



# Newsletter

On the world-wide web at [www.harwoodcivic.org](http://www.harwoodcivic.org)

Volume 5, Issue 1

Winter 2007

## A Letter from the President

### REASONS TO JOIN THE HCA

2006 was an active year for the HCA. Here are some of our accomplishments (made with your assistance and done on your behalf):

1. Helped save the Harwood Post Office
2. Began an effort to improve safety on Rte. 2
3. Co-sponsored an African-American history program with Chews Chapel presenting guest speaker noted historian Janice Hayes Williams
4. Raised \$500 For the American Cancer Society "Walk for Life"
5. Co-presented the best attended Candidate Forum in the county
6. Pressed for long-term monitoring of ground water near the PST dump
7. Testified in support of Scenic Roads legislation
8. Monitored issues associated with the Polling House Rd Golf Course

*Continued on page 4*

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEOPOLD TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING OF HCA *Board Election Also on Agenda*

On Wednesday, February 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center of Southern High School on Solomon's Island Road, the Harwood Civic Association will hold its annual meeting. The year's budget will be approved, an election for new board members will be held. Reports of the previous year's activities will be shared. And newly elected County Executive John Leopold has agreed to make the meeting one of his first stops in getting to know the concerns and issues facing South Ann Arundel County.

As part of its commitment to the residents of Harwood, the HCA invites elected officials to speak to the membership at this key event. The new county administration has signaled some important changes in addressing zoning enforcement, and approaches to the environment. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity for Harwood citizens to impact the new administrative agenda for the county.

The business portion of the meeting is expected to be brief as always. It includes approval of a budget for the year and sharing the results of the on-site election of new board members and officers. (See the article on page 7 for information on the slate of board candidates.

Residents of Harwood are invited and encouraged to join the HCA or renew memberships at the event. For more information contact Mike Lofton at 410-867-3623 or via e-mail at [Harwoodcivic@aol.com](mailto:Harwoodcivic@aol.com)

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Plus! Membership Form & Harwood Market Coupons

## **Analysis of Implementation of South County Small Area Plan**

In 1998 a diverse group of citizens from South County came together to host an International Stewardship Exchange program during which experts from around the world offered recommendations on how to keep South County Rural and enhance our quality of life. The South County Exchange (Exchange) is one product of this intense effort. Working with local landowners and residents, the Exchange aims to protect the rural way of life that makes South County a special place to live. Among our efforts have been surveys of recreational needs in the South County and of Deale-Shadyside planning areas; acting as principal coordinator for creation of the Patuxent River and costal Greenways; and, analyzing the impacts of family conveyance on the rural character of lands zoned residential agriculture.

The Exchange is following implementation of the South County Small Area Plan (SAP), a collaborative effort between county agencies and a diverse citizens committee that provides local detail for implementation of the AA County 1997 General Development Plan. The dominant theme of this plan is "Keep South County Rural". To examine how the County has progressed toward implementing this plan, the Exchange convened a small group of community leaders to look at the plan's recommendations and the extent to which they have been met. Three members of the planning committee, including the Chair of the Land Use Planning Committee, were involved in this process. Following is their assessment of the County's progress toward meeting these objectives:

### **Preserve the Agricultural and Rural Lifestyle**

#### **Accomplishments:**

1. RA Zoning strengthened by elimination of family conveyance provision
2. RA zoning modified to allow farm based commercial efforts
3. Continued acquisition of land for agricultural preservation. 12,000 acres. protected.
4. 1,000 acres of farmland being acquired to be used as showplace of new agricultural products and BMP's. Farm tours will be held to educate public about agriculture.
5. Right to farm legislation passed.
6. Funding allocated for preservation of historic barns.

#### **Critical Tasks Requiring Action:**

1. The county has only achieved 60% of the 2007 agricultural preservation goal.
2. A serious analysis of TDRs (transferable development rights) providing an innovative look at how they can be used has not been performed.

3. The county does not know how much further development is possible under current zoning, including development of already approved family conveyances and platted lots, particularly along the shore.

### **Economic Development**

#### **Accomplishments:**

1. Zoning revised to allow appropriate home-based businesses
2. Staff member reassigned at AA Economic Development Corporation to promote agricultural products.
3. Rural Heritage Program established.

#### **Critical Tasks Requiring Action**

1. A comprehensive plan to ensure long-term success for agriculture needs to be a top priority. The Economic Development Corporation's marketing activities will not stabilize agriculture.

### **Land Use and Community Design**

#### **Accomplishments:**

1. Restrictions placed on large non-agricultural uses in RA zoning district, including elimination of some uses.
2. Time limit placed on initiating building of subdivisions and commercial structures after final approval.
3. Regulations established for Historic and Scenic Roads
4. Subdivision regulations revised to promote cluster development.
5. Conservation easements established on several areas including 300-acre site north of Fairhaven. Hundreds of small lots covered by forested non-tidal wetlands near Fairhaven protected by community association agreement.

#### **Critical Tasks Requiring Action:**

1. Sand and Gravel Mines represent a continuing threat of more landfills. The SAP calls for eliminating landfills as a permitted use.
2. Zoning of Wayson's Corner needs to be revised to implement the recommendation of the SAP that national franchised big box development and strip malls are not consistent with the rural character of South County.
3. Many of the Plans most important recommendations remain to be fully implemented: Rural design standards, Patuxent River Overlay Distract, transportation study.

### **Natural and Historic Resources (Protection of Patuxent Greenway)**

#### **Accomplishments:**

1. Hundreds of acres have been acquired by

*Continued on Page 7*

## **LONG TERM MONITORING of PST LAND FILL GROUND WATER POSSIBLE**

### **Potentially serious threat to public health**

The PST rubble landfill on Sands Rd. in Harwood operated between December 1992 and July 1, 2001. Between 1997-2001 PST received almost 2 million tons of waste. Over 80% (1,548,062 tons) came from generators outside of Anne Arundel County. To grasp the scale of this operation, consider that during the same period the Millersville landfill received 509,068 tons. PST received 4 times as much waste as Millersville. At its peak year, 1997, PST received 7&1/2 times that of Millersville. *The landfill operated without a liner and leachate collection system.*

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is currently reviewing ground-water monitoring reports required of the operator, Waste Management Inc. Monitoring will continue for at least 5 years after closure. Additional monitoring is required under ground & surface water discharge permits, which are renewed every 5 years. Monitoring may be discontinued at the end of these permits if MDE concludes there is no further need.

As a part of the County's approval of the landfill zoning, a Community Benefit Agreement was established in 1991 to "ameliorate" impacts on neighboring property owners and neighboring citizens caused by the PST Rubble landfill on Sands Rd in Harwood. The County is now preparing to distribute the final moneys in the fund (approximately \$120,000). Previous distributions of over \$800,000 have funded school equipment, church parking lots, and the like.

At the request of the Harwood Civic Association (HCA) the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) has applied for a grant of the remaining funds to secure independent professional analysis of ground water monitoring reports. HCA wants to be able to independently verify test results and, if necessary, challenge decisions and conclusions by regulatory agencies regarding the need to continue monitoring the safety of drinking water wells in the vicinity of the PST landfill. In addition, if MDE allows Waste Management to cease monitoring, collecting, testing and evaluating test results would be

continued using these funds. In light of the potentially serious threat to public health, reserving the entire remaining balance of the Community Benefit Fund seems prudent. The estimated balance is \$112,000.

A committee chaired by Councilman Ed Reilly will soon bring grant recommendations to the County Executive and County Council. It will be most valuable for residents to express their support for this request to Councilman Reilly and County Executive Leopold.

Please contact:

County Councilman Ed Reilly 410-222-1401  
ereilly@aacounty.org  
County Executive John Leopold (410) 222-1821.  
exleop00@aacounty.org

## **ATTEND THE HEARING REGARDING THE PST LANDFILL**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Meeting begins at 6:00 PM

**Location:** Southern High School, Media Center,  
2nd floor, 4400 Solomon's Island Road, Harwood,  
MD

**Organizer:** MDE

**Contact name:** Michael Richardson, 410-537-3654

**Contact email:** mrichardson@mde.state.md.us

**Contact Address:**

Maryland Department of the Environment  
1800 Washington Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21230

State Discharge Permit Application  
#04-DP-2941, Harwood Landfill to  
discharge 171,000 gallons per day  
of ground water intercepted from the  
perimeter of a now closed rubble landfill  
to an unnamed tributary to Rock Branch  
(a Use I tributary to the Patuxent River).

## **HCA** (Continued from page one)

9. Provided start-up support to the Lothian Civic Association
10. Initiated new project to address recreation center concerns
11. Engaged several hundred citizens in civic awareness and direct action, demonstrating that our community cares about vital issues affecting the quality of life in Harwood and the surrounding area

In 2007, the HCA will continue to aggressively advocate for our community on many of the issues listed above. The Board expects to focus on:

1. Recreational facilities and programs for residents
2. Representing Harwood interests in the AA County General Development Plan
3. Encourage active participation in legislative and zoning hearings from HCA residents
4. Serve as a watch dog against illegal development of rural lands
5. Promote the Small Area Plan as a model for development in Harwood

The vitality of HCA depends on two conditions:

1. Growing our membership and board
2. Engaging citizen participation in efforts that bring the concerns of our community to the attention of elected officials, state and government agencies, and the county at large

You can easily help with the first item. A large and growing membership signals the legitimacy of HCA as a voice for area residents. The membership pool provides the talent, skills, resources and energy that enable the organization to function. Additionally, you can volunteer to give up four evenings in the course of a year to participate on our Board or committee. Harwood is fortunate to have citizens that care about preserving the way of life here, but we need that caring to become commitment and action. Please consider donating a few hours to this kind of service.

You can begin by joining the Harwood Civic Association or renewing membership today. Use the form included in this newsletter. You will find that small investment will pay big dividends in keeping Harwood the finest community in Maryland.

## **SOUTHERN HIGH SPORTS BOOSTERS**

January 2007

To our Friends & Neighbors of Harwood:

My name is Tom Frutchey, and I am the past president of Southern High School's Sports Boosters. For the past three years, we have been soliciting funds in order to build bathrooms and a field house for the teams and our friends, families and guests who enjoy Southern Sports. Our ability to attract other schools and programs for tournaments and playoff games has been hindered by not having reasonable facilities.

We have raised approximately \$95,000 of our original goal of \$100,000. *We are so very close, but need your help to realize our full vision for a state of the art facility.*

Our building plans for the renovation of the concession stand (bathrooms) should be completed and turned in for permits this month. However, our original budget of \$100,000 will only cover the renovations of the existing facilities and not the field house. That building has been designed, but will have to be built with its own unique fundraising and budget in Phase Two of our effort.

The Southern High community has been gracious, helpful and involved, but we ask for your continued involvement to provide our community with this needed resource. In order to keep costs down, we will be soliciting for trade-in-kind donations as well as funds.

You may call me with any questions at 301-261-9352, or our current president, Marty Sohovich, at 410-533-6969. Please send all donations made payable to:

Sports Boosters  
Southern High School  
4400 Old Solomons Island Rd  
Harwood, MD 20776

To all who have contributed, we extend many thanks. And Happy New Year to everyone!

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## **HCA TO PARTICIPATE IN RELAY FOR LIFE 2007**

Through participation in the 2006 cancer Relay for Life, your Harwood Civic Association raised \$500 for the American Cancer Society's patient support and cancer research efforts. Using online and in person fund raising efforts, and participation in a night of fun and entertaining activities, HCA members were able to help survivors and organizations fighting for a cure to this terrible disease. Most memorable was the cancer "victory lap", in which several school age HCA family members walked a lap with a local classmate who has fought the illness for the last several years.

The HCA board again asks your support for this worthwhile cause. The 2007 Relay will take place at South River High School on Friday 15 June, and HCA will have a place on the campers field (feel free to stop by and say hello) and march with the HCA banner during the opening lap. While the Relay is an "all-night"

event...and some of the most entertaining fundraisers take place in the wee-hours...there is no need for any HCA member to tough it out for the whole night. In fact, all of HCA's fundraising took place before the 2006 event (although more money could have been made if our HCA President, Mike Lofton, had dressed up like a woman to raise \$\$\$ at the "Wo-Man" talent event).

So, please look to our HCA website in the near future to find the link to the HCA Relay for Life fundraising page, or visit [www.southcountyrelayforlife.org](http://www.southcountyrelayforlife.org) and find HCA on the team listing section. You may either contribute to one of the registered HCA team members on the page, or you may sign up yourself to help raise funds in the name of the HCA. We used the Relay Online Fundraising site last year and it was quite easy and secure. Hope to have your support. If you have questions, please contact our Events Chairman, Mike Stricker, at 410-867-0389.

### **Letter from Ed Reilly, Council Member**

#### ***Recreation Concerns in South County***

The article in your recent edition about recreation needs in South County highlights a large number of issues. I would like to touch on a few which may provide some background on issues and attitudes about South County Parks and Rec.

HCA President Mike Lofton and I recently met with Franklyn Chaney and the staff at the South County Recreation Center. After a brief tour, we sat and discussed a variety of issues. The staff is very interested in resident input identifying new programs that could be hosted at the center. They have currently on-going programs of pottery and dance. There is a basketball gym in the building that, for the majority of the winter, is used by various organized youth teams for basketball practice. This puts a great deal of time off the calendar for other uses of the one large room in the building.

Mr. Chaney has indicated that he will provide a map of beaches available for walking, hiker/biker paths and picnic areas through out South County. We will be making those available for your use in future newsletters. We had a good discussion concerning horse paths and water sports access. These issues are more long term in nature and are on the table for discussion.

I can personally share with you that whenever we acquire a piece of property by the county, I am advocating the active and passive recreational uses for you with the Parks and Rec Dept. There have been a number of active sports parks acquired and developed over the past few years. Bell Branch in Gambrills, Davidsonville Park on Patuxent Road and Riva Park on Riva Road are some great examples of sports fields that have been developed. I will continue to work with your organization to implement the ideas and activities that have been addressed in the recreational survey which the prior newsletter mentioned.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our great county.

Ed Reilly

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Annapolis, MD 21401  
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e-mail : [lindsay@jackmartininsurance.com](mailto:lindsay@jackmartininsurance.com)

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**(410) 956-5555**

## **HARWOOD MARKET OPENS POST OFFICE ON THE WAY**

Kenneth Muller has announced the opening of the new Harwood Market with a flier included with this newsletter. He points out that all coupons included will be honored throughout the month of January. We are happy to report that the Harwood Post Office will be moving into the Market building over the next couple of months. Thanks to all who have worked so hard to make this happen.

## **PROPOSED SLATE OF HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

The Board of the Harwood Civic Association announces the slate of officers and new Board Members proposed for 2007.

President	Michael Lofton
Vice President	Michael Stricker
Secretary	Jan Lehman
Treasurer	Thomas Harley

Board Member (three year term 2007-2009) - Stacy Schaefer and Debbie Chamberlain.

## **SMALL AREA PLAN** *(Continued from Page 3)*

County, including Jug Bay Farm.

2. Substantial additional acreage protected by location .in RCA portion of Critical Area. Forest Conservation Management Agreements, and use as reforestation sites.

### **Critical Tasks Requiring Action**

1. Efforts need to be continued to place conservation easements or otherwise ensure protection of remaining undeveloped areas of natural resource significance.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

AA County Switchboard: 410-867-2027  
www.aacounty.org  
Animal Control 410-222-8900  
Bulk Item Pick Up 410-222-6100  
Community Services: 410-222-1795  
Consumer Protection Hotline 888-743-0023  
Councilman Ed Reilly: 410-222-1401  
ereilly@aacounty.org  
County Executive John Leopold: 410-222-1821  
exleop@aacounty.org  
County Police Southern District 410-222-1961  
County Roads Southern District 410-222-1933  
Delegate Robert Costa 410-841-3551  
bob.costa@house.state.md.us  
Environmental Violation: Hotline: 410-222-7777  
Harwood Fire Station 410-222-8209  
Health Department 410-222-7364  
Inspections & Permits 410-222-7790  
ipmailbox@aacounty.org  
Social Services 410-269-4500  
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## THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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