



Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2004

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 4

County Executive Owens, Councilman Reilly, Others To Address Membership

The **HCA Annual Meeting** will be held on **February 4, 2003** in the Media Center at **Southern Senior High School** at **7:00 p.m.** This year's program will feature Anne Arundel County Executive Janet Owens as keynote speaker along with Councilman "Big Ed Reilly and Paul Vandenberg, Principal of Southern High School. In addition to the guest speakers and the opportunity to directly ask questions of elected officials, the meeting offers the opportunity for HCA members to elect three new members of the HCA Board to three year terms, offer items for the coming year's agenda, volunteer for community service, and transact any other association business required by the by-laws.

"Each year we invite all members of the Harwood Community to join us in our efforts to keep Harwood a shining jewel in the state of Maryland," explains HCA President Joan Turek. "By joining the HCA, members help ensure that county and state legislators hear and act upon Harwood's concerns, needs and wants. This meeting is one of the key ways we make that happen."

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POST OFFICE UPDATE

Alternative Sites Offered to USPS for Harwood PO

The United States Postal Service has received several offers from land owners along Route 2 as possible sites for a permanent postal facility serving Harwood. Samuel Spicknall, Facility Manager for the USPS said, "We are pleased to say that there have been multiple responses to our ad requesting proposals for a new post office site. They are now being evaluated according to our procedures. The next step is a series of site surveys to determine which best meet the unique needs and requirements of the USPS."

Through the efforts of the Harwood Civic Association and State Delegate Virginia Claggett, U.S. Representative Steny Hoyer has begun monitoring USPS activities regarding the Harwood Post Office. An HCA petition drive urging support for keeping a post office in Harwood yielded approximately two hundred signatures. Senators Sarbanes and Milkulski have also stated their support of the effort to keep a postal facility in Harwood. Ongoing efforts to ensure no loss of a local post office will remain a key objective of the HCA in 2004.

NOTICE

Per the By-Laws of the Harwood Civic Association

The following candidates have been proposed to serve a three year term on the Board of the Harwood Civic Association. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of the Harwood Civic Association, February 4, 2004.

Thomas Harley
Thomas Tucker
Michael Stricker

Additional nominees may be offered by any HCA member immediately prior to the annual meeting for inclusion on the ballot.

Letter from the President -

The Civic Year in Review

The Harwood Civic Association - YOUR civic association - has worked hard this year to both protect the charms of the Harwood way of life and to foster a sense of community across Harwood.

HCA mounted an aggressive campaign against the planned closure of the Harwood Post Office, including getting our officials at all levels of government involved and starting a petition drive to be used by Representative Steny Hoyer as a tool to ensure the U.S. Postal Service does not eliminate its presence in Harwood. We sent all land owners on Solomons Island Road and Muddy Creek Road the postal advertisement for new space and we have offered to support whomever is chosen through the zoning process. Special recognition is due Delegate Virginia Clagett who contacted Steny Hoyer's Office and got them involved in tracking progress toward a new post office. We also thank Pat Furgurson of the Capital who wrote several articles about the post office losing its lease.

The HCA Board also met with Eastern Petroleum, the new owners of the current Post Office site, and welcomed them to the neighborhood. We expressed our concerns about traffic, lighting, access from the high school and our desire for a structure that is compatible with the Harwood environment. Eastern Petroleum indicated they plan to build a convenience store, gas station, car wash, with perhaps a Tasty Freeze, cleaners or bank. The zoning for that piece of property allows for such commercial usage. They have indicated a desire to be good neighbors catering to Harwood residents, but expect most of their business to come from serving travelers up and down Route 2.

This year the HCA also sponsored a Harwood wide garage sale, an event celebrating Harwood history at Oakwood (my home), and the Harwood Harvest which was held at the 12th Precinct Pistol and Archery Club. Let me mention that the club graciously gave us use of their facility.

We are proud of our efforts on behalf of our community. However, our strength is dependent upon a strong membership willing to volunteer. Please join us in keeping Harwood as wonderful as it now is.

- **Joan Turek, President**
Harwood Civic Association

HCA COMMITTEES MAKING THE DIFFERENCE FOR YOU

Harwood is unique in its geography, stretching from the Chesapeake Bay to the Patuxent River with some of the most beautiful open space and woodlands in Anne Arundel County. An educational and cultural center for Southern Anne Arundel County, Harwood also boasts one of the richest collections of historic properties and homes in the region. With development pressures placing demands on family farms, roads and water tables, the HCA offers Harwood an effective voice with elected officials and the agencies which regulate development.

You can make that voice stronger and more effective by volunteering a few hours to work with one of the HCA committees:

The **Government Affairs and Land Use Committee** keeps abreast of all development plans and zoning issues in Harwood. It was instrumental in generating the effective response to the possible Post Office closure. It also is working with the developers of the new planned retail presence to ensure that the community's concerns are heard. If you are willing to read public notices or call or write government officials, your help is needed here.

The **Events Committee** plans and implements our four annual events with an aim to fostering a greater sense of community and increasing a civic spirit in our citizens. Members who enjoy organizing programs and parties are needed to assist with these efforts

The **Communications Committee** looks to disseminate information to the membership, sends out press releases to local news media, and produces this newsletter. Members who enjoy writing or are interested in helping to build a website are encouraged to join this committee.

The **Finance Committee** manages the funds of the HCA, ensuring that appropriate resources are available for activities and communications. Those who would be interested in raising funds for the HCA are needed.

The **Membership Committee** processes all membership applications and addresses member concerns regarding dues and benefits. People with skills in database management are needed to join this committee.

On page four you will find a list of the Board members who also serve as committee chairs. Contact one today and volunteer a few hours of your time in service to your community.

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450 Harwood Road
Harwood, MD 20776

ANNUAL MEETING *(continued from page 1)*

The meeting will begin with a review of activities and events for 2003 and community agenda items and budget for 2004. Election of HCA Board members will occur. Committee structures and volunteer opportunities will be described.

Southern High School Principal Paul Vandenberg will share brief remarks regarding programs for students at Southern High School and ways the Harwood Civic Association can support the school. County Executive Owens will provide a keynote address with remarks concerning the effects of the Anne Arundel County budget on programs affecting Harwood, specifically agricultural preservation and open

space acquisition, as well as fire, traffic, and safety concerns. Councilman Reilly will discuss pending legislation before the County Council and provide updates on water and landfill initiatives discussed earlier in the year.

Additionally, representatives of the USPS and Eastern Petroleum have been invited to address the membership with brief updates on the status of the current Post Office and plans for retail development of the site.

Membership dues will be accepted at the meeting and sign up sheets for volunteer efforts will also be available. Please note the nominal increase in dues for 2004 indicated on the membership form enclosed with this mailing.

HCA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2004, 7:00 P.M.

SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL, MEDIA CENTER

SOLOMONS ISLAND ROAD

Our annual membership meeting provides an opportunity for the membership to enact its agenda for the year, approve new officers, meet with elected officials, and hear important presentations on issues affecting the quality of life in Harwood.

HCA BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004, 7:00 P.M.

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

THE GREAT HARWOOD YARD SALE

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004, ALL DAY

We encourage all residents of Harwood to hold yard and garage sales on this particular day. The HCA will promote the sales and distribute maps showing the locations of sales on that day

HARWOOD HISTORY EVENT

SUNDAY JULY 18, 2004

TBA

THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

Joan Turek, President (410) 867-0715

Co-Chair, Government Affairs and Land Use

Thomas Tucker, Vice President (410) 798-1689

Co-Chair, Events Committee

Michael Lofton, Secretary (410) 867-3623

Chair, Membership Committee

Jane Stairs, (410) 867-9622

Treasurer and Co-Chair, Finance Committee

Michael Stricker (410) 867-0389

Co-Chair, Events Committee

Jon Stairs (410) 867-9622

Co-Chair, Finance Committee

Elwina McDonald (410) 867-3383

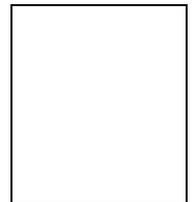
Chair, Government Affairs and Land Use

James R. Fitzpatrick (410) 867-2601

Chair, Communications Committee, Newsletter Editor



P.O. Box 162, Harwood, MD 20776



Postal Patron
Harwood, MD 20776