

September 2005 Newsletter

Next Meeting:

Wednesday Sept. 14th 8 p.m. Mill Creek Towne Elementary School

Agenda: Vote on Council Committee Recommended Shady Grove Master Plan

Speaker: County Council Member Phil Andrews
Karen Kumm from Park and Planning will be available to answer detailed questions.

Message from Co-President:

Now that the County Council's Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED) has sent its recommended version of the Shady Grove Master Plan to the full Council, it is time for those most affected to make our voices heard before the final vote is taken. (see article below for details) The Plan could result in positive changes for our community if it is done right (library, community center, school, parks, bike and walking paths, etc.) but it could also be a disaster if done poorly (too much density, worse traffic, inadequate parks, overcrowded schools, etc.).

In the coming weeks the Council will start considering the plan. If we all let them know what the community does and does not want, we have a good chance of getting a positive result. Example: Blueberry Hill Park will no longer be considered a back up school site because the community spoke clearly and loudly on that issue.

At our September meeting we will vote on the major points in the plan to support or oppose, and come up with our list of needed changes (like providing a community center). Please attend this important meeting and help shape the future of Derwood and the Shady Grove community.

Kay Guinane

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Shady Grove Master Plan Ready for Council Action

The County Council is beginning its work sessions on the Shady Grove Master Plan September 6 beginning at 9:50 a.m., even though they do not expect to take action until after they receive the Legislative Oversight Office's report on the problems relating to the Clarksburg development. That report is not expected until November.

The Alliance has been working to get a community center back into the plan, after the PHED committee took it out at the recommendation of the county executive. There are several other problems with the plan as it stands, including excessive density, inadequate park space, lack of county funding for public facilities and the possibility that some county service park functions will not be moved out of the planning area, but put at the corner of Crabbs Branch and Shady Grove Rd.

We are still going through the PHED committee's recommendations, and will have a summary at our September meeting.

Links:

PHED Committee Recommendations to County Council- Shady Grove Master Plan 8/30/05 at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/agpackets/050906/2005090605-07.pdf> Note: This document is over 100 pages long, about half attachments. A summary will be available at our September 14 Alliance meeting.

Staff memo to PHED Committee for Sept. 7 meeting on community center, streetscaping and transferable development rights at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/compackets/050907/20050907phed03.pdf> Note: This is a 34 page document. The first 9 pages are the memo, the rest is attachments.

See the Gazette *Council Returns to a Morass of Planning* 8/31/05 at http://www.gazette.net/stories/083105/montcou214923_31886.shtml

Gazette *Council Might Delay Plan for Shady Grove* 8/31/05 at http://www.gazette.net/stories/083105/olnew233933_31888.shtml

ICC Update: It's Not Over Yet!

Even though the environmental impact statement will not be released until October, the Ehrlich administration is acting like it has all the approvals it needs to start building on its preferred route, the old Master Plan route.

The ICC map was in the *Washington Post* on July 12. Here is the link here:
http://media.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/metro/graphics/icc_071205.pdf

You can enlarge this map and see exactly what is happening in Derwood. Look to see which are bridges over roads (Shady Grove) and which are underpasses (Redland, Needwood, Muncaster). The current plan calls for the ICC to pass behind houses near Epsilon Drive, then go underneath Redland Road. A 40 foot deep, 150 foot wide trench passes under Redland, like I-66 inside the beltway. Then the ICC makes a right turn and parallels Redland, makes a left turn and slices through Cashell, continues over Lake Needwood, then under Needwood Road, then turns right and goes under Muncaster.

The Alliance supports the Gude Drive alternative to this ICC route. Overpasses at intersections on Gude would allow for through traffic, and divert traffic into an industrial area on a road already built.

Links:

See the Washington Post story *More Intense Development Likely With MD Connector* at <http://www.savecommunities.org/mdconnector.html>

Questions About the Connector, from the *Washington Post* July 13, 2005

Q: Now that Maryland has selected a route, what happens next?

A: The state will submit a final environmental impact statement to the federal government this fall. The federal government is expected to make a final decision by the end of the year.

Q: The Environmental Protection Agency wrote to the state this year expressing concerns about the impact of the southern route. Is that still its position?

A: The EPA continues to have concerns but has indicated that the state's solutions might be satisfactory.

Q: How will the state come up with the project's estimated \$2.4 billion cost?

A: Maryland plans to finance \$750 million by borrowing against future federal funds. The remainder will come from a combination of existing state money and toll revenue.

Q: What happened to the bike trail that was supposed to run parallel to the road?

A: It was cut from the plan to reduce costs. There will be trails near the intercounty connector but not along the entire road.

Q: When is the earliest the state could break ground?

A: State officials are confident that they can break ground next year.

Q: When would the road open?

A: 2010

Memorial Dedication for Wally Keene September 10th

**WALLY KEENE
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th at 10:00 AM
PLEASE COME!**

(CORNER OF MONONA TERRACE AND INDIANOLA DRIVE)

You may have noticed a plaque on a large stone of the garden around the bench area at the corner of Monona Terrace and Indianola Drive dedicating the area in memory of Wally Keene, a long-time Alliance leader who died suddenly a few years ago. On Saturday, September 10th there will be a formal dedication ceremony, to which all Alliance members are invited.

Councilmember Phil Andrews will join us, along with Hollybrooke neighbors, to give tribute to Wally's community spirit. Wally's wife, Christie Carrico, his oldest daughter and a cousin from Annapolis, and one of Wally's best friends will attend.

Wally was active in the Hollybrooke HOA and served the Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance Board for several years, including the positions of Vice President and Co-President and Secretary.

Wally's contributions to our community were many—he dedicated himself to service with a “can do” approach—a true leadership style. His passing was a great loss to his family and our community. We hope that as many of you as possible can attend the memorial dedication ceremony on September 10th.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Alliance needs your help! Here are two ways you can make a contribution:

1. Become our delegate or alternate delegate to the Montgomery County Civic Federation. This means attending one meeting a month, and passing information back to the Alliance. If you are interested, contact Kay Guinane at shadygrovecivicalliance@hotmail.com for details.
2. On Saturday September 24 we will have a table at the Giant on Crabbs Branch and Shady Grove Road to sign up new members and get signatures on letters to the county council about the Master Plan. Prime time to catch shoppers is between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Can you volunteer to take a one or two hour shift working at this table?

Alliance Meeting Schedule 2005-2006

We have moved our meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. The time, 8. p.m., is the same and the location will continue to be Mill Creek Towne Elementary School. Upcoming meetings dates are:

September 14, October 19, November 9, December 14, January 11, February 8 and March 8. Dates for the April and May meetings will be announced in the winter.