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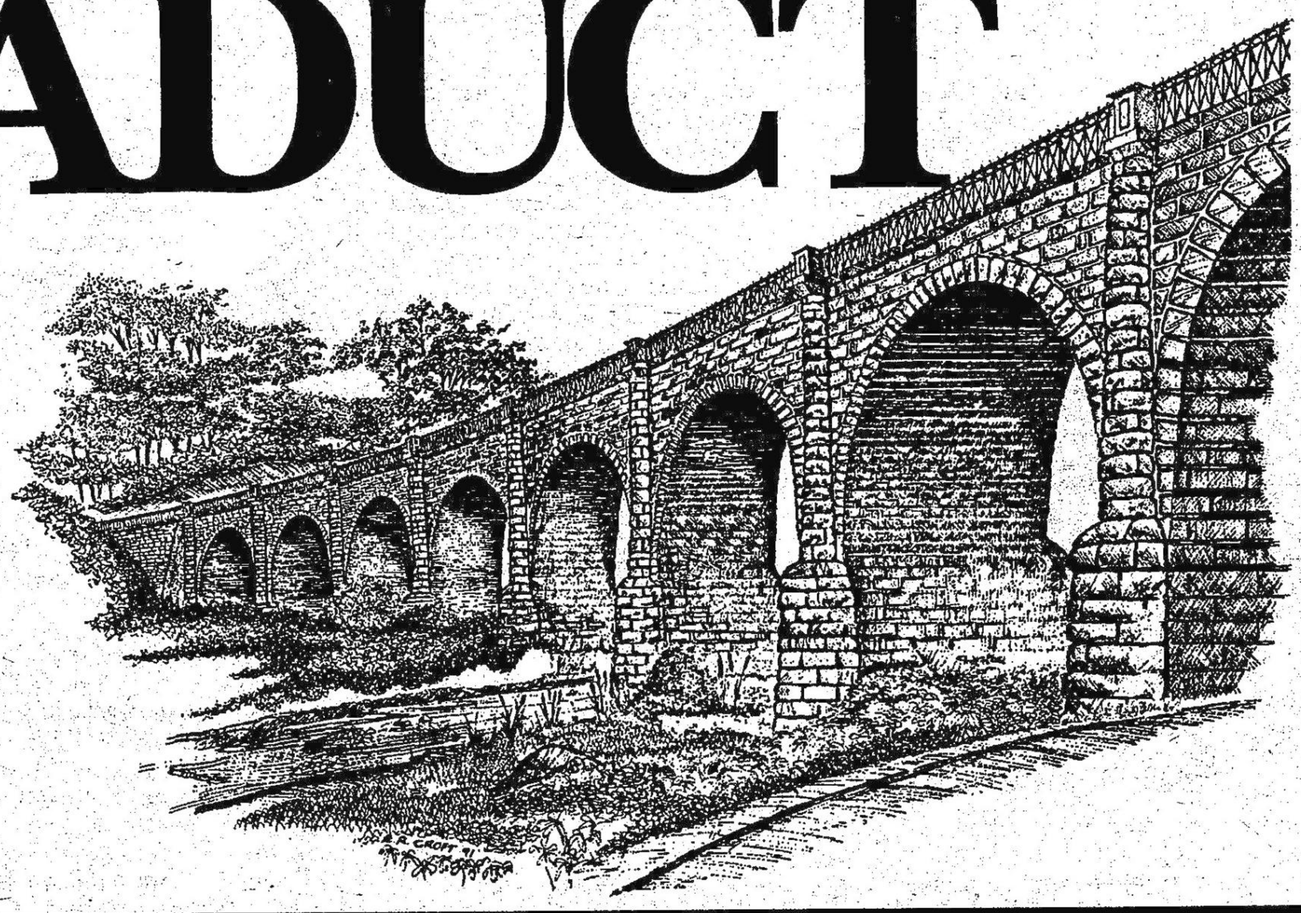

Bridging
the gap

June–July 1993
Vol. 6 · No. 3

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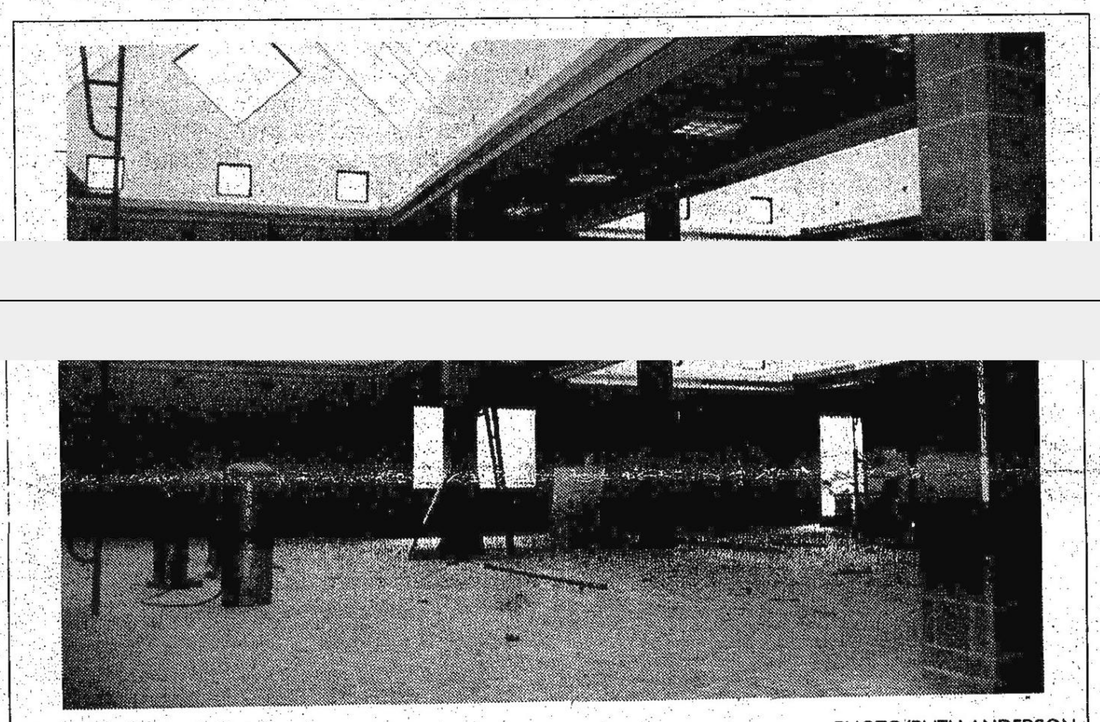
Elkridge
Community
Association

Centre 9500 Off Course?

Elkridge Library to Open This Summer



PHOTO/RUTH ANDERSON

Our library is now well on its way to completion and we should soon have a date set for the dedication ceremonies. The county public works department is well pleased with the quality of construction, especially the masonry work. The inside is starting to shape up and look like a building we can be proud of. Things should be sufficiently progressed to allow the library staff to begin preparing the library for the public by the first of June. Furniture deliveries, books and miscellaneous equipment placement and installation will take 60 days (+/-) and will take place concurrently with grading, parking lot construction and landscaping. During the dedication ceremonies, VFW Post 8097 will present the library with an American flag which has flown over the Capitol in Washington. A color guard will be formed at the flag pole, the flag will be raised to the bugle call "Raising the Colors," and the Pledge of Allegiance will be recited. A citation will be presented to the designated representative of the library, followed by singing "God Bless America." It should be a very impressive ceremony. As this edition of *The Viaduct* is being prepared, we do not as yet have a firm date set for the opening, but everyone involved is working to make it happen as soon as possible. Plan to attend and participate in the opening ceremonies.

Ed Huber

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Elkridge Resident Honored

Congratulations to Abner Gouldin upon being recognized as Howard County's outstanding senior citizen of the year by the Maryland Jaycees. Abner is well known in the community for his dedication to the Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department, making over 1,800 ambulance calls as an emergency medical technician. He has been actively involved with many community projects, organizing fund-raisers, playing Santa Claus and serving well in a variety of causes. He has been an asset to our community. We wish him well in his new home in Ocean City.

Abner has been chosen as Grand Marshal for the Elkirdge Volunteer Fire Department Parade on June 14th.

Polly Thornton

Back in May of 1990 it seemed as if the rezoning process had finally gone right for everyone. 100 Investment Limited Partnership had been given rezoning on the Miller Greer parcel they had renamed Center 9500. Rezoning had changed total R-20 (1/2 acre lot) land to a mixture of PEC (Planned Employment Center), B-2 (Business-General), RSC (Residential Single Cluster) for 202 townhouses and 150 single family detached homes and allowed for an 18-hole golf course.

The community felt reassured that the land would be developed in a way that would not detract from the quality of life in Elkridge and might possibly enhance it.

Even the county seemed to benefit by finally having a mechanism in place, site plan zoning, that would let all parties know up front exactly what the final product would be when zoning changes are allowed.

The process of arriving at zoning that was acceptable to all three groups had been an arduous process. This 350 acre site that stretches from the corner of Meadowridge and Montgomery Roads southeast to I-95 had been the subject of months of meetings. The give and take that went into reaching the final Decision and Order was a credit to the county, developer and community citizens.

But by May 10 of this year at a public Zoning Board meeting the only thing these parties seemed to agree on is that the process has gone horribly wrong.

The developer feels that prolonged negotiations with the county over the construction of the golf course are unfairly delaying his ability to begin residential construction on his property.

Residents feel that allowing construction to begin not only removes the only bargaining chip the county has to purchase the golf course at a fair price, but also calls into question the integrity of site plan zoning.

The Zoning Board seems to feel it is faced with questions of interpretation on what seemed to be a straightforward Decision and Order and realizes the fine points of site plan zoning requirements are not yet worked out.

All the misery and controversy hinges primarily on Condition #2 of the Decision and Order for Case No. 877. It reads:

That a public golf course be constructed on the site as shown on the amended site plan submitted with the petition and incorporated as part of this decision. The approval of this entire amended site plan is based upon the construction of a public golf course by Howard County, that golf course being central to and an integral part of the entire project. If a golf course is not built by Howard County, then the amended site plan shall be null and void, and the Petitioner shall resubmit its petition showing the proposed use of the entire property for approval by the Zoning Board of Howard County.

Speaking for the 100 Investment Limited Partnership at the meeting, developer John Liparini presented a chronology of events to support his claim that he had been attempting, in good faith, to reach an agreement with the county on the golf course so that construction could begin on the residential portion of the Centre 9500 plan.

Centre 9500 *continued on page 2*

Elkridge's Summer of Celebration

The week of June 14–19 will be a kid's delight because that's when school days end for the summer and Elkridge Day's begin.

Our 6th annual community celebration moves this year from its traditional Memorial Day start to Flag Day, June 14.

As usual the Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department Parade kicks of the week long combination block party/fair known as the Elkridge Business and Professional Association Carnival.

Old Baltimore/Washington Road is the parade route that the fire trucks, clowns, floats, kids, antique cars, hot rods, and horses will follow from south to north beginning at 8 p.m. Monday, June 14.

The parking lot of Alban Engines, at the south triangle, is the starting point. Participants should be there no later than 7:30.

For approximately one hour the parade will pass by Montgomery Road, Hanover Road, Bonnie View Lane and Augustine Avenue. Marchers will leave the parade at the St. Augustine Catholic Church parking lot while mobile participants continue past Main Street to the north triangle at J.H. Toomey & Sons.

Remember to plan your evening so that the temporary closing of the old road will not find your car behind the parade or stuck in the driveway. Call the EVFD for more information at 313-4901.

Celebration *continued on page 4*

President's Message

I have been sitting through many hearings these past few months as petitioner after petitioner requests an up zoning for his property. An often cited reason for the request being that this is the property's highest and best use. Certainly this highest and best use argument has translated into more money for the property owners as well as housing for new members of our community. To these new community members I say welcome and I'm glad that you chose to become a part of this community of Elkridge.

These thoughts have also brought up memories of my childhood, of when a developer purchased a major plat of land and proposed the building of several hundred houses surrounding Rockburn, between Elibank Road and Landing Road. One family could have received a pretty penny for their property which would have allowed the developer the required access to Montgomery Road and would probably have opened up several hundred more acres to development. This family, the Servary's, however had a different vision of the highest and best use of their property. They would not sell the right of way and soon thereafter the plan fell through. (Since then they, along with four other property owners, have placed their property in a land trust which precludes future development of their property.) This couple presents to the community a different definition of the highest and best use of their property and because of their decision many years ago, this area is now enriched by hundreds of acres of land that have since become park land.

Many local property owners today face a similar dilemma–what is the highest and best use for my property? What will be best for my family as well as this community and its citizens for years to come? It is not always an easy decision. Personally, however, I would like to thank the Servary's for expanding the definition of highest and best use. In my book, you are local heroes.

Cathy Hudson, President
Elkridge Community Association

Hanging Tough

In her brief administration, ECA president Cathy Hudson has had to cope with perhaps more issues than usually come up in an entire year's administration.

The first meeting over which she presided was a knock down, drag out affair which surprisingly did not pit residents against our elected county officials but resident against resident–and resulted in adhering to parliamentary rules by which to run future ECA meetings.

A revised master plan for eastern Howard County and its effects on Elkridge was a major concern for her long before the election. She, along with Barbara Wachs, has become the community's trusted liaison with/against the county during its ongoing deliberations.

And now she may be responsible for whole new outpouring of "responsiveness" in government by the County Council, AKA Zoning Board. It was Elkridge Community Association President Cathy Hudson, Vice President Ray Miller, resident political watchdog David Maier and Reverend Michael Russell who called the taxpayers' attention to what was reported in the *Howard County Times* as an innocent meeting of the Zoning Board/Council at which, and at whose request, a developer and his counsel were permitted by a straw vote 3 to 2 approval to begin construction. (Refer to Denise Maier's article on page one.)

Cathy has put our elected officials on notice that Elkridge is one community that won't be bulldozed without a fight.

And now that she has brought our community to a new height of readiness, she must leave it.

She plans to spend the next year outback. No, not hugging one of the trees in her threatened Lawyers Hill backyard, but the outback down under–in Australia.

Everything the family needs for their stay is packed. The magnetic boots (How else do you think people down under keep from falling off?), a barbecue grill, and a big, big knife. What else must she do to prepare? The Australian travel bureau recommends she watch all the Mad Max and Crocodile Dundee movies.

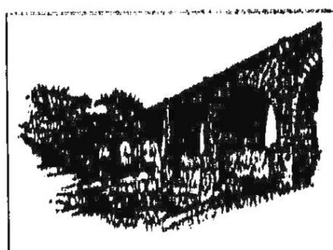
The trip may only be a sabbatical. She will return–and maybe to the office in which she did so much in so little time.

Until then, Cathy hang tough, and thanks.

Dave Anderson

VFW Schedules Activities for June/July

June 2	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	8 pm
	Shrimp Night	7 pm
June 9	Men's Meeting Night	8 pm
June 14	Elkridge Appreciation Days Parade (Led by Post 8097 Color Guard & Ladies Auxiliary #8097 Color Guard)	7 pm
June 23-26	State Convention at Ocean City, MD	
July 7	Ladies Auxiliary Meeting	8 pm
	Shrimp Night	7 pm
July 14	Men's Meeting Night	8 pm
July 24	Flag Dedication at Library	11 am



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Centre 9500

Continued from page 1

Liparini and his partners say they have already spent nearly $600,000 developing plans for the golf course, and continue to lose thousands of dollars every day they are not allowed to begin building and selling residential property. They feel the county does not properly appreciate the monetary realities of their business.

In actuality, the partnership has petitioned the Planning Board, to whom the Zoning Board's recommendation will go, for a deletion of conditions and findings that require a golf course to be built at Centre 9500. Both Mr. Liparini and his attorney, Richard Talkin, stated repeatedly during the meeting that they are committed to a golf course on the site, but it would seem to require a great deal of "good faith" on the part of the county and citizens that the course would proceed if no requirement for it is left in the Decision and Order.

Only citizens who testified at the original hearings three plus years ago were allowed to speak to the Zoning Board on the matter of allowing construction before a signed contract on the course exists. Three, Donald Dunn, president of the Howard County Golfers Association, Robert Ball, and John Rice felt that the developer should be trusted to finalize the agreement on the course at a fair price to the county and that residential construction should be allowed to begin.

The remaining individuals who spoke against granting the request believed the language of the Decision and Order was quite clear that development of the parcel hinged on at least a signed contract for the construction of the golf course. They stated that while the language of the document didn't specifically list an order of completion, it is undeniably implied. There would be no purpose in declaring a site plan null and void if the residences were already in place, but no agreement on the golf course could be reached.

In fact, once the land has been recorded, built upon, and sold, it would no longer even belong to the 100 Investment Limited Partnership, so there could be no recourse available to the county; thus, declaring the site plan null and void would be a pointless exercise.

Barbara Wachs even declared in her testimony to the Zoning Board. "I am appalled that any of you could in any way misconstrue the intent of the original site plan. It was clearly stated and absolutely understood by the community that the golf course would be built before any residential development began. If you overturn that stipulation you are stabbing the Elkridge community in the back and undermining any credibility in the principle upon which the site plan zoning regulation was established."

Cathy Hudson, who spoke as president of the Elkridge Community Association, pointed out that it is not just the negotiations between the county and developer that have been stalled. The proposed placement of the golf course requires that the developer must swap, sell or buy some land from the State Highway Administration, and that until title to that land is clear, county purchase of the golf course can not proceed.

She also urged the Zoning Board not to make a decision based on hearing only the developers' side of the story about the status of negotiations with the county. She said she felt like a mother getting only one child's interpretation of events.

Hudson, Ray Miller, David Maier and Michael Russell met with County Executive Chuck Ecker on March 29. They reported from that meeting that Ecker had told them the county had reached an agreement with the developer last fall to pay $6 million for a read-to-play golf course and clubhouse, but the developer has demanded the county additionally provide services and site improvements that would substantially increase that cost.

It should also be pointed out that for the last three years the economy was having an adverse impact on the housing market and demand for office space, so the developers may not have had compelling reason to get construction of the parcel underway.

Through statements and questions, several Zoning Board members indicated that they were having trouble interpreting the timing intended in the original Decision and Order; and that it might, indeed, be unfair to 100 Investment Limited Partnership to delay them from beginning residential construction.

Since four of the five Zoning Board members were part of the process that led to the language of the Decision and Order, it seems difficult to understand that they no longer remember what they intended the language to say.

It is, however, true that when the agreement was reached in 1990 no one involved imagined that the golf course contract would remain uncompleted three years later.

Zoning Board member Darrel Drown, who is the newest member of the board, is the only one who stated unequivocally that the language clearly states no construction may begin before the golf course negotiations are settled.

Board member Vernon Gray said that perhaps it had not been wise to make the zoning decision contingent on an issue over which the board had no control, meaning negotiations between the developer and county.

Members Charles Feaga and Shane Pendergrass allowed that while the intent of the language to provide a public golf course for Howard County is clear, they are unsure how to interpret the timing of its construction in relation to building on the rest of the parcel.

Summation for the ECA was made by Gary Ticknor, Esq., who warned the Zoning Board that bad laws are often made when there is pressure to solve one particular situation and affirmed that part of the zoning process is holding people to their promises.

The Zoning Board decided that it preferred to not make a recommendation on this matter until the county and developer had more time to reach an agreement on the scope and price of the golf course.

No firm date has been scheduled for the next Zoning Board meeting. However, the Planning Board, which must consider the Zoning Board's recommendation on this matter and reach a final decision, has been scheduled for July 8 at 10 a.m.

Denise Maier

School Calendar

May 28	Last day of classes for seniors.
May 31	Memorial Day; all schools and offices closed.
June 1-4	High school graduations.
June 16	High schools dismissed 3-1/2 hours early; middle and elelmentary schools dismissed two hours early. No a.m. kindergarten; p.m. kindergarten attends in the a.m.
June 17	High schools dismissed 3-1/2 hours early; middle and elementary schools dismissed two hours early. No p.m. kindergarten.
June 18	Last day of school for students; all schools dismissed 3-1/2 hours early. No kindergarten.

Memorials, Monuments & Markers in Elkridge

PART II

Sam Merson and Clyde Resau built the memorial in front of the old Elkridge Elementary School on Old Washington Road. The granite stones came from a streambed in the Elkridge community near Belmont. The monument was dedicated in 1953. The inscription on the brass plate reads "Erected in memory of those who made the supreme sacrifice and in honor of those who served in the armed forces of our country, by Howard County Memorial Post #8097, VFW." (Veterans of Foreign Wars) "I remember," Roy Shilling said, "borrowing a truck from Dexter Shilling, then Ed Rehbein and I drove over to a Shell station on Pulaski Highway. They had a flagpole to give away and we got it for this monument." One local resident who faithfully attended each Memorial Day ceremony at the site was Lester Hartke, who passed away in 1992. "The services that were held there were not eliminated," Chick Nedzel, VFW Chaplain, stated. "They were transferred to Meadowridge Cemetery about three years ago. An impressive ceremony is held at the cemetery every Memorial Day at exactly 11 a.m. Another ceremony is then held at the VFW Post #8097 on Montevideo Road." The Post Commander of the VFW is Bill Heber.

In front of the VFW Howard County Memorial Post 8097 on Montevideo Road is a semi-circular wall of tan brick, with three plaques imbedded in the structure. The plaque to the left reads "Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." The center plaque reads "Dedicated May 30, 1989 In memory of those who served in the Armed Forces of our country and who made the supreme sacrifice. Howard County Post 8097." The plaque on the right reads "Ladies Auxiliary VFW."

In Meadowridge Memorial Park, Inc. on Route 1 and Meadowridge Road, there are two memorials dedicated to service personnel. One is called "The Defenders of the Flag" area and is approximately 30 years old, according to Les Lowther, General Manager. The memorial is in close proximity to the new mausoleum. A stone pathway leads to the easily visible flag. At the base of the flagpole lies a brass plaque with an eagle in the upper left and lower right corners. Five emblems border the left side of the plaque, honoring The U.S. Army, U.S. Marine Corps, Dept. of the Navy, Dept. of the Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard. The plaque reads "A nation that honors its veterans is a nation dedicated to the preservation of a freedom won by the sacrifice of life itself. These emblems are appropriately dedicated to the valiant dead of the Armed Forces who ventured far, fought bravely, and gave their lives to preserve freedom and liberty in our land. Together they lie here in mute testimony to the manner in which they lived, worked and fought to achieve the victories in order that America may live." There are 3,000 spaces allotted in this area of the cemetery for veterans and their spouses.

Also in the same cemetery is another veterans' memorial near to the Meadowridge Road side, close to Route 1. Here, as in the Defenders of the Flag area, the U.S. flag waves 24 hours a day. A 5-sided granite monument, about 12-15 feet high, is capped with an impressive bronze eagle with its wings spread. Etched into the granite walls are emblems honoring members of The Dept. of the Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, Dept. of the Air Force and Dept. of the Army. The memorial is circled with stone benches, providing a respite for those pausing there to remember the dead. This area is called the "Field of Honor." The site is approximately 15-18 years old. There are 2,400 spaces in this area reserved for veterans and their spouses. The cemetery donated the plaques for both sites. Meadowridge Cemetery provides all the plaques for the organizations therein.

During the 1940's, the now vacant Elkridge Elementary School on Old Washington Road was the local high school and it was called Elkridge School. Six students from that school died in the service of our country during World War II. The members of the class of 1945 dedicated a plaque in their honor. Its inscription read "This memorial is dedicated by Elkridge High School, class of 1945, to honor those valued men and women who gave valiant service and sacrifice for God and country. In memorial of John Owings, H. Eugene Phelps, Robert Redd, Charles White, Samuel Wilderson and John Young." The letters E, K and E are missing from the word Elkridge. The plaque hung in a place of honor in the center hallway of the school until the new elementary school was built and the original school was vacated. Coincidentally, the classes of 1942, '43, '44, '45 were preparing a reunion at this time (March '93). (These were called the "Murphy Years," in honor of Harry Murphy, a former principal of the school.) The reunion is to be held in June, 1993. The class is now researching how they may restore the plaque and they will then decide where it will be placed for the public to see and appreciate. Corinne Tongue Dreher is chairperson of the event.

In answer to the question at the beginning of this article, Andy Cisna, of 5939 Montgomery Road, served in the 4th Marine Division, U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the South Pacific during World War II. In the last year of the war, 1945, fierce battles were taking place. Casualties were heavy as the B-29's, returning from their lengthy bombing missions on Japan, straggled back to Saipan, in the Marianna Islands, with bullet-ridden fuselages and almost empty gas tanks. Many didn't return because of these reasons. The Americans finally were able to establish an airfield and base on Iwo Jima, the largest of the Volcano Islands, 750 miles south of Tokyo. Many American lives were still being lost during the prolonged battle, which proved to be one of the most decisive battles of the war. But now the planes were being repaired and refueled after much shorter trips, providing a more rapid turn-around time and thus insuring more personnel to serve at the height of the battle.

"This base helped to save lots and lots of American lives," said Andy. After the war was over, a monument to the veterans who fought at Iwo Jima was erected in Virginia. Andy was able to obtain some of the remnant stones, originally shipped from Iwo Jima, after the monument was completed. He lugged the volcanic boulders home in a pickup truck and arranged them in a bed near the road where passersby could see them. While he hoped that others would be stirred with a patriotic thought or two for the vets who fought and died there, they

Memorials *continued on page 4*

Elkridge High School Reunion
Classes 1942, '43, '44, & '45

A reunion is being planned for the four classes above.
A dinner party will be held at the Turf Valley Country Club
on Friday, June 25, 1993, from 6-10 p.m.

For additional information, call:
Peggy O'Malley Ford: (410) 796-3260 ('42) • Dorothy Iglehart Pumphrey: (410) 465-5114 ('43)
Leah Butler Frazier: (410) 796-7380 ('44) • Corinne Tongue Dreher: (410) 796-4744 ('45)

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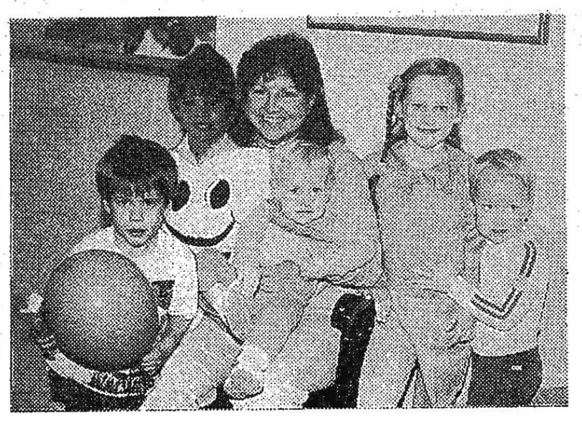

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The Viaduct Staff wishes to express its appreciation to all those involved in making Elkridge Appreciation Days a success!

Celebration

Continued from page 1

Even before the parade begins the carnival will have opened, with almost twice as many rides as in past years.

One of the reasons why the carnival's dates were moved to later in June was to (hopefully) take advantage of warmer weather, the other was to sign on Jolly Shows of Annapolis, the state's premier ride company.

Forget the gypsy caravan image, Jolly is the cleanest, most professional operation around. And do they have the rides! Nine for the big kids including the "Tilt-a-Whirl," "Scrambler," "Thunderbolt/Himalaya," "Frightmare Haunted House," "Rock-o-Plane" and "Roundup." Also a giant (70 ft tall) Ferris wheel and the Rt. 1 simulator bumper cars.

The little kids can choose from 11 different attractions like the "Super Slide," "Rainbow Bounce," "Flying Dragons," "Castlemania Playhouse," "Dragon Wagon Roller Coaster," and the "Mini-Cobra." Of course, there's the always popular cars, trucks, helicopters, mini-Ferris wheel and merry-go-round.

Tuesday and Thursday have been designated as family nights. Ride all night for just $8.50 each. Yes, that's more than last year, but there are twice as many rides. You can save a dollar ($7.50) on each family night pass by picking up discount coupons at EBPA member stores. Just look for the carnival poster in the window.

Call carnival chairman Craig Albright, 796-4330 for information.

Dave Anderson

Memorials

Continued from page 3

are always in Andy's prayers. "You can't go through something like that and forget it," he said.

There's probably a memorial that we've missed in this article and it wasn't intentional. If you bring it to our attention, and give us a contact person, we'll include it in the next issue of *The Viaduct*. Also, we realize that there are many memorials, dedicated sites and shrines inside our local churches, but they will be touched upon in future issues of *The Viaduct*, when we run a series on local churches and their histories.

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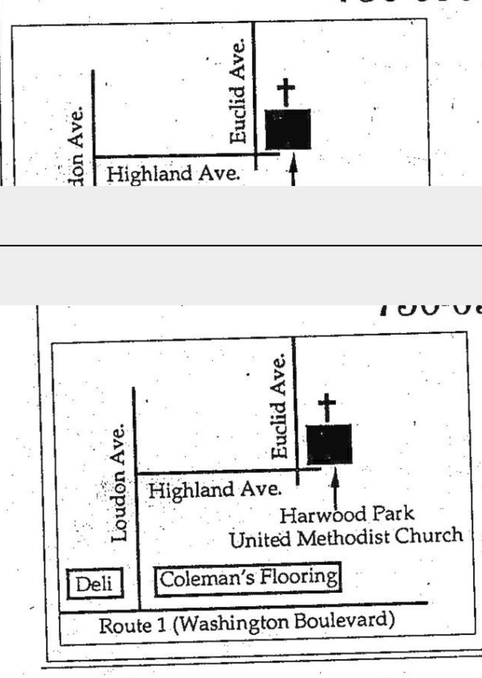
Harwood Park United Methodist Church

6635 Highland Avenue • Elkridge, Maryland 21227

Pastor: Rev. Roy Taylor
750-6961



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9:00 A.M.

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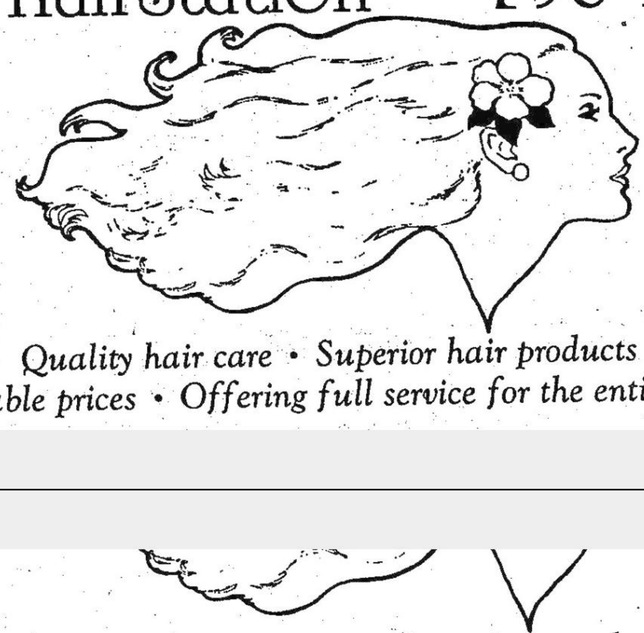

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Late-Blooming Poet Finds Reason in Rhyme

Fellow writers applaud her work

As a wife and mother of four, Helen Voris has cooked thousands of meals, attended school functions and presided over Girl Scout meetings. But after all those years, the 75-year-old Elkridge resident had nothing to show for it. She worried there was little to remind her now-grown children of her efforts.

"There wasn't any tangible evidence I could give the kids," Mrs. Voris said.

So she decided to do something.

In December, Mrs. Voris published a book of 40 whimsical rhymes she had written during the past five years.

Although the book was designed as a gift for her children, the Elkridge Heritage Society is selling copies to finance exterior repairs on the Brumbaugh House, the group's headquarters.

The blue, paperbound book, "Time for Rhyme," ranges from tongue-in-cheek verse about the origin of mosquitoes to memories of local institutions such as the B&O Railroad and Uncle Emory, a friendly store clerk who worked at Laynor's for more than 30 years.

Mrs. Voris said she loves rhyme, rather than free verse, because she can understand it.

Free verse "doesn't make any sense to me," said Mrs. Voris, a former music teacher, who can't fathom why rhyme and meter fell out of fashion. "What's the difference between prose and rhyme? It's a great big question mark."

"Lament" is one of three poems in the book that explain her love for rhyme:

"Modern poetry writers seem
So gloomy or abstruse.
I would welcome a new Ogden Nash or Dr. Seuss.
Someone whose simple writings
Are set in verses plain—
That tickle at my funny-bone
But do not tax my brain."

The grandmother of six said her poetry is inspired by the world around her.

"I just do them," she said. "Somebody might suggest something to me or I get in my car and drive and I see something,"

For example, she wrote "The Generation Cap," in which she describes the difficulties of opening child-safe bottle tops after struggling to open an eye-drop bottle:

"There is no greater evidence
Of the generation gap
Than one which is encountered
With the child-safe bottle cap.
The theory is that we protect
Our little ones from harm.
The fact is these precautions
Cause us oldsters great alarm."

Using a computer, Mrs. Voris writes and rewrites her poetry until the meter and rhyme suit her. The length of time she spends on a poem varies because she constantly revises. "I like to have my meter absolutely exact," she said.

When she isn't writing poetry, Mrs. Voris writes about her experiences in a class sponsored by the Evergreen Society. In March, she plans to attend the University of Charleston writers conference in South Carolina.

It was during the writers conference last year that her poetry received widespread acknowledgment.

"They liked it so much they applauded," she recalled. "And it wasn't polite applause; it was genuine."

That wasn't the first time Mrs. Voris' poetry had received recognition. Since 1960, she has been corresponding with her former psychology professor, Eileen Kramer Dodd at Mary Washington college in Fredericksburg, Va.

Ms. Dodd, who shares her former student's poetry with her own friends, repeatedly encouraged Mrs. Voris to publish her many poems.

"She said, 'Helen, these are valuable.' She sort of nagged me to get [the book] together."

Although Mrs. Voris now has a book to her credit, she refuses to call herself a writer.

"I don't purport myself to be a writer. I'm a housewife and retired schoolteacher," she said.

Copies of the $5 book are on sale Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Brumbaugh House, 5825 Main Street.

Sherry Joe
Staff Writer, Baltimore Sun
(Reprinted with permission.)

Clearing Out The Signs

Drive down any one of our local roads and you can't miss the clutter of "temporary" real estate development signs which blight the landscape. Some intersections are so full of these signs that they literally overlap one another, fighting for your attention. What you may not know is that 99% of these signs may be illegal, and there are simple steps you can take to rid these eyesores from your community.

Howard County sign ordinances permit the posting of up to four temporary directional signs for each subdivision, without a permit. These are the small cardboard development signs usually found on short wooden posts. The large, permanent subdivision signs (usually mounted atop large four by fours) require permits and are more closely regulated by the county. The problem with the smaller, "temporary" signs is that no one (except you and me) is respon-

Signs *continued on page 8*

In Memoriam

We want to acknowledge the deaths of community residents but know that without the help of you, the readers, we will miss some. If there is a community resident who has recently passed away, please let us know so we can include the information in our next edition.

In Memory of Those Who Entered into Eternal Rest

Larry Kenneth Lawson	March 13
Donald J. Klausmeyer	March 15
Thelma Amberman	March 22
Calvin B. Ford	March 23
Morris G. Smith	March 28
Earl Corkin	March 29
Corbin Hammond	March 30
William L. Becker	April 2
Joseph M. Valcourt	April 6
Sarah L. Kerger	April 16
Charles V. Laynor Sr.	April 18
Oswald T. Henning	April 20
Alice Zeltman	April 26
William F. Schultz*	May 4
Robert Hutchinson	May 7
Harold Fisher	May 10
Edward J. Grabowski	May 16

*Ellen Schultz, wife of William F. Schultz, has been a member of The Viaduct staff since its inception. She has been a gracious and supportive co-worker. It was with deep sadness that she entered her own husband's name to her column, *In Memoriam.* We express our sincere sympathy to Ellen and her family.

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The County's Vision for Elkridge in 30 Years

Editors Note: At the Elkridge Community Association's last meeting, we asked the county to get out its crystal ball and predict what our area will look like in the next twenty years. The following is reprinted here for those of you who weren't able to attend the meeting. In working with area residents, our county officials have come to know many of our priorities, pet peeves, aggravations and in general those things for which we have made a general nuisance of ourselves over the years. What is referred to as the second half of the presentation was done against this background in a tongue-in-cheek manner and should be read in the humorous format in which it is intended.

In preparation for the Elkridge Community Association meeting on March 29, 1993, the county executive asked the director of the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning to respond to the community association's questions about how the county envisions Elkridge in 10 or 20 years. Below is an edited version of what was presented at the meeting. The large crowd at the meeting and the focus of attention on the widening of Montgomery Road precluded presentation of the second half of the vision. This is also reproduced below.

Between now and 2010 the population and households in Election District 1 will increase by 70 to 80 percent. Election District 1 is roughly equivalent to the area from the Baltimore County and Anne Arundel County lines to the north and east, to Waterloo Road to the south, and to Ilchester Road to the west.

Election District 1

	Housing Units	*Population*
1992	8,138	20,305
2010	14,559	34,584

The land use will vary in different parts of Elkridge. The Patapsco Valley will have low density residential development sensitive to the fragile and beautiful environment of the area. Lower, historic Elkridge in and around Main Street will be revitalized. Some houses will contain small stores meeting the needs of local residents and visitors. A greenway trail will run through from Anne Arundel County. The greenway is a protected green area along the entire length of the Patapsco River. In some sections, there will be hiking and biking trails. Bikers and hikers coming from Anne Arundel County will buy ice cream and perhaps antiques on Main Street. They may spend the night at the Furnace Inn. Later they will cross US 1 to visit Lawyers Hill and the Viaduct before continuing on their way to Ellicott City.

Lawyers Hill has a historic district and its historic large lot residential character is maintained, along with limited low density residential infill. The Montgomery Road corridor is fully built at low density with mostly large houses on half acre lots. Greer Miller, the site at the northwest corner of MD 100 and I-95, is fully developed around a golf course. The site has 202 townhouses, 157 single-family houses and 40 acres of office park.

The Troy Hill site is built out with a mix of employment uses (office, industrial and warehouse). The Coca-Cola plant at Parkway Center continues to provide employment opportunities for area residents. There are community facilities on a former shopping center site near the library. A middle school has been built next to the elementary school.

Recommendations of a joint county, community and State Highway Administration corridor study of US 1 are implemented. Improvements on US 1 from 1990 to 2010 continue the safety, visual and landscape improvements which took place between 1970 and 1990. I-95 has HOV lanes to help reduce area auto emissions to levels mandated by the Clean Air Act. MD 100 is complete from the Baltimore-Washington International Airport to US 29 and has HOV lanes.

With respect to transit, the future increase in Elkridge's population and employment will increase the potential for a commuter bus line. Employers with over 100 employees have vehicle trip reduction plans, again a result of the mandates of the Clean Air Act. The Dorsey MARC station will open.

Now the undelivered second half of the presentation, WHAT HAS REALLY HAPPENED...

Anti-noise technology results in silent aircraft and no noise from I-95. County Executive Charles Ecker, now in his sixth term, opens the new Main Street complete with parking lot and benches. Increases in international trade result in the need to dredge the Patapsco and reopen the port of Elkridge. Cordelia Hanson is all smiles because the Rockburn Branch interceptor is complete, and the River Road bridge had to be widened to accommodate the construction traffic. Circulation at the "Schultz" Library continues to be #1 in Howard County (the library has books). The Elkridge Flea Market enjoys an international reputation and a monument to the virtues of POR zoning is erected. The county executive orders that the B&O Railroad bridge be painted—unfortunately, the Viaduct is painted. The funeral home at Main Street and Furnace Avenue is demolished to allow a greater turning radius for trucks making right turns. The Department of Public Works has completed its storm drain/sidewalk project. The biker bar is still there. Circulation of the weekly *Viaduct* reaches 300,000 and Dave Anderson receives a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting. A statue of Ed Huber stands next to the steam gun. Elkridge is finally shown on county maps.

Clive Graham, Planner I
Department of Planning & Zoning

Lines, Lines, Everywhere a Blue Line—Along Landing Road

Blue lines influence our lives in many ways. In school I had trouble keeping my words and numbers on and between them. Today my son seems to be under no such pressure.

For all the parents (and the kids) who have voiced their concern about those blue lines on the trees along the Landing Road side of Rockburn Park—no, the trees aren't marked to be felled in the name of progress. But considering what happened on the other side of Rockburn Park, and its current administration, that's a good guess.

Faithful cover to cover readers will recall that *The Viaduct* made mention of the vertical blue line as a symbol used throughout Maryland by all park systems to indicate "no hunting."

Now, further investigation reveals they also indicate "no trespassing." Hikers, bikers, joggers and nature lovers might have a tough time understanding such reasoning because it is public land—park land. Rockburn Park doesn't charge (at the gate) for its use but Patapsco State Park on the other side of Landing Road (from the blue lines) does, despite state improvements that seem to invite free entry from Landing Road.

Using an official entry point limits the possibility of someone with a Columbia mentality wandering into our Elkridge park through an unmarked entrance and either never being heard from again or heard from through their lawyers after being attacked by a band of rogue deer (probably surprised while plotting a retaliatory raid on one of the new area developments).

As a public service to its readers, *The Viaduct* warns that those markings are there for safety's sake. Just like the boy

Lines *continued on page 8*

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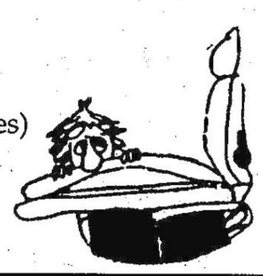

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Pet Owners, Take Heed

We see those frisky, mischievous household pets ripping garbage bags apart and strewing litter on the streets, defecating on neighboring lawns and some, even terrorizing children and adults alike. "Especially at this time of the year," says Warden Jim Boller from Animal Control in Howard County, "we get quite a few complaints about dogs running at large, especially in lower Elkridge and Rockburn Park." Many residents plead ignorance of the law that each dog in the county must be leashed when off the owner's property and must also be licensed and have up to date rabies shots.

"While people are getting ready to go to work in the morning, and in the evening, when the kids come home from school, these are the most prevalent times that dogs roam freely," Warden Boller said.

If a person is bitten, Animal Control eventually gets a report and makes an on-site determination on whether the dog (or other species of pet) has been adequately vaccinated. The animal is placed under a mandatory 10-day quarantine period in order to be observed for any signs of illness. Strays are placed under observation by Animal Control. A final determination as to whether a person bitten must receive the rabies vaccine is made by the Health Department.

Karen Stell, D.V.M., emphasizes that rabies cannot be underestimated. She cited a disturbing statistic: Pennsylvania and Maryland are among the leaders in the nation with reported incidences of bites involving rabid animals.

Rabies is an infectious disease which affects the central nervous system. Initial symptoms demonstrated in humans include extreme restlessness, mental confusion, depression, malaise and fever, followed by hysteria. The incubation period can range from 10 days to 1 year. However, severe bites about the face seem to have a shorter incubation period. Its victims suffer eventual paralysis, then death.

Rabies is carried in the saliva of rabid animals. It is transmitted by biting or even by the animal's saliva brushing against an open abrasion of the skin or the mucous membrane. Although dogs are the main culprit for transmission to man, other animals include the cat, skunk, fox, wolf, coyote, squirrel and raccoon. Bats, even healthy ones, can be carriers.

Joanne Stock, acting administrator of Animal Control, provided the following information:

Animal licenses may be obtained by calling for an application to Animal Control, 313-2780, or by coming directly to the office, 8576 Davis Road, Columbia, Md. 21045. Originally, all licenses were renewed throughout the county every July 1st. However, in order to prevent this mass renewal, starting this July, license renewals will be conducted on a quarterly basis, i.e., a person renewing a license in January, would renew in January. A person renewing in April, would renew each April, etc. If an animal is spayed or neutered, the license will cost $6.00. Unspayed and unneutered animal licenses will cost $12.00. (Costs were $5.00 and $10.00 this past year.) Senior citizens over 65 years of age may receive a license for half price.

Rabies shots may be obtained for pets from local veterinarians. Less expensive are the clinics also held for this purpose. Baltimore County usually holds a Rabies Clinic once a month. Your local Animal Control department will help you to locate one convenient to you.

Polly Thornton

Road Construction Update

Due to budget cuts for the upcoming fiscal year, there will be some changes to the road alterations which were detailed in the April/May issue of *The Viaduct* (Article: More Rt. 1 Changes). Gene Straub, assistant district engineer, State Highway Administration, states that there are no immediate plans to widen Montgomery Road.

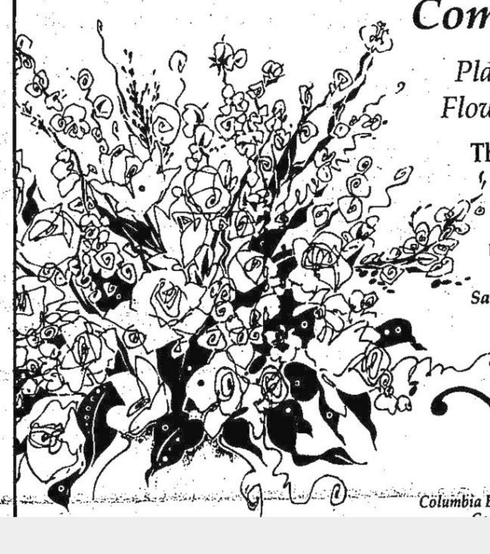
However, when the project at Rt. 1 and Montgomery Road is completed, left turns from Montgomery Road (on the west side of Rt. 1) onto northbound Rt. 1 will be optional from the outside lane and mandatory from the inside lane. Straight through traffic and right turns will still be allowed from the outside lane.

This will also necessitate adjustments in the traffic signals at Rt. 1 and Montgomery Road.

Construction has begun on the extra turn lane at Montgomery Road and Bellanca Drive.

The Gas and Electric Company is laying new gas lines on Montgomery Road between the Just Rite Garage and Marshalee Lane.

Polly Thornton



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Augustine's Drama Guild

"HARVEY" is back and Elwood P. Dowd is with him! It's true. Made popular with the motion picture of the same name starring James Stewart. "Harvey" is a comedy in three acts and winner of a Pulitzer Prize by Mary Chase to be presented by Special Arrangement With Dramatist Play Service Inc., NY on Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22 as a dinner theater and Sunday, May 23 as a matinee (no meal) at St. Augustine Hall on Old Washington Road here in Elkridge.

The Friday and Saturday performances with an All-U-Can-Eat dinner will be $17.00 per person. Sunday's matinee with snacks available is general admission for $5.00 per person. Tickets are on sale now by advance reservation for dinner tickets by calling Mary Beth Hicks at (410) 796-0739. Doors open 6:15 p.m. and matinee at 2:00 p.m. The cast of this highly popular stage play features Joe Bielein as Elwood P. Dowd and an excellent supporting cast.

Produced and directed by Clinton Cavanaugh, this production promises to be a humorous night filled with laughter.

Lines

Continued from page 6

scouts who know to "be prepared" when they enter the woods, so too must you if entering unofficially. Then you run the risk of being confronted by another type of blue line, the thin blue line that separates the good guys from the bad--the police. Hopefully, my son will always think of the consequences before he crosses this type of line.

The ECA wishes to thank the employees of our two beautiful area parks for jobs well done. For more information call Rockburn Park manager Chris Muller, 313-4955, or Patapsco State Park Manager Walter Brown, 461-5005.

Dave Anderson

Signs

Continued from page 5

sible for seeing that they do not become "permanent" eyesores.

Here are the rules governing "temporary" real estate signs in the county, according to Jim Rawle of the county inspections office:

- A maximum of FOUR allowed per builder in each development;
- Signs may be erected after 4:00 p.m. Friday and must be removed prior to 12:00 noon the following Monday;
- Signs may never be placed on utility poles or road signs;
- Signs may be placed only in county right of ways. They may not be placed on state or U.S. roads (i.e.: Routes 103 and 1).

The county does not have the manpower to check every neighborhood for compliance with these regulations, but we do! The county and state will enforce the law if you ask them to. Call Denise Goss, the county sign control officer, at 313-1836 to report violations in your neighborhood. For signs posted on state roads, call Mr. Robert Richardson at the State Highway Administration (Phone 800-635-5118).

Believe me, the county and state will enforce your complaint. I placed a call to the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits, and within four days every illegal real estate sign was removed from our area (east of Route 1 in Elkridge). When faced with fines and penalties for each day that illegal signs remain posted, developers do remove them. Also, feel free to remove (and properly dispose of) any signs placed on your property.

If we want to improve the image of our community, we all have to do our part. These steps will take less than a minute of your time, and will result in more attractive roadways for all.

Rick Watts

Editor's Note:

Sings, Signs, Everywhere Signs

What Rick didn't cover is exactly how many signs are allowable, or even justifiable. Some developers/real estate agents place their signs closer than the old Burma Shave signs, only without the message--or is there one?

Maybe they're trying to tell us of their significant development. What we're being told is "I'm putting up this sign and don't care if I can't remember to take it back down" as a courtesy to the community and to comply with the law.

So don't feel guilty about removing these signs because just like the houses they're building, they'll make more. Do any other Elkridge businesses use these signs to advertise what they sell? Whoops, Sorry you nursery guys.

Here are the rules governing making signs temporary.

1. Attitude is all important. Righteous indignation works best during daylight raids, stealth at night.
2. This is adult work. Don't send your reversed cap wearing, long haired son to do the job. He'll think it's fun and then start looking for mailboxes to bash.
3. Staples are very sharp and rip both skin and auto upholstery.
4. Post (stake) tips are usually caked with dirt which ends up on your clothes or car's carpet.
5. This is the space age and what looks like corrugated cardboard is actually very strong plastic, and is usually held on by multiple screws like the ones that hold up the heavy wallboard in your home. These babies are made to last. The weak link may be the 2"X2" thick stake.

Extensive research by our "sign off" team has discovered some stakes are cut from long lasting hardwood. To date the combination (of plastic, screws, and hardwood) hasn't been used but--

6. Disposing of the evidence. We don't recommend burning the paper signs and under no circumstance do you ever burn any plastic. Are they recyclable? Stuffed in a stack of newspaper they seem to be, but the plastic isn't. Why not recycle in other ways. The wood has hundreds of uses. The signs can be mounted backwards to advertise a yard sale (or even your own home). In your garden, when used in combination with a taped-on copy machine blow up of a seed pack, not only will you know what you planted (some of us have trouble both in reading fine print and remembering it, too) but the signs are big enough to scare away most varmints.

A few words of caution--One D.O.L.T. (Developer Of Little Thought) (isn't that an oxymoron?) threatened to, (or brought) suit against a local sign "stealer." The choice is yours and it's a tough one--Remove the signs now and risk threats (or in today's legal climate, possible fines and or imprisonment)--yep, even for doing the right thing. Or call the violation enforcers and hope the developer pays a fine.

Next issue we'll discuss other ways to clean up Elkridge. One suggestion to ponder 'til then. Ask area fast food places and liquor stores to use only green cups, bottles and bags so they blend in better along the roadside.

Dave Anderson

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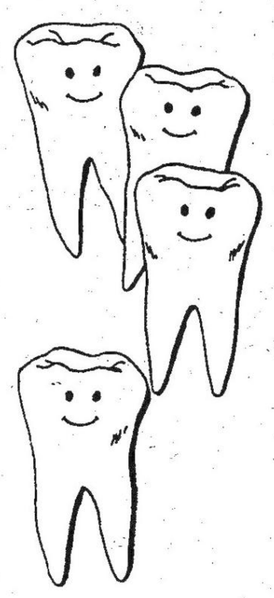

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Dear Viaduct...

IN DEFENSE OF SUPER FRESH

I just read your letters to the editor section. One letter commenting on Super Fresh caught my attention. I do not believe that the letter was fair to Mr. White and his staff. Let's face it--with the rain and snow we've had (my ark's on order) plus the amount of people who come through that store in a day, who could keep a floor spotless?

I've shopped at Super Fresh since it opened also. I've always found the produce fresh, meats and seafood well chilled and the dairy products within the dated time. They've even ordered items for me that they didn't have on the shelves as a regular item when I requested it.

I can't imagine Mr. White, who is a long time resident, belittling the town he's called home for twenty years! If Mrs. Yingling's mother knows Mr. White from working with him, she must know how happy he was to be given the job of manager of Elkridge's Super Fresh.

I find it hard to believe that he said Elkridge people are dirty. Just what does "along the lines of" mean? Myself, I'd be a lot more specific when accusing someone of derogatory remarks against his own community.

I would like to thank Super Fresh for giving so much back to the community. I was aware of some of the donations, but I I'm glad Mr. White had a chance to bring to our attention just how much monies and food have actually been donated to Elkridge. I'd often thought some one should write and thank them. I was going to, but I put it off, or was too tired, or something came up. I'm ashamed to say that if the letter from Mrs. Yingling hadn't appeared, I probably would not have taken the time to write this letter of thanks. Maybe we should be as quick to write to say thanks as we are to criticize.

I would like to say "thank you" to Mr. White and let him know I, for one, will not be making a twenty minute drive to the grocery store. (Unless I pick up Mom first, which would make it around twenty minutes until I made it back to Elkridge Super Fresh!)

Elizabeth Ballantine
Elkridge

The beauty of living in this country is the freedom and opportunity everyone is afforded to express himself. With that in mind and with all due respect, I would like to disagree with the person who found fault with the Super Fresh and the management of the store.

I shop at Super Fresh frequently and at different times of day and I have not been offended by any of the conditions mentioned in last month's letter. I have noticed shopping carts piled at the one end of the entrance way and when time permitted I have lined them up myself. I have returned recyclable bags and contributed to the overflowing condition. I have picked up trash thoughtlessly discarded by others. None of these things offended me and I didn't feel that store personnel was remiss because of anything mentioned above.

Rather, I would like to commend Mr. White and his employees for providing well-stocked shelves, courteous service and an altogether pleasant shopping environment. I have seen Mr. White pitch in when needed to help an employee with a problem or a customer with a question or concern.

It is not possible to please all of the people all of the time but John White and the Elkridge Super Fresh do an excellent job most of the time and I for one plan to continue shopping there.

Carolyn Crittenden
Harwood Park

CULTURE SHOCK

A local newspaper carries a note about calling in if you are a witness or aware of any major events. So yesterday, I picked up the phone and called into the press. The lady answered and asked "Can I help you?" "Certainly," I answered, "I called in to report a major event. There was a large Robin on my lawn this morning, on this, the second day of spring." "What's a Robin?" she asked. "Don't tell me you don't know what a Robin is! How long ago did you finish journalism school?" Well, I explained what a Robin was, and about the significance of the first sighting each year.

Life was different growing up in Vermont. The editors of the newspapers always reported with great flair the passage of the first flock of Canadian geese or ducks, the arrival of the first Robin, and the sighting of the first Blue Bird. These were the next most important calendar events following the report on whether the ground hog saw his shadow, and next when the first sap started to run in the maple trees. next might come the report on the ice breaking up in the rivers.

Another great shock occurred on a recent visit to the Home Depot facility. I

Dear Viaduct... *continued on page 10*

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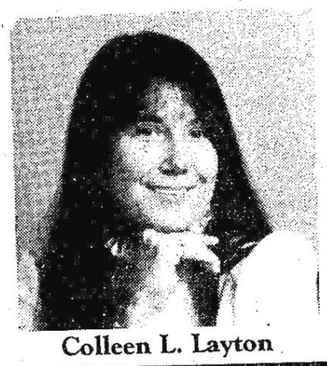

Colleen L. Layton

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Dear Viaduct...

Continued from page 9

wanted to pick up a cupola for our garage. I asked the first clerk I came to, "Where can I find the cupola?" "What's a cupola?", he asked. So I explained what a cupola was, but that didn't seem to help. He referred me to Bill in aisle 3. Bill didn't know either. After talking to about eight more clerks, explaining to each one in turn what a cupola was, I gave up and went home.

I thought, on reflection, parents and grandparents really need to take their children for walks while they are growing. You know the advice passed down to you: take walks in the woods, take time to smell the flowers, and listen to the birds. Get the youth away from addiction to TV where information, murder, and other stuff is fed to them in 12 minute bursts between commercials for cigarettes and all that good stuff.

James Holway
Ellicott City

MORE GREYHOUNDS

I am planning to write a book about Greyhounds–adopting an ex-racer. This book is aimed at helping people (like you and me) care for their dog when they initially bring them home, and how to work with their dog during the first year. As we know, our dogs are special since they are adults who have not experienced much human contact (at least, not as a pet) and their socialization can take as long as a year.

The reason I am contacting you is that I plan to write my book from the best perspective I know how–from the eye view of the people who have adopted them! I will be mailing questionnaires (probably between 3-5) to people who want to participate and from this, I will write the book that will help those who adopt this special breed.

Although there is no honorarium (payment) involved, if you answer all the questionnaires, you and your greyhound(s) will be listed on the contributor's page! Doesn't that sound exciting?

If you are interested in participating, you may write to me at the address below to let me know you are interested.

I look forward to hearing from you in the mail!

Anna Louise Scandiffio
P.O. Box 43382
Baltimore, Maryland 21237

WILL WE RETURN TO NOISIER SKIES?

Those of you who have lived here long enough to remember the days and nights before new operating rules and especially before quieter jet aircraft came to be, will be interested in the following letter regarding the new airline which is being considered for BWI. We leave it to you to form your own opinion and weigh the possible merits of increased business for the airport against the potential return of noisier planes. – Ed Huber, General Manger, The Viaduct

I am writing to bring to your attention a very important development in aircraft noise at BWI Airport. As you may know, Frank Lorenzo and his business partners are aggressively pursuing plans to start an airline based at BWI, to be called "Friendship Airlines." The implications of his plans on noise in the BWI area are startling.

First of all, Lorenzo will probably buy the cheapest aircraft on the market. That means he will be shopping for old Stage 2 aircraft that established airlines don't find economical to convert to Stage 3, such as the old DC-9-30s or 737-200s. Lorenzo's airline would be composed entirely of Stage 2 aircraft, unlike USAir or any other established airline.

Second, Lorenzo will benefit from a loophole in federal noise law that will allow his airline to convert to Stage 3 aircraft at a much slower rate than existing airlines. By December 31, 1994, at least 55 percent of the fleet of each airline in business today must be Stage 3. As a new entrant, though, Lorenzo must only have 25 percent Stage 3 aircraft. The reduced phase-out continues: 65 percent for established carriers by December 31, 1996, 50 percent for Lorenzo. Only by December 31, 1998 do the requirements for existing carriers and new ones match, at 75 percent.

Existing carriers have already begun phasing out their Stage 2 fleet by selling the old aircraft overseas, retrofitting some of them, and buying only Stage 3 aircraft. Lorenzo is sure to use the noise exemption to the fullest, and considering how he has operated in the past, he will probably hire influence-peddlers in Washington to extend his deadline as far as possible.

The long and short of it is that Frank Lorenzo means much more noise around BWI. There are many reasons to oppose Lorenzo's startup airline–his terrible business abilities, his dismal labor record, his consistently broken promises to airports and local governments, his contribution to airport bond issue defaults and lowered bond ratings. But the noise issue is an important reason that affects you and your neighbors every single day.

As a community leader, the question you must answer is: if BWI is to provide the people of Maryland service to its potential, shouldn't they be served by a reliable, financially-sound, quiet airline? I hope you will do what you can to oppose Lorenzo's efforts at every turn, and tell your fellow citizens in the BWI area about this problem as well.

Please contact your state and federal representatives about this problem immediately and ask them to oppose Friendship Airlines.

If you need any further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

J. Randolph Babbitt, President
Air Line Pilots Association

SHANE PENDERGRASS ON CENTRE 9500

By the time this issue of the Viaduct is published, the zoning board will already have held a formal public hearing on the matter (May 10th at 7:30 pm). I have requested that the hearing be held at night to insure the maximum public participation.

Because I am writing this letter prior to any official action of the board, I am legally limited in what I may currently discuss. But, what I believe is most important to convey is that before any official action is taken with regard to possibly modifying the site plan and the decision and order's conditions and requirements, the community will be heard.

I believe the public process is critical to achieving the best outcome and want to thank, in advance, all of you who testified at the May 10th hearing.

Shane Pendergrass, Chairwoman
County Council of Howard County

COUNTY RESPONDS TO "TALKING TRASH"

I am writing in response to your "Editor's Note" at the end or your December-January issues' "Talkin' Trash" article. You were lamenting your perception that Elkridge is the last to get everything in the county, in this case recycling.

There is good news for Elkridge. It may not be the first community to receive curbside recycling, but by July and pending budget approval, Elkridge will be receiving the best, most progressive curbside recycling service offered in the state of Maryland.

The new program will provide once per week curbside recycling collection and once per week trash collection to all homes in Elkridge which currently receive curbside trash collection. Recycling materials to be collected include:

- Glass bottles (clear, brown & green),
- Metal cans (aluminum & tin),
- Plastic bottles (soda bottles 'Type 1' & milk/detergent bottles 'Type 2'),
- Mixed papers (newspapers, magazine, phone books, junk mail, office paper, cardboard, etc.),
- Leaves (October through December),

and

- Christmas trees (January 2 through 15).

Elkridge will also be one of the first communities to use the state of the art bag type recycling program for its cans, bottles, and plastics. Residents will utilize their plastic grocery sacks to collect and set out these materials. This will free residents from storing and toting those bulky bins and reduces glass breakage by more than 10 fold.

In addition, a budget request has been made to provide some curbside recycling

The Department of Public Works

CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE US?

Shame on you – using a Baltimore address! We live in Elkridge. We enjoy your paper, otherwise.

Bill & Helen Beck
Elkridge

Editor's note: See Elkridge?? *on page 12.*

If you would like to speak out in the *Dear Viaduct...* section, please send your correspondence to:
THE VIADUCT
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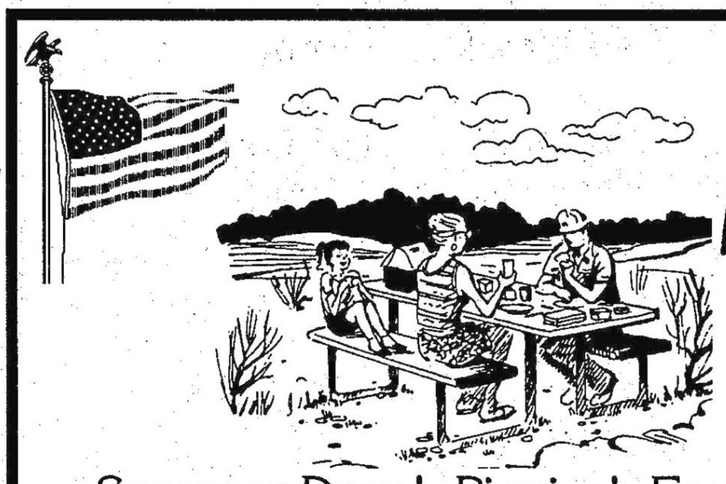

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Musing

The question is asked by the media, the politicians, friends and neighbors. "What is wrong with kids today?" While there are several answers to this question, one stands out in my mind. ADULTS! Many of us are failing to give kids what they need.

Somehow we have become embarrassed to tell the children that there is such a thing as sin, that right is right and wrong is wrong. Or that there will be times when they seem to merge and it will require much thought to know what is the better act.

In our love for the kids, we vow that they will have the things we didn't have and so lavish material things on them. Do we ever stop and think that not having all the things we wanted made us better persons? We measure our success by what we have and not by what we have become. No matter what we say, the children are learning how to act by what we do.

When a young mother splits open a bag of cookies at the grocery store, gives a few to her child and returns the bag to the shelf, what is she teaching her child?

When a father drives through a red light, does he realize what his children are learning from his behavior?

Often I think of the message the driver who hit my car last May sent out to those who witnessed it. My car was the last in a line of traffic leaving the Elkridge Carnival. A vehicle came up behind me, trying to pass on the left. There was not enough room, and he hit my car, damaging it. Signaling to him that I was going to pull over into a parking lot, I expected him to join me and exchange insurance information. Instead, he took off.

Although it bothers me that the car still needs to be repaired, and it will cost a week's salary, my main concern is the fallout of the other driver's actions. I assume the child in the other car was the driver's son. What lesson did he learn? And what about the teenagers who were standing nearby?

While the above instance is not the rule, one area that seems to be consistent with us adults is not keeping our word. This can be in the area of punishment or the promise of doing something. Since we make the rules, we feel free to change them, even in midstream. How does this affect a child who needs something solid to depend on?

It will take time and much effort to change our society for the better, but I think a good place to start is with the younger generation–by giving a good example.

What do YOU think?

Betty Mastrounni

Senior Services Fair Hailed a Success

Congratulations to Grace Episcopal Church on the great success of their recent Senior Services Fair. The event, held on Sunday April 25th, was well attended by many seniors from the community. Information was exchanged, food and refreshments were shared, and a friendly social atmosphere encompassed all. The program received many compliments and may be repeated annually.

Exhibitors representing OLPH Grasshoppers, Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, Meals on Wheels, Independent Living Club of America, Visiting Nurses Association, Charlestown Retirement Center, members of FACE–Howard County Chapter (Homemakers), Howard County Office on Aging, legal advice on living wills, the SHARE food co-op, and professional blood pressure readings made for a well-rounded program.

Debby Metzler

Elkridge Project Care Coalition to Assist Older Citizens

Through the National Eldercare Campaign, the Howard County Office on Aging has received a small grant under Project CARE, (Community Action to Reach the Elderly), to coordinate the establishment of three area coalitions in Howard County: one in the Elkridge community, another in the Ellicott City area and a third in western Howard County. The thrust and purpose of each coalition is to mobilize local resources in behalf of at-risk older persons and to involve in the coalition those groups that do not have a predominant focus on the needs of the aging, as well as those that do. The key is to broaden the base of support for elderly citizens and to undertake projects that will be identified by coalition members as being most needed by seniors.

In Elkridge, considerable interest has been expressed in developing such a coalition by several of the local churches, civic groups and businesses in the area. Approximately 15 representatives of such organizations met on April 14th at Grace Episcopal Church for the formation meeting of the Elkridge Project CARE coalition. A number of ideas were exchanged on the types and nature of projects the coalition could undertake to benefit Elkridge seniors. It was decided at that meeting to undertake a survey in the community to learn what the seniors see as the most pressing needs they wish to see addressed. At the next meeting of the coalition, to be held in mid-May, further identification of those needs will be possible and an action plan can be started.

If you would like more information on this innovative program, and how your organization might participate, please contact Jack Propf, Project CARE coordinator, at the Office on Aging, 313-7210, or at 788-0788.

Scenic Markers

A bright red sign, about 15" in diameter, was erected recently on Levering Avenue and will undoubtedly require a bit of explaining. Around the top of the sign are the words: Scenic Route Map. In the center are the words: Red Site, and on the bottom is a number: 52.

This is a new system for providing day travelers with scenic sites to visit in the state of Maryland. The numbers coincide with those on the Scenic Route Map recently published for free distribution at the 12 visitors centers across the state.

The majority of the sites of this map are a little off the beaten track and not already well publicized. "This was truly a concept–the map, the markers the entire project, that originated with Governor Schaefer," said Valerie Burnette, a spokesperson for the State Highway Administration. Although the scenic site markers are new, a scenic route map was first issued in 1990. This one includes information about the five hiking trails in he state, points of interest and historical/cultural sites to visit in Western, Central and Southern Maryland and on the Eastern Shore.

Maryland's state flower, the Black-eyed Susan is depicted on signs posted along scenic routes throughout the state. These routes pass through areas of cultural and historic interest as well as scenic natural beauty.

Scenic Markers *continued on page 12*

CLASSIFIEDS

I daycare in my Elkridge home after school, evenings and weekends. Mother of one child. Call 379-6993. Debi.

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Source: 1992 Nationwide Survey of Homeowners. This survey included 1,541 telephone interviews with a random sample of homeowners from throughout the USA and was conducted during October 2-12, 1992, by The Wirthlin Group, a leading survey research organization. The results from the survey have a 95% confidence interval of +/-2.5%. Homeowners were asked, "Now, thinking about real estate sales organizations, which one would you say..." "...is the best at finding people the right home?"...is the best at helping people sell their homes?"

Linda Lee Neault

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Elkridge??

The Viaduct staff members sympathize with newcomers to the area who are informing us, in emphatic language, that they do NOT live in Baltimore and rightly proclaim Elkridge as their place of residence.

We realize that Baltimore is the designated city on *The Viaduct's* mailing labels. Would that we may someday claim our day in the sun or our own hometown on our mail. Alas, the post office still insists that for mass mailing, we bow to their wishes and use the Baltimore address.

Those not so new to the area may recall that several years ago, a drive was launched to petition the post office to recognize Elkridge as our hometown. It was unsuccessful. The ECA is considering another petition drive to coincide with the Elkridge Carnival. Maybe when the Coca-Cola bottling plant is established in the area, they will have enough clout to demand a mailing address separate from Baltimore.

After Chari Stoesser wrote a letter to the *Howard County Times* publicizing an upcoming candlelight ceremony at the Serenity Garden site in Rockburn Park, "Ellicott City," she stated that she got "a handful" of irate calls from local residents concerning the error. She indicated that the callers were more emotional over this issue than that of the victims of violence who were to be honored during the ceremony. (See *Serenity Gardens*, this page)

But even Ellicott City has its problems with identity. A local TV newscaster, recently reporting on the death of yet another person due to alcohol, informed the listening audience that College Avenue was in Anne Arundel County!

Rest assured, we'll still keep trying to get Elkridge in the post office, on our envelopes and mailing labels, and maybe someday, even on the county maps!

Polly Thornton

Editor's note: Please check the last letter to the editor in the Dear Viaduct... *column, which begins on page 9.*

Serenity Gardens

The seventy-five people assembled stood, sheltering their candles from the gentle evening breeze, listening to prayers and poems, singing the songs, One Moment in Time and There's Always Tomorrow. But then, the peace of the moment came to a screeching halt. A policeman participating in the ceremony had just heard over his radio of yet another accident where a man was killed and three children critically injured just minutes away, within a one mile distance from where they stood. An exasperated sigh rippled through the air and the grim reality set in. Yes, alcohol was involved in this tragedy also.

The Howard County Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and members of the Serenity Garden Foundation met at Rockburn Park on May 1st for the annual candlelight vigil. The theme this year was "Celebration of Life, A New Beginning," a theme spawned by the needless deaths of loved ones.

Participants included Chari Stoesser, President, Serenity Garden Foundation, and her daughter, Chari Waters, who was severely injured in 1987 by a drunk driver. Also present was Ginni Wolf, wife of a state trooper gunned down in the line of duty, Chief of Police Jim Roby, State's Attorney Mike Weal, and Department of Recreation representatives Jeff Bourne, Chuck Fouke and Chris Muller.

Art Lillicrop, Chaplain, Howard County General Hospital, blessed the area. Mike Clark, a former *Sun* reporter, read a moving poem that he had written for the occasion. Three young ladies, too young to have to experience this kind of sadness, read a poem in honor of their cousin who was killed by a drunk driver. Other songs were sung and prayers offered for the many, many people who are hurting today because of needless violence, much of it the result of alcohol abuse. Rabbi Martin Siegal spoke comforting words and offered the closing prayer.

The Serenity Garden at Rockburn Park is designed as a place to reflect and remember the innocent victims of all violent crime. The area was donated by the Department of Recreation and Parks when the parents of a young boy killed by a drunk driver wanted to plant a tree, not just in his memory, but in memory of all loved ones killed violently. All too often, drunk drivers are the cause of these crimes. Ms. Stoesser appealed to the public to enhance the 5 acre area set aside in Rockburn Park. The Briar Club donated the tree and Ten Acres Nursery donated lilies to the project. "We always need donations of manpower, money and maintenance," said Ms. Stoesser. "We run on a shoestring." The Serenity Garden Foundation hopes to put benches and other flowering plants in the quiet cul de sac, located just past the tennis courts, coming into Rockburn Park from the Montgomery Road entrance. There are no signs identifying the site, which is fronted by a split rail fence.

If you visit the area and see others strolling by, say a kind word to them or share a smile. They're hurting, and it's a hurt that lasts a long, long time.

For information on the project, call Chari Stoesser, 465-5757. Also, the name of the gardens was recently misprinted in a local paper. It is NOT Security Gardens. It is Serenity Gardens.

Polly Thornton

FY 1994 County Notice of a Proposed Property Tax Increase

The County Council of Howard County proposes to increase property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 1993, the estimated assessable base will increase by 3.6%, from $5,704,584,752 to $5,908,609,154.

2. If Howard County maintains the current tax rate of $2.59 per $100 of assessment, property tax revenues will increase by 3.6%, resulting in $5,284,232 of new property tax revenues.

3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the property tax rate should be reduced to $2.50, the constant yield rate.

4. The county is considering not reducing its property tax rate enough to offset increasing assessments.

The county proposes to adopt a tax rate of $2.59 per $100 of assessment. This tax rate is 3.6% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate $5,284,232 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed property tax increase was held on May 17, 1993 at George Howard Building—Banneker Room.

The hearing was open to the public, and public testimony was encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call (410) 313-2001 for further information.

County of Council of Howard County
Shane Pendergrass
Chairperson

Scenic Markers

Continued from page 11

The red site markers indicate the specific point of interest and are usually placed directly at the specific sites. Red Site Marker #52 identifies the Thomas Viaduct, a world-famous curved arch bridge that spans the Patapsco River.

There is one other marker reserved for the Elkridge community, #51, which is to be erected at the Landing Road Cider Mill. The owner of the property, Thomas Owens, states the marker is not yet erected, simply because he and the state have not decided where it should be placed. Mr. Owens feels that one should be placed on the east side of Landing Road by Montgomery Road, and the other on the S.E. corner of Landing and Ilchester Roads. Others feel that the markers should be placed directly at the Cider Mill.

The only other Howard County point of interest on the map is #50, the Howard County Arts Council at High Ridge Road in Ellicott City.

Polly Thornton

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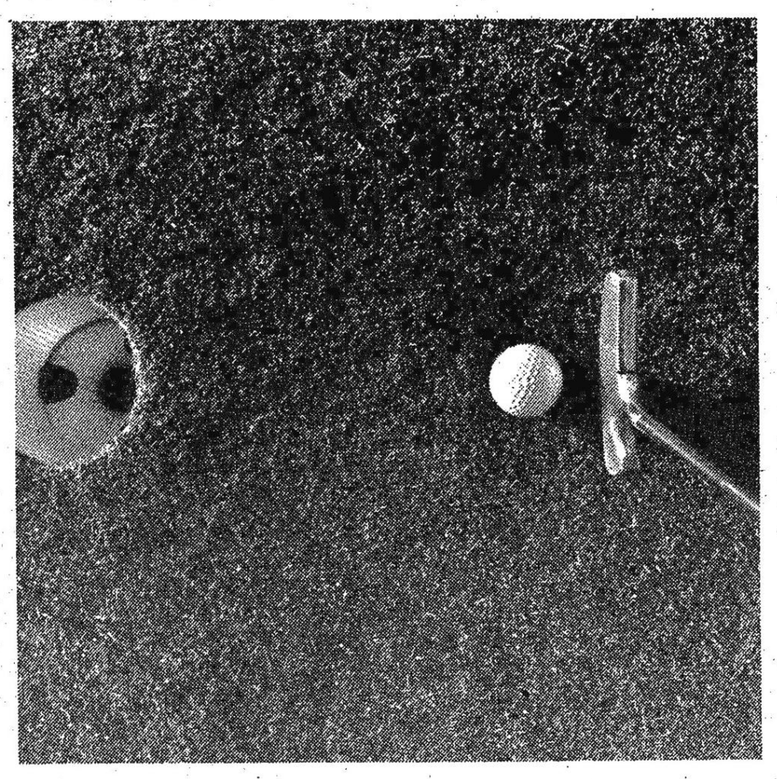

Summer hours: June 6-September 5
7:45 a.m. & 10:00 a.m. at the Church. Call 796-3270