



Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

Fall 2006

RECREATION NEEDS IN HARWOOD STILL UNMET

Three years ago, a survey was taken of South County residents to ascertain their needs for recreation facilities in the area. The exhaustive study developed and conducted by a team from the South County Exchange and South County Chamber of Commerce was submitted to the Department of Recreation along with a set of recommendations. Since that time, the South County Recreation Center has languished, faced with staff cut backs and lack of improvements. The Harwood Civic Association has noted the fine county facilities provided from the Cultural Arts Center in Brooklyn Park to large parks on the Broadneck and Annapolis Peninsulas to the Olympic Swimming Pool on Riva Road and wonders why South County must make do with a part time out dated, cramped Recreational Center with limited offerings and an ever increasing series of ball fields.

The churches of the Deale community have recently taken action to create a community center and recreation area. We applaud this initiative, but wonder why when it comes to budgeting for recreational needs, the County chooses to spend the tax dollars contributed from South County residents only in areas north of the South River. In particular, we wonder why the Recreation Center located on

continued on page 4

CANDIDATE FORUM OCT. 11 HCA Joins Other Groups to Bring Candidates to South County

The Harwood Civic Association and eight other Civic and Professional Organizations combine to sponsor a Candidate Forum for Southern Anne Arundel County Wednesday, October 11, 2006 7 pm – 9 pm at Southern Senior High School in Harwood

The public is invited and encouraged to attend a Candidate Forum October 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Southern Senior High School in Harwood. Candidates for County Executive, Dist. 33 Senate, Dist. 33b House of Delegates, Dist. 30 Senate and House of Delegates, and District 7 County Council are invited to attend and share their opinions on issues affecting residents of the southern part of Anne Arundel County.

The Forum will be moderated by Washington television Channel 4 news anchor Wendy Rieger. Rieger, a three time EMMY award winner, has covered news in the Washington area for more than 25 years. The format will focus on written questions submitted by residents of southern Anne Arundel County at the beginning of the meeting.

Nine Southern Anne Arundel County organizations are partnering to host the event, including The Harwood Civic Association, Davidsonville Area Civic Association, SACReD, South River Federation, Holland Point Citizens Association, Lothian Civic Association, South County Chamber of Commerce, the West-Rhode River Keeper, and the Bristol Civic Association.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Mike Lofton at 410-867-3623 or via e-mail at Harwoodcivic@aol.com

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profitability. Proven models for development and operation of ports, airports, stadiums, and bridges could provide solutions. Perhaps some sort of “special benefit” district could raise sufficient money to preserve land most vulnerable to undesirable development. Perhaps you have ideas about solving these problems.

Surely an energetic citizenry in partnership with a responsive government can craft real solutions that will lead us to the goal. If you think this is important, ask questions of candidates for office. Attend the October 11 Candidate Forum at Southern High School. Don’t accept platitudes for answers. When the elections are complete, contact your officials. Ask them how they plan to “KEEP SOUTH COUNTY RURAL”

- Mike Lofton, President

Member Profile – Frank Chamberlain

Harwood resident and HCA member Frank Chamberlain has created a niche for himself as one of the area’s preferred residential design, renovation, and remodeling experts. His company (see his ad on page 5) has specialized in painstaking restorations of historically accurate details in some of the finest homes in Anne Arundel County. His ability to expand dwellings or create additions that blend perfectly with existing structures was featured in articles in the Annapolis Capital last year.

Originally from the Olney area in Montgomery County and attended high school at Montgomery Blair. Finding his calling early, Frank has now been in home remodeling for over 22 years. Ten years ago he re-located to Harwood and established himself quickly in the area.

Business has been good since moving here. “We get a lot of requests to modify existing homes by adding a second story to the dwellings or constructing stand alone or attached garages. Often we are asked to create additions or renovate areas to create in-law suites within a home,” Chamberlain explains. “As the new home market cools down, many people are interested in creating new space within their existing homes or redesigning that special kitchen or master bed and bath to bring them up to date while maintaining the home’s traditional feel.”

Frank also shares an enthusiasm for Harley motorcycles with several others in the area. A member of the local Harley Owner’s Group, he can be seen riding his 2000 Heritage Springer on the roads of South County.

Frank isn’t the only artist in his household. His wife, Debbie, is one of the area’s top web-designers. You can see her work at the Harwood Civic Association Web Site: www.harwoodcivic.org. She created the superb design.

ELECTION QUESTIONS

The HCA Encourages Voters To Ask Lots of Them

Several Candidates have written the Harwood Civic Association looking for endorsement or assistance in getting out their statements to our membership. While the Harwood Civic Association looks to assist members of our community in making good decisions at the polls, it does not endorse specific candidates. The association supports its membership's election concerns by providing opportunities for interaction with elected officials and those seeking office. That is why the Harwood Civic Association initiated the Candidate Forum at Southern High School.

The Harwood Civic Association encourages its membership to ask questions and evaluate the answers of all candidates regarding the following key issues affecting Harwood and Southern Anne Arundel County:

1. **Preserving the Rural Heritage & Lifestyle of South County**
2. **Making Route 2 and other area roads safer**
3. **Citizen participation in growth management**
4. **Improved recreation facilities & opportunities for South County residents**
5. **Concern about long-term drinking water supply**

THE MISSION OF THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The Mission of the Harwood Civic Association shall be to build community awareness and spirit in the geographical area known as Harwood. Other purposes may include but are not limited to:

- a. Addressing the concerns and problems involved in matters pertaining to land and natural resource utilization in the Harwood area specifically and South County generally.
- b. Advocate on behalf of the membership, the Association's position concerning changes in zoning laws applicable to the greater Harwood area.
- c. To seek cooperation and compliance with all zoning laws by all developers of real estate in the greater Harwood area.
- d. In general to promote the interest of the membership with respect to county and state planning, development, and use of real estate in the area so as to preserve our quality of life.

HARWOOD HISTORY EVENT DELIGHTS ATTENDEES

Janice Hayes Williams brought smiles and tears to the faces of those attending the Harwood History Event at Chews Memorial UMC on Owensville Road Saturday, August 5. As she related story after story of African Americans striving to overcome the legacy of slavery, a more complex picture of the role of blacks in pre-Civil War Anne Arundel County emerged.

Of particular interest to Harwood residents was the number of farms and large tracts of land owned by free blacks in southern Anne Arundel County. While some slave owners continued to operate plantations in the area, a large number of black owned farms existed by the time of the war. Many, such as the Willson farm have continued into this century fairly intact and still owned by African Americans.

After the talk, the approximately 65 attendees were treated to a warm and hospitable reception given by the congregation of Chews in the basement of their beautiful and historic church.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT APPROVES GOLF COURSE WATER PERMIT

On September 1, 2006 the Water Management Administration made a decision to issue Water Appropriation and Use Permit No. AA2005G015(01) to Polling House Management, LLC to appropriate and use an annual average of 150,000 gallons of water per day (gpd) and a daily average of 5000,000 gpd during the month of maximum use. The water is to be withdrawn from one well in the Magothy aquifer and will be used for golf course irrigation.

The decision is based on the following considerations:

- The amount of water requested is reasonable in relation to the proposed use.
- The potential impact on the water resources is considered to be reasonable since the annual average withdrawal is expected to cause a regional decline of between 9.5 and 11 feet or less after pumping for 12 years. The current available drawdown in the Magothy aquifer in this region is 180 feet.
- The potential for impact on neighboring wells was evaluated. [Tests] show that if the irrigation well is pumped at the highest use rate for 30 days without recharge, the water table would be lowered approximately 15 feet at the nearest Magothy well. Most other wells are in the shallower Aquia aquifer and will not be impacted.

RECREATION – continued from page 1

Owensville-Sudley Road continues to be a part time operation and perpetually in need.

We urge our members to contact the Department of Parks and Recreation; the County Executive’s Office, Councilman Ed Riley and the Candidates running for elected office and ask them to act on the Committee’s recommendations. These recommendations are printed below and the HCA finds them to be a good blueprint for meeting the recreational and cultural needs of Harwood and South County residents. *Please note: the HCA has italicized key phrases for this newsletter.*

RECOMMENDATIONS

Open Space Preservation: *Residents of the area value the rural character and the environmental resources of the area and want them protected.* Environmental constraints and preservation of open space should be considered a prerequisite to developing any kind of recreational facilities. These facilities should be compatible with the rural character of South County, for example, comments opposing the use of large lights for illuminating fields were voiced by a number of respondents. *Re-using, re-furbishing and expanding existing facilities* rather than building new ones seems to be a popular course of action.

Hiking/Jogging/Bicycling/Horseback Riding and Walking Trails: Appreciation of the rural landscape and an active interest in many passive recreational activities are indicated by the respondents to this survey. An evaluation of appropriate locations for bicycling, hiking/jogging, walking, horseback riding, dog parks, bird watching and passive recreational pursuits is recommended. *Many respondents pointed to Quiet Waters as the model for a park offering passive and active recreational opportunities.*

Gymnasium/Recreational/Community Center: *A majority of respondents are interested in an all-purpose indoor gymnasium/recreational/community center offering a wide range of classes, fitness and sports activities to all age groups.* Residents in the southern most local communities of South County expressed concern about the lack of facilities near them. An evaluation of potential sites for the facility, taking into account the large geographic of South County, should be conducted and shared with residents prior to making any decision regarding location.

Water Access: An interest in water activities of all kinds (boating, fishing, canoeing/kayaking, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and beach swimming). Many respondents indicated a need for access to the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River for boat launching and for a variety

of other water-based activities and *expressed dismay at being so close to water but having to go outside of the South County area to gain water access.*

Park/Playground: Many respondents expressed a need in a park/playground area providing *the kinds of amenities available at Quiet Waters or at parks in Calvert County.*

Partnerships: Partnerships, such as this survey, between the Department of Recreation and Parks and community organizations, in this case the South County Exchange and the South County Chamber of Commerce, will ensure that parks, recreational facilities, and activities meet the needs of the South County Planning Area as well as the mandates of County government.

SURVEY RESULTS

Ranking by %	Resident Recreational Preferences
67	In favor of open space preservation/preserve rural environment
59	In favor of hiking, biking and jogging trails
53	In favor of community swimming pool
49	In favor of craft, fitness, other classes and camping
45	In favor of multi-purpose gymnasium/recreation/community center
44	In favor of bay access/water activities/boat ramp
37	In favor of a community park
35	In favor of activities of young people
35	In favor of baseball and other sports fields
30	In favor of walking trails
24	In favor of skating (ice, roller, skateboarding and hockey)
20	In favor of activities for teens
19	In favor of senior activities
17	In favor of locating recreational activities in southern part of South County
15	In favor of horseback riding
14	In favor of target/skeet shooting/archery/hunting
13	In favor of dog park
12	In favor of tennis courts
12	Do not feel additional active recreational amenities are needed in the area
11	In favor of renovating existing facilities
11	In favor of passive recreation/natural preserves
9	In favor of handicapped programs and access for special needs citizens
7	In favor of dirt bike area/recreational vehicle area
7	Do not feel additional ball fields are needed.
5	In favor of a public golf course/driving range
4	In favor of basketball courts

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SUDLEY LANDFILL WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROJECT

FEASIBILITY STUDY - FACT SHEET from the AAEDC

The Sudley Landfill in South County is the site of a feasibility study looking for alternative energy sources. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC) and the Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District (AASCD) created a partnership with North Shore Technologies, Inc. (North Shore) to evaluate the practicality of converting landfill gas and waste products into energy.

The Study will:

- Review advanced technologies available to convert waste into electricity or liquid fuels, such as Ethanol. The waste includes wood waste such as leaves, brush, and stumps; horse manure; and the methane gas that is a natural by-product of landfills.
- Determine community and political acceptance
- Take approximately 12 to 18 months for completion.

Goals and Objectives of the Study:

- Address environmental and waste disposal issues
- Reduce our dependence on fossil fuels
- Extend the life of Anne Arundel County landfills
- Create a sustainable method for disposing of

forestry and agricultural products

Project Partners and Sponsors:

- USDA Forestry Service
- Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District
- Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation
- Anne Arundel County
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service

NOTE: Sudley Landfill was selected for the purposes of this study. There is no guarantee that the study will result in the establishment of a Waste-to-Energy Project at the Sudley Landfill.

For additional information on this project please contact:

(Primary) Ms. Lisa Barge, Agricultural Marketing & Development Manager
Anne Arundel Economic Development Corporation (AAEDC)
2660 Riva Road, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401
Phone: (410) 222-7410
Fax: (410) 222-7415
Email: lbarge@aaedc.org

THE WEST/RHODE RIVERKEEPER

Making Our Waters Safe and Clean

The waters of the West and Rhode Rivers and their tributaries are as polluted as they have ever been. The promises of a government clean-up ring hollow. The best, if not the only, chance for saving our rivers lies in direct action by the community.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc., is a community-supported environmental organization with a focus on enforcement of environmental laws. We patrol the West and Rhode Rivers and the nearby waters of the Chesapeake Bay. When we identify sources of pollution, we do everything we can to stop it and to hold those responsible accountable. We also work to reduce sources of legal pollution through advocacy, education and watershed restoration.

You can help by being vigilant for violations of environmental laws and by reporting violations to appropriate authorities and to the Riverkeeper. You can also help by volunteering your time and your talents and through your financial support.

The West/Rhode Riverkeeper is affiliated with the Waterkeeper Alliance, www.waterkeeper.org.

West/Rhode Riverkeeper, Inc. is a Maryland non-profit corporation. It is exempt from federal tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It is registered with the State of Maryland as a tax-exempt organization.

TRAFFIC FORUM UPDATE

Greg Welker of the State Highway Administration notified Delegate Bob Costa that the following road safety improvements have been funded for the first phase of construction.

- RT. 258 & RT. 4 - There will be a longer and separated turn lane from Rt. 258 onto the entrance to rt. 4 in front of the country store. SHA believes this will help in drivers coming across the bridge see a definite commitment to the turn lane and be able to better proceed safely through that intersection. Work should begin immediately.
- RT. & RT. 256 (Deale Rd.)- a dedicated turn lane from rt. 2 south.
- RT. 2 & RT. 255 (Owensville Rd) - dedicated turn lane and bypass lanes
- RT. 2 and RT. 423 (Fairhaven Road) -dedicated turn lanes and bypass lanes
- RT. 2 & Birdsville Rd. - dedicated turn lanes and bypass lanes north & south

This funding will provide mostly design funds and actual construction will begin after this phase will be completed.

Thanks to all who provided input at the forum.

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HCA AFFECTS LEGISLATION

Land Preservation Bill Lacking

Bill 75-06, Omnibus Revision of Land Preservation Activities was recently introduced by Councilman Ed Riley on behalf of the County Administration. HCA Land Use Committee Co-Chairs, Dr. Joan Turek and Alice Murray found the legislation did not adequately address several concerns. They drafted a letter that contributed to the decision to withdraw the bill. Hopefully, better legislation addressing the concerns of Agricultural Preservation will be introduced as a result. Portions of the letter are printed below.

Dear Members of the Anne Arundel County Council:

We are writing to you regarding the Ordinance concerning Agricultural Land Preservation – Bill No. 75-06. First, and most important, we have been and continue to be most supportive of this important program, which we see as a multigenerational effort to keep our County beautiful and diverse. We appreciate the obvious need for smart planning for growth, but particularly the recognition that our rural areas, our farms, our green landscapes must be preserved for the future to the degree possible if we are to continue the quality of living we now enjoy in this wonderful County.

We would ask you to consider these questions in your deliberation of this Bill:

17-10-203, page 7, under (B) Eligibility-in general. Why must the 50 acres be contiguous in a single lot? Given the trend toward smaller farms, including truck farming, doesn't it discourage the potential farmer who may wish to develop orchards, vineyards, or even specialized vegetable and other produce businesses from applying to the program if he has less than 50 acres or if he has lots close to each other but not contiguous? Could not neighbors with large chunks of land, but less than 50 acres each, group together to form a district if they meet the development rules?

Do you have an idea of what numbers of landowners would be excluded under the new proposed rules?

Have you estimated the number of residential properties that could be built if landowners were no longer eligible to join an agricultural district?

How many properties of a single 50-acre lot are now eligible for this program? Have we lost the potential to encourage small farm operations with this bill?

Is there sufficient revenue in this proposed bill for the County to inadvertently turn agricultural lands into residential properties with the infrastructure needs which would be created?

Thank you for considering our questions. Again, we have seen the results to date of this great venture and hope to see it continue and grow.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CANDIDATE FORUM

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 11, 7:00 P.M.
SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

HCA BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2006 7:30 P.M.
OWENSVILLE RECREATION CENTER

ANNUAL MEETING

TBD, FEBRUARY 2007

ONGOING

THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET CELEBRATES ITS 25TH YEAR WITH SEASONAL PRODUCE. 7AM-NOON SATURDAYS @ CORNER OF RIVA RD. & HARRY S. TRUMAN PKWY., ANNAPOLIS: 410-349-0317.

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CONNIE HIRSCHMAN: 410-703-0946.

THE HARWOOD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly by **The Harwood Civic Association**
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Letters and submissions published as space allows.

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