



# NEWSLETTER

[WWW.HARWOODCIVIC.ORG](http://WWW.HARWOODCIVIC.ORG)

JANUARY 2011

## President's Message

Happy New Year to all. In 2011 HCA looks forward to continuing to be the voice of Harwood by keeping you informed of important environmental and governmental issues that can have an impact on our daily lives. We will continue to maintain close contact with our elected officials, testify at County Council sessions, and hold public meetings as necessary.

We will be monitoring requests for rezoning and when appropriate we will join with other community organizations to voice concerns.

On the lighter side we will keep you informed about opportunities for recreation, education, and service with the various organizations in our area.

Last year the uncertainty of February weather convinced us to move our annual meeting to May when the days are longer and warmer. At that time we will elect association officers and board members and present speakers who will be informative and entertaining. It will also be the time to renew your HCA membership. Watch for a postcard indicating the date and time.

Additionally we need your help to keep our association healthy and viable. Please look over my Help Wanted article on Page 7.

Wishing you a healthy and productive year.

Jan Lehman

## Mike Lofton Leaves HCA Board

Mike Lofton is leaving the board of Directors of the Harwood Civic Association after many years of outstanding service to the Association and the people of the Harwood area and Anne Arundel County. The Association and the Board thanks Mike for his years of selfless service to the Association and the County and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

Mike was the prior President of the Association and under his leadership the Association was instrumental in saving the Harwood Post Office. He has been a leader and outspoken advocate for the common good in county land use and environmental issues. He has testified before the County Council on these issues on various occasions.

Most recently Mike has been the "go-to" guy for the

Association on key issues. He also managed the HCA Newsletter, drafting numerous articles for that publication and insuring its timely publication. He is a tireless advocate in helping county citizens to appreciate our waterways by giving them more access to such waterways via publicly owned lands. He has consistently and persuasively represented the public interest before elected officials and the county administration.

Mike was recently appointed to Board of the Annapolis Economic Development Corporation. This appointment will require a significant involvement, and Mike has extensive experience in economic development matters and is most suited for this endeavor. He will certainly make a significant contribution to the City of Annapolis.

Again, best wishes and good speed to Mike in his new endeavors. His advocacy on behalf of the Association and the residents of Harwood will be surely missed.

Mike will be replaced on the Board by his wife Sherrie Lofton.

## Fall Candidates' Forum

In an effort to introduce area candidates to the area residents, the Harwood Civic Association (HCA) took the lead in organizing and conducting a Candidates Forum on October 20, 2010 prior to the last election. HCA cosponsored the event with three other local civic associations, the Davidsonville Area Civic Association, the Mayo Civic Association and the West River Improvement Association. Candidates for County Executive (incumbent John Leopold, and Joanna Conti, Democrat, and Mike Shay, Green Party), State Senate District 30 (Dr. Ron Elfenbein, Republican), House of Delegates Districts 30 (incumbents Ron George, Republican, and Virginia Clagett, Democrat, and also Republicans Seth Howard and Herb McMillan and Democrat Judd Legum) and District 33A (incumbent Republican Tony McConkey and Republican Cathy Vitale and Democrat Madonna Brennan), and District 7 County Council (Republican Jerry Walker and Democrat Torrey Jacobsen). All but two of the candidates for these offices participated in the form. The two missing candidates had prior engagements.

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Tony Gamboa of the HCA Board moderated the forum. Questions were solicited from the audience and the Moderator asked each candidate to respond. Jan Lehman, Mike Lofton, Pat Sinclair, Irene Gamboa and Sherrie Lofton from HCA worked at the forum. Volunteers from the other Sponsoring organizations also assisted the HCA workers. The efforts of all involved resulted in a very successful evening, which was well attended by local residents.

HCA has put on Candidate Forums in prior elections. These fora and similar public interest events are important means by which the HCA meets its mission and purpose “to build community awareness and spirit in the geographical area known as Harwood.”

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## Dialog With Jerry Walker

On January 16 an informal gathering with District 7 Councilman Jerry Walker was hosted by HCA member, Joan Turek. The purpose of the meeting was to give local community associations an opportunity to share concerns about South County issues. The communities of Edgewater/Mayo, Davidsonville, Harwood, Lothian, and Bristol were represented.

The primary discussion topics were zoning and land use, the impact of development on the environment and water supply, and the county’s management of its financial resources. Other issues included the creation of an additional councilmanic district, public access to publicly owned waterfront, and equitable application of rules and regulations.

Mr. Walker pledged to work for strong communication with his constituents and to make the proceedings of the county council readily available to the public. He also indicated a desire to work with members of the House of Delegates on those matters that require state regulation. He encouraged anyone seeking assistance to contact him or his legislative assistant, Pamela Scarbro, at 410-222-1401 or [jerry.walker@aacounty.org](mailto:jerry.walker@aacounty.org); [pscarbro@aacounty.org](mailto:pscarbro@aacounty.org).

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## Wooton’s Landing Boat Launch Site Receives DNR Grant

The Department of Natural Resources has authorized a grant of \$10,000 for the construction of the kayak and canoe launch site. In a vote of 7-0 the County Council voted to accept the grant. With an MDE wetlands permit already in hand, Chris Swarth, the director of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, now needs to acquire a Critical Areas Commission permit. When these steps are completed, the project will be put out for bids and a contractor will be selected.

Hopefully the process will be completed by spring, so let’s get

those canoes and kayaks cleaned and waxed so we can all enjoy the beauty of the Patuxent.

See composite photo below.



## Survey of Recreational Needs

The Anne Arundel County Department of Recreation and Parks is currently conducting a survey of recreational needs in South County. The areas of interest being surveyed include sports, programs, parks and events.

The last survey, conducted in 2001, included the area bounded by the Patuxent River on the west and by the Chesapeake Bay, Deale, Shady Side and Edgewater on the east. A total of 9,189 surveys were distributed at that time, and 1,876 were returned, a response rate of 20%. The majority of respondents fell into the 30 to 60+ age group.

When asked which programs/facilities would make the most valuable contribution to the area’s recreational needs, **open space preservation** and **outdoor sports facility** were chosen as the most desired, followed by **after school youth activities**, **local senior activities**, **indoor recreation center** and **before/after school child care**.

The top four general activities preferred were **hiking/jogging**, **gymnasium/fitness club**, **public indoor pool** and **bicycling**.

Summer Program responses were received primarily by households with school-aged children. The majority of these households expressed interest in Sports Camps, closely followed by Music, Drama or Arts Camps.

For a complete report on the 2001 South County Area Parks and Recreational Needs Survey, the reader is referred to the Anne Arundel County website.

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## Wastewater Discharge Permits Impact the Patuxent

Recently the Wayson's Mobile home Park and the Patuxent Mobile Estates applied for a renewal of their permits to discharge treated wastewater into the Patuxent River. The Wayson property would discharge an average of 75,000 gallons per day while the Patuxent Park would discharge an average of 35,000 gallons per day.

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A public hearing was conducted at Lothian Elementary School on November 10, 2010. Following public testimony, the Maryland Department of the Environment decided to issue the permits with the following amendments:

1. The Wayson property must allow monthly monitoring for total ammonia, nitrites and nitrates, and total phosphorous.

2. To make sure that the upgrade of Wayson's Mobile Court Wastewater Treatment Plant will be accomplished by January 1, 2016, the reapplication due date for the submission of plans to upgrade the facility to Enhanced Nutrient removal is revised from 01/01/15 to 01/01/14.

3. The Patuxent Mobile Estates treatment plant must also allow monthly monitoring for the same elements as the Wayson Mobile Court plant.

While these properties are not located in Harwood, similar applications are expected for the treatment plants that are in the 20776 zone.

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## Comprehensive Rezoning

The October 2010 Newsletter provided an update of the comprehensive rezoning process that has been ongoing for quite some time. This process is now moving into high gear with hearings to be conducted and decisions made by the County Council.

The comprehensive rezoning process is different from the normal administrative zoning process. Under the administrative process, zoning change requests are decided by an Administrative Hearing Officer. The requests are initiated by applicants desiring a zoning change. The applicant must have an interest in the property and must meet change or mistake criteria. The comprehensive rezoning is decided by the County Council. The process is initiated by the County Administration which can propose changes, and applications by outside parties can also be considered.

The comprehensive rezoning application process was conducted from December 2009 to February 2010. 355 applications were submitted, 32 of those were in the South County or Deale/Churchton area.. The applications have been reviewed by the planning staff which will make recommendations on applications and propose zoning changes. Applicants will be notified by mail whether the change in zoning for their property will be proposed. The proposed changes and recommendations will be posted on the County web site for public review.

The Planning Advisory Board (PAB) will review proposed zoning changes and draft recommendations for the Administration and the County Council. The Planning Advisory will receive proposed zoning changes at a public briefing prior to the introduction of each bill to the County Council. The PAB then will offer recommendations to the County Council before the first hearing on each bill. Council members may also propose zoning amendments. These amendments will be prepared by the office of Planning and Zoning for the Council member. Council member proposals will also be posted on the County web site.

The County council will begin considering requests in February. The Council's consideration will be conducted in three parts over 2011. The three parts in the order to be considered are Council Districts 1&4, Council Districts 2, 3, 5, and Council Districts 6 & 7. The current schedule calls for District 7 (which includes South County) requests to be introduced to the Council in August with public hearings in September & October.

Although there are no requests in the Harwood area, several nearby proposals warrant close scrutiny. Proposals for Heavy Commercial (C-4) at the Lothian Circle (CZ091292 & CZ091059) and dense residential at one of the Mobile home parks (CZ091367) are of particular concern. CZ091330 calls for C-3 zoning on the southwest corner of MD Routes 2 & 214. The Harwood Civic Association and many others have long advocated the policy goal of "keeping South County rural" with land use south of MD Route 214 consistent with that policy goal.

Anyone interested in reviewing the list of applications can do so at the Anne Arundel County web site under comprehensive rezoning:

[www.aacounty.org/PlanZone/LongRange/CompZone.cfm](http://www.aacounty.org/PlanZone/LongRange/CompZone.cfm).

This site has links to CZ applications by number, CZ applications by council district, and a CZ application review tool. The CZ application review tool will show the location of the property and provide the application number. One can zoom in on the property for a more exact location.

Residents desiring to input into this process can do so by contacting Councilman Jerry Walker or his legislative assistant, Pamela Scarbro. [jerry.walker@aacounty.org](mailto:jerry.walker@aacounty.org); [pscarbro@aacounty.org](mailto:pscarbro@aacounty.org)

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## The Harwood Real Estate Market 2010

During the time period of January 1 to December 31, 2010, fifteen properties changed hands.

Selling Price of \$1,000,000 or more- 3 properties

Selling Price of \$800,000-\$900,000- 0 properties

Selling price of \$500,000-\$700,000- 2 properties

Selling price of \$300,000 - \$500,000- 7 properties

Selling price of Less than \$300,000- 3 properties

The time on the market varied from two days to more than a year. Two of the properties were on the market from six months to a year, while six sold in less than one hundred days. Ten of the properties sold for at least 90% of the list price. The properties ranged in size from less than an acre to sixty five acres.

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Properties were extremely varied in style reflecting the diversity of the Harwood community in general.

As of January 14, 2011, there was one property under contract and fifteen properties listed for sale. Prices ranged from \$15,000 to \$1,650,000.

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## Calendar of Events

Listed below are some of the events that are planned for our local area for the months of February through April. The events are listed by date.

**February, March, April 2011.** The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) conducts a number of parent-child and home school program events throughout the months of February, March and April. Check the SERC web site for subjects, dates and times. [www.serc.si.edu](http://www.serc.si.edu)

**February 2, 9, 16, 2011** – Sunday, 11:30 AM: Shady Side Rural Heritage society Winter Luncheon Lecture Series. Captain Salem Avery Museum. \$17.00/lecture. Reservations Required: Phone 410-266-8846. [www.shadysidemuseum.org](http://www.shadysidemuseum.org)

February 2 DR. JEAN RUSSO, African-American Life in the Rural and Urban A.A., 1650-1776

February 9 MARGARET BARKER, Our Winter Birds

February 16 WILLIAM S. DUDLEY, Maritime Maryland: A History

**February 5, 2011** – Saturday, 8:00 to 11:00 AM: Bird Walk. Learn the skills of identifying birds by sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides are available to borrow. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Not appropriate for children younger than 12. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. 410 741-9330. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**February 5, 2011** - 10:00 AM: Citizen Science: Winter Water Fowl Walk. Help a SERC naturalist survey the waterfowl on the Rhode River and Muddy Creek. We'll be looking for shovelers, ruddy ducks, canvasbacks, goldeneyes, and more. No experience necessary; bring binoculars if you have them; a limited number are available to borrow. The program is for ages 12+. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Pre-registration is suggested (443) 482-2300; \$5 person. Contact Info: SERC (443)-482-2200. [www.serc.si.edu](http://www.serc.si.edu)

**February 10, 2011 & February 24, 2011** - Thursday, 7:30 – 9:30 AM: Winter Waterbird Survey. Enjoy the winter beauty of an early winter morning on the Patuxent while counting waterbirds: Canada geese, harriers, eagles, herons, and many different kinds of ducks. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring binoculars & a field guide if you have them, also available to borrow. For adults. No

experience necessary. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. Call 410-741-9330 to register. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**February 12, 2011** – Saturday, 1:00 to 3:00 PM: Skull & Bones. Have you ever examined animal bones or a skull and wondered about the creature that they came from? Skulls and bones hold important clues about an animal's lifestyle and habits. Learn more about identifying animals through their skeletal system. For ages 8 and older. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. 410 741-9330. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**February 19, 2011** -11:00 AM: Sharks for Kids. It's cold outside so come inside where it's warm and learn all about these awesome predators. We'll look at their amazing adaptations, fossil shark teeth, and more. The program is for age: 6+. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC). Pre-registration is required (443) 482-2300; limited to 18 people; \$5 person. Contact Info: SERC (443) 482-2200. [www.serc.si.edu](http://www.serc.si.edu)

**February 26, 2011** – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Stream Monitoring. Join us to learn about stream ecology and assist with our research, focused on three streams flowing through the Sanctuary. We'll hike to the stream, sample for stream insects, and then bring them back to the Wetlands Center to sort and identify them by noon. Stay for the afternoon sort and ID session as long as you can. For teens and adults. Jug Bay Wetlands. Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**March 5, 2011** – Saturday, 8:00 to 11:00 AM: Bird Walk. Learn the skills of identifying birds by sight and sound. Binoculars and field guides are available to borrow. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. Not appropriate for children younger than 12. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. 410 741-9330. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**March 10, 2011 & March 24, 2011** - Thursday, 7:30 – 9:30 AM: Winter Waterbird Survey. Enjoy the winter beauty of an early winter morning on the Patuxent while counting waterbirds: Canada geese, harriers, eagles, herons, and many different kinds of ducks. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring binoculars & a field guide if you have them, also available to borrow. For adults. No experience necessary. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. Call 410-741-9330 to register. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**March 19, 2011**- Saturday, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM Davidsonville Area Civic Association Green Expo Week. The Green Expo will provide information on a variety of green topics and also have exhibits. Riva Trace Baptist Church on Central Avenue. Contact Lara Mulvaney, 410-956-4451

**March 26, 2011**- Saturday, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM Lovesong of the Lampreys. Lampreys living in our streams don't really sing, but their courtship behavior at this time every year makes these animals which are rarely seen at other times, clearly visible.

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We'll hike to several streams to see and marvel at these slender animals in their reproductive rituals. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. 410-741-9330. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**April 7, 2011** - Thursday, 7:30 – 9:30 AM: Winter Waterbird Survey. Enjoy the winter beauty of an early winter morning on the Patuxent while counting waterbirds: Canada geese, harriers, eagles, herons, and many different kinds of ducks. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring binoculars & a field guide if you have them, also available to borrow. For adults. No experience necessary. Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. Call 410-741-9330 to register. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**April 23, 2011** – Saturday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Stream Monitoring. Join us to learn about stream ecology and assist with our research, focused on three streams flowing through the Sanctuary. We'll hike to the stream, sample for stream insects, and then bring them back to the Wetlands Center to sort and identify them by noon. Stay for the afternoon sort and ID session as long as you can. For teens and adults. Jug Bay Wetlands. Sanctuary, Lothian, MD. [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org)

**South County Recreation Center** offers adult programs in sewing, ceramics, fitness, and men's over 30 basketball. There are also children's programs. For programs, dates and times check the Anne Arundel Department of Recreation and Parks web site. [www.aacounty.org/RecParks/recreation](http://www.aacounty.org/RecParks/recreation)

**Anne Arundel County Council Meetings.** The Council meets twice a month in the Council Chambers at 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis, MD 21401. The public is encouraged and invited to attend. Contact 410-741-7000. The schedule for the next three months is: February 7 & 22, March 7&21, and April 4, 15 (Budget Message at 11:00AM) and 19. Council meetings begin at 7:00 PM with sign-up for speakers wishing to address the Council at 6:30 PM. Refer to the County Council Home page for the latest information. [www.aacounty.org/CountyCouncil](http://www.aacounty.org/CountyCouncil)

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## Getting Fit in 2011

The following article was submitted by long-term HCA corporate sponsor Teresa Bilzor of Personal Training is for You. Ms. Bilzor is an ACE and NSPA Certified Personal Trainer, and may be reached at 410-212-3137 or [tbilzor@yahoo.com](mailto:tbilzor@yahoo.com)

It's January again, and most of us are beginning the process of recovering from a couple months of cookies, cakes, nut and cheese trays, candy boxes, party foods and comfort foods. We may have discovered that we put on a few extra pounds or a few new inches or that our pants no longer fit.

There are a lot of things we can do to help ourselves return to our pre-holiday selves, or maybe your resolution is to be a healthier you than you've been in quite a while. One way to start is to try replacing the cookies with some cinnamon apple slices, some fresh grapes or a bowl of red cherries. Another

step can be to begin the process of reining in your food portion sizes and ask yourself the question, "Am I eating this because I'm hungry or because it's there?" If you are cutting calories however, remember that there's one meal you never want to skip, and that's breakfast! Breakfast fuels your energy for the day and speeds up your metabolism. Skipping breakfast is often correlated with weight gain. For a more effective weight loss strategy, try to refrain from eating 3 to 4 hours before going to bed.

These days we hear a lot about the benefits of exercise and especially the connection of exercise with weight loss. Weight loss through calorie reduction alone does reduce fat, but can also cause muscle loss. On the other hand, weight loss through exercise will both build muscle and burn fat. Regular exercise can lower your blood pressure, prevent adult onset diabetes, help prevent heart attacks and help prevent strokes.

Probably the best benefit of exercise, however, is that **it makes you feel good!** Increased blood flow to the muscles and organs means there is more oxygen delivered, and there are more nutrients delivered as well! People who exercise experience an increase in energy, deeper sleep, improved memory and improved mood.

If you want to exercise, but you're not sure how to begin, the services of a qualified personal trainer can help you get off to a good start. Your trainer can help keep you on track as you progress toward achieving your fitness goals, and remember, there's no better day than today to get started.

**Teresa Bilzor, 410-212-3137**

**Director, Personal Training Is for You**

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## 2011 Board and Officers

President – Jan Lehman	410-741-1698
<a href="mailto:piedpiper888@comcast.net">piedpiper888@comcast.net</a>	
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<a href="mailto:schaefer.stacy@gmail.com">schaefer.stacy@gmail.com</a>	
Treasurer – Tom Harley	410-741-0423
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**Teresa Bilzor**

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Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science

292 Sigma Drive, Harwood MD 20776

**(410) 212-3137**

[Tbilzor@yahoo.com](mailto:Tbilzor@yahoo.com)

## **Eric St. C. Purdon, SRA**

*Real Estate Appraiser and Consultant*

**459 Harwood Rd.**

**Harwood, MD 20776**

**(410) 867-4888**

**Cell: (410) 693-5744**

**Fax: (410) 867-4801**

## **Relms Landscaping**

235 South River Clubhouse rd.

[www.relmslandscaping.com](http://www.relmslandscaping.com)

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## **Smiley's Residential Design Service**

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*See our website for a list of local stores that carry our wines*

**Doug and Maureen Heimbuch**

**(410) 867-2998**

**[www.thanksgivingfarm.com](http://www.thanksgivingfarm.com)**

### 12th Precinct Pistol and Archery Club

450 Harwood Road  
Harwood, MD 20776  
**(410) 867-3018**

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## Help Wanted

HCA is in great need of members to assist in several areas. The time commitment would be only a few hours per month. Since HCA is a voluntary community association, it relies heavily on the participation of its members to represent the Harwood community in matters that affect our homes and the community at large. Without an increase in volunteer participation, HCA could very well CEASE TO EXIST.

Can you donate a few hours each month in one of the following areas?

1. IT Expertise and Website Management- Assist with maintaining the website and formatting the newsletter.
2. Recreation and Education- Monitor south county recreational activities and write out schedules for the newsletter.
3. Finance- Maintain records of debits and credits for the association account
4. Zoning and Land Use- Monitor requests for variances and special exceptions and report it to board and membership.
5. Government Affairs- Attend county council meetings and other important public hearings. - Present association views.
6. Communication and Newsletter- Assemble articles for newsletter and assist with mass communication to membership.
7. Board of Directors- Attend four to six meetings per year (approximately ninety minutes each). Assist in decision-making process for issues affecting the association.

Because we have been vocal in the past as an association, our elected representatives respect us and seek our input on important issues. This will continue as long as there are volunteers to support the work of HCA. We recognize that there is a great deal of untapped talent among our membership. Hopefully you will be able to donate a few hours a month to keep this valuable organization alive.

Please contact Jan Lehman at either 410-741-1698 or [piedpiper888@comcast.net](mailto:piedpiper888@comcast.net) if you have questions or would like to attend one of our board meetings.



**P.O. Box 162, Harwood, MD 20776**