



Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2007

President's Report

First, an apology for the long gap since the last HCA Newsletter. Our long-time editor, James Fitzpatrick, is not able to continue in this role. We are seeking someone to assume this position. The Newsletter is produced three to four times per year and is the primary means of communication with the membership. While the Editor does some writing, the bulk of the content is produced by Board members and others. The primary task of the Newsletter editor is to assemble the Newsletter for printing and distribution. A commercial shop handles printing. Mailing tasks are handled by other Board members. Familiarity with any suitable software (or a willingness to learn) is all that is required. Take a look at past issues at <http://harwoodcivic.org/pages/News.html> If you are interested please contact me at msl49@aol.com or 410-867-3623.

The Board has been actively pursuing/monitoring a number of issues of importance to Harwood Area residents:

- Construction of the new Harwood Post Office at the Harwood market. Opening is expected about Oct 1.
- Just over \$90,000 from a Community Benefit Fund has been earmarked for long-term ground-water monitoring at the now closed **PST Rubble Dump** on Sands Rd.
- HCA, along with the Lothian Civic Association and Friends of Jug Bay, have initiated an effort to help Anne Arundel County improve its agricultural and forest land preservation programs. See the letter to County Executive Leopold elsewhere in this issue.

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HOSPICE OF THE CHESAPEAKE TO HOLD FIFTH

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Event to raise funds for hospice care in Anne Arundel & Prince George's Counties

Hospice of the Chesapeake seeks participants for its fifth annual golf tournament being held on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at Atlantic Golf at South River in Edgewater. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

Individual registration is \$225 and foursome registration is \$800. Registration includes 18 holes of golf, wonderful giveaways, great prizes, fantastic contests such as the hole-in-one, closest to the pin, longest and straightest drive, a delightful lunch and dinner, and an unbelievable auction. Each team will consist of four players and the format will be "captain's choice."

All proceeds from the golf tournament will be used to support the Hospice of the Chesapeake's programs and services in the Anne Arundel and Prince George's Counties. **The registration deadline is September 18, 2007.** The event will be held rain or shine. To register, please contact Hospice of the Chesapeake's Development Coordinator **Rhonda Lewis** at 443-837-1530 or rlewis@hospicechesapeake.org.

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Hospice of the Chesapeake improves the quality of life for those in our communities experiencing advanced illness or bereavement through hospice and other palliative care, compassionate support and education.

Letter to County Executive Leopold

In a letter sent to County Executive John Leopold on August 6, 2007, The Harwood Civic Association joined with the Lothian Civic Association and the Friends of Jug Bay in stressing the importance of agricultural preservation and offered their help in making Anne Arundel County's preservation programs successful. As can be seen in the attached letter and chart, our county has one of the poorer records for preserving important lands.

The Honorable John Leopold
County Executive
Arundel Center
44 Calvert St.
Annapolis, MD 21404 - 1831

Dear County Executive Leopold:

On behalf of the Harwood Civic Association (HCA), hearty congratulations on your recent actions to protect agricultural and forest lands in Anne Arundel County. Your judgments and solutions for the Wayson's Corner Target site, the Naval Academy Dairy property, and the Crofton Wal-Mart location demonstrate a much-needed instinct to aggressively solve problems. While dramatic and necessary, these "rescues" demonstrate the vulnerability of much of the County's most important lands to undesirable sprawl development.

In that regard, HCA, The Lothian Civic Association and Friends of Jug Bay Wetland Sanctuary strongly believe that there is an urgent need to aggressively expand Anne Arundel County's ongoing land preservation programs. We want to help in the achievement of improvements!

In an effort to better understand the relative success of Ag/Forest land preservation programs in Anne Arundel County we have collected information on similar programs in nearby jurisdictions. The attached table shows comparative data for Anne Arundel County and four nearby jurisdictions. While each jurisdiction has unique characteristics, it seems reasonable to conclude from this data that efforts in Anne Arundel County have been under-resourced, thus leading to our County's under-performance in comparison with the other jurisdictions. Your leadership, however, has signaled a positive change.

We hope to be able to offer useful advice and support in what we regard as an urgent need to protect these lands in the face of mounting development pressures and escalating prices that may limit the effect of publicly financed preservation efforts. Recognizing current funding challenges, we are prepared to rally volunteers to provide assistance to your staff. Specifically, we believe community support can contribute to improved understanding of the benefits of Ag/Forest land preservation to farmers, landowners & the general public. For example, how many of the wealthy landowners in South County know that 2007 is such an important year (in terms of the best tax breaks) to donate conservation easements? This opportunity needs to be aggressively marketed to property owners and their financial/tax advisors.

We would like the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our ideas and set an action plan for improvement. I will contact your office shortly to make the arrangements.

Sincerely,

Alice Murray

Land Use Chairman

**Comparative Chart of Preservation Efforts and Types in Similar Counties' Targeted Conservation Areas
(Rural Legacy Areas) (reported as of February 2007)**

Type of Protection	Baltimore County	Harford County	Frederick County	Calvert County	Anne Arundel County
MALPF (Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation)	12,288 acres	4,225 acres	4,038 acres	2,159 acres	3,496 acres
County Ag Program	5,243 acres	8,776 acres	1,620 acres	7,450 acres (TDR Program) + 1,512 acres (PDR Program)	3,390 acres
State Rural Legacy Program	18,121 acres	1,542 acres	3,211 acres	1,022 acres	855 acres
MET (Maryland Environmental Trust)	8,066 acres	387 acres	1,207 acres	831 acres	21 acres
State Parks and Open Space	8,296 acres	2,988 acres	4,249 acres	3,808 acres	217 acres
County Parks and Open Space	3,415 acres	266 acres	112 acres	693 acres	1,799 acres
TOTAL:	55,429 acres preserved	18,184 acres preserved	14,437 acres preserved	17,475 acres preserved	9,778 acres preserved

Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources statistics on Agricultural/Forest land preservation programs.

President's Report (continued)

-Board member Jan Lehman is participating in an effort to involve HCA in plans to improve school performance in the Southern high School feeder system.

-Led by HCA Vice President Mike Stricker & family, HCA participated in the Annual Walk for Life, cancer fund-raiser at South River High School.

Meet Stacy Schaefer---New Board Member and New Mom.

Stacy and her husband, Alex, moved to this wonderful area a little over two years ago. They own a small historic farm in Harwood where they have two horses, a dog and two cats. She is an attorney who specialized in complex civil litigation for 12 years at the Washington, D.C. law firms of Arnold & Porter and Gilbert, Heintz & Randolph. Her interest, however, has always been in natural resource conservation and preservation. To that end, she recently made a career shift to become a project manager with the Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Rural Legacy Program and am now happily working in nearby Annapolis. She looks forward to contributing in any way she can to the Board. Stacy's first child, Morgan Schaefer was born on August 17, 2007.

Have you visited the HCA website?

www.harwoodcivic.org

LOTHIAN ELEMENTARY

Improving Academics at Lothian Elementary has become a priority after two years of falling test scores in the Maryland State Assessment exams for math and reading.

Lothian elementary has re-instituted a Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) which all schools have, to work on local issues and individual school concerns as a part of the broader effort to improve the educational experience for our community's children.

Jan Lehman has volunteered to represent the Harwood Civic Association on Lothian's CAC, and she brings more than thirty years experience as an educator to the Committee.

- For more information on the Lothian CAC, go to www.aacps.org, keyword CAC or call Marjorie Doherty at 410-867-8347.

Following is an excerpt from a report on the health of the West River by Richard Crenshaw. The full report is available at

http://westrholderiverkeeper.org/water_quality.shtml

JUNE 1, 2007

HEALTH OF THE WEST RIVER WATERSHED 2007

By Richard Crenshaw

The West River seems to be on the borderline between healthy and unhealthy. Water clarity is bad. Average DO (dissolved oxygen) measured at the bottom by me and the Riverkeeper is not so bad and DO measured continuously by DNR at 1 foot is much better. Our river had an average score of 51 out of 100 for the last 3 years. In any academic setting, that is an F (A=90-100, B=80-90, C=70-80, D=60-70). Everything seems to revolve around the lack of plants on the bottom of the river. The sediment from runoff with its bacteria, phosphorus and nitrogen has created a poisonous sludge that is probably suffocating the bottom of the river. Underwater grasses increased enormously over what was recorded by the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) in 2006 but it was mostly because their fly over was made late in the year and no one saw or recorded the brief flash of spring annual Horn Pondweed. It is promising that there is brief life in the river bottom but I don't know what it means. Somehow we need to get the perennial grasses to return to our river. The oyster project POWeR is doing well and needs all the support we can give it. But it is difficult to believe that oysters will ever be able to clarify the water in the Bay as they once did. We certainly need to do everything we can to prevent more sediment from getting into the river. It would be fantastic if we could find a way to make the bottom sediment become a resource. Maybe we could compress it enough and generate heat that would turn it into a solid block for building a solid bottom. The health hazard posed by bacteria and other chemicals that we aren't measuring need to be addressed soon.

South County Park and Recreation Areas

Beaches and Waterfront

A very special facility of Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks is Mayo Beach Park, located at the mouth of the South River on the Chesapeake Bay (Mayo). The park features a sandy beach, shaded picnic areas, pavilion, playing fields and clubhouse. Mayo Beach Park is open to the public on designated days during summer weekends (Sundays in July in 2007). The park is also available for rental use on a permit basis to civic and nonprofit organizations, wedding, receptions, cultural exhibits, company picnics and family reunions. For dates the park is open to the public or for those interested in a day rental, please see our website at:

www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/mayobeachpark

Beverly Triton Park is a rustic, undeveloped waterfront park on the Chesapeake Bay in Mayo. It is open by permit only for walk-in visits. Beverly Triton boasts a sandy beach and natural walking trails. To request a monthly permit, please contact Jeff Mauck at 410-222-1520.

Anne Arundel County also offers Chesapeake beach experiences on the West River at Galesville Pier; at Carr's Wharf Pier on the South River; on the Bay at Holland Point Park (Friendship); and at Rockhold Creek at Deale Pier.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary and the Parris Glendenning Nature Preserve at Jug Bay (Lothian) comprise a wonderful natural area stretching along the Patuxent River. The park is open Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays (9:00am – 5:00pm) for riverside exploration, canoe and kayak experiences, birdwatching and organized research and educational programs. Please visit www.aacounty.org/RecParks/parks/jugbaywetlandssanctuary for a calendar of events and more information.

Hiker/Biker Paths

Our Community Parks feature open spaces and sports fields for active recreation and many have paved or mulched paths and park roads suitable for passive recreation as well. These include:

Bell Branch Park, Davidsonville
Beverly Triton (hiking only)
Crofton Park
Davidsonville Park
Edgewater Park

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (hiking trails)
Loch Haven Park, Mayo
Riverwood Park, Davidsonville
Shadyside Park

Picnic Areas

Many of our Community Parks have a few picnic tables available for use on a first-come, first-serve basis. These include:

Bell Branch Park, Davidsonville
Crofton Park
Deale-Tracy's Park
Edgewater Park
Elizabeth Dixon Park, Galesville

Kings Branch Park, Davidsonville
Loch Haven Park, Mayo
London Towne House & Gardens (fee; closes at 4:30 pm)
Riverwood Park, Davidsonville

Pavilions and Reserved Picnic Areas

Bell Branch Park and Crofton Park can accommodate larger groups of 20-50 and are available by reservation only. Please contact our Scheduling Office at (410) 222-7311 ext. 3539 / Mark Oliver or go to the website,

www.aacounty.org/recparks > [Facility Scheduling](#) > [Community Park Pavilion / Picnic Area Use Application](#)

Prepared by Anne Peret, 410-222-7313 8 June 2007

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SMITHSONIAN ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH CENTER (SERC) ACTIVITIES

Harwood is fortunate to be in close proximity to SERC which, since its establishment in the mid-1960s, has grown to lead the nation in research on land and water ecosystems in the coastal zone. SERC runs a robust community activity and education program. As a service to HCA members, a list of upcoming activities may be found online at:

http://www.serc.si.edu/public_programs/index.jsp

Please call SERC or consult their website prior to attending in the event of last minute changes.

HCE PARTICIPATES IN ITS SECOND RELAY FOR LIFE

Several members of the HCA participated in the June 15th American Cancer Society Relay for Life, raising over \$400 for the fight against cancer. Blessed by good weather for the second year in a row, the HCA relayers showed community spirit, carrying the HCA banner high on a lap around the track. The rest of the evening was filled with a variety of moving and fun activities honoring cancer survivors and raising awareness. Hope to see you next year

HCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Winter Board Meeting: South County Recreation Center, December 11, 2007

THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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