverage	210.00
Donations and Fees	80.00
Miscellaneous	200.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE** **\$1,538.89**

#### To Date

Beginning Balance as of 1/1/2003	\$1,986.87
Income as of 5/1/2003	1,400.00
Expenses as of 5/1/2003	693.89

**CURRENT BALANCE** **\$2,392.98**

- Prepared and submitted by Jane Stairs, Treasurer

## Water Resources Meeting

*Councilman Ed Reilly Organizes Informational Evening*

Please join Anne Arundel County Councilman Ed Reilly and other concerned Anne Arundel County citizens for an evening of information on the water resources in Southern Anne Arundel County. The meeting will take place Monday, June 9, 2003 from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the Southern High School Media Center, 4400 Solomon's Island Road in Harwood.

A panel of experts will discuss the availability and quality of today's water and how to plan for the future supply, consumption, and quality of water through the region. Speakers include David C. Andreason, Maryland Department of the Environment Hydrologist and author of "Future of Water Supply from the Aquia and Magothy Aquifers in Southern Anne Arundel County" published in 2002, Matt Pajerowski, MDE Chief of Water Rights Division, and a representative from the MDE Solid Waste Program (confirmation pending).

For more information on the meeting, please contact: Joyce Maloney, Legislative Aide for Ed Reilly, at (410) 222-1401.

## **THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

For assistance with land use issues or finding resources, please contact one of the HCA Board members listed below:

<b>Joan Turek</b> , President Co-Chair Government Affairs and Land Use	<b>(410) 867-0715</b>
<b>Thomas Tucker</b> , Vice President Co-Chair, Events Committee	<b>(410) 798-1689</b>
<b>Michael Lofton</b> , Secretary Chair, Membership Committee	<b>(410) 867-3623</b>
<b>Jane Stairs</b> , Treasurer	<b>(410) 867-9622</b>
<b>Charles "Sonny" Tucker</b> Co-Chair Government Affairs and Land Use	<b>(410) 798-1234</b>
<b>Michael Stricker</b> Co-Chair, Events Committee	<b>(410) 867-0389</b>
<b>Jon Stairs</b> Chair, Finance Committee	<b>(410) 867-9622</b>
<b>Elwina McDonald</b> Co-Chair Government Affairs and Land Use	<b>(410) 867-3383</b>
<b>James R. Fitzpatrick</b> Chairman, Communications Committee	<b>(410) 867-9600</b>

### **BOARD MEETINGS**

HCA Board meetings are open to its membership. Notices of regularly scheduled meetings are posted on the community bulletin board in the Harwood Post Office not less than one week prior to the date.

## **SOUTH ARUNDEL GARDEN CLUB**

A new garden club for residents of Southern Anne Arundel County has recently been organized. Meetings occur on the last Tuesday of each month at St. James Episcopal Church in Lothian. Experts from a variety of organizations make interesting presentations at each meeting. Learn how to strategically and effectively plant flowers and shrubs. Learn which plants are best suited for Maryland. Learn how to arrange flowers simply and beautifully. All this and more can be found at the South Arundel Garden Club. Call Dave Wayson at (410) 741-5004 for more information.

## **THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**

Published quarterly by  
**The Harwood Civic Association**  
P.O. Box 162, Harwood, MD 20776.e-mail:  
harwoodcivic@aol.com

**Editor:** James R. Fitzpatrick                      410) 867-9600

Contributions or responses to articles are gratefully accepted and will be printed as space allows. All material printed in this newsletter, unless otherwise noted, © 2003 by The Harwood Civic Association.

## **The Great Harwood Yard Sale Goes On In Spite Of Bad Weather**

The First Annual Great Harwood Yard Sale got off to a good, if soggy, start Saturday, April 26, 2003. Approximately thirty families registered to participate with yard sales or garage sales being held at 25 different sites. Publicity about the sale appeared in the Bay Times and South County Gazette. Despite the rain, 75 die hard yard sale lovers dropped by the information booth at Southern High School to pick up maps showing all of the planned sale sites.

Harwood resident Richard Hays moved his sale from its planned location in his front yard into his garage. "It affected visibility from the road, but I still had a good number of people that dropped by. They got some great bargains here dirt cheap, including a leaf blower, a food processor, and a library of organ music." At another sale, a buyer who declined to be identified said that she found great bargains including an antique chest of drawers for \$25 and a bicycle.

Several sales had to be cancelled due to the inclement weather. "We have no alternative place to hold a sale," Mike Stricker said as he cancelled his multi-family sale. "The mud and lack of parking here would have made for a difficult situation. Next year, I'll have a new outbuilding on the farm that will be perfect for a yard sale, rain or shine."

Harwood Civic Association Board member Mike Lofton summed up the day's event saying, "To have so much interest on such a miserable, rainy day shows that this event has super potential and next year's sale should be even more successful."

The Harwood Civic Association plans to hold the event annually on the last Saturday in April. Following that schedule, the next Great Harwood Yard Sale will occur on April 24, 2004.

## HCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### WATER RESOURCES MEETING

DATE: JUNE 9, 2003 FROM 7:00 P.M. UNTIL 9:00 P.M.

LOCATION: THE SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER, 4400 SOLOMON'S ISLAND ROAD IN HARWOOD.

Hosted by Councilman Ed Reilly. For more information, call (410) 222-1401.

### HARWOOD HISTORY HAPPENING

DATE: JULY 13, 2003 FROM 3:00 P.M. UNTIL 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: OAKWOOD, THE HISTORIC HOME OF SPRIGG HARWOOD, BUILT CIRCA 1850.

Ms. Sherri March will discuss "The Historic Properties of Harwood" and a tour of Sprigg Harwood's 1850 home will be given. Please call (410) 867-9600 for reservations and parking information.

### THE HARWOOD HARVEST

LOCATION AND DATE TBA

Our annual member social event includes a great pot luck dinner, interesting guests and the opportunity to meet your neighbors in a friendly and relaxed environment. We will be sending you more information about this super fun time for your family in our next newsletter.

## HARWOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

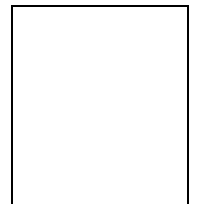
(For Zip Code 20776)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Summary File

Total Population:	3460
1-19 years old:	939
20-34 years old:	442
35-49 years old:	940
50-64 years old:	666
65-84 years old:	436
85 years and over:	37
Family Households:	933
Non-Family Households:	255
Median Household Income:	\$67,794
Housing Units:	1,280
Houses built 1939 or earlier:	195
Houses built 1980 or later:	641
Median year housing built:	1980



P.O. Box 162, Harwood, MD 20776



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED