



# Green Space Advisor

Volume 10 No. 2

September, 2008

## Message From The President: Bobby Berg

You're looking at this newsletter; that says you have an interest in the development of Montgomery County. If you grew up here, you have a sense of the change that occurs over decades, but if you didn't, there's now a way to see the historical big picture. The county government now offers a Web page with aerial surveys that go back as far as 1951. Both the old and the new surveys are organized on the same grid, which makes it convenient to see changes by comparing the old with the new. Here's an example. (See also page 2). To see Sherwood High School in 2006, do the following.

Go to:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gistmpl.asp>

- Click "Digital Aerial Photo Image Server (DAPIS)".
- Click "2006 Color Digital Orthophotos".
- Click map section 6.
- Click grid number 224NW01. A new window opens; expand it to the full screen.
- Set the zoom to 12%, then click the photo once.

Route 108 runs across the upper half of the image, and Sherwood HS with its track and tennis courts are clearly visible. This image might be familiar to you because it's similar to the one used by aerial view in Mapquest, and it's exactly the same one used by Google Maps.

But what was there in 1951? To see the same area at the same scale, follow the above procedure, but instead click on "1951 Black and White Aerial Photos" and set the zoom to 50%. The resulting image is black and white with worse resolution, but Route 108 and its intersection with New Hampshire Avenue are clearly visible. What is not visible is Sherwood High School, even though the county's fact sheet says that the building was built in 1950. Go figure!

This one comparison shows a pattern that is typical elsewhere. Blocks of forest become smaller or disappear entirely, although scattered groups of trees appear among the new neighborhoods. Development brings more buildings, wider roads, and fewer farm fields.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter in electronic form, please send a request to [GSSGS@SandySpringGreenSpace.org](mailto:GSSGS@SandySpringGreenSpace.org)



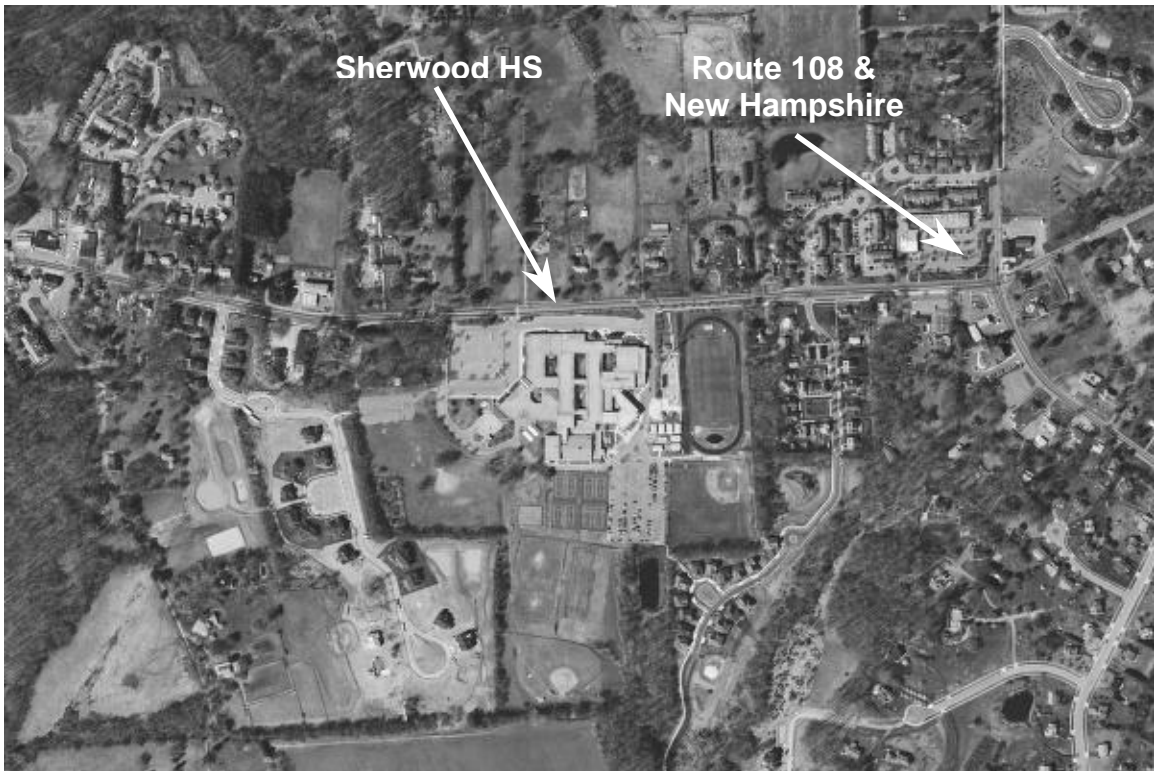
*You are always invited to attend our monthly board meetings. Meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month. Please call me in advance so I can be sure to know you are attending. The number is 301-896-5358. Hope you'll join in. After all, this organization belongs to you!*

*Joli McCathran, Executive Director*

**Route 108 between Norwood & New Hampshire (1951)**



**Route 108 between Norwood & New Hampshire (2006)**



## Executive Director's Report 2007: Joli A. McCathran

The Board of Directors meets on a monthly basis and we are pleased to be newly located in the Olney/Sandy Spring area. We deeply thank the Derrick family for their generous provision of our previous space, at no charge, over the past several years. This was most kind and generous.

On March 25, 2008 Greater Sandy Spring Green Space held its Annual Meeting at Miller Center at Friends House. Our guest speaker was Alan Pultyniewicz, from the Montgomery County Division of Solid Waste Services. He gave a wonderful presentation on recycling of products in Montgomery County. One of our astute members asked about the county not being able to recycle items such as margarine tubs, yogurt containers including the lids and other items "without a neck." Perhaps this member struck a chord as the county has announced that such items are now being accepted.

The recycle list, in addition to aluminum cans and glass bottles, now includes:

Plastic bottles, containers, lids, jars, pails, buckets, and food grade tubs

- Narrow-neck bottles that contained food, drink or other household products
- Butter tubs
- Yogurt containers
- Peanut butter jars
- Laundry detergent tubs
- Kitty litter containers
- Plastic flower pot
- Painting bucket up to 5 gallons

What CANNOT be recycled are:

- Containers which held automotive or garden products
- Plastic bags (head to you local grocery store to recycle those)
- Plastic wrap
- Plastic foam cups, trays, or packaging
- Clamshell or berry containers marked no. 1 or no. 6
- Microwavable trays
- Kiddie pools
- Plastic flower trays marked no. 6

***Kudos to Alan Pultyniewicz and the County staff for expanding the recycling program. Please keep this list with you and do your best to purchase products produced in recyclable containers.***

### Hiking to the Sandy Spring

By Don McCandless

Man has proven his ability to survive under the most adverse conditions on the planet if he can find a dependable source of potable water. Such a source – a spring providing sand filtered water – was found in Colonial times in our area on the historic plantation known as Harewood, located at the south end of Meeting House Road. The water flow was much greater in 1745 than what now currently seeps from under the concrete arch. Two and a half centuries later, the land on which it is located is a

dedicated one acre site accessible to the public.

The site of the Sandy Spring, as it sits at the center of about two hundred acres of fields and tree lined creeks, provides a close resemblance to the viewscape when the field was planted with tobacco by the earliest Quaker farmers and tended by their black slaves. Corn and soybeans followed for many generations after the soil could no longer be used for tobacco. Currently the only crop is hay.

The Sandy Spring is on the Rachel Carson Trail and is reached most easily from the southwest, starting at Woodlawn Manor, owned by the Maryland National Capitol and Planning Commission. Woodlawn is located at the intersection of Norwood and Ednor Roads. The path to the Spring is well marked, leading through a woods, crossing over the Northwest Branch Creek, and then borders fields and wooded tree lines. Interpretive sessions relat-

ing to the history of the Underground Railroad, the escape route for run-away slaves, begin at Woodlawn Manor.

Come and enjoy the tranquility of this uniquely preserved area where you gaze to all points of the compass at green and open space, which is preserved by conservation easements held in perpetuity for the benefit of the public.

## KNOW YOUR BOARD

*The Greater Sandy Spring Green Space Board of Directors is a dedicated group of individuals working toward our mission, "to promote for the benefit of the general public, the preservation, protection and balanced use of open space and natural resources within eastern Montgomery County and the Patuxent River Watershed." Please take a moment to learn more about these hard-working folks. Each member brings their unique experience and we are all the better for their sharing of talents. Below is a brief biography of each member.*

### **BOBBY BERG, *President***

Bobby Berg lives in Olney, and he has been a resident of Maryland since 1983, which is long enough to have seen development change the landscape. For him, a good weekend is one that includes a long jog along a quiet road (not Route 108!) or a path next to a stream in the Rock Creek or Northwest Branch watersheds. Such jogs show that Montgomery County still has open space, but maps show that much of it is unprotected and could disappear in the next 10 years.

All three of Bobby's children attended Montgomery County public schools and the University of Maryland. Bobby has served as a 4-H club leader, a Cub Scout den leader, and a Cub Scout pack committee chairman. He works as a physicist at the National Institute of Standard and Technology in Gaithersburg.

### **ROBIN ZIEK, *Vice-President***

Robin Ziek moved with her family in 1996, from downtown Takoma Park to rural Sandy Spring. She was a founding Board Member of Greater Sandy Spring Green Space, making use of her experience with preservation/conservation easements while at the Maryland Historical Trust. She is active with the Sandy Spring Civic Association, the

Bentley Road Civic Association, Montgomery Preservation, Inc., and has taught a class on historic structures at Montgomery College. Other interests include gardening and care of a small flock of sheep and chickens. Robin works for the City of Rockville as a Historic Preservation Planner. Let's speak up for our past as we happily build our future.

### **JOHN WESKE, *Treasurer***

John Weske is a biological and computer consultant who has resided in the greater Sandy Spring area since 1954. He formerly worked as a staff zoologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He does research on colonial water birds along the Atlantic Coast.

### **JOHN SPEARS, *Secretary***

John is a native of Kentucky, and graduated from the University of Kentucky, with a B.A. in Political Science and an M.B.A. His wife, Pamela, is also a graduate of the University of Kentucky, and is active in many Olney area civic groups, including the Chamber of Commerce and the Women's Board of Montgomery General Hospital. They have one daughter, Rachel, a freshman at Sherwood High School. Olney residents since 1996, John and Pam previously lived in the Pocono

Mountains of Pennsylvania, where John saw firsthand the consequences of unrestricted growth, as many new housing developments sprung up, without much oversight. Witnessing the effects of haphazard growth in a formerly rural area prompted his interest in Greater Sandy Spring Green Space. John is employed as a Sales Manager with General Electric Consumer Finance.

#### STEVE BERRY

Steve Berry has resided in the Greater Olney-Brookeville area for over twenty years. He is a lawyer in private practice with an office in Rockville, specializing in civil litigation, criminal & traffic law, and elder law. In his professional capacity, Steve is a member of the Bar Association for Montgomery County, the Maryland State Bar Association, the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys' Association, the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys and the Oregon State Bar. Steve has been actively involved in our community through his service as a commissioner on the Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, on the committee that established endowment fund guidelines for the Olney Theatre Center for the Arts, on the Board of Trustees for Friends House Retirement Community, on the Citizens' Advisory Board for the Montgomery County Department of Recreation - Northern Area, as a Democratic commissioner on the Montgomery County Council Redistricting Commission, as a former president and executive committee member for The District 14 Democratic Club and on the Board of Trustees for the Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Steve has served on the Board of Directors for Greater Sandy Spring Green Space since 2004. He is deeply committed to helping preserve the rural and historic character of the Greater Sandy Spring Community.

#### JOHN CHIRTEA

John Chirtea has been a resident of the Sandy Spring area since 1972. He is a retired real estate developer, having developed residential and commercial properties in areas of Montgomery County, Washington, DC, Northern Virginia, and Anne

Arundel County. John is a member of the Board of Directors or Trustees of: The Olney Theater Center for the Arts; Sandy Spring National Bank; Sandy Spring Mortgage Corporation; Sandy Spring Museum. With the Montgomery General Hospital he is Chairman of MGH Diversified Services, Inc., MGH Properties, Inc., past Chairman of MGH Board of Directors, and past Board member of the MGH Health Services, Inc. His extensive involvement in community activities and fund raising has earned him the recognition as Citizen of the Year by the Greater Olney Civic Association in 1997.

#### SHARON DOOLEY

Sharon Dooley moved to Montgomery County more than 30 years ago. In business, she started as a nurse then moved into health care consulting, where she currently works in audits and compliance issues as well as health care education. Currently she serves as President of GOCA, the Greater Olney Civic Association, is a board member of Mobile Medical, and is Legislative Director of Upcounty Action, an advocacy group. She is past President of the District 14 Democratic Club and is a Democratic Precinct Coordinator. She is a vigorous supporter of the Agricultural Reserve, our threatened green spaces and forests, and an environment with clear air and clean water. She is Vice-President and a founding member of the Olney Farmers Market.

#### DON MCCANDLESS

Don McCandless has been a resident of Montgomery County since 1949. He is retired from active work as a principal in real estate consulting firms with national and regional practices specializing in market analysis, valuation, and counseling for purposes of acquisition, disposition, and institutional lending of investment class properties. He holds designations from The American Appraisal Institute and the American Society of Real Estate Counselors. He participated as a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Sandy Spring/Ashton Master Plan.

#### JOLI MCCATHRAN, Executive Director

Joli McCathran, Executive Director, lives with her family in Washington Grove. She is the Meeting

Secretary for The Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). Previously, Joli was a Legislative Aide for the Maryland General Assembly and held various positions including work with the Legislative and Agricultural Director of Monsanto Chemicals, Gustin Gardens, Parsons & Werwerka Landscape Design-Build Firm, and Stadler Nursery. She is a graduate of the George Washington Landscape Design Program, current President of the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Garden Club, and an officer in the Washington Grove Woman's Club. Joli is a former member of the Washington Grove Town Council. She is currently a member of the Montgomery County Forest Conservancy Board. This position includes working with the Champion Tree list and with the Maryland Big Tree Program. Her hobbies include camping, sewing, and canning produce.

#### BARRY NEWTON

Barry Newton is a consulting computer specialist, and a principal with Ashton Computing & Management Services. He has over 30 years experience in the field, most recently contracting with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. His family has lived in Sandy Spring since 1973. He has been active in the community as a board member of the Olney Farmers Market, and a participant in the efforts of the Sandy Spring Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium.

#### MEG PEASE-FYE

Meg Pease-Fye grew up in southeast Idaho, where she learned to value the importance of maintaining

the wilderness. She and her family moved to Rockville in 1993, to escape the disorganized chaos of Northern Virginia development. In 2001, the family moved to Olney to be closer to Sandy Spring Friends School and get away from the increased traffic in Rockville. A long-time Quaker, Meg is a member of the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting, and is currently acting as assistant treasurer. She is also a coordinator for the local Community Supported Agriculture group and volunteers to coach her son's soccer team whenever possible. Meg believes in sustainable living, and is committed to conserving resources, protecting water supplies, and public health. She works at the Food and Drug Administration and has a Masters in Science in Biotechnology from John Hopkins University.

#### ALEEN STARKWEATHER

Aleen Starkweather is a founding board member of GSSGS. Aleen is a retired Computer Systems Engineer. An active volunteer, she holds positions in the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County (LWVMC), the Citizens' Advisory Group of MNCPPC Legacy Open Space, and is a member of the Metropolitan Development Citizens Advisory Committee (MDCAC) of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC). Formerly she was the Chair of the Eastern Panhandle Group of the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. When she was a resident of Washington, DC, she was one of the founding members of Gardening Resources of Washington (GROW), an organization promoting community gardening in disadvantaged neighborhoods.

## **The Montgomery County Planning Board: August 2008 update** **By Sharon Dooley**

In Montgomery County the five Planning Board members are appointed by the County Council and have staggered terms. The Chair is the only full-time position; the other four commissioners are considered part-timers.

The dominant political party gets to choose the Chair while the other positions are allocated as two for the minority party and two who may be from either the

majority or a non-affiliated party. All positions expire every four years in June. A commissioner may only serve two full four - year terms, but may also begin by serving the remainder on an uncompleted tenure.

The current board with two new members appointed this year in June consists of three men and two women with no minority members. The three men are all Democrats and the two women are both Republicans.

**Chairman Royce Hanson** (J.D., PhD) is serving his second stint as the Planning Board chair; his first was from 1971 until 1982. During his time as leader, the set aside area for the Agricultural Reserve was created, in fact, many have called him the father of the Ag reserve. Some have said this area is the crown jewel in the county development plan; others have been trying to break the set aside area and open it for development since it was formed. After that service he became well known in national and international circles and soon left to become a professor and planner across the country. Nationally respected and well published in the planning field, he is a leader. He was a professor in several places but retired from a faculty position in Texas and returned to this area in 1998. From 2001-2006 he chaired the Maryland Environmental Land Trust; taught at George Washington University from 2003 onward, and was active in many planning circles.

In 2005 rumbles began in the new town being developed in the far northern area of the county about zoning and site plan improprieties in and around the historic community of Clarksburg. Subsequently, due to continued community outcry about this lack of adherence to the Master Plan, and possible falsification of documents by unknown persons, the Planning Board chair stepped down.

Royce was appointed to take his place in June of 2006 and agreed to serve a single term. He has brought many innovations to the board processes with most documents now online and viewable, improved communications with the use of technology and tightened the planning board hearings. This streamlining has vastly improved public access to information. He is a strong Chairman, not known for reticence.

**John Robinson** is currently the longest serving member of the Board; his second term expires in June 2009. An attorney by profession, he is currently employed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He is known for his ability to cut through embellishment presented as fact. Prior to coming to the board he served in many civic organizations and on community committees. He was also a member of the Transportation Policy Task Force before he was selected to serve on the commission. Last year former Delegate **Jean Cryor** was appointed to the Board – so her first term will run through 2011. Jean has lived in the county for many years and served as a writer and later editor and publisher

at the Gazette newspapers. First elected to the state legislature from District 15 in 1994, she was defeated in the Democratic landslide in 2006 by Craig Rice who had a margin of 52 votes. While there, she had twice been named one of the 100 most influential Maryland women. Currently a resident of Potomac, she is considered friendly to the environment and business

This year marketer and Clarksburg activist **Amy Presley** was appointed to the Planning Board. First noticed when she headed the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee (CTCAC,) which brought the irregularities in the building codes, site plans and their execution to the attention of county authorities, she was persistent in getting heard and working to change the process. She pushed for more transparency and fairness in the planning procedures and worked to en-

for the steps sure that there were actual paper trails along the way. Many community groups awarded her diligence by giving her civic achievement accolades. Supported by the Civic Federation and other citizen based groups, her selection was unanimous by the council.

The other new member this year is developer and Potomac resident, **Joseph Alfandre**, who is following in the footsteps of his father, a commission member, back in the 1960's. From a family that has been involved in the business for many years, Alfandre considers himself to be a proponent of the new breed of developers who are concerned with good techniques and sparing of resources. He developed Kentlands along the design of combing commercial and residential together in neighborhoods that are walkable. Some areas are mixed with streetscapes showing commercial and residences or offices above in the upper stories. He calls this the new urbanism design and has replicated the concept in other communities. His company sends this information out in educational seminars for communities and university centers.

“Do we have a council that will be a developer council or an environmental council?” is the question many county residents ask. It appears that we have a planning commission that can address both sides of the questions that come up in site plans and development reviews. It is hoped that Greater Sandy Spring Greens Space can and will deal with both the easy and difficult issues with fairness and with the best interests of the community and the environment at heart.

**Green Space Advisor  
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**Greater Sandy Spring Green Space  
Board of Directors**

**Joli McCathran, Executive Director**

**Bobby Berg, President**

**Robin Ziek, Vice President**

**John Spears, Secretary**

**John Weske, Treasurer**

**Steven Berry**

**John Chirtea**

**Sharon Dooley**

**Don McCandless**

**Meg Pease-Fye**

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