

Parkwood News

Parkwood Residents Association Bethesda and Kensington, Md.

Volume 3 Issue 4 March, 1996

Beltway Widening, Water Main Project, PRA Election head Topics for PRA Annual Meeting at Library March 30

Noise and Air Pollution Are Major Concerns

The State Highway Administration (SHA) project manager for Md. I-495 conducted a briefing here last month on the progress of Beltway enhancement proposals. Parkwood Association (PRA) representatives and leaders of other civic groups bordering I-495 nearby were at the snow-delayed meeting.

SHA's Sue Rajan and her colleagues are holding a series of public meetings around the Washington area, aimed at formulating a regional plan for coping with a predicted 70 per cent increase in traffic on area roads in the next 25 years. A major public meeting is planned for June.

She told us their growth projections do not take into account any easing of traffic volume that could result here from the evasive Inter-county connector, a major east-west road connecting workplaces near I-270, I-95 and Rt. 1. Proposed long ago, it's still on the drawing board.

PRA Beltway chairman Peter Galvin says the SHA decision process stretches over all this year and next, but it's clear they are moving. "A variety of approaches is currently under review, and an HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lane in each direction seems to be where they're heading." It would be HOV during rush hours only.

Some reduction also might be achieved by improving roads such as MD193 (University Blvd.) and E-W Highway, or by adding a light rail trolley next to I-495. They need federal concurrence to begin, as the Air Quality Act requires plans for reducing pollution. Pete Galvin says noise also will have to be covered in the environmental impact statement.

A firm opponent of more lanes and/or a train, Locust Hills Citizens Assn president Eleanor Rice, declares: "we just can't let it happen." She's organizing a policy formulation conference for the Rock Creek Coalition of civic associations in April, and a followup meeting a week later with the County delegation to the Md. legislature. Ms. Rice warns the next 17 months are critical!

PRA co-president Bill Fuentevilla noted that, for how far along they are in the process, "public awareness is very low." Ms. Rajan replied they're concerned about that, said no one is coming to a monthly informational "open house" (5 to 8 PM on third Thursdays at 9300 Kenilworth Ave.) and they are expanding the mailing list for newsletters.

Peter Galvin will lead a discussion at the Parkwood Association annual meeting Saturday, March 30. The meeting begins at 9:30 AM sharp with election of officers. Any Parkwood resident is welcome; pay your \$3 annual dues at the door. Come early, because at 11 AM we open it to neighbors from Kensington Estates for a discussion of the WSSC water main project which will affect this entire area during 1996.

Meanwhile, Tom Miele of 9712 Parkwood Drive has been monitoring the noise from the Beltway, both with and without the foliage that screens some of the sound in summer. Call Tom (493-8824) if you're affected and care about noise barriers. We should have an input in the environmental impact statement.

Call Peter Galvin at 493-4312 if you'd like to join the PRA Beltway committee. And to get the SHA newsletter, 1-800-548-5026.

Sue, Jan to run PRA in 1996-97

A nominating committee headed by former PRA president Gerry Cepaitis has named co-president Sue Lemich of 10240 Parkwood Dr. (20895) for CEO in the year ahead. Nominated to be the other co-president is Jan Thomas, 4610 Saul Rd., who heads the PRA Fellowship Committee. They and other Parkwood Residents Association officers are expected to be elected by the Board of Directors as the annual meeting begins March 30. Their annual terms will begin immediately.

Lyn Walker has agreed to serve another term as Secretary and Gerald Miller has been renominated for Treasurer.

Any dues-paying member of the Association is eligible to become a member of the corporation that elects the board and officers of the PRA.

This is the right time to express our thanks to Bill Fuentevilla and Sue Lemich, right, who worked so hard in our behalf to reinvigorate the PRA and act as co-presidents this past year. Bill will continue to serve on our Board of Directors, and Sue continues as Co-president with Jan Thomas during the year ahead.



Rabid Racoons - Don't Feed

any wild animals. There have been at least six cases of rabid raccoons in the Kensington area this year. PRA co-president Sue Lemich, who works for MoCo Animal Control, warns that feeding your pets outdoors will attract wild animals such as raccoons, deer, and red fox.

Sue says there's a MoCo Deer Task Force that is trying to eliminate that problem. Rob Lodge says try hanging a bar of Irish Spring soap from a tree in your backyard, to deter the deer.

On another matter, Lemich says consideration is being given to opening a MoCoPo (County Police) substation in Kensington similar to the sub-station that's found to be useful at Montgomery Mall. The PRA may be asked to make a modest contribution, along with other business and civic organizations, toward rental of a mobile office to house the small station.

The matter is likely to be discussed at our meeting March 30.

Questions about the Water Main Project... the Childcare co-op... or Upcoming Activities?

See Page 2 of PARKWOOD NEWS and come to the Meeting March 30 for Details...

WSSC Begins Half-year Project to Clean, Clear, and Line Water Mains

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has begun what it calls a WATER SYSTEM MODERNIZATION project in the Parkwood and Kensington Estates Area which is likely to last for most of 1996. WSSC says the procedure can take from three to six months within a neighborhood, but your home should be affected for no more than four to six weeks.

The contractor on the project, Mainlining Services of Buffalo, NY, will be digging under the pavement every 200 to 300 feet to remove deposits that can discolor water and reduce the flow to homes and fire hydrants. Crews remove the deposits by pulling scrapers and squeegees through dry underground mains. After cleaning, the water main is lined with a cement mortar coating.

WSSC Project Supvr. David Alexander told PARKWOOD NEWS that this project should NOT be linked to the recent 8-ft. water main rupture in Potomac. It will not strengthen our mains, but will enable them to deliver the full flow of clear water for which they were designed.

While your main is out of service, water comes into your home through a bypass system, a network of above-ground two or four inch pipes running alongside the streets and over lawns.

To bring water into your home, a hose from the system must be connected to your pipes. If you have an outside meter, it's done there. If your meter is inside, the contractor must gain access to your shutoff valve at the meter when the supply hose is attached to your outside hose "bibb" (faucet). An alternate tap, so you can use the garden hose, is added at the same time.

Your water use will not be metered during bypass service. Your water bill will be based on your previous usage, and WSSC says it should be "a bit less than normal."

Watch for perhaps frequent flushing of the system during the project, to test for water quality and to condition the new lining. The WSSC brochure — call 206-8100 if you did not get one — says taste and odor of water from bypass pipes may be affected by summer temperatures, and suggests running your water faucets for several minutes if that happens.

Call (301) 206-4002 (24 hours EMERGENCY SERVICES) in case your bypass hose leaks, you lose pressure, or other

Please Send or Bring This Form with your dues.

Support the Parkwood Association — Send your Annual Dues to Treasurer Gerald Miller, 9803 Parkwood Dr., Bethesda 20814. (301) 493-8873. Enclosed find \$3 per home membership dues through March, 1997

Name: _____
Address: _____ 208

Phone: _____ I'd like to help _____
Other comments: _____

problems occur.

See the WSSC brochure, "Water Main Cleaning and Lining," page 7, in case the flushing process loosens cement particles that may affect your plumbing. But WSSC says problems that may occur from old supply pipes inside your property line, which usually is several feet away from the street, are your responsibility. The cleaning and lining project is only for the water main under the street.

We expect that either the Contract Manager, Pamela Judkins, or Project Supervisor Dave Alexander will be at the PRA meeting to explain the project and answer our questions. That's in the LOWER LEVEL OF THE KENSINGTON LIBRARY, ON SATURDAY, MARCH 30. The meeting begins at 9:30 sharp, and the water main discussion starts about 11 AM.

We're doin' a Childcare Co-op...

Elizabeth Shoemaker, 4410 Woodfield Rd., who now heads the Parkwood babysitting cooperative, says that so far 16 families are participating. Anyone needing information or who'd like to join can call 9 AM to 9 PM daily at 564-0951.

She says the co-op's first social gathering is on Sunday, April 21, 3:30 PM. at the playground in Rock Creek park off Puller. Call Elizabeth Shoemaker if you can't make it.

And a Parkwood Picnic...

Fellowship chairman Jan Thomas has a platter full of

activities planned for 1996. For starters, the new PW BOOK CLUB is looking for members. The goal is to meet third Thursdays of the month to discuss a favorite. If it sounds like fun, call Jan at 530-0806.

She's also planning a MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC AT THE KENSINGTON/PARKW'D

Elementary School. That's on Monday, May 27, from 5 'til 7:30 PM. Bring a main course or a side dish— salad, vegetable or dessert— enough for six persons. And for your family, table and chairs, or a blanket to sit on, beverages, etc.

Jan's committee provides space at the schoolyard, garbage containers, tables for food-to-share, and neighborhood cheer. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR.**

She's also planning a yard sale for June 15, 9am to 3 PM, at Saul and Wildwood. She needs volunteers to hang signs and help set up and clean up afterward. There'll be a \$7.50 fee from each seller to help cover advertising (\$150 in '95.)

