

APC NEWSLETTER

THE MISSION OF THE ARNOLD PRESERVATION COUNCIL IS TO UNITE THE PEOPLE OF ARNOLD TO ENHANCE ARNOLD'S IDENTITY AS A DESIRABLE COMMUNITY THAT PRESERVES ITS RURAL HERITAGE AND ENVIRONMENT BY ADVOCATING RESPONSIBLE GROWTH, LINKED NEIGHBORHOODS, LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES, AND EXCELLENT SCHOOLS.

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March 2007

The next meeting of Arnold Preservation Council will be on
Wednesday, April, 11 at 7:30 PM Arnold Senior Center 44 Church Road, Arnold
Speaker - MD District 30 Delegate Ron George,

Important Dates and Information

COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mar. 21, Board of Appeals Hearing [BA 83-06R](#)
Piera Property 6:30 PM - APC to testify
- Mar. 21, Eastern District Community Relations Council, 7:30 PM, Eastern District Police Station. The topic of Identity Theft will be discussed by a member of the A.A. County Police Department Fraud Unit.
- Mar. 22, Broadneck Federation meeting
Speakers from BGE, Verizon, and Cable services will discuss "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Utilities...But Didn't Know Whom to Ask"
7:30 PM Magothy River Middle School
- Mar. 27, County-Wide Town Hall Meeting on Race Relations, 6:30-9:00 PM, Calvary United Methodist Church, Rowe Blvd., Annapolis.
- Apr 11 **APC meeting:**
Speaker: Ron George, MD District 30 Delegate
- Apr. 21 Earth Day Celebration, 1-4 PM, St. Martin in the Field Church, Severna Park
- May 9 **APC meeting:**
Misty Phillips Executive Assistant to County Executive John Leopold

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Minutes of the March 14, 2007 Meeting

Call to Order and Welcome:

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. President Sage Mumma welcomed the members and introduced Eric Blamphin, a new APC member, and Ellen Kinsella, a reporter from the Severna Park Voice.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the January meeting and the February Newsletter

were approved as distributed.

Officer's Reports

Treasurer Lucy Iliff filed the following report:

Balances as of 1/31/07

Checking	\$ 113.42
Savings	\$4,237.23
Total	\$4,350.65

February 2007

Income - \$86.01; Dues - \$65.00; Interest - \$1.01; History Project -\$20.00
Expenses - \$553.00; GSPC Dues - 35.00;
Insurance \$350.00; Postage \$102.00
Printing - \$8.88; Website - \$ 57.12

Balance as of 2/28/07

Checking	\$85.42
Savings	\$3798.24
Total Assets	\$3,883.66

The report was filed for audit.

Vice President Andy Smarick said that he has been looking into the land trust idea and has had a few conversations with local players: Pete Culp, president of Magothy Land Trust, Paul Spadaro, president of The Magothy River Association, and Sandra Sweeney, president of the Bay Land Trust.

The Bay Land Trust protects land on the Annapolis Neck Peninsula; they worked with Annapolis Roads and Bay Ridge to protect the 2nd and 3rd largest forests remaining on the neck. There are 3 other trusts in AA County: North County, Magothy Land Trust, and Scenic Rivers Land Trust.

Magothy Land Trust doesn't buy land; it just holds easements and monitors them over time. They find properties by searching tax records to find valuable land that might be worth protecting; in general, they are willing to protect land for scenic, water quality, or land preservation reasons. They have done more work on the north side of the river, particularly protecting bogs, and all of their current priorities are on the north side. But they would be interested in doing more on the Broadneck Peninsula, especially if we could take a role in helping identify properties and facilitating meetings with owners.

Paul Spadaro, from the MRA, is particularly interested in protecting the large Dobbins Island—the owner might be interested in selling. They are always looking for help and volunteers. He thinks APC's involvement in the Dobbins Island effort would be a good way for our organization to learn

more about land trust issues.

President Sage Mumma reported the following:

- The APC 2006 IRS tax forms were filed on 2/21/07. We pay no tax.
- The APC 2007 MD property form was filed on 2/21/07.
- APC Executive Committee /Officers for 2007 are:

President	Sage Mumma
Vice-president	Andy Smarick
Recoding Secretary	Sue Freeman
Corresponding Secretary	Doris Hansen
Treasurer	Lucy Iliff
Immediate Past President	Ann Fligsten

APC now has a General Liability insurance policy. For \$350/year, we have 1 million dollars in coverage. We did not purchase Officers and Director's coverage, as it was too expensive.

- At the 3/1/07 meeting of GSP WAG, the group was finalizing plans for its Earth Day Celebration on 4/21/07. The event will take place at St. Martin in the Field Church on Benfield Road from 1-4 PM. This is an educational and fun event for the whole family.
- The swale between the Woodfire Restaurant and the old Severna Park shopping center (where Garry's Grill is located, on the north side of McKinsey Road, just west of the Annapolis Bank and Trust building) will soon be cleaned out. The area now has multiple trees and plants growing in the dirt that has accumulated in the concrete swale. This is a county clean-up project. GSP WAG is looking into having some sort of plantings put in near but not in the swale.
- APC continues to work towards acquiring a piece of land near the B & A Trail to be used as a small park and as the site of one side of a bridge that would span Ritchie Highway.

Membership Report

As of 3/14/07, APC has 63 members;

- Voting members - 40 individuals, 4 Businesses, 3 Institutions, and 4 Community Associations.
- Non-voting members - 9 individuals including 2 comps and 1 honorary, and 3 businesses.

Guest Speaker: Michael Leahy, Member-at-Large of the Anne Arundel County Board of Education

Mr. Leahy opened his remarks with provocative questions for the audience: How many people thought we had a good education system in Anne Arundel County? How many people would pay fifty to sixty percent higher property taxes to improve the schools? Mr. Leahy is a lawyer and a graduate of Glen Burnie High School who believes he received a great education from wonderful teachers. Examples of some points Mr. Leahy made in his discussion:

- For students who wish to pursue a rigorous course of study, the great teachers are there.
- The average student of today has an easier course of study than those of ten to twenty years ago.
- Less than 20% of the County households have children in the school system.

- A new high school will cost approximately \$140,000.
- Redistricting is necessary to continue to keep school enrollment in balance.
- There is a positive correlation between success in school and children from two parent households.

APC Vice-president Andy Smarick thanked Mr. Leahy for his presentation to our members and his volunteer service to the Board of Education

Standing and Special Committee Reports

Audit Committee:

The following APC members served on the Audit Committee for the fiscal year of 2006: Susan Ricciardi, Ed Parker and Missy Blevins (Chair).

The committee met on March 1, 2007 and found the records for Arnold Preservation Council for the fiscal year 2006 to be in order and accurate. The Committee gave special thanks to Lucy Iliff, treasurer, for all her hard work and dedication to the task.

Land Use:

Sage Mumma reported the following:

ADMINISTRATION HEARINGS

2007-0010-V John Kurtz, to allow a pier with greater length than allowed, 324 Riverside Dr., Arnold. 3/20/07, 10:30 AM Sage Mumma will look into this variance request for APC.

(Administrative Hearings are held at 44 Calvert Street, Annapolis, 1st Floor, County Council Chambers)

BOARD OF APPEALS

BA 83-06R from 2006-0264-R Mike and Kathe Piera, to allow a zoning reclassification from R-2-Residential to C3-General Commercial at 977 Ritchie Hwy. Arnold, MD. The request was denied by the Administrative Hearing Officer in a ruling dated 11/15/06. BA Hearing date: 3/21/07 6:30 PM. APC will be represented at this hearing, testifying in opposition to the requested zoning change. Sage Mumma has been gathering information and will review the tapes of the County Council deliberations of the Broadneck Small Area Plan in preparation for testifying before the BOA.

SUBDIVISIONS, OTHER PROPERTIES AND PROJECTS

S2006-034 Admirals Reach - 1395 Ritchie Highway Sketch Phase; Eliot Powell reported that the variance hearing for this project is scheduled for 4/10/07, 11 AM.

S1198-108 Arnold Manor 33 Severn Way Final Phase - Project # P2006-0073. Owner Lighthouse Development - No new information Arnold Manor 33 Severn Way, Koch Homes, developer, Lighthouse Dev. Ltd, owner, houses, age-restricted. Project 06- 0073 - No new information

Arnold Safeway - 1451 Ritchie Highway - Jim Brooks reported that the demolition and rebuilding might begin in late spring or summer of '07.

Bertha Estates - 1137 Ferber Ave. (tax Account 3000-0174-3103), no permits found. Sketch plan submitted and County comments have been received. Roy Little, President of Terrill, Inc., said that they were working through the issues raised by the County.
Age-restricted sub development; No new information.

TransAAACT:

Ann Fligsten discussed the editorial in the 3/14/07 Capital on the need for a new bridge over the Chesapeake Bay. She moved that APC take the issue to TransAAACT for discussion and action. The motion was duly seconded and passed.

Scenic Arnold History Project

- Since the January APC meeting, the Arnold History Committee has done two taped interviews highlighting the Smith family and the Crist and Ostrowski families, and four PowerPoint presentations. Each time more information pours in. People are asking for another evening showing. The Committee will be glad to do the showing if there is a place and date. Alberta will also be willing to do a personal showing for homebound.
- Our latest acquisition is a copy of a magazine called *BROAD NECK hundred*, published in 1975-76. We find that a small collection of these magazines resides at the MD Law Library. Anyone interested in researching these magazines for Arnold information please call Alberta at 410-757-2831.
- We sold all but two packages of the 2006 series note cards. The 2007 series of note cards is ready for production. As requested, we expanded the information on the back.

Scenic Arnold Steering Committee:

Ann Fligsten reported that two subcommittees, one to look into real estate issues and the other on architectural guidelines, have been appointed and will be reporting back to the full committee and APC membership in April.

Delegates to Community Organizations

Magothy River Association (MRA) - Diane Scherer

- The annual MRA Forum was held at Anne Arundel Community College on February 21. President Paul Spadaro gave a brief talk on the renewed five-year oyster recovery plan, dive program, placemat project, and other activities. The main speaker was Dr. Peter Bergstrom, who presented the 2006 Magothy River Index, based on his monitoring work on the river. Factors considered include submerged aquatic vegetation, water quality, wetlands, riparian buffers, aquatic habitat, dissolved oxygen and nutrient loads. Dr. Dot Leonard presented an overview of oyster restoration efforts and Dick Carey showed a video of the MRA's monitoring work. The Magothy River Index is available online at magothyriver.org.
- This year's joint CBF-MRA Grasses for the Masses project will hold its workshop on growing bay

grasses in March. The 25 participants will grow the grasses in their homes and the grasses will be planted in the river in June.

- The legal saga involving Little and Dobbins Islands in the Magothy River continues. In the Little Island case, the Critical Area Commission, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and MRA have all filed petitions for judicial review to the Circuit Court to overturn the January 2007 Board of Appeals decision to approve most of the variances. The CBF and MRA have also appealed former Planning & Zoning officer Joseph Rutter's decision to approve retroactive buffer modification status for the island, which would exempt portions of the island from critical area restrictions. The CAC will later rule on the buffer modification as an amendment to the Critical Area Maps. The CBF and MRA have also appealed Mr. Rutter's decision to allow a driveway on Little Island as a "water dependent use."
- The MRA and CBF have also appealed the Administrative Hearing Officer's decision to grant variances on Big Dobbins Island.
- In a separate legal action, the MRA and others have filed a class action suit, arguing "adverse use" of areas on Big Dobbins Island, based on decades of public use.
- The Circuit Court has recently ruled to set aside Mr. Daryl Wagner's \$3.5 million defamation case against Paul Spadaro until the other legal cases are resolved.

Friends of the Baltimore Annapolis Trail - Ed Parker

- The March 4th marathon and half marathon on the trail that attracted 920 runners.
- The break in the trail near Jones Elementary School has been temporarily repaired with steel plates.
- The "Capital Steps" will return to Severna Park High School on March 31st for a return engagement/fundraiser to benefit the Centennial Mural Project along the B & A Trail in Severna Park. The cost is \$25. Contact ASPIRE (Association for Severna Park Improvement, Renewal, and Enhancement) at 410-647-2525 or csnolte@verizon.net for information or tickets.
- Vandalism has resulted in the removal of parts of the "Planet Walk Sun Station" on the Trail near Marley Station Mall. The County hopes to purchase a motion activated surveillance system to prevent future vandalism.

Eastern District Police /Community Relations -Ed Parker

Eastern District Commander, Pam Davis, named Cpl. Wayne Tanis as her nomination for Officer of the Year. He has been the district's traffic safety officer and recently conducted a survey of disabled parking. He found that most people using the disabled parking spaces are entitled to them.

- The topic for the February Eastern District Police Community Relations Commission was "Tracking Sex Crime Offenders". At present, these offenders

must register at the police station every 6 months and have their picture taken. There are approximately 330 registered sex offenders in Anne Arundel County. The topic for the January meeting was the "Red Light Camera" operation. There are 5 cameras now in our County. To activate the system, one must be one yard beyond a Stop Mark when the light turns red and continue to move through the intersection. The fine is \$75, with no points.

- Police recently apprehended four people in white van who had shot out 52 car windows in Bay Hills and Mago Vista.

Announcements

Alberta Stornetta reported that Asbury United Methodist Church is finally starting on the re-grading and surfacing of the parking lot. It has taken nearly a year to get all the required permits because of a change in county policy. Work is expected to begin around March 25. The project is

supposed to take 4 months to complete. When it is finally completed, there will be a neighborhood block party to thank all for their patience and understanding while the project is being finished. Sue Freeman related the decision of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals on the Pines-on-the-Severn piers situation. After nearly three years in court and multiple lawsuits, the Appeals Court ruling was issued on March 6 affirmed the trial judge's decision of December 2005. The piers are on community land and everyone in the community has a right to use them.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Submitted by

Sue Freeman, Recording Secretary