

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 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.

P.O. Box 852, Arnold, Maryland 21012-0852

www.PreserveArnold.org

Vol. 9 No. 7, 8 September/October 2008

There were no July or August APC meetings. The schedule resumed on Wednesday, 11 September, 7:30 PM, at the Chesapeake Academy Conference Room, 1185 Baltimore & Annapolis Blvd, Arnold

Please note the new web address for the APC. Contact us at info@preservearnold.org.

The 11 September and the 8 October meetings were called to order at 7:30 PM and appropriate minutes were approved.

TREASURER - Report courtesy of Eric Weilminster..

Balance as of 9/10/2008:

Checking: \$12,080.85

Savings: \$737.25

CD \$4,030.61 (renewed 9/9/08)

TOTAL \$16,848.71

PRESIDENT – Report courtesy of Lucy Iliff. (September)

Lucy introduced the guest speaker, Al Johnston, who presented an overview of the current Anne Arundel County General Development Plan. Al has been active in civic affairs in the County for over twenty years. He served on the Small Area Plan committee for Severna Park in the 1997 General Development Plan. He currently serves on the Special Advisory Committee for Severna Park. Several points were emphasized in his twenty minute presentation:

1. Maryland State Code requires a review of each County's General Development Plan every ten years, but each county performs the review as they see fit.
2. The current Anne Arundel County review is planned to take place within a year.
3. The 1997 Broadneck Small Area Plan can be seen at the Broadneck Library.
4. The background reports for the County in Transportation, Economy, History, Utilities, etc., can be located on the Anne Arundel County website.
5. The Fiscal Impact Analysis report has not yet been made available to the Special Advisory Committee.
6. Each of the representatives from the various geographic areas in the County who serve on the Special Advisory Committee is to devise a plan to allow public input into their reports by October.

7. The completed plan, written by Lynn Miller, will be presented to the County Council in December.
8. Al believes that a key factor in the Land Use section of the Plan will be the fact that the County is now using fifty to sixty percent of the water available from the aquifers in the County. When the County uses 80% of the aquifer, development must stop. Most of the County pumps are at the 800 foot depth.
9. After the General Development Plan has been completed, the Comprehensive Rezoning will begin. The public will not know what rezoning has been requested until the presentation is made by Planning and Zoning to the County Council. It is not known whether the General Development Plan will have any influence on the rezoning requests.

Jordan Property: Lucy reported good results from the June Trail Rally for Jordan Park. Many B and A Trail users signed our APC petition. An email list of petition signers who want to be updated will be compiled and letters sent to provide the latest information as our plan progresses. Ann Fligsten reported that she had spoken to several foundations including Biophilia and Knott. An APC member suggested we also contact the Weisberg Foundation which is actively supporting parks in the Baltimore area. Lucy has also spoken with several local organizations that use the Trail. Both report favorable response to the idea, but with no promise of funds thus far. Lauren Marsh suggested that APC install a "real estate" type of post with a plastic information tube with details of the Jordan Park plan and contact information. This would be installed near the Jordan property boundary with the Trail. Mr. Sonny Jordan requested a copy of the APC letter to County Executive Leopold. Lucy agreed to send Mr. Jordan a copy immediately.

Board of Directors: Lucy expressed her desire for those who are willing to accept positions on the Board for the coming year to step forward.

(October)

The APC board slate for next year is Sue Freeman for president, Eric Weilminster for vice president, Anne Doody for secretary. There is a potential candidate for treasurer, but no positive selection yet. Suggestions for additional board positions are being considered.

The board meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of every month and are open to all members. Additional information will be posted at www.preservearnold.org.

The APC general meetings schedule was changed. The new reduced schedule calls for 4 APC meetings a year, plus 2 joint meetings with other organizations. The 4 APC meetings will be January, March, June and September. There will be no November meeting this year.

Leroy Jonas with the State Highway Department said that they will be replacing some of the plantings in the Arnold portion of the Rt. 2 median strip this fall.

STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ENVIRONMENT/BEAUTIFICATION

GROWTH ACTION NETWORK OF A.A. COUNTY (GAN) – Report courtesy of Ann Fligsten.

Ann Fligsten reported that the next meeting will be held at Annapolis High School on October 8 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a presentation of the General Development Plan and will be open to the public. The Network is monitoring the County Council debate on impact fees. Ann expressed concern that the public is not aware of how the decision on this affects tax payers.

Growth Action Network welcomes new individual and community associations as members. Contact Ann Fligsten if interested. 410-544-1454.

GREATER SEVERNA PARK WATERSHED ACTION GROUP (GSPWAG) – Report courtesy of Sage Mumma.

(September)

Keith Tate of BayLand Consultants & Design gave a presentation on the Mill Creek restoration project. The two (2) phases will cover the creek entrance and maintenance dredging (Phase 1) and then of the headwaters of the creek (Phase 2). The collapse at the Mill Creek pumping station was discussed, as was the impact of the sewage spill on the area and the creek.

Navigation access and stepped dredging are important components of the project.

By stepping the dredging, a greater variety of grasses can be planted to help deter the silting-in of the creek. The projected completion of the project is winter of 2009-2010.

There will be a Rock N' Recycle event on Saturday, October 11, 2008 from noon to 3 PM in the parking lot at the Park Plaza shopping Center. WAG will have a booth at this event.

The WAG is currently making plans for its Earth Day 2009 celebration. It will be held at St. Martin's In the Field on Saturday, April 18th.

(October)

At its October 2nd meeting, Dennis McMonigle provided the WAG with a status report on the North Cypress Branch Stream Restoration project.

Mr. McMonigle said there would be a six-month delay in the start of the project (to June 2010), from the January 2010 start date briefed to WAG by DPW in June 2008. A No-Construction window for this project is in effect from mid-February 2010 until June 2010 to protect fish during their spawning season. Once construction has begun, it's possible a second No-Construction window may take effect (in February 2011) if the North Cypress Branch project isn't complete, because of the fish-spawning period.

WAG will be represented at the 10/11/08 "Rock N' Recycle" event.

The WAG is looking into creating a recognition program for environmental achievements by businesses and residences. APC's criteria for its similar award was shared with the WAG.

The WAG is looking into creating a WAG sponsored speaker's program. Ron Bowen's talk at the 10/14/08 GSPC will be an introduction to the kinds of topics the WAG is considering.

Another possible topic for the WAG program is the changing nature of the Critical Area Commission, which is being transformed into an entity that has authority to issue regulations.

GREATER SEVERNA PARK COUNCIL (GSPC) – Report courtesy of Sage Mumma.

(August)

At the August 12, 2008n GSPC meeting, Captain Thomas Rzepkowski, the new Captain of the Eastern District, was introduced. He is not new to the area and has served in all four of the AA County police districts in the drug units, as a detective, in the homicide and narcotics divisions.

Lt. Tom Wheeler is his 2nd in command.

Sgt. Cathy Pleasants is the point of contact for community groups that wish to have a speaker from the police force. Cpl. Mike Cox is the current officer in charge of traffic enforcement.

Thefts form cars continues to be a problem. Capt. Rzepkowski called them “easy opportunity crime” as people leave their cars unlocked and leave things such as GPS systems, computers, and credit cards in plain sight, while often forgetting to lock the car.

(September)

Board of Education member Michael Leahy was the featured speaker at the September 9, 2008 GSPC meeting. The highlights of his discussion were the following:

- * State and County revenue will probably be less that projected and school moneys will most likely be the same as last year.
- * Next year it is hoped that the Board if Education will allow the Superintendent to move forward with design phase for the new Severna Park High School. The most recent estimate of the project it \$130 million. The Board of Education has labeled the SPHS dollars as “Priority 1” in the 2009 budget. The Board is also requesting state funding for the project.
- * The feasibility study for the school is requested to commence in 2011.
- * The impact of higher operating costs and increased health care costs weigh heavily on the mind of the Board. Citizens are encouraged to attend Board meetings and contact Board members so that the Board knows the priorities and perceived needs for the school. This plea was reinforced by Education Committee chair, Maureen Carr York, in her report to the council.

(October)

The Greater Severna Park Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the “Rock N’ Recycle” event on October 11th from noon to 3 PM, in the parking lot of the Park Plaza Shopping Center.

Carla Logan, chair of the WAG (Watershed Action Group) discussed the need for GSPC to support the Anne Arundel County application for 2010 Trust Funds to reduce non-point source pollution in the Magothy River. GSPC agreed to draft a letter of support.

The speaker at the October 14, 3008 GSPC will be Ron Bowen. He will discuss storm water management. This topic leads right in to the water resources component of the county’s GDP, which is currently being drafted.

ARNOLD HISTORY PROJECT – Report courtesy of Virginia Schultz, project co-chair with Alberta Stornetta

(September)

Virginia met with several people over the summer and was able to get some great pictures and information. We hope to hold another Power Point Show to a group of long time residents of Arnold. We are sure to glean some wonderful additions for our project.

(October)

Alberta Stornetta will be making posters and a display for the Safeway opening on November 13th.

APC is applying for a grant for its Arnold history project.

DELEGATES TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

MAGOTHY RIVER ASSOCIATION (MRA) – Report courtesy of Diane Scherer.

(September)

The annual meeting & picnic will be held September 21 at the Grachur Club. A vote will be taken to ratify the proposed slate of officers: Paul Spadaro (President), Sally Hornor (Vice President), Kate McPhaul (Secretary) and Ted Connell (Treasurer).

In the Dobbins Island/water dependent use appeal, a Circuit Court decision made in July upheld the Board of Appeals' decision denying standing to the MRA and CBF.

Several complaints and motions regarding the question of prescriptive use on Dobbins Island are now before the Circuit Court. No hearing date has been scheduled.

A hearing for the joint appeal by the Critical Area Commission, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the MRA in the Little Island case has been scheduled in the Circuit Court for November 17.

The MRA will hold a watershed workshop over the weekend of October 4-5 at the Gibson Island Country School. Topics include: living shorelines, run off, critical areas, septic issues and various restoration activities.

(October)

Due to a scheduling conflict, the Watershed Workshop originally scheduled for October has been moved to January.

In cooperation with the Magothy River Land Trust, the MRA will sponsor a table at the Rock 'N Roll Recycle event being held October 11 at the Severna Park Plaza.

In the Little Island case, the Critical Area Commission has filed a lawsuit aimed at demolishing the house and restoring the island before any consideration of the variance case can proceed. In a separate suit, the Circuit Court hearing for the variance case is scheduled for November 17.

In the Dobbins Island matter, at the request of the owner's attorney, individual plaintiffs have provided affidavits in the prescriptive use case.

The annual picnic/meeting was held September 21 at the Grachur Club. A vote was taken to ratify the slate of officers for the upcoming year.

SEVERN RIVER ASSOCIATION (SRA) – Report courtesy of Pat Lynch.

The state of the Severn River will be presented 21 October, 7:00 p.m., at the Calvery Methodist Church on Rowe Blvd.

Guest Presenter:

(September)

Mr. Loren Marsh from East Joyce Lane presented information regarding a planned sixty five townhouse development on fifteen acres that would impact the present neighborhood of East Joyce Lane. There has been one pre-submission meeting held on July 1, 2008 at the Broadneck High School. Members of APC suggested that road terrain requirements and “compatible community” ordinances might impact this development. It was noted by one of the attendees that Joyce Lane is included in the four roads in the County classified as Scenic Roads. Mr. Marsh also alerted APC to the fact that there was a cemetery with Arnold Family graves near this proposed development. This information will be given to Alberta Stornetta who has compiled the Arnold History Project.

2008 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Days

DATE	LOCATION
	Glen Burnie Convenience Center 100 Dover Road, Glen Burnie, MD

11/15/ 08	
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Drop-off hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For questions and comments on household hazardous waste drop-off days call (410) 222-7951 or go to the DPW website: www.aacounty.org/DPW/WasteManagement