



Newsletter

www.harwoodcivic.org

September 2008

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy autumn! Fall is a beautiful time in Harwood...but I suppose just about every other time of year is too. Nonetheless, the colors, falling leaves and cooler temperatures are a welcome change.

Of course, it is back-to-school time as well, and as I write our own Southern High School is readying for the return of students tomorrow. As Southern prepares Harwood's teen citizens, many who will remain our neighbors for years to come; it is a good time to reflect on Harwood Civic Association's relationship with the school. Our board has long supported the school through contributions to the prom breakfast, and we recently made a sizeable contribution to the new college and career center. While civic associations are not generally considered a domain of the young, we feel it is important to set a supportive foundation for the younger members of our community, and will continue to support the school in our midst.

Autumn also presents multiple opportunities to enjoy the outdoors, and reminds us of the unique beauty of our area. It also reminds me that, like the seasons, what makes our area special is also very perishable, and that we have a responsibility to take the long-view when it comes to preserving Harwood. Much of Harwood falls within critical drainage areas affecting the health of the Bay, and shortsighted or profit-driven approaches to construction and zoning will only take away from everyone else including Harwood's young citizens.

Harwood Civic Association is privileged to be able to positively affect the youth and the land of Harwood, and we will continue to work to bring good to both. Thank you for enabling us to do so.

Mike Stricker

Councilman Reilly Proposes Landfill Elimination

Following on the recommendation of the Small Area Plan for South County (SCSAP) and the looming threat of Fly Ash dumping, County Councilman Ed Reilly will introduce legislation to strike language in the county zoning code that allows rubble landfills in RA zones.

Existing county zoning allows landfills in much of the county's rural area under a "special exception" provision. Once believed to be a benign technique for restoration of sand and gravel mines. We now know that they are heavy-industrial operations catering to an inter-state market. The materials dumped are dangerous to our air and water; requiring sophisticated liners & leachate collection systems in hopes of protecting the ground-water that supplies drinking water to nearby residents. Noxious gases will contaminate the nearby air as materials in the dump decompose.

We have discovered the value in our rural, agricultural open space. We have spent tens of millions of public dollars to protect it. We have created "Rural Legacy" zones. Designated

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Landfill Elimination Proposal (Cont.)

scenic/historic roads. Mounted expensive programs to protect and preserve farming operations in our rural areas. We now know this is not the cheap, out-of-the-way place to dump waste from other jurisdictions.

Congratulations to Councilman Reilly for leading a long over-due effort to correct this serious threat to the health and quality of life of South County residents.

Please let County Executive Leopold know that you support this urgent change.

410-222-1821

exleop00@aacounty.org

CEPA begins review of PST Landfill Monitoring Program

Earlier this year the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA) received a grant from a fund established to address adverse impacts from the PST landfill on Sands Rd in Harwood.

PST 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 7½ times that of Millersville. The landfill operated without a liner and leachate collection system.

CEPA will secure independent professional analysis of ground water monitoring procedures and reports 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.

S.E.R.C.

What is it?

SERC is the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center on Contees Wharf Road in Harwood. It includes nearly 3,000 acres of wildlife conservation area and 14 miles of undeveloped shoreline on the Rhode and West Rivers. Since its establishment in 1964, SERC has been a leader in investigating such issues as elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, sediment run off into the Chesapeake Bay, the response of fish to elevated levels of mercury, the effect of invasive species such as the Chinese mitten crab, and the development of models to assess overall wetland health.

On August 3, 2008, HCA members were treated to a personal introduction to the center presented by Dr. Anson Hines. A slide show outlining the many research projects currently under way at SERC was followed by a tour of the newest land acquisition, the Contee Farm.

SERC offers monthly activities for children, school groups, and adults. These include guided hikes, canoe trips, evening lectures, story hours, and home school programs. There are more than three miles of wooded trails including the Java history trail. There is also a boat ramp for launching canoes and kayaks. For more information, access SERC's website:

www.serc.si.edu.



SERC Shoreline on the Rhode River

Smithsonian Hosts HCA Members

On Sunday, 3 August, Harwood Civic Association (HCA) was treated to a phenomenal presentation on the history and future of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). While the HCA board co-sponsored the event with SERC, the centerpiece of the day was run by SERC's Dr. (Tuck) Hines and Mrs. Linda Hines. Tuck and Linda provided a world-class presentation to what regrettably turned out to be a very small audience...despite a mailed invitation to all of the roughly 1400 Harwood households. We just couldn't compete with the weather in what turned out to be a gorgeous day.

Regardless, SERC proceeded as if we had 200 people in the room, following their formal presentation with facility tours for the handful of attendees. All were very impressed with SERC's efforts, and we hope that more members of the Harwood community will take advantage of future events.

Thanks again to Dr. & Mrs. Hines, as well as Ms. Alice Murray and Ms. Jan Lehman for putting the event together.

Dick and Jane's Farm

Dick and Jane's Farm is a roadside stand opened in Harwood in 1993 by Richard and Jane Bishop and staffed by one of their daughters, Sandy Harner, and a close friend, Theresa Engblom. Dick and Jane's Farm is open to the public from late March through early November each year offering high quality flowers, plants and produce. The family friendly atmosphere offers customers a pleasant break as they stop to chat and pick up fresh sweet corn, tomatoes and numerous other local offerings. Jams, jellies and other goodies can be purchased from Jane's Jelly House or year round at: **DickandJanesFarm.com.**

Theresa, Sandy, Jane and Dick



HCA Supports Southern High College and Career Center

On 20 August HCA President Mike Stricker was privileged to present a check from HCA to the Southern High School Business Advisory Board for Southern's new College and Career Center. Presented to Southern Principal Ms. Maryalice Todd and the Advisory Board's Ms. Amy Reilly at the back-to-school night for new students, HCA's \$750 check will be used to purchase equipment for the center.

Be Good to the Bay

Cool season grasses (fescue, bluegrass, ryegrass) should be fertilized primarily in the late summer or early fall to help the grass recover from summer stresses. Nitrogen uptake in the fall is at its peak for cool season grasses. Warm season grasses, such as zoysia grass and Bermuda grass, should be fertilized in the early summer because that is when they are growing most actively. Grass clippings supply free fertilizer and will not cause thatch problems. If clippings are too long, they may clump. Rake up excessive clippings for mulch or compost and mow more frequently. If you leave clippings on the lawn for two years or longer, you may be able to lower the amount of nitrogen fertilizer you use by 25 percent or more.

The Target Mall in Wayson's Corner – An Expensive Planning Mistake

County Executive Leopold has been criticized for his handling of the Target Mall in Wayson's Corner. Such criticism ignores the circumstances leading up to the County's use of Maryland Project Open Space funds to buy and prevent development of approximately 30 acres of commercial land in Wayson's corner.

Accusations that the project needlessly wasted millions of dollars of public money are accurate but blaming John Leopold is incorrect. By the time Mr. Leopold became County Executive the Target Mall was moving rapidly toward becoming a reality. His 11th hour rescue mission responded to overwhelming community demand and protected a treasured national wetland.

That this project ever got to this stage was a blunder of his predecessor. The Small Area Plan for South County, approved unanimously by the County Council and the County Executive in 2001, correctly cited the vulnerability of Wayson's Corner to improper development. It called for a "viable rural commercial area that meets the needs of South County." It specifically called on the County to "Recognize that strip malls, national franchises, and up-zoning are inconsistent with the rural character of South County" and went so far as to propose a concept plan for appropriate development.

The failure of the previous administration to act on the wise advice of area citizens to assure appropriate commercial use of Wayson's Corner led to a costly, last minute solution.

There is an important lesson to be learned from this case. Active citizen participation in land-use planning is vital. Citizen input is valuable and must not be ignored. As we move into a revision of the County General Development Plan, County Executive Leopold must make sure that citizen's voices are both heard and heeded.

The General Development Plan (GDP) for Anne Arundel County is being revised. Why should you care?

The official statement about the GDP from the County website is as follows, "Anne Arundel County's General Development Plan, or GDP, is a comprehensive land use plan prepared in compliance with State requirements and guidelines. The Plan is a policy document that is formally adopted by the County Council. It establishes policies and recommendations to guide land use decisions over the 10 to 20 year planning horizon. The Plan is used by the County in making decisions about growth and development, land preservation, resource protection, and the provision of infrastructure and services."

In actual practice the GDP has proven to be largely ineffective in determining development policies in Anne Arundel County. A quick review of the current Small Area Plan for South County <http://www.aacounty.org/PlanZone/SAP/SouthCounty.cfm> shows numerous unmet goals. i.e.: Barely 50% of agricultural land preservation goal met; Wayson's Corner zoning overlay not accomplished; elimination of special exception for landfills not enacted; and most critical – no appointment of a monitoring committee to measure progress.

So why bother to expect a meaningful Plan this time?

During the campaign for County Executive, John Leopold spoke frequently about his priority for a strong, citizen led GDP, "In my administration the General Development Plan will be adhered to, and master plans and small area plans will be respected. It is imperative that the public be given ample opportunity for input in the revision of the General Development Plan."

[continued on the next page](#)

What Can I Do?

Now is the time to see that these promises become a reality.

- Get Informed.
<http://www.aacounty.org/PlanZone/LongRange/GDP.cfm>
- Contact your representatives on the GDP Advisory Committee: George Perry george.alex.perry@verizon.net, Erik Michelson erikmichelsen@hotmail.com

Rt 2 Improvements Some Planned – Some Stalled

SHA plans to resurface MD 2 this Fall. At the completion of the project, the centerline rumble strips will be reapplied and the limits will be extended from MD 214 all the way down into Calvert County to the MD 2/MD 4 split. With the resurfacing of the road, this will also address the friction problem that is occurring at Polling House.

MD 408 & MD 259 (Greenock Road). The speed limit sign within the curve has been relocated so that it does not confuse motorists. There is an advisory speed displayed along with the curve warning sign advising motorists **to slow down through the curve.**

MD 2 and Harwood Drive: The northbound acceleration lane and the southbound left turn bypass lane are on the corridor's wish list, but there is no additional funding to move them forward at this time.

MD 2 and Harwood Road: Designing a change in the location of the signal ahead flashers so that they are further back from the intersection. More advance warning is necessary due to the long queues at the signal, and the horizontal curve in the road.

MD 2 at Birdsville Southbound turn lane- Ready to advertise this project for construction in January 2009 for a spring construction start. Awaiting final approval of the funding.

MD 2 at MD 255, MD 2 at MD 256 - These two intersections will be advertised as a single project. They are ready to begin in the spring of 2009. Awaiting final construction funding approval.

MD 2 at MD 423 Turn lanes-. This project is not yet funded for construction. Design will continue this fall.

Lothian Roundabout Additional lanes- This project is still in design. Construction funding has not been approved yet.

Rumble Strips - Perseverance Pays

Surely everyone has noticed the new rumble strips on Rt 2 south of Southern High School. The strips are intended to provide a warning to drivers crossing the centerline. Centerline crossovers have caused several of the most serious recent crashes.

The placement of the strips is the result of a good idea and long-term perseverance by John Aylor, a faculty member at Southern High School. Ten years ago, in the Fall of 1998, Mr. Aylor and Ms. Deloris Jerry wrote to the Maryland State Highway Adm. (SHA) after a crossover crash killed five people at Rt 2 and Mary's Mount Rd.

Mr. Aylor and Ms. Jerry urged SHA to install rumble strips. Although the request was denied, Mr. Aylor continued to advocate for the strips. Now ten years later, following more meetings and letters combined with leadership from the Harwood Civic Association, the strips are in place and will be installed all the way from Central Ave. to the Calvert County line!

Congratulations Mr. Aylor! - Perseverance Pays

MD Rt 2 Accident Statistics

Most residents of Harwood have an ominous sense of the growing traffic and growing danger associated with travel on Rt 2. The HCA has hosted several community forums on the subject and has worked with state & local officials seeking improvements. Some improvements have been made and others are in the pipeline (see related project list). Following is a summary of recent traffic accident statistics for the area.

According to Anne Arundel County Police records*, there have been 246 motor vehicle accidents along Md Rt 2 between Md Rt 214 (Central Ave) and the traffic circle in Lothian between 1/1/05 and 6/30/2008. Almost 20% of these accidents (47 accidents) resulted in personal injury or fatalities (2).

YEAR	ACCIDENTS	INJURY/ FATALITY
2005	61	10
2006	73	18
2007	76	11
2008	36	8

*Anne Arundel County Police reports record accidents according to the nearest intersection.

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue Needs You!

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue is in search of volunteers who have a love for cats and kittens and would enjoy helping us care for our residents until they find new homes.

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue, Inc. was founded in 1997 in response to the desperate plight of abused and feral cats in the Maryland area. Their goals are to find loving, permanent homes for all adoptable animals that have been placed under their care; to provide a safe haven and rehabilitation to feral and neglected cats rescued from abusive situations; and to put an end to needless euthanasia because of pet over population.

Rude Ranch Animal Rescue
3200 Ivy Way
Harwood, MD 20776
410-798-9559
www.ruderanch.org

The Anne Arundel County Police Department Southern District Community Alert

The Anne Arundel County Police Departments Southern District has seen an increase in shed burglaries. We would like to remind the citizens living in South County to keep their sheds locked when they are not being used. Many people leave them unsecured overnight or forget to re-secure the sheds when they complete yard work. Items such as lawnmowers, power-washers and tools are being stolen from these sheds.

Please remember to keep your shed secured at all times and to record all serial numbers of the items located inside. Another recommendation would be to install a motion light in your backyard.

Please help us help you. We are counting on you, the citizens of South County, to assist us with these requests. Please notify the Anne Arundel County Police Department should you see any suspicious activity.

HCA Relay for Life Wrap-Up

HCA's participation in the 6 June American Cancer Society Relay for Life at South River High School was, as usual, marked with a poignant combination of celebration of life and mourning for those who lost their battle with the dreaded disease. Two members of the board of directors and their families participated in the event, and your HCA's efforts lead to over \$300 in contributions to the fight against cancer.

The Relay has turned into a bit of a tradition for HCA, this being our third or fourth year at the annual all-nighter (I lose count when I'm tired), and we hope to continue it for years to come.

Continued on next page

A significant part of our effort to build a strong sense of community, we hope to see more members sign up for the event in the future.

Community Events

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Bake Sale
9/28/08 in Edgewater 9:30 a.m. To 12 noon**

**St. James Episcopal Church Dinner
10/04/08 in Lothian 2:00p.m. To 6:00 p.m.**

**Christ Episcopal Church Homecoming Dinner
10/18/08 in Owensville 1:00 p.m. To 5:p.m.**

October 19th – West River Heritage Day Oyster Festival: A full slate of entertainers, artists, authors, craftsmen, and food vendors will be on hand at the West River Heritage Day Oyster Festival from 12:30 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 19, at the Captain Salem Avery House Museum, 1418 EW Shady Side Road, sponsored by Bay Vue Consulting and the Shady Side Rural Heritage Society. Topping off the afternoon will be the drawing of the winner of the \$10,000 raffle sponsored by the Society. Tickets will be for sale at the Festival or from the following local merchants: Trim's Barber Shop; Joanne's Touch; Wheeler's Hardware, Shady Side Market, Java Stop, and Renno's Market. Admission to the West River Heritage Day Oyster Festival is \$6. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Parking will be available at the nearby Shady Side ballfields with free shuttle service. There will be handicapped parking at the Museum. For more information, call the Museum at 410 867 4486.

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Bazaar
10/26/08 in Edgewater 9:00a.m. To 3:00p.m.**

**Owensville Primary Care Health Fair
including free flu shots
11/01/08 in Owensville 9:00 a.m. To 2:00 p.m.**

The West/Rhode RIVERKEEPER Creek Watcher's Meeting and Potluck Dinner. Join your friends on the West and Rhode Rivers for the quarterly meeting and discussion of activity happening along the watershed. **Friday, November 7, 2008 6 PM** Discovery Village, Shady Side

*Remember to get your chance to win, *Rosy Tosy*, a handcrafted 12 ft. double-ended, round-bottom boat, designed by the famous Captain Dick Hartge of Galesville, MD. The drawing is October 17th. Tickets can be purchased online at www.westrhoderiverkeeper.org.

Annual Mission Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday, December 6th from 10am-2pm at Centenary UMC, 6248 Shady Side Road, Shady Side, MD. Featuring local Crafters, Missions, White Elephant Table, Bake Sale, Food, and much more! Rental Space \$15. Information (410) 867-4923.

Annual Holiday Shoppe during December 8th - 23rd at the Southern Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce, 5503 Muddy Creek Road, Churchton, MD 20733. Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday from 12pm-8pm and Saturday-Sunday from 10am-6pm. Information (410) 867-3129.

Harwood Harvest – Special Member Coupon

**Saturday Oct 25, 2008 10am to 5pm
Nightingale Farm Birdsville Rd & RT 2 south**

**Pony Rides * Baby Animals * Corn Boxes
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