

PARKWOOD NEWS

Parkwood Residents Association

June 1996

Co-President Jan Thomas - 530-0808

Co-President Sue Lemich - 564-0041

Treasurer - Gerry Miller - 493-8412

Secretary - Lynn Walker - 493-6191



BELTWAY WIDENING UPDATE

After several meetings the PRA along with the Rock Creek Collation have proposed a declaration of principles in response to the State Highway Administration's (SHA) soliciting a range of views in response to the proposed solutions to traffic congestion on I-495 and nearby roads. The following excerpts are taken from that statement:

The Coalition insists that our elected representatives take a proactive stance. We expect that they will act to preserve the beauty of Rock Creek Park. We are not prepared to accept physical encroachment on parkland.

We agree that traffic already exceeds capacity on I-495 and that traffic will continue to grow. Previous promises from state, federal and EPA officials to limit traffic, noise and air pollution have not been kept in a timely manner.

That Rock Creek Park is invaluable as flood plain. If the additional lanes are built, instead of flood plain protecting adjacent areas from flash floods, we will have concrete roadway shedding water and snow, greatly exacerbating an acute situation.

Expansion of I-495 would involve the destruction of valuable parkland, already in short supply. This section of Rock Creek Park is one of the most beautiful small parks along the Eastern Seaboard.

Our Coalition strongly recommends that SHA immediately implement a feasibility study of bus transit around the Beltway, using existing lanes with rush-hour priorities. State and local governments should help fund mass transit services at a level commensurate to the savings in capital improvements (expansion of I-495) which would no longer be necessary.

Members of the Rock Creek Coalition agree to keep members of their individual citizens associations informed of the stands taken on these issues by our elected representatives.

For more information or if you would like to see the consensus in it's entirety, call Peter Galvin at 493-4312.

A SATURDAY IN THE PARK... The PRA has been invited to join other neighborhood communities for **PARK CLEAN UP DAY** on Saturday June 8 from 9am-12 noon (Rain date June 15). The Maryland National Park and Planning Commission is providing gloves and trash bags. Volunteers will meet at the park entrance at Puller Tot Lot. Guest speaker from the **Department of Natural Resources** and the **Audubon Society** will give information on wildlife and creek watershed information. Please join our neighbors and enjoy the chance to give back to our parkland what we often take for granted. A few wheelbarrows are needed. For more information call Sue Lemich at 564-0041.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE UPDATE

Parkwood Drive Petition Fails

At the last meeting of the PRA Traffic Committee in July, a consensus was reached supporting raised crosswalks along Parkwood Drive at Park entrances (Saul Rd & Westbrook Ln). Park entrances are located at the base of various hills along Parkwood Drive, and coincide with dangerous traffic speeds.

Since then the PRA has contacted the Montgomery County Traffic Engineering Division many times for evaluation on the proposed crosswalks and the PRA has followed up these efforts in writing. The letter has been forwarded to the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission and the PRA is waiting for response.

During this time, some residents pursued the circulation of a petition for the installment of speed humps along Parkwood Dr. between Westbrook Ln. and Franklin St. The petition process requires that each household along the roadway vote either for, or against, the speed humps. Preliminary results of the petition indicated that more than 25 percent of the total households were against the initiative, making passage of the petition impossible.

Perhaps Parkwood is approaching some form of balance in their pursuit of a safe and beautiful community in which we can live together. Lets always remember to look to ourselves in the consideration of others and maintenance of a safe community ourselves in the consideration of others and maintenance of a safe community.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR.....

Neighborhood socials and meetings are the time to catch up on the news and support your community. The PRA General meeting will be held at the Kensington Park Library on Saturday mornings at 9:30 am on **October 13 1996** and **April 11, 1997**. Contact Jan Thomas at 530-0806 or Sue Lemich at 564-0041 for meeting and newsletter information.

Bridges of Montgomery County

by Robert James Wallbenger

The pickup came up the driveway about 4:15pm. I wasn't expecting anyone. The driver was from *Maryland Geographic*, here to photograph bridges in the Parkwood area and looking for directions. I accepted his invitation to go along, so I can tell you when we'll be able to use those bridges again.

We began at the new Summit Avenue bridge over the train tracks in Kensington. It's almost finished, and may be open to traffic as soon as July this year. Next, we drive by the new bridge where Saul Road crosses water at Kensington Parkway. It's just completed stonework has made the wait almost worthwhile, and the span may be open by the time you read this.



The abutment pictured supported the bridge where a trolley crossed Rock Creek a century ago. Barely visible in the background is the current Kensington Pkwy Bridge. Photo by Robert Kincaid Lodge.

Down the Parkway to Beach Drive, we found the bridges over Rock Creek all in working order-at Kensington Pkwy., Conn. Ave., and Cedar Lane. But work on the latter allowing only one lane of traffic each way, will continue for at least another two months-weather providing.

MAKE NOTE... PRA Directory will be available soon! Everyone in the Parkwood Community will have their name and number published. If you **DO NOT** want your name and/or phone number published, please contact Valerie Shapiro at 493-9002

Community Yard Sale- June 15 9am-3pm. Set up at Saul Rd. and Wildwood Rd. For more info call Jan Thomas at 530-0806.

JULY 4th COMMUNITY BBQ!!! Gather all ye neighbors for gabbing, grilling and fun! Meet at Pkwd Elementary lot from 5pm-8pm. Some grills needed and bring a dish to share. Call Jan Thomas 530-0806.

The Parkwood baby-sitting co-op is in full swing with over 20 members! If you are interested in joining, contact Elizabeth Schomaker at ~~697-9336~~ 564-0951

The Parkwood Book Club would like to invite you to join. The group meets on the third Thursday of each month. For more information contact Jan Thomas at 530-0806.

Beth Seeger has offered to organize a Block Captain committee. If you would like to be a Block Captain contact Beth at 564-9894.



THANK YOU

to PRA volunteers who give time and effort to ensure resources for our community. A strong neighborhood association is a proactive community which benefits our children, schools and property. Volunteers help us communicate with one another as well as with our local governments to keep us informed. If you would like to volunteer to help with a committee or social event, contact Sue at 564-0041 or Jan at 530-0806.

SUPPORT THE PARKWOOD RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP DUES - \$3.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

PRA dues support newsletter costs, mailings and social activities. Mail to Gerry Miller- 9804 Parkwood Drive Bethesda, MD. 20814