

Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance
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March 2006 Newsletter

Next Meeting:

Wednesday March 8th 8p.m. Mill Creek Towne Elementary School

Agenda: Implementation of Master Plan

Speakers: Sue Edwards and Karen Kumm of Park and Planning

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1. February Meeting
2. ICC Maintenance Facility
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1. FEBRUARY MEETING

At the Feb meeting the following members were elected to serve as officers of the Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance

President: Brad Botwin and Pat Labuda
Vice President: Joe Parello and Ken Weiss
Secretary: Kathy Hemming
Treasurer: John Talcott

2. ICC MAINTENANCE FACILITY

The State is planning to locate the maintenance facility for the ICC in Derwood near Shady Grove Rd. and Crabbs Branch. This will mean additional truck traffic and industrial use in our community. Derwood already has more than its share of undesirable industrial uses that no one else in the county wants in their neighborhoods. With an additional 6,000+ living units planned near Metro, it seems irresponsible to add additional industrial uses in such a dense residential setting. We will keep you updated on this issue. For now it would be good to contact your state representatives and the members of the Planning, Housing and Economic Development (PHED) committee of the County Council asking them to locate the site in a less populated area of the county. The members of the PHED committee are;

Steve Silverman - councilmember.silverman@montgomerycountymd.gov (240)777-7976
Marilyn Praisner - councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov (240)777-7968
Nancy Floreen - councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov (240)777-7959

3. CITIZENS TASK FORCE

The Alliance has asked the County Council to establish a task force of community members to monitor the implementation of the Shady Grove Sector Plan. If you are interested in serving as a part of this task force please contact Alliance CO-Presidents Pat Labuda (301) 990-8292 or email Patlabuda@aol.com or Brad Botwin at bb67chev@aol.com or BBOTWIN@bis.doc.gov

4. ICC MONITORING

The ICC affects Derwood in a very direct way since it goes through our community. Some Derwood residents will be forced out of their homes due to the routing of the road. The noise, pollution and heavy truck traffic will have an adverse impact on the quality of life for our community. The alliance would like to set up a task force to monitor and address this issue in the strongest possible way. If you are interested in serving on this task force please contact Pat Labuda at (301)990-8292.

5. SHADY GROVE "NOISE WALLS"

Jim Snee and Bill Labuda testified on Feb. 7 at the CIP budget hearings of the County Council regarding the funding of noise walls along Shady Grove Road. Money had been approved for the walls but the County Executive had recommended severely reducing the funding for the construction of the walls. Bill and Jim were supported by the presence of several members from the community holding up "noise" signs as well as by many letters sent to the Council on this issue from Derwood residents. At the meeting of the Transportation and Environment committee of the County Council on Feb. 27 the staff recommendation was to support the funding for the construction of the noise walls. The committee agreed and will forward that recommendation to the full council. Below is a copy of the testimony presented by Dr. Labuda:

CIP Noise Wall Budget Item Testimony To Montgomery County Council
7 February 2006

By William M. Labuda, PhD

"My name is Bill Labuda; I live at 16929 Briardale Road, Derwood MD.

"I am here today representing the Greater Shady Grove Road Civic Alliance, and here to support continuance of the 2004 CIP funding for noise mitigation in the 2006 CIP and, in particular, maintaining the construction budget item for \$10,984,000.

"I served on the group, established by the county executive, to develop the County's Noise Mitigation Policy and which the County Council, in its wisdom adopted.

"I can report to you that the policy is working. It's not perfect yet, it needs some adjustments, but it is a very good start. The citizens on Malabar Street, whose backyard is Shady Grove Road, have unanimously granted property easements to the county for the construction of a noise wall. There was a 100% endorsement and 100% property easement approval by the Malabar community.

"Do you think the citizens impacted by this intrusive noise want relief?

"You bet they do. 100% endorsement!

"Dr. Alexander, whose backyard is this same Shady Grove Road, but who lives on the wrong side of Briardale Road, suffers the same noise as this Malabar community. Yet he is denied the same considerations. The policy is good, but it can be improved. It must be improved.

"I commend you for being forward leaning in your concerns about the environment in which we all must live, and especially your sensitivity to mitigate past failings by our county government with respect to the impact of roadway noise on our communities.

"The proposed CIP budget by the Executive is a step backward for the county. It reduces construction expenditures from \$10,984,000 to \$4,800,000 for the 6 year budget period, a reduction of over 56%.

"The cost reduction explanation given was: "Level of Effort has been reduced to reflect anticipated need." No rationale or details are provided.

"The history of the Executive Branch regarding funding of this need has been weak.

"The weak Executive Branch budget submission in the previous CIP was rejected by the council and a stronger one put in place.

"Now we are revisiting the CIP again ... some things never change ... and the Executive is again proposing a weak budget.

"The Council should reject this assault on this budget item and approve the standing amount of \$10,984,000.

"Governance, as you well know, consists of leadership, and establishing processes that ensure integrity and accountability.

"We urge you to continue to demonstrate your leadership and to fully fund the Noise Mitigation needs of this county; demand integrity of DPWT to execute the noise mitigation policy that the council has approved; and, demand accountability.

"The results that we the citizens of this county seek, is an honest effort on the part of our county government to be solution oriented, and to solve real problems for real people.

"Thank you for your time and attention."