

Harwood Park Neighborhood Improvement Association Notes
Thursday, May 13, 2004, 7-8 pm, Harwood Park United Methodist Church
Betsy McMillion Chaired Meeting

Thank You: Linda Grimes, M. Pauline Lisle, Seth Rhoades, and the One Stop Shop for allowing us to post community signs on their properties; 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; Tracy Lowe for organizing our first Jeanne's Gourmet fundraising event, **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.

Guest: Gus Cornias, Owner of Accurate Pawn & Tackle Shop, 6653 Washington Blvd.

Updates:

Jeanne's Gourmet fund-raising. Thanks to everyone who participated. We will use the money to buy new community signs and flowers for our neighborhood park. Special thanks to Tracy Lowe for organizing our first fund-raising event.

Photo Album of the new Harwood Park Arboretum was passed around.

GECA update from Dave Grabowski, Harwood Park representative. At their last general meeting, there was discussion about the new 22 acre, mega-complex of 4-story townhomes, and 3 2-story retail buildings planned for the old Drive In property off US Route 1. Chris Merdon, our Howard County Council Representative and other State elected officials will be at the next GECA meeting to be held on May 27th.

Hearing for a variance to allow a setback for one of the two duplexes (4 homes, along with the existing home on this small piece of land) planned to be built at the corner of Melrose and Euclid Avenues will be held on Monday, May 24, at 3 pm at the George Howard Building. Concerned neighbors are urged to attend to testify for/against allowing the setback variance, as well as duplexes, in this small area. Candace Funk brought a petition in opposition of these duplexes for neighbors to sign at the meeting and has offered to take a petition around to homes near this location to present at the hearing. Others are encouraged to write or e-mail letters to our elected and public officials to let our thoughts be known about duplexes being built in the older section of Harwood Park.

Traffic light update. The Capital Mobile Home Park Owner's attorney, Jerome Feldman, stated that he will urge the property owner to quickly sign the needed paperwork and return it to the State Highway Administration; the attorney and owner have no problem with right-of-way issues to install a much needed traffic light; the delay in signing the paperwork was due to more pressing matters.

Our Community Yard Sale will be this Saturday, in order to coincide with the Harwood Park United Methodist Church rummage sale. Once we have accumulated enough funds, we will order a permanent sign to be made for this bi-annual event.

Community clean up dumpsters will be available for the community on June 12-13. The Hall family has volunteered to run this event. The dumpster will be located on the Hall's property, off of Glenmore and Melrose Avenues. Once the dumpsters are full, no other "junk" will be allowed in the dumpsters.

We are forming a Harwood Park Walkers Group, Monday through Friday. Everyone is invited to join in at any time. The group will meet at the park at 7 pm, and finish at the park. A regular route or routine is to be determined by the group of walkers.

2004 neighbor volunteers. Vacancies are open for the SMART (radar) program to help track our regular speeders, new members of the Traffic Action Committee, Adopt-A-Park helpers, Community Yard Sale organizer, Stream Clean Up Committee, and Harwood Park Picnic Committee. Please let Betsy know if you can help on any of these important committees.

Gus Cornias, the Owner of the Accurate Pawn Shop spoke to the group about the increased advertising "gun" signs placed on his building and on his van. He briefly explained that 2 forms of identification were needed to acquire a gun; he works very closely with the FBI and the local police for transactions dealing with guns. No gun can be released for 8 days, and there are approximately 3 pages of paperwork that is required to be filed with the State Police. Mr. Cornias said he would be willing to work with our neighbors to come to some type of compromise concerning our concern over the gun signs. Also, he is willing to park his company's van away from the curb closest to US Route 1, in order to help driver visibility. Mr. Cornias stated that signs on the vehicle was the only "loophole" the county would allow to post signs near their business, and were very strict with how and where you post advertising signs.

It was acknowledged that our neighbor, Phoebe Orsini, volunteered her time and talents to develop our community's logo. Phoebe was congratulated on her new baby boy that has kept her away from our community meetings for the past several months.

Steve Lafferty, the Deputy Director of Planning & Zoning, has offered to meet with us to take a walking tour of Harwood Park, so we can better explain our problems and concerns associated with new mini-housing developments and "in fill" development in our older neighborhood.

John Handy, the owner of the One Stop Shop, explained that he intends to sell his business. The perspective buyer withdrew their application for a liquor license (a red sign was posted for a few weeks at the corner of US Route 1 and Loudon Avenue), and to date, the owner does not have any other potential buyers. We acknowledged Mr. Handy's generosity in allowing us to post signs on his property, and his support of our community.

There will be a meeting about the proposed housing/retail development planned along US Route 1 on the Collins/Feezer Property (across from where the new Harley dealership is being

Other concerns or issues to be discussed. There were some concerns about the children and adults speeding on ATVs on some of our neighborhood roads, as well as ATVs cutting through the open space area (where the new trees were planted) near the dead end of Harthorn Avenue. Neighbors were urged to call the police to report the ATV activity as soon as it happens.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Sat., May 15 – Harwood Park United Methodist Church Rummage Sale & neighbors yard sale

Sat., May 15 – Fund raiser for Baby Jordan at Buttermilk Hill Tavern 6 pm – 2 pm. 10% food & drink proceeds donated

Sun., May 16 – Spaghetti dinner & silent auction for Baby Jordan at Elkridge Volunteer Fire Dept. on Old Washington Blvd.

Tues., May 18 – Collins/Feezer Property on US Route 1 Meeting at 6807 Washington Boulevard – 6 pm

Mon., May 24 – Hearing for variance of set back on Euclid & Melrose Ave. property – 3 pm
Howard Building, Ellicott City

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

The next meeting will be on the 2nd Thursday of the month, on June 10, 2004, at 7 pm, at the Harwood Park Methodist Church Hall