



Newsletter

www.harwoodcivic.org

January 2009

Annual Meeting Feb 11, 2009 7pm Southern H.S. Media Center

The 2009 HCA Annual Meeting will feature presentations by the Patuxent and West/Rhode Riverkeepers. Learn how you can enjoy AND improve the waters of our beautiful local rivers.

Officer & Directors for 2009 will be elected.

Officers & Directors for 2009 one year term

President	Mike Stricker
Vice President	Stacy Schaefer
Treasurer	Tom Harley
Secretary	Jan Lehman

Directors (Three-year term expires 2/11)

John Guthrie 1st term expires 2/12

Continuing Directors

Mike Stricker	2 nd term expires 2/10
Tom Harley	1 st term expires 2/10
Stacy Schaefer	1 st term expires 2/10
Debbie Chamberlain	1 st term expires 2/10
Tony Gamboa	1 st term expires 2/11
David Green	2 nd term expires 2/11
Alice Murray	2 nd term expires 2/11
Jan Lehman	2 nd term expires 2/11

President's Message

Happy 2009. I hope you had a joyous and meaning-filled holiday season. As the new year dawns, HCA is preparing for its annual "changing of the guard" - as several board members move on after serving multiple terms...and new board members and officers are selected.

This past year served as a reminder of the importance of this transition. While the board elections always occur with

minimal fanfare (and dare I say interest?) - recent community events have reinforced the importance of having increased depth in our board (beyond the talented and civic-minded people that already grace our roster). Several issues emerged in 2008 that, in the community's eye, demanded a degree of effort from HCA that the board was unable to offer. This situation is frustrating, but offers hidden opportunity for greater community participation in civic groups, including HCA.

As you read notice of the upcoming annual meeting, I hope that you plan to attend, and if so inclined, to throw your hat in the ring either as a candidate for an office, or as a volunteer to support the number of board sub-committees (including government affairs and land use, events, publicity or treasury). I hope to see you in February.

Mike Stricker

It is Time to Renew Your Membership

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

Membership, both commercial and residents, has continued to grow in recent years. The old saying about "Strength in Numbers" couldn't be truer than in the world of community organizations. A large and vigorous HCA helps Harwood have real clout in dealing with public agencies (Remember the Post Office!).

In 2009 HCA will continue: follow-up on Rt 2 safety concerns; advocate for a safe & ample supply of drinking water; monitor revision of the County General Development Plan; expansion of our website, www.Harwoodcivic.org, encourage a more successful agricultural land preservation program and respond to unforeseen issues.

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 thru regular newsletters, postcard mailings and the website.

A renewal envelope is enclosed in this issue of the Newsletter. 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.

HCA Board Hosts County Council Candidate Meeting

On Saturday, 15 November, four members of your HCA board held a candidate meeting focused on getting to know the candidates for Councilman Ed Reilly's seat, which will be up for grabs in the 2010 election. In fact, Councilman Reilly recommended the HCA board meet all of the candidates for his seat, and hopefully this was just the first of several meetings to come for candidates representing all parties.

Prospective Republican candidates Rick Hughes and Jerry Walker enjoyed coffee and answered many questions during the morning meeting, which was attended by Councilman Reilly and HCA board members Stacy Schaefer, Ton Gamboa, Mike Lofton and Mike Stricker. The candidates provided their personal background, heard the concerns of the HCA board regarding issues facing South County, and discussed issues including Route 2 safety, the General Development Plan, RA-zoned land use, and impact fees.

We will keep you apprised of the conduct of future such meetings.



Photo: kneeling, Mike Lofton; 2nd row, Mike Stricker, Rick Hughes, Tony Gamboa; 3rd row, Councilman Reilly & Jerry Walker

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HCA Board Developing Proposed Change to County Notice and Standing Policy

In response to the ongoing situation in which the Sands Road community largely missed notice of a significant expansion of the Riddle Sand and Gravel mining operation into additional land, your HCA board is developing proposed changes to Anne Arundel County notice and standing rules as they apply to public notification of land use issues. While all government rules appeared to have been followed in the case of the Riddle mine, the short two week period of notice, hard to spot signage, and minimal direct community notification (to both individuals and civic groups), resulted in a situation where the Sands community was surprised by the outcome of a hearing granting expanded mining.

After discussing the County rules matter with Councilman Reilly, several HCA board members developed a proposal for more aggressive notification procedures, which we intend to present to the County Council in coming months. We will keep you apprised of further developments, and invite your ideas (please send to HarwoodCivicAssn@aol.com).

James R Fitzpatrick, Former HCA Vice President and Editor of the HCA Newsletter

James has been recognized in the media for his musical composition "The Chartered Course". Arguably the best attended of all the events celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Charter of Annapolis, two performances of his seven movement oratorio played to standing room only.

The work, funded by the City of Annapolis Commission on Art in Public Places, examined the course of liberty in the history of the city and drew on numerous historical resources in the crafting of the text. "I loved researching this project," Fitzpatrick said. "And the Harwood Civic Association certainly made its impact on this work. The HCA sponsored a forum with local historian Janice Hayes Williams and the information she shared formed the nucleus of the most emotional part of the piece. We are so fortunate to have an organization that provides opportunities for our history to be passed down."

Fitzpatrick has had a busy year with the nomination of a CD he produced ("Another Time, Another Place") for a Washington Area Music Award and the premiere of his musical revue "Route 66" at the Prince Theatre. All of this is in addition to his position as Music Director for the Heritage Harbour Chorus and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church.

During this recession we are fortunate to have several churches that will help our neighbors with food and, in some cases, emergency financial and related assistance.

They are:

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 410-798-5161.
515 Loch Haven Road, Edgewater, MD 21037
Pantry: Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m.-noon; financial assistance Monday 10-11 a.m. by appointment.

Holy Family Catholic Church, 410-269-0586.
826 West Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035
Pantry: None; financial assistance Wednesday by appointment.

SCAN At St. James Episcopal Church, 410-867-2838
5757 Solomons Island Road, Lothian, MD 20711
Pantry: Thursday and Saturday 9 a.m.-noon; other assistance call 410-867-2838.

Riva Trace Baptist Church, 410-798-4868
475 W. Central Avenue, Davidsonville, MD 21035
Pantry: First Saturday of the month 10:30 a.m.-noon.

Christ Episcopal Church, 410-867-0346
220 Owensville Road, West River, MD 20778
Pantry: Baby Emergency Food (call church office); financial assistance (call church office).

All Hallows Episcopal Church, 410-798-0808
3604 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater, MD 21037
Pantry: Monday 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, 410-867-2059
101 Owensville Road, West River, MD 20778
Pantry: Monday-Friday a.m. emergency only; financial assistance.

New Journey Church of God, 410-798-5460
10 South River Clubhouse Road, Edgewater, MD 21037
Pantry: Second and Fourth Thursday of the Month.

Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 410-798-5300
4012 Birdsville Road, Davidsonville, MD 21035
Pantry: Saturdays 10:30 a.m. (perishable food only).

South County Faith Network, 410-867-1128
Services: Support for elderly and disabled, including light housekeeping and yard work, home repairs, transportation, visitation, etc. Geographic area served from Harwood south to Anne Arundel County line.

The Title Report on Land And the Title Insurance Policy

From a Land Surveyor's perspective:

Whenever I am asked to survey land in Maryland, unless that land lies in a subdivision which is recent, the land holder/buyer is asked to supply a Title Report.

This is usually in the form of a recent Title Insurance Policy, or can be called a "Report of Title" issued by a Title Attorney from a Title Abstract.

Both documents disclose what Deeds in the Land Records affect the subject land, including the 'main' Deed.

This is very important, especially in an area like Harwood, where most land is "metes and bounds" and the Title Deed does not disclose the full situation.

For example, a property on Grays Road abuts the Power Lines from Calvert County nuclear plant. A Title Report/Insurance Policy will show that BGE has the right to trim trees OUTSIDE their right of way under an easement agreement. The agreement also includes a provision that the abutting landowner to the Power Lines can farm the BGE land as of right.

So, whenever buying or surveying land in Harwood, inspect the Title Report before closing, and make sure your Surveyor gets a copy after you have bought it.

Many easements, rights of way and the like can seriously affect the value of land, and its utility without being noted in the Title Deed.

David Green, HCA Board Member

Wooton's Landing Patuxent River Wetlands Park

This little known park. Located at 4550 Sands Rd., is part of the Patuxent Water Trail, a series of cartop boat sited maintained by Prince Georges and Anne Arundel Counties. The parking area is about two hundred yards from the put-in area, but it is an easy walk. Fishing is another activity for visitors to the park. The wooded shoreline is covered with willows, birch, ash, black gum and sycamores. The county has published a guide for all the sites in the Cartop Boat Launch Program. Call the Park Administration Office at 410-222 7317 or go to the website, www.aacounty.org/RecParks/launch/index.cfm.

Rt 2 Safety – A Nightmare Reality Show

Following is a first person account from HCA Member Harry McConchie of his experience in a car crash on Rt 2. Vital safety improvements continue to wait on State funding.

“I reside at 17 Harwood Drive and am very concerned about the intersection of Rt.2 and Harwood Drive. On June 7, 2008 my vehicle was totaled at this intersection while I was sitting at the stop sign on Harwood Drive waiting to turn left onto Rt.2. The accident was caused by a distracted teenage driver that rear ended a mini van on Rt.2 southbound that was waiting to turn left onto Harwood drive. The force of the crash pushed the minivan into northbound traffic causing it to hit another minivan head on. This caused the second minivan to slide sideways taking out the driver’s front end of my vehicle. A 13 year old girl was ejected from the second minivan and landed directly in front of my car. She was flown to shock trauma and the driver of the first minivan and the teenage driver were taken to the hospital by ambulance. I am currently under a Chiropractors care for lower back pain.”

Please continue to press our State Delegates & Senators for funding:

Sen. John Castle (D), District 30, (410) 841-3578,
john.astle@senate.state.md.us

Del. Michael E. Busch (D), *House Speaker*, District 30, (410) 841-3800 michael.busch@house.state.md.us

Del. Virginia P. Clagett (D), District 30, (410) 841-3211
virginia.clagett@house.state.md.us

Del. Ronald A. George (R), District 30, (410) 841-3439
ron.george@house.state.md.us

Sen. Janet Greenip (R), District 33, (410) 841-3568
janet.greenip@senate.state.md.us

Del. Robert A. Costa (R), District 33Bm (410) 841-3551
robert.costa@house.state.md.us

Owensville Sudley Rd. Speed Humps Installed

Congratulations to Owensville-Sudley Rd residents for their persistence!

The County did a great job of keeping the road "rural," with not too many bright yellow signs or paint (the speed humps are marked with signs ahead of time and signs at the hump, and the humps are marked with white arrows). The neighborhood would like to thank Traffic Engineer Nestor Flores for all his help in seeing this through. Thanks also to County Executive Leopold for his decision to cost-share with the residents.

Congratulations to Bristol Residents! County Council rejects Riverdale Baptist School Project

The unanimous vote by the Anne Arundel County Council provides another powerful example of the effectiveness of persistence by community groups. Led by Jeannie Sproesser, the President Bristol Civic Association, with active support from countless area residents and nearby community groups, persuaded the council to reject a plan that would have allowed a large school facility in a totally inappropriate area in conflict with the principles of the South County Small Area Plan.

Lothian resident John W. Butler provided a strong set of arguments for rejecting the plan. Among a series of points he made, "... perhaps most important, passing 82-08 would irretrievably undermine the County's important efforts to maintain the rural character of its most rural part, would undermine sunk investments at Jug Bay, Wayson's Corner, and adjoining parcels, and would signal a retreat from well-considered planning and zoning."

For a complete copy of Mr. Butler's letter that helped lead the Council to its decision and will help other communities threatened by the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) visit the HCA website www.Harwoodcivic.org

Londontowne Symphony Orchestra Concert

January 18 at 3 PM at Southern High School.

Music from the "Edges of Europe" fills this concert directed by conductor Anna Binneweg with Dr. William Bloomquist performing in Grieg's Piano Concerto. Tickets information is available at:

londontownesyphonyorchestra.org or at 410-757-3583.

Congratulations to Southern High a Maryland Blue Ribbon School

The Maryland State Department of Education chooses six blue ribbon schools each year for having exceptional performance on standardized tests or for showing dramatic improvement while serving economically disadvantaged students. The schools' names are sent on to the U.S. Department of Education to compete in the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

Southern improvements include, a 22 percent increase in students that took the SAT last year than the previous year, and more students who take Advanced Placement courses have been taking the corresponding exams. Southern also has made progress on state standardized tests, which are now a graduation requirement. As of the end of last year, 98 percent of the class of 2009 had met the requirement.

Southern also has been successful in getting support from the community. For example, using about \$16,000 in donations from area businesses and the Harwood civic Association (HCA), Southern's Business Advisory Board is planning to open a Career and College Center in the spring.

Southern High School College And Career Center Progress

In August, HCA contributed \$750 to the new Southern High School College and Career Center. As part of HCA's desire to develop the future leaders of our community, we were pleased to take advantage of this opportunity to give back. HCA was joined by many corporate members of the South County community in contributing to this effort...an effort that affirms the closeness of our community.

We are happy to report that in late November the Career Center passed a significant Board of Education planning approval, and is now in the construction planning stages. We are closely following the Center's progress, and will provide future updates. We hope soon to have an article on the grand opening.

Forum on Stream Restoration

Attend a Forum on Stream Restoration Friday, February 27, 2009, 7 PM, Southern HS in Harwood . Sponsored by the Chesapeake Environmental Protection Association (CEPA)

Experts from the The University of MD Chesapeake Biological Lab, AA County Public Works, and the South River Federation will present information on the status of area streams. **Visit cepaonline.org for more information**

Anne Arundel County Recycles More Often and You Can Too! *Now, there's MORE to recycle*

As a New Year begins now is a great time to make sure you are recycling everything you can in your home. Are you recycling the shampoo containers in the bathrooms? How about all your junk mail, newspapers, inserts, magazines and catalogs? Did you know we accept all types and sizes of cardboard boxes?

To help you recycle more, we have recently made several enhancements to our program. We now accept rigid plastic items such as flowerpots, food trays, shelving, toys, buckets, crates and other rigid plastic items. In addition, we accept plastic bags and shrink-wrap! Be sure to place your plastic bags and shrink wrap in a single plastic bag for easy collection. You can also recycle aluminum foil and pans, empty aerosol cans, wide-mouth plastic containers and cups, and wax-paper milk and juice cartons.

As you know, recycling is easy in Anne Arundel County. You can put all your recyclable materials in the same container, the items do not need to be cleaned or rinsed, and there is no limit to the amount of recycling you can put out each week!

You make a choice with every item you throw away, a choice between throwing it in the recycling container or throwing it in the trash can. We encourage you to recycle at home, at work and on the go. Please visit our website at www.RecycleMoreOften.com for tips to boost your recycling and to take the 50/50 Challenge.

General Development Plan Public Forum Schedule

A Draft General Development Plan will be available at <http://www.aacounty.org/Majortopics/Resident.cfm> for public review beginning January 20, 2009.

Public Forums will be held in January and February to solicit public input on the draft plan.

- Monday January 26th at Annapolis High School
- Wednesday January 28th at Old Mill High School
- Tuesday February 3rd at Southern High School
- Thursday February 5th at Meade High School

All forums will run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Public comments on the draft plan may be submitted in writing or via email between January 20th and February 16th.

Harwood Civic Association Contact list

Harwood Civic Association:		www.Harwoodcivic.org	Harwoodcivic@aol.com
AA County Switchboard:	410-867-2027	www.aacounty.org	
Community Services:	410-222-1795		
Harwood Post Office	410-867-3800.		
County Executive John Leopold:	410-222-1821	exleop00@aacounty.org	
Councilman Ed Reilly:	410-222-1401	ereilly@aacounty.org	
Environmental Violation: Hotlin	410-222-7777		(staffed 24 hrs a day)
Harwood Fire Station	410-222-8209		
County Police Southern Distri	410-222-1961		
Natural Resources Police	877-224-7229		
County Roads Southern Distric	410-222-1933		
State Roads	410-841-1000		
Social Services	410-269-4500		
Consumer Protection Hotline	888-743-0023		
Animal Control	410- 222-8900		
Inspections & Permits	410-222-7790	ipmailbox@aacounty.org	
Zoning Enforcement	410-222-7446		
Bulk Item Pick Up	410-222-6100		
Health Department	410-222-7364		
South County Rec Center	410-222-1515		

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South River Greenway

The document below explains what the Greenway is and gives information on two meetings to be held on January 22, 2009. This is a very significant preservation initiative, we would do well in giving support.

Dear Community Association Representative:

We are writing to let you know about a very important preservation initiative underway. A group of local non-profit associations and government agencies are working together to preserve and restore land in your neighborhood to create the South River Greenway.

This area covers 16,000 acres including parts of Annapolis, Crofton, Crownsville, Davidsonville, Gambrills, and Millersville. Headwater streams of the South River flow through the Greenway. The Greenway has over 6,000 acres of forests and wetlands that provide important habitat for diminishing woodland birds, important reptile species, and a host of other animals and plants. The goal of this initiative is to preserve as much land in this area as possible – keeping the area where you live undeveloped, preserving important natural habitat, and providing a passive recreation area where local residents can appreciate the natural beauty of this area.

We are well on our way to making the South River Greenway a reality. With the transfer of State land near the Crownsville hospital and recent purchases by Anne Arundel County, nearly 1,500 acres is owned by county or city government. We want to involve you and other residents of this area in the planning and protection of the South River Greenway. **On Thursday, January 22, 2009**

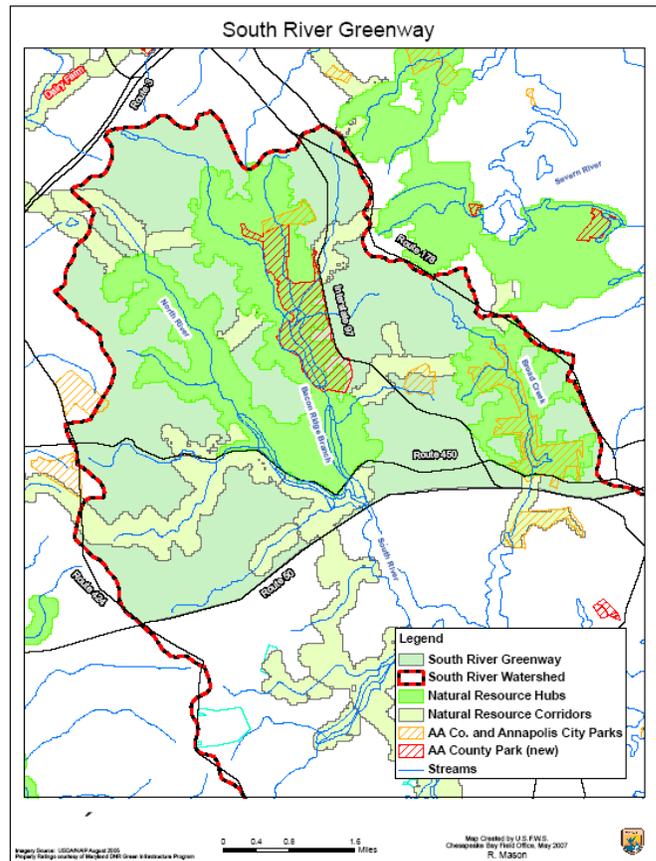
there will be two important meetings about the Greenway. You and your fellow community members are invited to both.

Starting at 10:00 a.m. at Anne Arundel Community College there will be a conference for those who, with their planning and implementation expertise or potential funding sources, can help make the Greenway happen. In the evening, starting at 5:30 p.m. at Baldwin Hall, there will be a meeting of community residents and potential friends of the South River Greenway to provide information on the status of the Greenway and actions that residents can take to support the effort. Registration information will be posted at www.efc.umd.edu in the coming weeks.

In the meantime if you would like more information about the South River Greenway initiative, or if you would like someone to come and speak to your community association about this effort, please contact:

Kincey Potter, South River Federation, 410 280-6254, kincey@kincey.com
Rich Mason, Scenic Rivers Land Trust, 410-573-4584, rich_mason@fws.gov

We hope that you are as excited as we are about the potential of the South River Greenway. Please join us January 22nd and help us make it happen!





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