

Harwood Park Neighborhood Improvement Association Notes
Thursday, July 8, 2004, 7-8 pm, Harwood Park United Methodist Church
Betsy McMillion Chaired Meeting

Thank You: Linda Grimes, Ron Godfrey, M. Pauline Lisle, Jennifer Hagler, Lee & Amy Hoffheiser, Leo & John Neault, Jozette Cunningham, Betty on Loudon Avenue, and the One Stop Shop for allowing us to post community signs on their properties; Tracy Lowe for handling our 50/50 drawing to raise funds; Kathy Kemp-Abrams, Justin McMillion, Tim Raines, Gail Sigel and Dave Theilman for helping with the last neighborhood park clean up; Kathy Kemp-Abrams for her donation of perennial flowers for the park; Gwenn Bowers for helping everyone sign in; Jill Lloyd for securing the hall for us; Tim Raines for monitoring our neighborhood park; Candace Funk for leading the fight against new duplexes in our neighborhood; 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:

Reminder calls will no longer be made about monthly community meetings. Our list is up to approximately 200 persons and too many people to call. Please look for signs posted near the entrance on Loudon Avenue near US Route 1 and at Athol Avenue. Reminder notices (and other local news) will still be sent out to anyone who gives us their e-mail address to be added to our community e-mail list. Special thanks to **George Bowers** for making the hundreds of reminder calls to everyone over the past 2 years. It was agreed that a flier would be distributed annually around the neighborhood to let people know that our improvement association exists.

2004 Traffic Action Committee. We are looking for new members to join our committee to work closely with the police to schedule radar and SMART board. We are also working toward ways to slow down drivers. If you are willing to place one of the slow down signs in your yard, please let us know.

Citizen radar shooting training. If anyone is interested in participating in the SMART Program to learn to shoot radar for our neighborhood streets (and willing to go to one-day radar training), please contact Ron Godfrey.

Neighborhood Crime update. There have been several thefts in the neighborhood, problems with kids on ATVs speeding through the neighborhood, and two bicycle accidents. Neighbors are urged to dial 911 and report any problems immediately. We have asked Chris Merdon to help us work with the local police to increase police patrols in our neighborhood. A chairperson and new members are needed to create a Crime Watch Committee to try to stop some of the crime in our neighborhood.

Loudon Avenue bridge project update. The bridge should be finished in the fall of 2004 according to the Department of Public Works spokesperson. Delay caused by weather and contractor problems.

Vote to alternate day of week for future community meetings. An e-mail was sent to determine whether or not we should consider changing the day of the week of our monthly meetings to enable other neighbors to attend monthly meetings. Only two people responded. It was asked again whether or not we should change the day of the week at the meeting, however, there was mixed opinions. This may also be difficult since the church offers the hall to other groups on different days of the week. Until further notice we will keep the day of the week the same unless we receive more input from others that they would definitely want the day we meet to another day besides Thursday.

Variance hearing update (Melrose and Euclid Avenues). To date, we have not received any notification about the hearing examiner's decision whether or not to allow additional duplex units.

Traffic light construction has begun at Loudon/US Route 1. Many thanks to everyone who has worked so hard sending e-mails and making phone calls to change the State's mind about allowing us to have a working traffic light.

The first Harwood Park Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 1, from 3 pm - ????. Rain date will be Sunday, August 15. Sam Miller will play guitar, there will be a Harwood Park Best Dessert Maker contest and some games for kids. Bring your own picnic lunch, drinks, blanket and chairs.

There is a proposed duplex housing development planned for the corner of Highland and Forest Avenues for 20 new homes (10 duplexes). A map of the proposed plan was available for viewing at the meeting. We will write to the county to object to duplexes being built in the older part of Harwood Park where there are only single-family homes. We have made a written request through Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning to stop future duplexes and come up with a plan for acceptable type of "in fill" development.

Old (10 years or more) pictures or stories about Harwood Park or Elkridge are wanted for the creation of an Elkridge History book, and for use on our community's web site.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sunday, Aug 1 – Harwood Park Community Picnic at neighborhood park - 3 pm – off Woodburn Ave.

Sat., Aug. 21 – Elkridge Community Appreciation Parade – 10 am – Old Washington Boulevard
(near Car Wash)

Sat., Sept. 11 – Park clean up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

Sat., Nov. 13 – Park Clean Up off Woodburn Ave. - 9 am

The next meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, on August 12, 2004, at 7 pm, at the Harwood Park Methodist Church hall.