

**ALLANWOOD-GAYFIELDS-WILLSON HILLS-GAYWOODS ESTATES**  
**CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**MAY 2005**

**FROM YOUR**  
**PRESIDENT**

**The *NEW AGWG***

What do the AGWG Civic Association and a black bear on Skyline Drive have in common? We've both been hibernating too long, but not anymore. Our community is being confronted by a number of issues that will literally change the landscape where we raise our families. To confront these issues, a new slate of officers and Board members were recently elected to lead the *NEW AGWG*.

The *NEW AGWG* plans to be an active participant in representing the community on these issues. The ICC is still the main course with the ever looming prospect of an interchange on Layhill. Did you know that the interchange ramps would end just short of Baughman Drive? The AGWG has created an ICC Task Force. We urge your participation by contacting Ernie Benjamin, AGWG Vice President. Besides the potential impact of the ICC, development is all around us. I will be representing the AGWG at a town meeting later this month where a discussion is scheduled on the rumored development of a portion of the Northwest Golf Course for moderate density housing. I have personally communicated with Marilyn Praisner, Montgomery County Council regarding

the after effects of Hurricane Isabel on the community. The AGWG Board has already received requests to investigate possible zoning violations in our neighborhoods. We are a community, decision making on AGWG actions remains in the hands of the members as always.

The *NEW AGWG* will also be actively participating with other area community groups and the Montgomery County Civic Federation to face up to these and other issues. New delegates from the AGWG have been appointed to represent the Association before these groups. Consider it an open invitation to attend these meetings.

For those new to the neighborhood, the AGWG is a Civic Association whose mission is to promote and protect the welfare and interests of the Allanwood, Gayfields, Willson Hills and Gaywoods Estates subdivisions. As homeowners within the AGWG, we are all subject to the same rules and regulations created by our county and state lawmakers. There are no rules such as what color holiday lights can be displayed or seeking permission to install a new roof or a fence for your dog as one may find in many homeowners association supported by a bulk of enforceable rules and regulations and mandatory fees.

The *NEW AGWG* will be promoting communication among its members. There is no need to wait for formal meetings to voice your concerns, as an

AGWG Email address, [AGWGCivicAssn@aol.com](mailto:AGWGCivicAssn@aol.com), has been established. Send your comments or questions, I promise a timely response. To help communicate with the AGWG membership, I also urge you to provide your email address on your membership form. This information will be held in strict confidence and will only be used to inform and insure full participation in the AGWG decision-making process. For those without internet access, phone and/or mail will be used to keep you informed. In addition to a number of important phone numbers listed in the newsletter, copies of the Association Bylaws and Boundaries are now available to members online by contacting [AGWGCivicAssn@aol.com](mailto:AGWGCivicAssn@aol.com). If unable to access the internet, let me know and a copy will be mailed or delivered to your door. The New AGWG also plans to develop a working relationship with the Citizens Advisory Board. The Board, appointed by the County Executive, serves to bridge the gap between residents and business by providing advice to the County Executive on issues related to policy, planning, and services and facilitate solutions. The representative for our community on the CAB is listed on the newsletter. Remember, they are there to serve.

The *NEW AGWG* has a lot to offer the community, but only can succeed with member help. We are looking for members to serve on various committees, now being organized on development, roads, crime, and utilities. The AGWG also needs to do a better job of recognizing the concerns of the community, but we need you to tell us. Call me or use our new Email address, I expect to hear from you.

Joel P. Mazelis  
President  
Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-  
Drury Estates Civic Association

## **NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS**

Joel Mazelis President  
2161 Marymont Rd  
598-8553

Ernst Benjamin, VP  
1912 Norvale Rd  
598-2211

Mary  
Beth Broring, Secy  
1710 Marymont Rd  
438-3554

Lynn Murphy, Treas  
1909 Flint Hill Rd  
598-3236

**Board of Directors**  
George Fox  
15508 Tierra Dr  
598-5297

Joe Giacalone  
15417 Tierra Dr  
598-6097

Walt Morris  
2225 Drury Road  
924-6464

## **DUES ARE DUE**

Our fiscal year runs from November 1 through October 31. We are very late in requesting that submit your dues payment for this fiscal year, but this is an attempt to get back on track. Please see the attached coupon at the end of this newsletter, along with an addressed envelope for your convenience. As always, your dues are a mere \$20. We hope to make next year's request in January in order to move towards a return to a normal schedule. This year we are requesting your email address. We have no intent to use it for any purposes other than meeting announcements, and perhaps for other information of a timely nature, such as ICC information we think you may want to know. If you would prefer not to receive emails from us, please feel free to withhold that information with your dues coupon. We guarantee that information will never be shared with any third party, nor with anyone outside of the executive committee of your association. We would also like to hear from you regarding announcements you'd like included in future newsletters, suggestions for the executive board, and especially concerns you would like addressed. Please feel free to make comments. All comments and emails will be shared with the entire board.

## **THE ICC MAY COME CLOSER THAN YOU EXPECT**

Ernst Benjamin, Willson Hills

Newly revised plans for the Intercounty Connector include interchanges at Layhill Road regardless of the selected alignment. Corridor 1 (former Master-Plan) ramps would extend from Park Vista almost to Longmead. Corridor 2 (former Northern Alignment) ramps would require expanding the current interchange at Norbeck and Layhill to accommodate the six lane toll-way.

Those AGWG residents who attended our April 7<sup>th</sup> general meeting voted unanimously that the Association oppose construction of either alignment. We are aware, however, that some AGWG residents support one or the other of the proposed alignments and that some believe the road is a done deal. Even so, since either alignment would increase traffic on Layhill and create possible problems for residents trying to turn onto or from Layhill, we all need to take a more active role in determining whether or how the ICC proceeds.

The meeting included presentations by two speakers critical of the proposed highway. (State highway administrators supportive of the ICC had spoken at the previous, December 2003, AGWG meeting—official maps, information and arguments are available at [www.iccstudy.org](http://www.iccstudy.org)). The first speaker at our April 7 meeting, Roger Plaut of Longmead United Against the ICC, emphasized that the six lane highway would diminish and divide his (and our) communities. He illustrated the divide with a state map of the Longmead segment of the master

plan alignment of the ICC and the Layhill interchange at Longmeade. The map and further information are available on the web at ([www.luaicc.org](http://www.luaicc.org)).

The second presenter was Brian Henry from the Audubon Society. He emphasized the larger ICC impacts. These included: increased traffic on the beltway and such major north-south roads as Connecticut, Georgia, Layhill and New Hampshire; the excessive cost of the ICC that will use the funds necessary for those alternative road and transportation improvements that would, unlike the ICC, alleviate congestion on major roads; and the extensive damage to our neighborhoods, parks, air quality, watershed, and environment. Further information is available at [www.SaveCommunitates.org](http://www.SaveCommunitates.org) which has links to the Audubon society, Sierra Club and other groups opposed to the ICC.

The state has adopted a plan to fund the anticipated 2.1 to 3 (with financing) billion dollar cost of the ICC and will announce its preferred alignment in a few months. Federal approval is not yet secured and some agencies, especially the Environmental Protection Agency, have expressed continuing reservations—especially regarding the master-plan alignment that the state seems likely to prefer. Consequently, even if the State continues to seek fast track approval, the issue is likely to be subject to protracted litigation. These likely delays afford a continuing window of opportunity both to those who oppose the project altogether and those who would seek to

ameliorate its impact on our immediate community.

The AGWG board is establishing a task force to work on ICC issues. If you would like to become involved, or simply get further information or express an opinion, please contact me (Ernie Benjamin) at [j1260@earthlink.net](mailto:j1260@earthlink.net) or 301-598-2211.

## **ARE YOU A WEBMASTER?**

We are wondering if any among us would be interested in maintaining a website for the civic association. We would want to include links to helpful county sites, updated ICC information, local school news, etc. If you would like to take on this project, please email us at AGWG Civic Assn@aol.com. Thanks!

## **LOOKING FOR LONG MEMORIES!**

Or, those among us with a great filing system. We have a copy of the Allanwood covenants and the Gayfields covenants. Are there others? Do you have copies of long ago newsletters or memos? Please share them with us as we attempt to build our library.

## **GAYWOOD GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF**

## **FRIENDS AND FLOWERS**

Ever wonder what those plants in your yard are? Or how your neighbor keeps those flowers blooming so long? Or maybe you just want to meet your neighbor. Lots of folks in the Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywoods Estates have had these same thoughts. And that's how the Gaywood Garden Club started some fifty years ago.

Last month, this club celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a wonderful (but soggy) tour of the Hillwood Gardens and Museum. (If you have never been to this local wonder, it's a trip you really ought to take. The mansion is filled with French and Russian art objects collected by Marjorie Merriwether Post, and the grounds boast spectacular gardens.)

Also at the anniversary luncheon, long-time members shared amusing anecdotes of the club's and neighborhood's early days. They've seen many changes in those years!

Gaywood Garden Club members meet monthly to talk about plants, flowers and local environmental issues. Speakers have taught us about container gardens and aquatic gardens, pest control and deer management. We've gone on field trips, learned landscape design and shared food cooked with herbs we've grown. We've held flower shows and community plant sales, plus we tend community gardens including the entry gates at Gayfields.

Some members have a lot of gardening experience to share, while others come for the camaraderie. The best part of Gaywood Garden Club is the sense of connection to your neighbors. Women of all ages are part of the group; some have been part of the club for many years, while many others are young and new to the neighborhood. We meet monthly in members' homes and would love to have you join us. Call our membership chair, Mary Beth Broring, 438-3554, to find out about our next meeting.

## **GARDEN CLUB SPONSORS POLICE DINNER**

As a community project, the Gaywood Garden Club sponsors a dinner for the protective services in our immediate area. The idea was to serve dinner in a member's home for both the county and park police. This began as a thank-you after the tragedy of Sept 11. The sniper attacks the following year increased our sense of appreciation for their jobs, leading us to host another dinner. It has now become a "tradition."

Accommodating the police schedule, dinner is held between 3 and 6 PM which allows people working on different shifts to attend. Captain Bise of the park police said, "this is one of the nicest things that has been done for us."

This past year, they had approximately 50 staff attendees!

There is tremendous gratification from all of the expressions of thanks and appreciation for their efforts from the police.

We are proud to have such an active garden club in our neighborhood.

## **MAYNARD HILL, TRANSATLANTIC AVIATOR!**

Orville and Wilbur Wright, Lindberg, Howard Hughes and Maynard Hill. Maynard Hill? Willson Hills resident Maynard Hill joined these better known aviators recently upon completing the first transatlantic crossing of a model airplane. Mr. Hill, a long time enthusiast who holds many records for model aircraft flight pursued his dream for five years before its realization in 2003.

Trained as a metallurgist, Mr. Hill, former president of the Academy of Model Aeronautics first began flying in his youth. In 1963 he set an altitude record of 13,328 feet. The transatlantic effort of 1888 miles began in Newfoundland, ending 38 hours later with touchdown in Ireland before a cheering crowd.

## **GAYWOOD GARDEN CLUB**

Are you interested in gardening? Whether you are interested in learning or you're a Master gardener, we would love to have you join the neighborhood Garden Club. Come to a meeting and see if it's right for you. Meetings are the first Monday of the month and the location rotates among the members. If you're interested call Mary Beth Broring at 301-438-3554, or email mbbroring@aol.com.

## **THIS BEARS WATCHING!**

This is an excerpt from the minutes of the Layhill Alliance meeting of May 5.

### **\*\*Northwest Golf Course Development\*\***

*We have very little information on a suspected plan by the County to sell part of the Northwest Golf Course in order to provide land for developers to build moderate to high density housing. We expect to receive more information regarding this plan during the Town Hall Meeting later in May. Each representative was asked to discuss this development plan with their respective associations to determine the position of the Layhill Alliance.*

At this time we know nothing more than that, but will certainly be keeping our eyes and ears open.

## **RECEIVING THE EXAMINER, BUT DON'T WANT TO?**

From our conversations with you, it seems that we are overwhelmingly against receiving this new paper in our neighborhood. Research and phone calls have told us that one letter on the civic association's letterhead can stop delivery to everyone within our boundaries. Do we want this? Please let us know on your dues payment.

In the meantime, this delivery can be stopped on an individual basis by calling 703-846-8500.

## **TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO HAVE HANDY**

Montgomery County Council  
240-777-7999  
Montgomery County Planning Board  
301-495-4605  
County Permitting  
240-777-6240  
Building Code Information  
240-777-8120  
Zoning and Permitting Complaints  
240-777-6259  
Animal Control and Humane Treatment  
240-773-5924  
240-770-5960  
Reporting an Abandoned Vehicle  
301-840-2454  
Building Permit Status

240-777-6210  
Illegal Dumping  
240-777-3867  
Dept of Environmental Protection  
240-777-7700  
Police – Non Emergency  
301-279-8000  
Road Potholes  
240-777-7623  
County Snow Removal  
240-777-7623  
Pepco (power out)  
202-833-7500  
Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board  
Alec Stone, Chair  
Mid-County Regional Service Center  
240-777-8100

## **LAYHILL CD RELEASE**

The local band, Layhill, has just released their first CD entitled Barbershop Quartet. Former Blake students Sean Cavanaugh (Flint Hill Rd resident), Micah Frye, Chris McComas, and Scott Sussman have been playing alternative rock together for almost 2 years. If anyone is interested in purchasing a CD or coming to see the band, visit [www. LayhillMusic.com](http://www.LayhillMusic.com).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

The following several pages list names, phone numbers and addresses of our elected officials.

We are also including maps showing our legislative districts at all government levels. Joel spent some time marking a map showing our civic association boundaries.

Also attached is information from the county's Department of Housing and Community Affairs which will help anyone concerned about housing violations. We have had several requests for this information.

## **SERVICES TO OFFER**

Need a pet sitter? A house sitter? We live in the neighborhood and would be happy to watch your pets and house while you're on vacation. Please call Jenni and Eileen Broring at 301-438-3554.

Janet Herman, a Baughman drive resident, is available to pet sit. Please call her at 301-598-9358.

## **HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?**

We want to be of service to our neighborhood. It can't be repeated often enough that we want to hear from you. We want to know

what your concerns are. Please call, email or write. We'll do our best to research and respond. The executive board will be meeting again on June 22.