

## **Fallston Community Council Meeting Notes November 24, 2009**

Attendees: Don McCreesh, Andy Amasia, Andy Pisano, Tony Dec, Jim Riley, Larry Kreis Jr., Morita Bruce

Guests (and organization represented): Sheriff Jesse Bane and Cpl Donald Hopps (HC Sheriffs Office), Joe Woods (County Council District B), Kathryn Thess (HC Liquor Control Board), Jean Wilson (Delegate McDonough), Barbara Melfa, Nora Peters, Lawrence Flannery, Harriet Finerty, Barbara Thompson, William Tinder, Phyllis Logan, Helen & George Kersanach, Carolyn & Jim Evans.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Don McCreesh. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. FCC meetings will continue on alternate months except there will be no meeting in July 2010.

### **Sheriff's Office - Crime Report**

Cpl Donald Hopps provided the September and October crime statistics for the Fallston-area sectors. Details on calls for service to the Harford County Sheriff's Office are available at [www.harfordsheriff.org](http://www.harfordsheriff.org) ("Crime Reports"). The Sheriff's Department handles all calls except those on state highways, which are handled by the Sheriff's Department and the Maryland State Police. Calls were evenly spread over the 3 shifts, but were slightly higher in the evening. Cpl. Hopps noted that there had been a rash of burglaries and reports of suspicious activities along Trout Farm Road, and noted that the "crime triangle" consists of ability, desire, and opportunity. Citizens can limit opportunity and should call if they note something suspicious or suspicious behavior.

Sheriff Bane provided information on the Halloween incidents at Tully's (bar on Route 1 just south of Route 152). Multiple state, county, and municipal forces responded.

The Sheriff's department and state police have revised their "911 response agreement" to reflect that there are 32 state troopers in the area vs. 240 sheriff's deputies. Sheriff's deputies will respond to 911 calls from county roads and will split responses from state roads 50/50 with state troopers. State troopers will respond to all school bus accidents. Total calls for service are down in Harford.

Sheriff Bane discussed the status and issues regarding enforcement of noise limitations in the County. They receive many calls/complains about noise from parties, car boom-boxes, dogs, ATVs, loud music, drinking parties, etc.. In 2008 there were a total of 778 complaints. Currently, "disturbing the peace" can only be addressed if several residences are willing to get together and sue the offender in Circuit Court. The MD Attorney General will not allow the Sheriff to enforce state noise regulations, and that's the only noise regulation in Harford. This lack of enforcement authority means violators cannot really be stopped.

### **State & County Government**

Jean Wilson provided Delegate McDonough's phone number, 410-238-0025 and invited citizens to call with concerns. He is considering running for governor.

### **County Council Representative**

Councilman Joe Woods gave his email address (jmwoods@harfordcountymd.gov) and announced that he will be speaking at the Greater Fallston Association meeting. All in the Fallston area are invited to that meeting, especially since it will include a presentation on the plans for Amur Village (across Route 1 from Tully's).

He urged citizens to sign up to Connect CTY on the Harford County website so they can be provided emergency notifications by email. At present, notifications are made to listed phone numbers (land lines) and it is hoped that people will provide their cell phone numbers.

Councilman Woods is currently working on the following problems: fire lanes, false fire alarms (from automatic systems), and a padlock bill for liquor establishments to allow problems such as at Tully's to be addressed quickly.

### **New Business & Community Updates**

Morita Bruce briefly discussed the Harford Transportation Element Plan. Citizen comments on the draft are due to the County Executive by October 30. After that, comments on the Plan may be addressed to County Council members. Comments from citizens at public poster sessions were requests for more public transit opportunities rather than continued road expansion.

She also provided information on the county's draft Stormwater Management Ordinance, School Impact Fee bill, and the county's latest proposal on the Waste To Energy Plant, and urged interested residents to participate in public discussions on these issues.

Kathryn Thess, Chief Administrative Officer of the Harford County Liquor Control Board, discussed the functions and operation of the Board, and provided additional information on how the Board addresses problems such as that at Tully's. The public is allowed to attend these Board meetings and the one on December 2 will address Tully's. However, since the meeting room is very small, she discouraged attendance when asked if our members should attend that meeting to show community concern for ongoing problems there.

Cindy Mumby, a long-time PTA officer who worked hard for an elected school board here, has offered to explain to FCC how the new "blended board" will be implemented. FCC members agreed to invite her as a guest speaker. Morita Bruce volunteered to make the arrangements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

**Future Meeting: January 26, 2010 at 6:30 pm, Fallston VFD meeting room**

Submitted by Morita Bruce and Don McCreesh