

Harwood Park Neighborhood Improvement Association Agenda
Thursday, April 8, 2004, 7-8 pm, Harwood Park United Methodist Church Hall
Betsy McMillion, Chaired Meeting

Thank You: Linda Grimes, Karen Keller, M. Pauline Lisle, Seth Rhoades, and the One Stop Shop for allowing us to post community signs on their properties; Lori & Lee Walker, Tim Raines and Stan Nasiatka of the Rotary for their help in last Saturday's rainy day park clean up, George Bowers for making reminder phone calls for our meeting; Tracy Lowe for baking, bringing & selling cookies and beverages to raise funds; Gwenn Bowers for helping everyone sign in; Jill Lloyd for securing the hall for us; Tim Raines for monitoring our neighborhood park; Tracy Lowe & Jill Lloyd for helping with set up and clean up of these meetings; members of the Harwood Park United Methodist Church for their generosity in letting us use their hall for our community meeting, and especially those who distribute community news to other neighbors.

Updates:

Please be sure to turn in your orders for Jeanne's Gourmet fund-raising or the end of this week for delivery by next month's meeting.

We received a very nice thank you note from Baby Jordan's family, commenting on their appreciation of our neighbors' generosity and support to help Jordan with his medical expenses.

There is some legislation being proposed through Howard County which we should know about (CB 14-2004; CR 30-2004; ZB 1032M; ZB 1033M). We understand that GECA is following this for the Elkridge community.

Dave Grabowski gave a brief explanation about the above legislation being tracked through GECA.

A request was made to Dave Grabowski to see if he could get the dead tree removed from the park (Dave is on the County's Recreation & Parks Board).

The required signed legal paperwork to allow the State easement rights in order to install a traffic light over in front of the Capital Mobile Park property has not been received. Neighbors were encouraged to call the owner's legal representative, Jerome Feldman, at 1-410-573-0017, to request that Kamakoti Investors Limited Partnership please sign the needed paperwork and return it to the state. Neighbors were encouraged to contact the lawyer so he realizes the impact of this delay.

The Loudon Avenue sidewalk reconstruction project is finished. If you have any problems or concerns about this finished project, contact John Schultz, the Howard County inspector assigned to this job, at 410-313-1853.

Our neighborhood park has a new arboretum. Neighbors were encouraged to visit the new arboretum within the park off of Woodburn Avenue. New park arboretum brochures are available in the new holder that was recently installed on the park sign.

The first park clean up of the year was rainy, and only a handful of our regulars managed to make it. Special thanks to: Timmy Raines, Lori and Lee Walker and Stan Nasiatka of the Rotary Club, for their help in cleaning up the park for the spring. A new asphalt pathway was installed near the playground by the county folks, the park cleaned up, and new mulch spread around many of the trees, just in time for the arrival of the arboretum.

The Crime Watch Committee has been put on hold for a few months until Linda Grimes, our new committee chair, recuperates. She was hospitalized and we do not know when she will be able to begin meetings for this year. If you are interested in being part of the 2004 Crime Watch group, please sign the sign up sheet in the back.

We encourage neighbors to plan their annual yard sale to coincide with the Harwood Park United Methodist Church rummage sale which will be held on Saturday, May 15. A neighbor volunteer is needed to make and post signs around Elkridge.

Harwood Park's community clean up dumpsters will be available the weekend of June 12-13. Josie & James Hall have volunteered to coordinate this event. The dumpsters will be located on the Hall's property at the end of Melrose Avenue. We will try to coordinate a similar stream clean up on the same day.

Some neighbors are concerned about the numerous "we buy, sell or swap" signs that have been posted on the Pawn Shop's window and van, located at the corner of US Route 1 and Loudon Avenue. Neighbors also commented that the Pawn Shop's van created a site distance problem, especially when trying to view southbound US Route 1 traffic. We will contact the owner and ask if he would consider removing the "gun" signs, move the van so it does not obstruct drivers views, and research to see if the gun signs are in accordance with the new "Route 1 Revitalization" Plan.

A new Harwood Park walkers group will begin on or about Monday, May 3. Meet at the park at 7 pm for neighbors to get together at a regular time, Monday through Friday. A regular or flexible route will be created according to the group's discretion. This is meant to be a "come and walk when you can" group. Come and join us even if you can only walk one day every couple of weeks.

Volunteer chaperones are needed to run a "roller blade day" on the basketball courts at the park or any other type of events. In order to move forward with the ideas discussed last year as part of our park revitalization, we need firm volunteer commitments to move ahead. If there are no volunteers, there are no new programs. There were no volunteers from the audience to coordinate any new events at the park at this time.

An incident occurred with a concerned neighbor across the bridge who noticed that the house at 6771 Athol Avenue has a broken window on the screen door, and both the screen door and front door were swinging open for several days, fearing some type of burglary or crime. Upon her request, a call was placed to the local police. The police officer that responded stated that the police receive a number of similar calls in the past several weeks about the broken window and doors. The woman who lives inside is alive and well and has declined offers for assistance for repairs or clean up to her property.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Mon., May 3 – Harwood Park walkers group – 7 pm (Monday-Friday)
Sat., May 15 – Harwood Park United Methodist Church Rummage Sale & Neighborhood Yard Sale
Sat., May 15 – Fund-raiser for Baby Jordan at Buttermilk Hill Tavern 6 pm – 2 pm
Sun., May 16 – Spaghetti dinner & silent auction for Baby Jordan at Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department
Sat., June 12 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave.
Sat.-Sunday, June 12-13, Community Clean Up Dumpster 8 am – 5 pm - end of Melrose & Glenmore Avenue
Sat., Sept. 11 – Park Clean up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am
Sat., Nov. 13 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

Next meeting will be on 2nd Thursday of the month, on May 13, 2004, at 7 pm, at the Harwood Park Methodist Church hall.

Web site: <http://www.geocities.com/harwoodparkelkridge>

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