



Newsletter

WWW.HARWOODCIVIC.ORG

May 2010

Harwood Civic Association Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2010 7pm
Southern High School – Media Center
Program:

- Election of Officers & Board for 2010
- Chris Swarth- Director- Jug Bay WetlandsSanctuary
- Christina Carr- Anne Arundel County Police Community Relations Council Executive Committee
- Marilyn Harmon- Signature Program Facilitator- Southern High School

2010 Officers & Board Candidates

President – Jan Lehman

Vice President – Stacy Schaefer

Treasurer – Tom Harley

Secretary – Mike Stricker

Board Members: The Officers, Alice Murray, John Guthrie, Tony Gamboa, Mike Lofton

President's Message

Harwood is a wonderful place to live. One of the best things about it is that it has a community association that cares about the issues and is willing to get involved to effect change. We have seen this in action in its support of keeping South County rural, in its support of protecting our natural resources, and in its willingness to join with other community associations to work for the good of the citizens of Anne Arundel County. Our members have rallied with their support in letters, phone calls, and e-mails. They have attended candidate forums, annual meetings, recreational activities, community action sessions, and meetings of the legislature and county

council.

While we may not be able to always produce the results that we desire, please be assured that HCA will continue to be a voice for the citizens of Harwood and Anne Arundel County.

Jan Lehman

Membership Renewal.

**If you have –thanks, if you haven't –
Please Do**

HCA activities are moving ahead in 2010. Follow-up on Rt 2 traffic safety concerns, monitoring proposed development for consistency with the South County Small Area Plan, expansion of our website, www.Harwoodcivic.org, are just a few of the goals for this year.

Your support is essential to the success of this agenda. The size of our membership 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.

For anyone who hasn't renewed for 2010, We have enclosed a renewal envelope and urge you to 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.

Wooton's Landing Update

Chris Swarth, director of the Jug Bay Sanctuary has indicated that the dock project is moving forward. Paperwork to obtain a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment is being submitted. A proposal packet will be sent to the boating division of the Department of Natural Resources. (continued on P2)

(continued from P1)

This will begin the process of obtaining funding. The administrators in the Parks and Recreation Department have indicated their support for the project. HCA will report on further developments as they become available.

Be Good to the Bay Fertilizer

- For optimum plant growth fertilize plants according to their specific needs based on soil test recommendations. Trees are typically fertilized after they drop their leaves in the fall, not in the spring. Mature shade trees do not typically need to be fertilized at all. Trees get more than enough fertilizer when turf is fertilized in the fall.
- Bluegrass and fescue turf are fertilized in the fall as well. Spring fertilization of lawns is not necessary unless you failed to fertilize in the fall or your turf is weak, thin and pale. When selecting a lawn fertilizer choose those containing a minimum of 40% water insoluble nitrogen. June is the last time that you should fertilize your lawn for the spring.
- To prevent nutrient pollution of groundwater and the Chesapeake Bay keep fertilizers off of hard surfaces like driveways and sidewalks. Be cautious when fertilizing areas of your yard that border these hard surfaces.
- Avoid the temptation to fertilize ornamental garden plants that appear to be healthy and productive. Over-fertilization, especially with those high in nitrogen, can lead to overly succulent, weak growth and encourage sucking insect pests like scales, aphids and adelgids.

Comprehensive Re-Zoning

Anne Arundel county has posted the nearly 400 requests submitted under the once a decade Comprehensive Rezoning process. There are 32 requests in the planning area for South County or Deale/Churchton. Virtually all the requests propose

increases in density for land currently zoned residential or conversion of residential zoning to commercial.

The full list of applications is available at <http://www.aacounty.org/PlanZone/LongRange/CompZone.cfm>

The best way to begin understanding these proposals is to use the GIS (geographic information system) tool linked below. This will allow you to see the location of each proposal and review the actual application.

<http://gis-world.aacounty.org/crz/default.aspx>

Rezoning requests will be evaluated by the AA County Office of Planning & Zoning against the standards set in the recently adopted General Development Plan. While no schedule has been set for the P&Z review or subsequent consideration by the County Council, it is likely to take several months and may well not take place until a new council is seated in December.

The Growth Action Network (GAN) will conduct training for community leaders to help equip you with skills to effectively represent your communities in this process. More details as soon as it is ready.

Finally, remember that this is ultimately a **Political process**. Zoning changes are accomplished via legislation enacted by the County Council. It will be critically important to communicate frequently and forcefully with members of the Council, and very likely with prospective candidates in the primaries & general election this Fall. The Council tends to practice "legislative courtesy" and defers to the will of the member for request within their District. So, the District 7 Council member (Tricia Johnson) has enormous power in these decisions.

Stocketts Run Bridge

An update from AA County public works

We are still in the design consultant selection phase of the project and have not yet initiated any design efforts. Staff shortages have led to need to prioritize our workload and re-balance it across our project management staff which has delayed us somewhat.

(continued on P3)

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As a bridge that is eligible for funding through the Federal Bridge Rehabilitation program, we are afforded the opportunity to use a design consultant already under contract with SHA for bridges that qualify for federal aid. We intend to pursue that approach over the next several months to make up for lost time. Once we have the design consultant under contract, we will initiate a scoping meeting to begin the design process and will incorporate input from key members of your Association as we progress through design. This will include the posting of Harwood Road with restrictions to through-trucks over 15 tons. Until we initiate our design contract, we cannot proceed with the above. Meanwhile, our approved FY10 CIP budget includes appropriation for property acquisition in FY11 and construction funding next year, FY12. At this time, we do not anticipate any timing changes with the FY11 budget.

I copy Dan Anderson, our Engineer Manager in charge of this program, as a reminder to contact you once we have our design consultant under contract and in position to begin scoping the design elements. Hopefully, this will occur later this summer.

Chris Phipps AA County Dept of Public Works.

Native Plants

Native or indigenous plants are those which naturally occur in the region in which they evolved. Along with planting to the existing site conditions, using locally native plants will increase the chances that the plants will thrive at your site. While non-native trees, shrubs and perennials provide water quality benefits as compared to lawn, native species have many additional advantages.

Because native plants are adapted to local soils and climate conditions, they generally require less watering and fertilizing than non-natives do. Natives are often more resistant to insects and disease as well, and so are less likely to need pesticides. This is good news for both the environment and the gardener. Best of all, local and migratory wildlife is adapted to using native plant species for food, cover, and rearing young. Wildlife species evolve with plants; therefore, they use native plant communities as their habitat.

Using native plants helps preserve the balance and beauty of natural ecosystems.

For a list of native plants and places to buy them see:

<http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/bayscapes/bswh/bs-whynatives.htm>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chesapeake Bay Field Office

Re-Introducing Native White Cedar

Several members of the Harwood community have over the last few years re-introduced what used to be a common tree in this area - White Cedar. While Red Cedars are still a common sight, White Cedar were harvested to the point of extinction in this area about 100 years ago, due to their outstanding durability as house siding. Many older houses still have White Cedar siding, a testament to its ability to resist moisture and rot.

Harwood resident Mike Stricker obtained several White Cedar saplings from Ivy Neck Farm, after Ivy Neck's owners obtained a number of the trees for re-introduction to the area. Four of the six trees he planted took, and are doing well after about four years of growth. All of the trees were about 18 inches tall when planted, and now range from 30 to 50 inches in height. The trees are more wiry and flexible than Red Cedar, but like most other young trees in the area, should be caged initially to protect them from deer. They are slow growers, and prefer moist soil.

For more information, Google "White Cedar" for facts on the trees, and where they may be purchased.

Sew What!

Recently HCA has been encouraging our members to take advantage of the programs offered at the South County Rec Center. With no background in sewing, I selected a course with an intriguing title, "Sew What!" The course description promised a beginner friendly environment and a choice of morning or evening sessions.

I arrived at the first class with a Singer Simple machine, a bag of colorful fabric that had been purchased in Hawaii, and a combination of high hopes and nervousness. (continued on P4)

(continued from P3)

Could someone in her “senior” years learn a few “new tricks”?

A course is only as good as its teacher. I can’t say enough good things about Sandy McDonald. She combines a solid teaching style with friendliness and a good sense of humor. She has a solution for every problem, and by the end of the second eight weeks (I was having so much fun I signed up for another session), I had produced four pillows, two curtains, a tablecloth, a table runner, and three recovered cushions for the patio furniture.

The classes are two hours long and average fewer than ten students, so there is plenty of individual attention. If you are looking to try something new, page through your Parks and Rec catalogue. You may find you have a hidden talent.

Jan Lehman

Oyster Gardening for a Cleaner Bay

Harwood's eastern boundary lies on the West and Rhode Rivers, and is an ideal location for oyster gardening. Oyster gardening has grown in popularity over the last fifteen years, as more has become known about the very positive effects that oysters have on water quality, and public and private oyster restoration projects have become more common.

A number of Harwood residents participate in these programs, and report several surprising aspects of oyster gardening. One gardener, who works with a restoration project in the West and Rhode Rivers, was impressed with the oysters' growth rate. While oysters seem to be slow-growing, they actually can grow up to two inches per year. Who would have thought that something that looks so much like a rock could grow so fast?

The oysters are easy to grow when hung in mesh cages from docks. Their habitat benefits are immediately evident, as their cages are quickly surrounded by shrimp and small fish, who eat their waste. The small fish and shrimp, in turn, seem to draw blue crabs to the area. You typically pick up a fresh batch of cultched seed oysters in the early autumn - finger-nail sized oysters attached to old oyster shell. Hung from docks through the next eight months, the small oysters turn into mini-colonies. They are collected in late spring and deposited in local reefs near Galesville and at other sites in the

West and Rhode Rivers. They require little maintenance, other than being removed from the water in their cages for about a day per week in warm weather months to have the sun burn the algae off. To learn more, Google “West River oyster restoration”.

Career and College Center Ribbon-Cutting

Southern High School celebrated the opening of its Career and College Center (CCC) . Southern’s Business Advisory Board is proud to present Anne Arundel County’s first career and college center. Located in the Main Lobby, next door to the cafeteria, the CCC will make resources more accessible to students.

The Center, painted in café colors, include tables and stools for small groups of students to talk about their plans for life after high school. Computer stations provide access to internet research, and a large screen television streams information about colleges and careers.

Students will be able to research options for after graduation, to talk with counselors and representatives from schools and industries, and to get tips on scholarships. Workshops on the application essay or “How to conduct a campus visit”, for example, will give South County students valuable information as they and their families prepare for the big step after high school.

The Business Advisory Board (BAB) developed the Career and College Center over the past four years. Members of South County’s business community traveled to other high schools to visit their CCC’s and gather ideas for the types of activities and resources we would need. The BAB worked with architects to design the space, which included removing a window and installing a double-door glass front to invite student interest in researching their futures.

The BAB conducted fund-raising to finance the architectural and construction services, as well as the door, TV, and furnishings. Community businesses that helped raise money include **Petie Green’s** in Deale, the **Brickhouse Restaurant** in Shady Side, and **Jalapeno’s** in Annapolis.

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Large donations to the CCC development came from local businesses, including Reilly Benefits, Inc., and Muddy Creek Animal Hospital, as well as from the South Anne Arundel Rotary Club, Harwood Civic Association, and Amy Reilly.

Redeemer Quilters

Here in South County we are very fortunate to have a group of 8 women called the Redeemer Quilters who sew useful items for young and old as an outreach ministry. Their skilled hands make quilts, blankets, walker pockets, lap robes, baby sweaters, and ponchos. Lucky recipients of their beautiful hand work include Early Head Start, South County Baby Pantry, Owensville Primary Care, the Gabriel Project at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Appalachian and Ghana missions, Lighthouse Shelter, the Medical Adult Day Care Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program of Baltimore and newly baptized babies at local churches.

Meeting each Friday morning at Christ Episcopal Church in Owensville, they are always open to requests for needed items and always ready to include a willing newcomer to this important work. They also accept any donation of fabric scraps, thread and batting. Lucky for us to have such creativity in our neighborhood. For more info about them, please call Linda Johnson at 410-867-1593

You Can Make a Difference

On Monday, May 3, the County Council voted 4-3 against Council Bill 12-10, a proposal to slow the scheduled increase of impact fees to developers. HCA testified against the proposal because of the increased burdens that it would place on taxpayers and homeowners.

Tricia Johnson, Councilwoman, for District 7 and an early supporter of the proposal, reversed her position following an outpouring of e-mails from Anne Arundel citizens. **“I’m going to vote with my constituents tonight”**, said Ms Johnson.

We can never underestimate our influence on our elected officials. HCA made our position clear in a strong statement and will continue to speak out on issues of importance to our members and the

community at large and will endeavor to keep you informed so that your voices can be heard.

2010 Officers & Board Contact List

President – Jan Lehman	410-741-1698
piedpiper888@comcast.net	
Vice Pres. – Stacy Schaefer	410-867-6831
schaefer.stacy@gmail.com	
Treasurer – Tom Harley	410-741-0423
thomas_harley@ita.doc.gov	
Secretary – Mike Stricker	410-867-0389
strickergang@hughes.net	
Alice Murray	410-867-4610
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Mike Lofton	410-867-3623
mssl49@aol.com	

Local Sponsors

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Lothian, MD 20711
www.exteriorimage.com

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(410) 867-7412

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404 Harwood Road
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(202) 207-5737

Fax: (410) 867-4299

www.haunenvironmental.com

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450 Harwood Road

Harwood, MD 20776

(410) 867-3018

Relms Landscaping

235 South River Clubhouse rd.

www.relmslandscaping.com

(410) 798-5333

Calendar of Harwood Area Events

May-July 2010

May 15 - Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) Open House on the Bay, Park at Central Middle School and take shuttle, 10:00 to 3:00 PM, Information 301-238-2737, Contact: 443-482-2300.

May 15 – Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary 25th Anniversary Open House, Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (WS), 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

May 16 – Ephemeral Spring Wildflower Walk, Jug Bay WS, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Sign-up: 410-741-9330.

May 20 – Free Kayaking, Discovery Village, Shady Side, 5:00 PM until ½ hour before sunset, Contact: Amy Calhoun, 410-867-7171. West/Rhode River Keeper. Also **June 3, June 17, July 1, July 15**. Free Kayaking will be held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from May 6 thru September 16.

May 22 – Planting Rain Gardens, Captain Salem Avery Museum, 9:00 AM, Free Admission.

May 22 – Dig Day, Historic London Town And Gardens, 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Admission: Free, Contact 410-222-1919, www.historiclondontown.org. Also **July 10**.

May 23 – Turtle Conservation and Natural History at Jug Bay WS, Jug Bay WS, 9:30 AM to 2:00 PM, Cost: \$15/person, download Registration Form at www.jugbay.com

May 29 – Reptile & Amphibian Science Surveying, Meet in SERC Reed Classroom, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, Cost: Free, Contact 443-482-2300, registration preferred. Also Citizen Science Insect Survey on **June 12**, day: 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, night: 8:00 to 10:00 PM.

May 29 – Canoe Excursion, SERC Reed Education Center, 9:00 – 11:30 AM, Cost: \$14/adult & \$7/Child limited to 16 participants, Contact: Program Information and Registration: 443-482-2300. Also **June 19, June 26, July 3, July 10, July 31**.

June 5 – Introduction to Birding Hike, SERC Reed Education Center, 8:30 to 10:00 AM, Cost \$5.00/person, preregistration suggested, Contact: 443-482-2300. Also **July 3**.

June 5 – Bird Walk, Jug Bay WS, 8:00-11:00 AM, Contact: 410-741-9330 or www.jugbay.org. Also **July 3**, 8:00 to 11:00 AM.

June 5 – Marsh Ecology by Canoe, Jug Bay WS, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Cost: \$10/person, register by mail. See www.jugbay.org. Also **June 26**, 4:30 to 8:30 PM: **July 11**, 3:30 -7:30 PM.

June 13 – Opening: Rain Garden and Ecotour, Captain Salem Avery Museum, 2:00 to 4:00 PM, Admission Free.

June 16 & 17 – Volunteer Open House, Historic London Town And Gardens, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Contact: 410-222-1919, www.historiclondontown.org.

June 19 – Rhythm on the River (To support the West/Rhodes River Keeper), Hargett Yacht Harbor, Galesville, 8:00 PM, Cost \$40/person, Contact: Amy 410-867-7171.

June 20 – Summer Solstice, Maggie Sansone and Company, Historic London Town and Gardens, 7:00 PM, Cost: \$15/person & \$10/Members

July 3 – Introduction to Bees, SERC Reed Education Center, 1:00 to 2:00 PM, Cost: Free, Contact: 443-482-2300.

July 4 – Galesville Fourth of July Parade, Main Street, Galesville, 2:00 PM, Galesville Heritage Society.

July 10 – Introduction to Blue Crabs and Crabbing, SERC Reed Education Center, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Cost: \$5/person, Contact Registrar: 443-482-2300, 15 person limit.

July 17 – Contee Farm History Hike, SERC Reed Education Center, 1:00 to 2:30 PM, Cost: Free, Contact: 443-482-2300.

July 11 – Revolutionary London Town, Historic London Town and Gardens, 12:00 to 4:00 PM.

July 26-30 – Salem Avery Museum Camp, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, for children ages 8-13 yrs, Cost: \$140/members and \$150/nonmembers, Shady Side Rural Heritage Society.

Useful Contact Information

There have been some changes in this information recently

- **County Executive- John Leopold**
410-222-1821 exleop00@aacounty.org
- **Community Service Representative-Bea Poulin**
410-222-1260 bpoulin@aacounty.org
- **County Council Representative District 7-Tricia Johnson**
410-222-1401 tricia.johnson@aacounty.org
- **State Senator District 33-Ed Reilly**
410-841-3568 edward.reilly@senate.state.md.us
- **Delegate District 33B-Bob Costa**
410-841-2551 robert.costa@house.state.md.us
- **State Senator District 30-John Astle**
800-492-7122, ext. 3578 john.astle@senate.state.md.us
- **Delegate District 30-Michael Busch**
800-492-7122, ext. 3800 michael.busch@house.state.md.us
- **Delegate District 30-Virginia Clagett**
800-492-7122, ext. 3211 virginia.clagett@house.state.md.us
- **Delegate District 30-Ron George**
800-492-7122, ext. 3439 ron.george@house.state.md.us
- **AA County Police Traffic Coordinator-Corporal Mark Camm**
P9082@aacounty.org



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