



Newsletter

www.harwoodcivic.org

Spring 2011

ANNUAL MEETING

May 25, 2011 - 7 PM

Southern High School Media Center

The 2011 Howard civic Association (HCA) Annual Meeting will feature presentations by Bea Poulin, Community and Constituent Services for the County Executive and by a representative of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant who will discuss emergency response procedures.

Additionally, the Officers & Directors for 2011-2012 will be elected. The slate is:

Officers for 2011-2012 for a one-year term:

President	Tony Gamboa
Vice President	Stacy Schaefer
Treasurer	John Guthrie
Secretary	Pat Sinclair

Directors for a three-year term through 5/13

Tony Gamboa
John Guthrie
Jan Lehman
Sherry Lofton
Alice Murray
Stacy Schaefer
Pat Sinclair
Mike Stricker
Joan Turek
Bob Michelet*
Larry Court*

*New candidates-see bios on page 7

President's Message

The last two years have flown by, and I find myself writing my last message as president of HCA. Never having been the president of an organization before, I was somewhat daunted by the prospect. What I learned during my two years in office is that civic organizations are important voices that speak to the elected officials and to the citizens that they represent.

What can a civic organization like HCA be expected to do? The greater the participation of the membership, the greater are the possibilities. We have held political forums independently and in conjunction with other civic organizations. We have testified before the County Council on environmental and zoning matters. We have had face-to-face meetings with our local representatives. We organized a grass roots protest when it appeared that our post office and with it our identity as a community was in jeopardy. We have held public information meetings on water quality, traffic safety, zoning, and the potential expansion of a bridge in our area. We organized a face-to-face meeting with a local business and nearby citizens who were affected by its expansion. We have supported our high school in its career center, its prom breakfast, and its athletic boosters. We have also supported the Riverkeepers and stewards of the Patuxent and the Rhode and West Rivers. We have been working to expand the recreational opportunities in our area, and we have kept the community informed about events and activities.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

In short, we have tried to be a link that connects the citizens of Harwood to Anne Arundel County as a whole.

What can't we do? That is harder to answer. We don't have an unlimited budget, so we can't fight legal battles for individuals. We can't tackle every legislative issue that comes before the County Council or the House of Delegates. We don't have enough involvement from the general membership to sponsor our own activities. Because of state and county regulations, we do not have "standing" to speak against objectionable zoning exceptions and variances.

The more active members we have, the more we will be able to do. I urge you to get involved by contacting one of the board members at our next meeting or by phone or e-mail. You will find as I did that the Harwood Civic Association can be a dynamic voice for the good of the community.

Jan Lehman, President

It is Time to Renew Your Membership

Please renew your membership in the Harwood Civic Association (HCA). If you are not currently a member, please join.

At its last meeting the HCA Board of Directors voted to expand the area eligible for membership in HCA to residents of the 20776 zip code and contiguous zip codes. Residents receiving this this newsletter for the first time are urged to consider joining.

Membership, both commercial and residents, has continued to grow in recent years. The old saying about "Strength in Numbers" could not be truer than in the world of community organizations. A large and vigorous HCA helps the area have real clout in dealing with public agencies.

In 2011 HCA will continue its vigilance of Route 2 safety concerns, its support for Southern High School, and its advocacy for greater zoning change notification. HCA will also monitor the comprehensive rezoning and its impact on South County. We will make our views and concerns known to our Council Member and his colleagues on the County Council.

Your support is essential to the success of this

agenda. The size of our organization weighs heavily in the impact of our positions before state and county officials. Your dues are used to keep residents informed through regular newsletters, postcard mailings and the website.

A renewal envelope is enclosed in this issue for the Newsletter. Please complete and return it today. As you will see, HCA has become an energetic organization that offers real value for a very modest membership fee. Please renew today.

Comprehensive Re-Zoning in South County Update

In the last two issues of the Newsletter we discussed the county's comprehensive rezoning process. We again provide an update of this important process.

Why this Matters:

Every ten years Anne Arundel County considers property owners requests to change the zoning on their property. The process is underway now. Fifty plus requests for zoning changes in South County (generally the area south of Route 214, Central Ave to the Calvert Co line on the South & the Patuxent River on the East) have been submitted. Some of these changes could significantly change the rural character of South County.

The County Council is expected to introduce legislation on these changes (and potentially others) in May.

Update

The County Council has recently considered comprehensive rezoning for Districts 1 and 4 and the process has not been pretty. Council Members may offer amendments to the bill submitted by the Administration. This means that applicants can go to their Council Member when their request was not recommended by Planning and Zoning or an applicant can avoid the timelines set up for submitting applications during the Comprehensive Rezoning Process. While these Member-submitted amendments are reviewed by Planning and Zoning and posted on the Council web site two weeks before they are considered by the Council, this timeline is very short.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

During consideration of the District 1 & 4 Bill, many amendments were passed on a 7-0 vote over a negative recommendation from Planning & Zoning.

These 7-0 votes are reflective of “Councilmanic Courtesy” whereby other members accede to the views of the Council Member in whose District the matter originates. While this courtesy is much criticized because other members do not exercise their own judgment on the matter, it can be used effectively if our Council Member can be convinced to do the right thing on a particular issue. Thus, it is of critical importance to make your views known to Jerry Walker, our District 7 Council Member.

Now is the time for citizens to examine changes that may affect your property values and your quality of life and tell the Council and County Executive what you think. E-mail our Council Member at jerry.walker@aacounty.org.

Maps & descriptions are found at <http://www.aacounty.org/PlanZone/LongRange/CompZone.cfm>. The Comprehensive Rezoning website has links to a list of applications by Council District, as stated above, we are in District 7. Additionally, the CZ Application Review Tool is very useful in that it shows the location with number for each application and it allows one to zoom in on the area. It is easy to use, but may require some practice to be most effective. Additionally, the website contains the recommendations of Planning & Zoning and the Public Advisory Board (PAB) on each application. Planning & Zoning recommendations for District 7 are scheduled to be posted on the website 4/27/2011. The PAB hearing on District 7 applications is scheduled for 5/11/2011 and the District 6 & 7 Bill is scheduled for Introduction to the Council on 5/16/2011. The County Council will conduct a work session on the Bill on 6/13/2011 with hearings from June through August. There is, therefore, time to make your view known to the County Administration and to Councilman Walker.

You should be aware of various applications that are of concern. HCA has been an advocate for keeping South County rural and certain efforts to change zoning from Rural Agricultural (RA) to Commercial are troubling. At the Route 2 and Route 214 intersection area CZ091330 and CZ091328 request a

change from RA to C3 and CZ091327 requests a change from RA to R1. At the Lothian Circle area CZ091292 also requests a change from RA to C4. Along Route 408 near Wayson’s Corner CZ091367 requests to change RA to R5 (currently a trailer park). Additionally, there are several requests along Route 214 West to change RA to Commercial zoning.

HCA will monitor developments, make our views known and keep you informed. Please let us know your views.

South County Council Member – Maybe?

It has been almost two decades since South County has had a resident member on the County Council. During that time we have been represented by residents of Crofton and Gambrills. While they do their best, it is difficult for a non-resident to fully understand and advocate the interests of our communities which are quite different from the remainder of District 7. The Anne Arundel Charter requires the formation of a Charter Review & Redistricting Commission following each Census. The commission has been appointed & will begin work shortly.

Our current Councilman Jerry Walker has expressed strong support for a redistricting plan that will create a more cohesive South County Councilmanic District. This will likely require expansion of the Council by two additional seats.

This is a once a decade opportunity. What should you do?

If you think a South County Council District is a good idea you need to let people know. First, reinforce Councilman Walker’s position. E-mail him at jerry.walker@aacounty.org and/or call 410-222-1401. Next, encourage family, friends & neighbors to do the same. The Commission members are: Jana H. Carey, Esq., Joshua C. Greene, Esq. Dirk D. Haire, Esq., Jason E. Rheinsteinst, Esq., and Linda M. Schuett, Esq. If you know any of them, let them know what you think.

Congratulations to Beth Jones of Harwood

Beth, a life-long Harwood resident, has been appointed Administrative Officer to the Anne Arundel County Council. Ms. Jones has a long record of service in the legislative branch of the federal, State and County governments, having worked on Capitol Hill and the Maryland House of Delegates, as well as 11 years of experience serving as a legislative assistant on the Anne Arundel County Council. Her knowledge of the operation of the County Council, as well as her familiarity with various other County departments and personnel, make her an excellent choice.

Again – Help Wanted!

Once again, HCA is in great need of members to assist in several areas. The time commitment would be only a few hours per month. Since HCA is a voluntary community association, it relies heavily on the participation of its members to represent the Harwood community in matters that affect our homes and the community at large.

Can you donate a few hours each month in one of the following areas?

1. Recreation and Education - Monitor south county recreational activities and write out schedules for the newsletter.
2. Zoning and Land Use - Monitor requests for variances and special exceptions and report them to board and membership.
3. Government Affairs - Attend county council meetings and other important public hearings. Present association views.
4. Communication and Newsletter - Assemble articles for newsletter and assist with mass communication to membership.

Because we have been vocal in the past as an association, our elected representatives respect us and seek our input on important issues. This will continue as long as there are volunteers to support the work of HCA. We recognize that there is a great deal of untapped talent among our membership. Hopefully you will be able to donate a few hours a month to keep this valuable organization alive.

Please contact Tony Gamboa at either 410-271-5010 or itgamboa@me.com, if you have questions or would like to attend one of our board meetings.

Black Vulture Neighbors

As a scientist, it is my calling to be objective. However, as a person who has recently spent the winter waking up looking into Alfred Hitchcock's bird's eyes in the form of two feet plus black vultures, I am creeped out. True these birds are the garbage collectors of the sky, collecting 100 lbs of dead animals a year, but I don't want to live next to a bunch of garbage trucks even if they have 6-foot wings. Fortunately they don't make any noise except for hissing and grunting sounds. But they do regurgitate their food for dominance and defecate on their feet for warmth. On the other hand they are the most graceful fliers in the world. Every year in the winter they migrate, sometimes as far as South America and sometimes they stop at Windsor Farms, Harwood Md. Hopefully next year they will move a fewer miles south. (According to the web, black vultures prefer a full-bodied red wine with dead skunk or possum. White wine is best with smaller, less gamy animals like squirrels or chipmunks.)

Contributed by Pat Sinclair



Harwood Real Estate Update

The real estate market continues to be sluggish with the first quarter of 2011 yielding only three settled properties, two of which were manufactured homes. Currently there are five homes under contract. Their listed prices range from \$270,000 to \$899,900.

There are seventeen homes currently offered for sale. Two of these are manufactured homes listed for less than \$100,000. At the other end of the price spectrum are two properties listed for over \$1,000,000. One is a historic home and the other a new construction waterfront.

The remaining homes display a range of prices reflective of the wide variety of real estate available in the Harwood community.

Water Safety

Here is an important message from the Anne Arundel County Department of Health about **WATER SAFETY AND CHILDREN. Did you know drowning is one of the leading causes of death among children ages 1-9 in Anne Arundel County?**

At Home:

1. Never leave your child alone in or around water, including bathtubs, sinks and toilets.
2. Do not rely on bath support rings or seats to keep your child safe in the tub.
3. Use toilet locks so children cannot open the lid. Children age 4 and under can drown in just one inch of water.
Empty all buckets immediately after use and store out of your child's reach.

Around Pools:

1. Empty and turn over wading pools immediately after use.
2. Enclose your pool or spa with fencing at least five feet high with self-closing and self-latching gates.
3. Learn CPR and keep rescue equipment, a telephone and emergency numbers beside your pool.
4. Teach your child to swim, but never rely solely on swimming lessons to protect them from drowning.

5. Teach your child never to run, push or jump on others around water.

In Open Water:

1. Never allow young children to swim alone. Make sure older children always swim with a buddy or adult.
2. Be sure your child wears a life jacket when on a boat or near water and that it fits correctly.
3. Make sure children swim in designated areas in open water. Look for clear water with little or no current and check the depth of the water before swimming.
4. Alcohol use while around the pool or open water impairs your judgment and may slow your reaction time, creating a safety hazard for you and your family.

AND A SWIMMING POOLS CHECKLIST FOR SAFETY.

Calendar of Events

May 7 & 28; June 4 & 18; July 2 & 23. Canoe Excursion

All Ages

Location: Reed Education Center

Start: 9:00AM

End: 11:30AM

Paddle along the shores of Muddy Creek and the Rhode River to learn about one of the many tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay. We'll look for wildlife, birds, reptiles, and more; designed for beginning and intermediate paddlers. Basic instruction will be given at the start of the program. Cost is \$14 per adult and \$7 for children 6-12 years old, limited to 16 participants.

Preregistration and payment is required. Call (443) 482.2300.

Canoes, paddles, and lifejackets provided.

Contact Info: Program Registrar (443)482-2300

Age: 6+ yrs.

Cost: \$14/adults, \$7 for children

Pre-Registration: Yes

Continued on page 6

Continued from page 5

May 7, June 3, July 14. Bird Walk

Sat, April 2, 8am – 11am

Description

Learn the skills of identifying birds by sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides are available to borrow. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Not appropriate for children younger than 12.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. 410 741-9330

www.jugbay.org

May 14. Smithsonian Open House on the Bay

Special Event

Location: Park at Central Middle School

Start: 10:00AM

End: 3:00PM

Join us for SERC's new and improved Open House. You can find out more about this event at our website www.serc.si.edu or by calling (301) 238.2737. Free parking and shuttle service will be provided at Central Middle School. This event is free.

Contact Info: Program Registrar (443) 482-2300

Age: all ages

Cost: FREE

Pre-Registration: No

May 14. South County Faith Network 5K

9:00 AM Jug Bay

Adults in Advance - \$20; Day of Race - \$25.00

Youth \$5 in Advance; \$10 Day of Race

Free 5K Run T-Shirt to First 100 to Register

May 21. 74th Annual Maryland House and

Garden Pilgrimage.

10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Historic London Town and Gardens – Edgewater
Visit historic homes and gardens throughout southern Anne Arundel County. The tour starts at Historic London Town and Gardens where you can purchase tickets. London Town has been chosen to receive the proceeds from the tour.

\$35 per person. For more information, visit

www.mhgp.org.

May 25. HCA Annual Meeting

7:00 to 9:00 PM. Southern High School MediaCenter

June 2 through Sept. 1. Community Kayaking

The 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month.

The West/Rhodes Riverkeeper with Discovery Village offer free kayaking at Discovery Village in Shady Side.

5:00 PM until ½ hour before sunset.

Contact: amy@westrhoderiverkeeper.org.

June 4. Dig Day.

9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Historic London Town and Gardens – Edgewater
Join the Lost Towns Project archaeologists as they continue to rediscover London Town.

June 11. South County Festival.

Saturday, June 11, 2011 11:00am – 5:00pm

Herrington Harbour North Marina, 389 Deale Road (Route 256), Tracy's Landing, MD 20779

Featuring a variety of Entertainment, Activities & Demonstrations for Children & Adults of all ages, Wine & Arts Fest, Seafood, Crafters, Local Business and Non-Profit Organization Exhibits and Much more.

June 11. Caribbean Night on the Bay.

. Sign up and make it a family night, a date night or a night with friends for a Caribbean Night on the Bay for only \$35 per person. Your hosts are Phyllis and Tony Syme and the proceeds support the Captain Salem Avery Museum. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 11th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. RSVP ahead of time a must.

June 18. American Cancer Society 2011 Relay for Life.

South River High School. See main.acsevents.org.

June 18. Rhythm on the River.

5:00 until 8:00 PM

Hartge Yacht Harbor, 4800 Church Lane, Galesville. Celebrate the river at the river's edge.

\$40.00/adult, \$20.00/Kids (7-15), free under 7

Contact: Amy at 410-867-7171.

June 18. Summer Solstice Concert

6:30PM

Historic London Town and Gardens-Edgewater, Celebrate the arrival of summer with the music of

Maggie Sansone and Company

Come early and picnic on the lawn, beer, wine, soda, and water available for purchase.

Bob Michelet

I was born and raised in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, spending many of my summers on the Magothy and West Rivers. I received degrees in Engineering Physics and Electrical Engineering and worked at Bell Telephone Laboratories. In 2001 I purchased "160 Owensville" and have spent the last 10 years doing an in-depth restoration of the 1830s house. My current interests are sailing, historic preservation, restoration and power systems.

Larry Court

I am a native of Anne Arundel County. After spending my early years in South County, the family moved to Virginia. I graduated from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Kathy and I met and were married there. We moved back to the area in 1985 and built our house on the property behind Christ Church in Owensville.

I am "retired." I spend my time, when not traveling, keeping up with our 25 acres, woodlands and hay fields. I am interested in AA County's efforts behind the South County Small Area Plan and efforts to create and maintain the Greenways concept. "Keep South County Rural."

Wooton's Landing Update

The Parks and Recreation Department reports that the project is moving forward. There are still permit issues to be resolved. Unfortunately, the dock will probably not be ready for either the spring or the summer of this year. Right now the estimated completion date is mid-September. That would still allow for some autumn river recreation. In the meantime, for those who are interested in acquiring a cartop boat, there will be an outdoor demo at Truxton Park in Annapolis on Saturday, May 7, from 10-4. It is free to the public. HCA will continue to track the progress of the dock. The official opening will be announced on the website and in a future newsletter.

Support our Corporate Sponsors

Anchor Electric Cooperative Inc.

Service, repair, and construction

Bob Rogers

(410) 268-3983

Cell: (410) 320-4066

Blades of Green Inc.

Lawn Maintenance, Hardscape and Landscape Installation

Mark Leahy

4374 Solomons Island Road, Harwood, MD 20776

(410) 867-8873

<http://www.bladesofgreen.com>

D&D Tree Removal

Total Tree Care & Removal

Licensed & Insured, Free Estimates

Lots Cleared, Stump Grinding

(410) 867-7412 (443) 871-4853

Fax: (410) 867-7428

danddtreeremoval@yahoo.com

Dick and Jane's Farm

Fresh Flowers and Vegetables

Richard and Jane Bishop

4361 Solomons Island Road, Harwood, MD 20776

(410) 867-3264

Dr. Kevin R. Doring, DDS, PA

Pampering patients with quality dental care

3179 Braverton St., Suite 100, Edgewater, MD 21037

(410) 956-2505

<http://www.doringdds.com>

Exterior Images & Woodscape

Woodworks, Landscapes, Maintenance

Mark Childs

24 Nutwell Rd

Lothian, MD20711

MHIC #46575

ktanner@exteriorimage.com

www.exteriorimage.com

(410) 956-1344

H.E. Consulting Inc.

Asbestos, Mold, Lead consulting

Phillip Haun, President

(202) 207-5737

phill@haunenvironmental.com

Myles Flower and Produce

Thomas and Lolita Harley

1743 Myles Drive, Harwood, MD 20776

(301) 627-4080

Continued on back page

J. Stuart Neff Chartered

IGNORE THE CROWD –*Make Smart Decisions*

About Money and Investing

Life Underwriter and Chartered Financial Consultant

Registered Representative, O.N. Equity Sales

Company

(410) 533-2615

stuart@stuartneff.com

National Carpet and Flooring

Let Us Floor You

Rt. 3 South

Crofton, Maryland

(410) 721-4747

www.nationalcarpetmd.com

Painter Financial Group

William J. Painter, CPA

1610 Professional Blvd, Unit G

Crofton, MD 21114

(410) 451-3663

<http://www.paintertax.com>

Personal Training is for You

Teresa Bilzor

ACE and NSPA Certified Personal Trainer

Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science

292 Sigma Drive, Harwood MD 20776

(410) 212-3137

Tbilzor@yahoo.com

Eric St. C. Purdon, SRA

Real Estate Appraiser and Consultant

459 Harwood Rd.

Harwood, MD 20776

410 867-4888 C-410 693-5744 F-410 867-4801

Relms Landscaping

235 South River Clubhouse rd.

www.relmslandscaping.com

(410) 798-5333

Smiley's Residential Design Service

Affordable Design for the Homeowner and Builder

Kenneth Smiley Jr.

3742 Smiley Lane

Harwood MD 20776

410-798-6972 Fax: (410) 798-7190

Thanksgiving Farm

Award Winning Wine

See our website for a list of local

stores that carry our wines

Doug and Maureen Heimbuch

(410) 867-2998

www.thanksgivingfarm.com

12th Precinct Pistol and Archery Club

450 Harwood Road

Harwood, MD 20776

(410) 867-3018



P.O. Box 162, Harwood, MD 20776