



Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2005

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD 7:00 PM FEB. 9, 2005 Election of New Officers, Presentations by Elected Officials, and New P.O. Information

The annual meeting of the Harwood Civic Association will be held in the Media Center of Southern High School on Wednesday, February 9, 2005. County Councilman Big Ed Reilly and State Delegate Robert Costa have agreed to offer brief remarks and take questions from HCA Members. County Executive Janet Owens and State Delegate Virginia Claggett have also been invited to speak. Mr. Kenneth Muller, who has developed a new plan for the commercially zoned lot on the southwest corner of the Harwood Road and Route 2 intersection has also tentatively accepted an offer to meet the community and explain his plans for the new business he is planning which includes space for the Post Office.

The meeting will begin with a brief review of the year's activities by the outgoing president, Dr. Joan Turek. A Treasurer's Report and proposed budget will be presented and voted for. Members in good standing will then have the opportunity to vote on

Story continued on page 3

Landfill Safeguard Opposed by County Executive Owens

An amendment to the County zoning code intended to protect South County from more unnecessary commercial landfills is being opposed by County Executive Janet Owens. The amendment submitted by District 7 Councilman Ed Reilly would prevent additional commercial facilities like PST on Sands Rd in Harwood. Under current law, rubble landfills may be located in our neighborhoods provided certain "special exception" conditions are met.

Modern landfills are large industrial operations with heavy truck traffic, noise, and noxious odors. These facilities exist to serve waste generators in other areas. The history of PST on Sands Rd. reveals that 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.

A review of the current Solid Waste plan for AA County confirms there is no need for additional rubble capacity in the County. The Plan concludes that, "there is sufficient capacity to address the County's short-term and long-term disposal needs. Since the PST facility closed, there has not been any significant impact on the County's disposal site or convenience center..." Thus, AA County is able to meet its own needs for landfills and new landfills would be created simply to address demand from other areas that do not wish to assume the risks of pollution and heavy traffic in order to take care of their own developers.

The Owens administration testified against the amendment. Offering no plan of its own, the office of the County Executive seems content to leave Harwood vulnerable to more of these operations. From the testimony, it appears that the administration simply fears

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Letter from the President -

A Fond Farwell

With this last column I mark the end of my term as President of the Harwood Civic Association. My proposed successor, Michael Lofton inherits an organization that has radically changed and become highly energized over the past three years.

We have seen great movement on key issues regarding the PST Landfill and family conveyance. We have established a strong and consistent calendar of programs and events that offer much to the community. Unfortunately, we have also seen an explosion of homes being built on small parcels of land reserved for family conveyance and then sold to the general public.

I personally have spent a great deal of my time over these last two years working on saving our local Post Office. I am pleased to say that it looks like all of the calls to the USPS and the various owners of the property have paid off. Within a year or so, we should have a new retail complex on the corner of Harwood Road and Route 2 with space in the building for a Postal Facility.

Mike Lofton is a well qualified successor, knowledgeable in the ways of the county and its lawmakers. I'm now looking forward to spending my time working on family conveyance issues and getting the Harwood Historical Society up and running.

It's been grand getting to know you all and I look forward to continuing to serve as a board member of the HCA.

Sincerely,

Joan Turek

HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION Financial Report Calendar Year 2004

A. Balance Forward	\$2,054.22
B. Income	
1) Membership Dues	\$2,100.00
2) Admission Fees	35.00
3) Donations	35.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,170.00
C. Expenses	
1) Postage	\$ 148.00
2) Printing	323.51
3) Office Supplies	12.97
4) Food and Supplies	242.84
5) Donations and Fees	314.00
6) Miscellaneous	33.06
	<hr/>
	\$1,074.38
D. Year End Balance	\$3,149.84

Note from the Treasurer:

Expenses were below budget this year by approximately \$875.00 due to the following:

- 1) Postage for our January 2004 newsletter to all Harwood residents was purchased in December 2003.*
- 2) Delay in the development of a web-site for the Harwood Civic Assn.*
- 3) Gifts for guest speakers were donated by some local merchants.*

Jon P. Stairs, Treasurer HCA
December 2004

Harwood Historical Society – First Meeting Held

An initial planning meeting of the Harwood Historical Society was held at Joan Turek's home November 10, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. At the meeting the following activities were identified for completion prior to the next meeting:

- Prepare a statement of purpose/mission statement
- Identify old families in the Harwood Area
- Talk with Galesville and Shadyside Historic Societies about how they were able to establish successful local history organizations
- Talk with Sherry Marsh, Douglas-Benke, and other historians about the area
- Talk with Southern High School about establishing some joint projects
- Arrange for instruction on how to effectively take oral histories

The next meeting has been set for January 19 at 7:00 p.m. at Joan Turek's Home off Route 2.

If you plan to attend the planning meeting, please call Joan Turek at 410-867-0715 or email her at jlturek@aol.com.

Landfill *(continued from page 1)*

legal action from landowners who may wish to establish landfills on their property.

The Harwood Civic Association has testified in support of Councilman Reilly's proposal. The South County Small Area Plan calls for eliminating commercial landfills.

If you think its time to end this needless risk to our community, call County Executive Janet Owens, 410-222-1821. Let her know that you want the code changed NOW!

HCA CALL FOR PUBLIC HEARING GETS RESULTS!

Approximately 100 Harwood residents attended a Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) hearing requested by the Harwood Civic Association concerning discharges from the PST landfill on Sands Rd. The hearing was held at Southern High School in early November. Angry residents described obnoxious odors coming into their homes, breathing difficulties, and even embarrassment at having visitors exposed to the stink in their homes.

The smells are caused by decomposing materials in the dump. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (part of the Federal Center for Disease Control), landfill gas is a mixture of methane, sulfides and non-methane organic compounds like trichloroethylene, benzene, and vinyl chloride.

During the hearing Waste Management, Inc., owner of the site, promised to accelerate the installation of "flaring devices" to burn the gasses before they spread from their property. MDE assured residents they would be responsive to complaints.

If you smell gasses near PST call MDE 1-800-633-6101 x3315 to complain

MEETING *(continued from page 1)*

the recommended slate of board and officers for year 2005. Following the transaction of the annual business required by the by-laws, our guest speakers will each be given five minutes to make remarks with a ten minute question and answer session for members.

We urge the entire community to join the Harwood Civic Association. Dues can be paid at the door and full voting privileges are extended at the time of joining. All members are also invited to participate in the question and answer sessions and discussions that follow the speakers. This is an important forum for you to take your concerns for our community straight to the elected officials who make and enforce our laws and regulations. Please attend.

2005 Nominations

As required by the By-laws of the Harwood Civic Association, the following slate of candidates is announced for approval by vote of the general membership:

Officers (Limit 2 consecutive years)

President – Michael Lofton
Vice-President – James R. Fitzpatrick (2nd Year)
Secretary – Jan Lehman
Treasurer – Jon Stairs (2nd year)

New Board Members (Terms Expiring February 2008)

Alice Murray
Jan Lehman
Jon Stairs

Existing Board Members

James Fitzpatrick	(Term Expiring February 2006)
Michael Lofton	(Term Expiring February 2006)
Joan Turek	(Term Expiring February 2006)
Michael Stricker	(Term Expiring February 2007)
Thomas Harley	(Term Expiring February 2007)
Thomas Tucker	(Term Expiring February 2007)

Additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the general meeting prior to the vote. Nominees must be members in good standing.

SMITHSONIAN DEVELOPMENT INQUIRY

December 11, 2004

Mr. Ross Simons
Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
PO Box 28, 647 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

Dear Mr. Simons:

It has recently come to our attention that the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is considering development of Harwood's Corn Island for the purpose of creating an environmental conference center. Several Harwood citizens have expressed concern about the rumored scope of this plan, and on their behalf we kindly request that you provide us with a written accounting of exactly what is under consideration for Corn Island.

Given SERC's mission of environmental stewardship and study, we are sure that you sympathize with the concerns of those who wish to ensure that any local development is in harmony with the preservation of Harwood's relatively unspoiled environment and unique history. One rumor surrounding SERC's plans is that the proposed conference center would bring a considerable increase in traffic to Cumberstone Road, and that the projected volume of this traffic might require the re-routing of the road.

Further, several local citizens have raised the question of why, with an existing meeting facility on Contees Wharf Road, SERC would need an extensive facility on relatively inaccessible Corn Island. While Corn Island represents a unique marsh environment, it would seem that development of the island would in fact damage the very unspoiled environment the SERC seeks to study.

We present these matters as examples of the types of discussions which are taking place in the absence of any formal dialog between SERC and the Harwood community, and would hope that our letter presents you the opportunity to dispel our concerns and engage your neighbors early in any planning. To help us answer our members' questions in a timely manner, we ask for a response from you no later than 6 January 2005.

Sincerely,

Joan Turek, President
Harwood Civic Association

RESPONSE FROM THE SMITHSONIAN

December 14, 2004

Ms. Joan Turek, President
Harwood Civic Association

Dear Ms. Turek:

Thank you for your letter of 11 December concerning the future of Corn Island. I can appreciate your apprehension over rumors about potential plans and I am pleased to set that record straight.

...Over the years, both commercial and not-for-profit groups have approached us with ideas on how to develop Corn Island. In all instances, these ideas have been REJECTED...as incompatible with our mission and the public interest.

Several years ago, SERC commissioned an architectural study of Corn Island with the idea of creating an environmental leadership center on the island wherein the footprint of the present house might be torn down and replaced by a modest workshop facility that could provide space to scientists, teachers, and the public to hold small meetings not to exceed 30 persons. This is space that is not available on the present SERC campus...Under no circumstances did we plan to house any workshop participants on the island. We also planned to make the major mode of transportation to the site to be via the water from the SERC dock to minimize traffic on Cumberstone Road.

...The above plan was conceptual to help SERC begin to think about the future use of Corn Island. It was not meant to be a definitive plan and would certainly not move forward without appropriate consultation with our neighbors. Most importantly, it was designed for the future when and if resources were available to develop the complex and provide for proper public access. SERC is not in a position to move on this plan and continues to debate internally the appropriate use of Corn Island in the future. Absent a plan with attendant resources to implement, consultation with the local community did not seem warranted...However, when and if we do develop a plan we feel is worth implementing, I assure you will take part in a wide consultation with all appropriate parties on the future of Corn Island.

I thank you for your concern and interest in the future of Corn Island.

Sincerely yours,

Ross B. Simons, Director

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450 Harwood Road
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(410) 867-3018

Member Profile – **Blades of Green**

Mark John Leahy, spent his high school years working part time at various nurseries and landscape businesses in the area. A native of Harwood, he loved taking care of lawns and creating beautiful carpets of green for his customers. Upon graduation from high school, he went to the University of Maryland to study horticulture and landscape management. 17 years ago he started his own business, Blades of Green with an eye towards making it a full service landscape company and tree nursery. He rented a neighbor's barn to store his equipment and went to work telling potential customers what he could do for them. Many of the rolling green hills of Harwood show the result of his touch with soil and plant management.

Mark understood how the Chesapeake Bay was declining due to poor management of soil and fertilization. He has made a name for his company by creating a comprehensive program of soil amendment, aeration, reseeding, and fertilization that generates lush grass lawns, eliminating erosion and runoff into waters flowing to the Bay. Keeping up with the latest horticultural developments, he reduced his use of phosphorous and potassium by ninety per cent and has brought his nitrogen use for the company to under four pounds per year (20% lower than state requirements). This Bay-friendly approach has won many eco-concerned customers and the business had to move to its larger Route 2 location almost 2 years ago. Now his dream of growing trees is also being realized. Currently he has Red Maples, cherries, and birches for sale to regular customers. This complements his patio, walkway, and mulching services and products also offered by Blades of Green.

Mark points out that is not too early to start thinking about spring planting. He encourages customers to beat the April rush by starting in January with soil ph amendment. Using lime to balance the soil, Blades of Green will ensure that fertilizers are absorbed correctly and do not run off into the bay. Blades of Green is a members of the Independent Lawn Care Association and observes their stringent quality standards. You can find out more about the company at its website www.bladesofgreen.com.

SNOW PATROL – INTERESTED?

Dear Harwood Civic Association:

We are a pretty self-reliant bunch of folks in South County, but there are folks we know that need a bit of help when the snow falls. I am asking you to consider organizing within your own community, club, church, lodge a "Volunteer Snow Patrol" that will respond to calls for assistance in South County this winter. Please contact Fay Mauro at the AACo Volunteer Center and register your group for South County Assistance.

Think about including teenagers in your group as they usually are home from school during snow days, and have the muscle and energy to make a difference.

Here's wishing you and yours a healthy, happy, and peaceful New Year!

Bea Poulin,
Assistant to Janet Owens, County Executive

If anyone is interested in pursuing this suggestion, please contact any of the HCA Board Members. We will assist in putting everyone in contact with one another to ensure that a viable organization is created and can register with the Volunteer Center.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HARVEST

by Mike Striker, Chairman

This year's Harwood Harvest mirrored the success of previous Harvests, and provided the opportunity for HCA to welcome old friends and a few new faces among our volunteers. Held at the 12th Precinct Pistol and Archery Club on Harwood Road on Sunday, 7 November, the event was attended by 40 members of HCA and invited guests. Everyone helped themselves to a wonderful potluck, bolstered by burgers and dogs provided by the Association. Delegate Bob Costa served as guest speaker, giving an active presentation of his legislative agenda (focused on health care and the environment) and answering questions from the community. County Councilman Ed Reilly also attended, taking advantage of the opportunity to hear citizen interests and concerns. The afternoon was capped by an outstanding demonstration of air pistol marksmanship by Ms. Kathy Callahan, U.S. Naval Academy air pistol coach.

The day was marked by several pleasant surprises, including a cameo appearance by a bald eagle, which took advantage of the beautiful weather to ride the updrafts high above Harwood, and the award of the day's doorprize (an antique McCormick teapot), to the Barnes family (much to the delight of their six year old). We look forward to seeing you at next year's Harvest!

GOOD NEWS FOR RESIDENTS IN NEED OF FUNDS FOR SEPTIC SYSTEM REPAIR

A new financing program called the Linked Deposit Loan Program offers low interest rate financing to address the repair or replacement of failing on-site septic systems. This program significantly discounts the interest rate on loans made through participating local lending institutions for the purpose of septic system repair. The purpose of the program jointly sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Maryland Department of the Environment is to encourage projects which reduce or eliminate non-point sources of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The Linked Deposit Loan Program is administrated by the Water Quality Financing Administration of the Maryland Department of the Environment with assistance from the Anne Arundel Country Health Department.

The process begins by filing a County Perc Application and determining through the local Health Department the requirements to repair or replace your failing on-site septic system. If the Linked Deposit Loan Program is of interest to you, the local Health Department will forward a Certificate of Qualification to MDE for approval. Once approved, the applicant submits the Certificate of Qualification during the loan application process to any one of the participating lenders on the attached listing. Following a successful credit evaluation as determined by the lending Institution, funds are invested by the MDE and the rate is discounted by 55% below the lender's normal market interest rate. This interest savings is passed onto the borrower for the repair or replacement of a failing on-site septic system.

For more information on the Linked Deposit Loan Program, please contact Pete Puzack of the Anne Arundel County Department of Health at 410 222 7032.

Thanks to the following for their support of HCA Events in 2004

The Barnes Family – Harwood Harvest volunteers

Mrs. Jan Lehman – Harwood Harvest volunteer

Ms. Margaret Gwathmey – Harwood Harvest volunteer

Mr. Rich Roberts, President, 12th Precinct Pistol and Archery Club – Harwood Harvest facilities

Ms. Kathy Callahan – Harwood Harvest air pistol demo

Ms. Donna Dudley – Harwood History event volunteer

WHY YOU NEED TO JOIN THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION

What do you love about living in Harwood? Probably the quiet, the farmland, the winding roads with views of rolling hills and old barns. Maybe you love the sense of safety and privacy, or feeling like you don't live in a city. But all of those things can be lost when no one advocates with the County and State on your behalf.

Look what the Harwood Civic Association has done for you this year:

- When the responsibility for ground water monitoring at PST landfill was about to be abandoned, the HCA contended with local and state authorities until action was taken.
- When the Harwood Post Office was slated to be closed permanently, the HCA brought the US Postal Service together with new owners and state officials to find a way to keep service in Harwood.
- When a rash of burglaries occurred and the suspect was openly walking up and down the roads of Harwood, the HCA kept the pressure on the police to make the arrest. And now, the guy is now behind bars and the burglaries have stopped.
- When a local real estate company tried to market a land parcel by flaunting how to use family conveyance to get around development restrictions, the HCA brought the matter to the county council's attention.
- When the heritage of Harwood was neglected, the HCA started the Harwood Historical Society.
- When the smells from the landfill and sludge operation made life unbearable, the HCA got the MDE moving to address both of the issues.

When you join the HCA, you join people of all political persuasions, economic levels, new-comers, old families, all united by their love of Harwood and the countryside. You join with others who understand there is strength in numbers and that a strong civic association has clout with officials.

Your membership gives you a way to influence what happens here in this community. It gives you a way to sharing important information you may have about what's happening or what needs to happen. And the HCA offers you a reliable source for useful and accurate information about your community.

And your membership provides you a way to serve, to share your talents with a community that needs your contribution.

Take a moment to fill out the inserted membership form and mail it back with a check for the inexpensive dues. Or better yet, bring both with you to our annual meeting on February 9. You will make the difference to Harwood.

HCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 9, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL, MEDIA CENTER
SOLOMONS ISLAND ROAD

Our annual membership meeting provides an opportunity for the membership to enact its agenda for the year, approve new officers, meet with elected officials, and hear important presentations on issues affecting the quality of life in Harwood.

HARWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 19, 2005, 7:00 P.M.

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

Second organizational meeting open to all interested members of the Harwood community. Please call (410) 867-0715 for directions and parking information.

THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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