

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2010

A Stream Runs Through it

Towson isn't the Eastern Shore, or even Annapolis. Instead of skipjacks and sailboats, it has hundreds of small, unnamed waterways that course through neighborhoods, behind commercial buildings and near apartment complexes. Southland Hills has its own such stream, near the intersection of Dixie Drive and Chesapeake. It may not be widely known, but those who know it are grateful it's there. And the county has noticed it, too; it would like to include the stream in a county-wide study of stream habitat that it expects to begin next year.

Irene Mansfield welcomes such a study. She's lived next to the stream since 1964, when people in the area used it as a dumping ground for trash and debris. But once they saw Mansfield and her husband, Bill, lovingly landscaping the gardens, the littering stopped – a high fence didn't hurt, either.

The stream is home to salamanders, minnows and other small creatures. The county built a stone underpass that makes it look more like a castle over a river with rapids, albeit a shallow one.

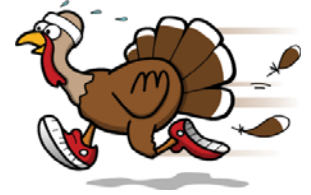
Mansfield watches over the stream just as she does the rest of her lush gardens, which were featured in *Southern Living* in 2000. Her home was the Towson Azalea House in 1998. And she is one of only a few dozen households in Baltimore County that has a tree dating back to the American Revolution – it's a White Ash.

Near the stream, Irene has her own small pond of goldfish. Despite changes in the weather, Irene said, the stream has always flowed.

"It's never stopped. It slowed up when there was a drought, but it didn't stop," Irene said. "What amazes me is that young people come by and ask me, 'when did you get that stream put in?' They can't believe a freshwater stream could be here."

Turkey Trot Runs through Southland Hills

If you wake up Turkey Day morning and here loud footsteps coming by your bedroom window, it's nothing to worry about. It's probably just the hundreds of runners participating in the Towson YMCA's annual Turkey Trot, a 5k run that benefits the Y's Safe Kids Campaign.



The run starts at 8 a.m. Registration has closed, but you can always pay \$35 to enter on race day. The race begins and ends at the Y but goes through Southland Hills and West Towson. You might want to make any last-minute grocery runs the night before – some streets will be closed.

New food options open in Towson

Speaking of restaurants, Towson just got what is probably the county's first Cuban restaurant, Havana Roads. If you can get a table, go! It's inexpensive and excellent. Other new additions include Taste, a Mediterranean restaurant, as well as an expanded Towson Hot Bagels.

Dues Letter to Come, with Survey

Last year, Southland Hills had a record high number of people returning their dues letters. The board appreciates that – it is these contributions that allow us to host events like movie night, the Halloween Haunt, February Fling, etc.

This year's letter will include a neighborhood survey, which Therese McAllister, VP SHIA, has been working on. Please fill it out; the information will help us better serve this community. And please return your dues to our Treasurer, Cathy Berger as soon as you can.

YMCA possibly moving in to 301 West Chesapeake

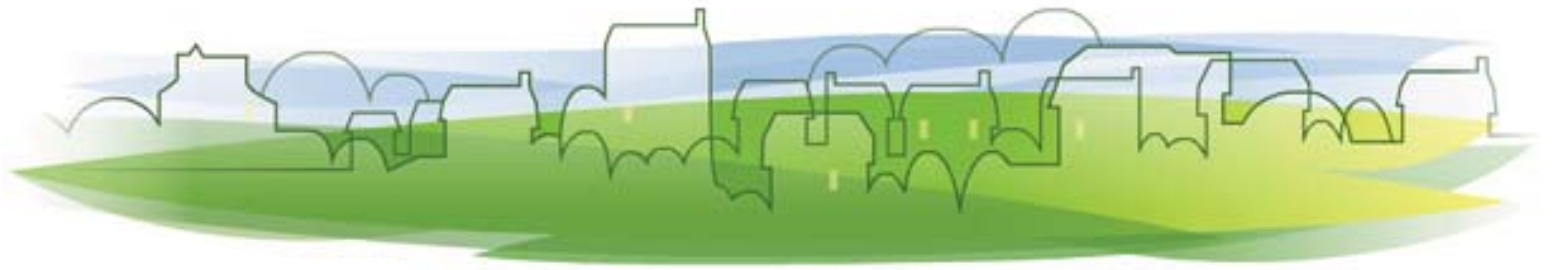


Many of us have been wondering the fate of 301. W. Chesapeake, the site of the old Jemicy School. It's a gateway to our neighborhood, and it's important that whatever lands there helps smooth the transition from busy Bosley Avenue to our residential streets. Earlier this fall, the board heard a proposal from Obrecht Properties to put a day-care center in that space. The latest report is that the day-care center will be sponsored by the YMCA. The board liked the concept, but suggested that the developer consult a landscape architect so that the first thing people see when turning onto Chesapeake was not a parking lot.

We are happy to report that a landscape architect from the neighborhood has come up with a beautiful design which was presented to Nicole Nesbitt and the president of West Towson Neighborhood Association, Josh Glikin. The plan incorporates many designs that promote greenery and trees over concrete.

Further, Obrecht Properties is also going to redevelop the office building next door, which the Y will also for administrative purposes.

For young families in the neighborhood, the option of a YMCA gives a choice, within walking distance, for daycare. This is a wonderful addition to our community. Construction could potentially being early next year on both properties. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole at the president's email address, southlandhillsresident@yahoo.com.



Towson schedules holiday events

Button up your overcoat and stroll into town for the following events:

Tree Lighting Ceremony/Parade/Santa on the fire truck/Santa's Workshop: Saturday, Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m. on Allegheny Avenue between York and Washington Street.

Fire and Ice Nite: features a look at the ice sculptures around town, plus street performers and s'mores and chestnuts roasted by local chefs: Friday, Dec. 10, 6-9 P.m.

Breakfast with the Grinch at Ridgely and Ferrens: 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. Holiday movie to follow.

Breakfast with Frosty at Ridgely and Ferrens: 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 18. Holiday movie to follow.

For more information, visit <http://www.towsonchamber.com/>

Towson Continues Expanding

Towson University has announced its plans build a new public safety building along Towsontown Blvd behind the homes on Alabama Rd. The SHIA Board has been in contact with a group at the University to form a partnership that allows our residents an opportunity to provide suggestions and input during the building. Recently, two committees have been formed: 1 – to work with the University regarding light and noise concerns and 2 – to work with the University during the construction of the public safety building. If you are interested in joining either of these committees please contact Nicole Nesbitt at the president's email address.

Halloween Haunt



Thanks to all who attended and helped plan the Southland Hills Halloween Haunt, which was held on its rain day this year at the Presbyterian Home. It was a pleasure to see so many neighborhood children and pets in great costumes. Thanks to all of our costume contest judges also, and to Danelle Metz and Jackie Villet, our new social chairs, for all their hard work. And, as usual, thanks to Kate Buchanan for helping to organize the event.

Santa Claus is coming to Southland Hills



The neighborhood's annual breakfast with Santa will be held from 9:30-11 on Dec. 11 at the Presbyterian Home. Please note that we will not be caroling this year through the home after breakfast.

Also, Santa will be visiting the neighborhood again on Dec. 13, this time on the Lutherville Fire Station's truck. We are moving the stop to the corner of Southland Court and Dixie Drive this year. Check your email for times. Our social committee is still working on setting up the details.

One fun thing to do...

If you haven't been already, the Shops at Kenilworth is displaying its annual Holiday Train Garden. The model trains feature replicas of many of the mall's stores, with hidden characters – Clifford! Blue's Clues! Spongebob! – that are sure to delight the little ones. The mall is offering extended holiday hours, too. For more information, go to www.theshopsatkenilworth.com/events.htm.



**The Southland Hills Improvement Association
wishes everyone a happy and safe
holiday season!**