

# The Capital

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## Our say

### The old-fashioned Riva Market

THE "HALF SMOKES" and "Hot Dogs" sign over the Pepsi logo never seemed to get painted, and the gray paint on the wooden steps was worn away by thousands of pairs of feet.

It's got an aura of the 1930s about it, almost like out of a movie about a small town's general store — the Riva Food Market. A musty hominess about it that for years has made it a welcome stopping-off place for hot fresh coffee for hundreds of people going to work. While the antiseptic convenience stores began offering decaf with the orange top along with regular coffee, this place said, "No decaf here, thank you."

It's a stop for small contractors heading off to an early start, for area homemakers to send their kids for a loaf of bread and a Popsicle treat. If your cupboards are bare it certainly isn't the place to stock up, but if you need bread, there's always Wonder white or light, or hamburger rolls. Even at 8 in the morning, the hot dogs and half-smokes are hot, fat and fragrant.

And yet, the more things south of the South River changed, the more the Riva Food Market has stayed the same.

Except that now Opal Jackson, the store's owner, has just won a rezoning amendment from the Anne Arundel County Council from residential to commercial so that she can expand the tiny market — about the size of a large living room — located at the southwest corner of Riva Road and Sweet Gum Road, in Riva.

Of course it will make it nicer for all of us who need a loaf of rye, perhaps, instead of white, but we somehow wish that the zoning change will mean no new paint on the front steps, no change in the smell, no change in the aura.

Hey, anybody, can an aura change be denied?

### Ginger Cove a welcome addition

GOOD NEIGHBORS are tough to find. However, Ginger Cove, a retirement center located at the end of Riva Trace Parkway southwest of Annapolis, has been hailed from the start as a welcome addition to the community.

Admittedly, it's out of the financial reach of many people, but it's a terrific place for those who can afford it.

For an entrance fee ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000, and a "condominium fee" of \$1,000 to \$2,000 per month, senior citizens can anticipate a life free of the kinds of stresses most other senior citizens face elsewhere: no laws to mow, no housing maintenance to worry about, no concerns about "what happens if I get sick and can't take care of myself?"

There is an on-site, long-term health care center with 43 beds, activities, a beauty shop, an arts and crafts center, and a bus so residents don't have to worry about getting to town to shop.

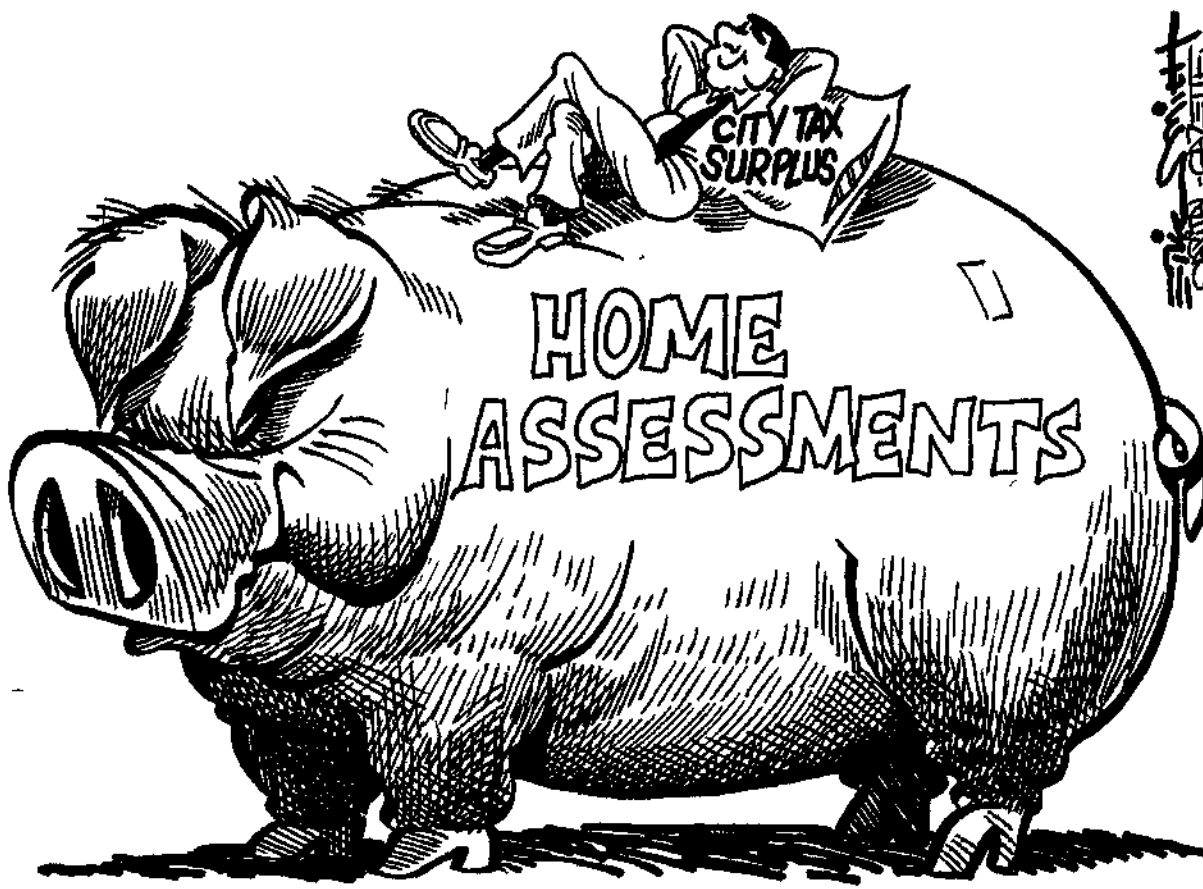
The brainchild of two local women — Mrs. Malcolm Baker and Mrs. S.P. Fullinwider — who saw a need seven years ago for a community for well-off seniors, Ginger Cove recently opened its doors to the first section of 162 apartments. Only 12 remain vacant. When completed, the \$40 million complex will have 243 apartments spread over 30 acres.

Large cities around the country have had such retirement centers for some years now, drawing on larger populations to fill them. But until now, Annapolis, with its wealth of retired military personnel and other retirees who flock here for all that this area has to offer, has been denied such an undertaking. The fact that Ginger Cove's units are sold out almost before they're built is a testament to the need for such a facility here.

And but for the farsightedness of two area women, Ginger Cove would still not be here.

On behalf of the entire community, welcome!

## HIGH ON THE HOG



## Readers' views

### Coverage

Sir:

On behalf of the trustees, staff and volunteers of the Hammond-Harwood House Association, I wish to extend hearty thanks to the staff of *The Capital* for their excellent coverage of our recent Buckland Birthday Party on Aug. 13. Our most sincere gratitude goes to: Mary Felter and Fran Jaques of Community News, Nancy Ritter of "Arundel Artist," Susan Gross of "Child's Play," and photographer Michael Majer for their support of this event.

Thanks to *The Capital's* fair and comprehensive coverage, William Buckland's 25th birthday party was a great success for all who participated, volunteers and visitors alike.

The educational and community programs offered at the Hammond-Harwood House are the most important part of the association's purpose. Now, in our 50th anniversary year, we reaffirm the significance of this purpose, and are thankful for the support we receive from *The Capital* and its writers.

BARBARA A. BRAND,  
administrator  
Hammond-Harwood House

### Zoning dispute

Sir:

For the past year and a half our community has been involved in a legal battle over a zoning dispute. Now that our particular dispute has been resolved, we would like to say a few words and thank many people.

We are a new community in Arnold but many of us living here are not new to Annapolis and its many surrounding areas. This has always been a beautiful place to live and work and we were fighting to keep it that way. Growth is a positive thing but when it is allowed to happen too quickly then it becomes a negative factor which has an effect on many things. In this year of comprehensive rezoning, many communities and individuals have been voicing their concerns and asking the system to please slow down! We hope their voices have been heard.

We would like to thank many people for helping us. Our thanks to the 1,000-plus individuals who signed our petitions, attended hearings, and gave their support where needed. Thanks to our fellow communities of Indian Hills, Winchester, Cape St. Claire, Amberley, Martins Cove, the Meadows, and especially to the Lower Broadneck Federation whose representatives come from many more communities than time or space allows us to recognize individually.

Many thanks to Councilwoman Carole Baker for her competent and conscientious assistance. Jane Thompson and Eve Rose, reporters for *The Capital*, deserve praise for

their thorough reporting. And last, but not least, a debt of gratitude goes to our attorney, Roy Hoagland.

JUDY PARKS  
Sturbridge Homeowners Assoc. Inc.  
Board of Directors

### Sweet gesture

Sir:

I am writing this letter to publicly thank Gary Middleton of Middleton's Ice Cream Parlor. On August 14, Mr. Middleton, owner of Middleton's Ice Cream Parlor in Crofton Plaza, provided a special Ice Cream Social for the patients at Hope House and their family members. Hope House is a non-profit drug/alcohol rehabilitation center located in Crownsville.

The social was a special treat. In addition, Gary provided an array of toppings so that everyone could make their own sundae. Thanks again Gary, it was really a sweet thing to do.

KAREN KOSSMANN  
Hope House

### Ritchie Highway

Sir:

Your editorial of Aug. 19 shouts, "No more strip zoning on Ritchie Highway." When you composed that message you were standing too close to the elephant to see what the beast really looks like!

While you condemn traffic jams and accidents at busy intersections, you make the mistake of blaming traffic and accidents on the "insidious spread of stores, offices, restaurants and the like."

The real culprit for these problems is Ritchie Highway. It has been inadequate since 1974. Sadly, the situation is going to get worse and worse because there is absolutely nothing in State Highway Administration schedules to correct, in the foreseeable future, the catastrophic problem detailed below.

Consider these facts: Traffic engineers recognize that when average daily traffic exceeds 36,000 vehicles on a four-lane, divided suburban highway, it is generally perceived as "very heavy congested traffic." State highway traffic counts from 1974 to 1986 at three critical locations clearly show Ritchie Highway has not only become "the longest parking lot in the state" but surely the most dangerous.

Following is the traffic volume and the percent above intersection of 36,000 vehicles:  
1974: Routes 2 and 50 — 38,300 (106 percent); North of College Parkway — 40,900 (113 percent), Robinson Road area (not available).  
1986: Routes 2 and 50 — 53,275 (148 percent); north of College Parkway — 60,492 (169 percent); Robinson Road area — 50,425 (141 percent).

One hundred and sixty-nine percent above intersection capacity is nothing less than Russian roulette! But what is to be done? The answer is simple enough — widen Ritchie Highway to six lanes. That solution has been known since before 1968 and the right-of-way has been available since that time!

Why hasn't something been done about the problem which is obvious to thousands of drivers every day? Nothing has been done because the citizens of the county, their political servants at Arundel Center and *The Capital* (the county's best bullhorn for important messages) have failed to be sufficiently conscious or concerned to make noises too loud for the State Highway Administration and Governor Schaefer — a former Route 2 commuter — to ignore!

Mr. Editor, if you really want to shoot big elephants, use your powerful weapon to aim at Ritchie Highway and the State Highway Administration. Governor Schaefer might just join you in the hunt. If you succeed, the result still won't be scenic but it will sure make life easier for thousands of citizen-voters to travel on six lanes instead of crawling on four!

W.H. BELL  
Arnold

### Good city run

Sir:

As a recent participant in the Annapolis 10-Mile Run, I would like to commend the Annapolis Striders, city and county police, and the hundreds of volunteers who made the race so much fun and well-organized. The course highlighted many scenic views of Annapolis, down Main Street, through the Naval Academy, over the old Severn River Bridge, St. Margaret's and back to the Navy-Marine Corps Stadium. The course itself promotes the city's charm and history.

The Striders not only provided a first-class event but promoted the city of Annapolis on a "running tour."

Congratulations on a super event.  
KEVIN MURNANE, director  
Public relations  
North Arundel Hospital

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## Animal house

### Humane Society scam?

The Humane Society of the United States solicits your donations with a tug on the heart strings — "the animals need us now" — and a promise that your money will be "put into action on the front line immediately."

But the non-profit charity, based in Washington, does not advertise everything that happens on the "front line." For example, the society bought its president a \$310,000 home in Maryland last year. And the society's treasurer wrote himself \$85,000 in checks last year as reimbursements for lease payments and improvements on ocean-front real estate in Maine.

Recent investigations reveal that the Humane Society's board of directors never authorized these and other dubious financial deals arranged by its officers — deals that could threaten the tax-exempt status of the society.

The situation has until now been kept from the public eye, but board members first learned about it late last year. In December, during a 10-hour session, the board formed an audit committee and ordered an independent investigation of the Humane Society's finances.



Jack Anderson

In April, the Washington law firm of Harmon and Weiss completed a critical "preliminary" report spotlighting the "self-dealing" transactions which benefitted Humane Society President John Hoyt and Vice President-Treasurer Paul Irwin. "Excessive compensation payments" for Hoyt and Irwin have endangered the Humane Society's tax-exempt status, the report concluded.

The law firm found that on May 4, 1987, the Humane Society bought Hoyt's house in Germantown, Md., for \$310,000. Hoyt had lived there since 1970 and still lives in the home, but now rent free. The Humane Society provides the house for its president in lieu of a portion of his compensation.

The value of that house is in dispute. The Humane Society, in its 1987 tax filings, listed the rental value at \$600 a month. But the Harmon and Weiss report said the market value was between \$2,500 and \$3,000 a month.

In October 1987, the Humane Society gave Irwin, the treasurer, \$85,000, allegedly to reimburse him for payments he had made on the lease of 11 acres of ocean-front land and restoration of a cabin on the land in Phippsburg, Maine. A second investigation commissioned by the board reported that Irwin wrote himself the checks without first consulting with the society's lawyer or a majority of the board.

A three-person Deferred Compensation Committee approved the expenses for Hoyt and Irwin without asking the majority of the board, although the Humane Society bylaws require the board to set the president's compensation, according to the Harmon and Weiss report.

Hoyt and Irwin maintain the two purchases were for the good of the Humane Society. Hoyt's home allegedly will be used by future presidents. The Humane Society originally was to have an interest in the ocean-front property, but the board has since decided to consider the \$85,000 as a loan and Irwin must pay it back, a source in the Humane Society told our associate, Jim Lynch.

Hoyt, Irwin and the society's lawyer did not respond to our repeated requests for interviews.

The Harmon and Weiss report alleges that the Humane Society has prepared and filed "false documents" with the federal government. The society and certain directors could face civil penalties because of those documents, and possible criminal penalties for "aiding and abetting in Hoyt's and Irwin's understatement of income," according to the report.

Not surprisingly, the board hired a lawyer, Jacob A. Stein, in April for a second opinion.

Stein recommended some changes in procedure, but said nothing criminal had taken place and the Humane Society's tax exempt status was not in jeopardy.

With two divergent reports, the division among the board members continues. The controversy comes at a time of prosperity for the Humane Society. In 1976, its revenues were \$1.6 million, but by 1986, the figure had risen to \$3.3 million.

MINI-EDITORIAL — Twenty years ago, it would have been fodder for a grocery store tabloid — Sonny Bono elected mayor of Palm Springs and then recruited as a big-name celebrity to help the Republican presidential campaign. Truth is stranger than fiction. At this rate, in a future election Sonny Bono will be the presidential candidate and the Grateful Dead will be stumping for him.

## The mudslingers come out of their holes

You never see them, but the key men in this presidential race are the members of the elite Special Scurrilous Presidential Campaign SWAT Teams. They are stashed away in the bunkers of the candidates' headquarters and their job is to disseminate wild and hairy stories about the opposition. I managed to get into a command post to find out how they operated. There was one man in charge of five political yuppies sitting around the table under an electoral map of the United States.

The man on the phone yelled out, "Upstairs wants us to attack what's-his-name for his soft stance on crime. What can we come up with?"

One of the workers said, "How about our candidate saying that his opponent is not only soft on crime but he is the Hillside Serial Killer of Cape Cod?"

"It is dirty enough," someone agreed.



Art Buchwald

"But upstairs will never let our guy say that."

"All the better. We'll insert it in a TV commercial, and then our candidate will insist he had nothing to do with the charge and deplores those kind of political tactics in a presidential campaign. It's a twofor. We get to play dirty and he gets to play clean with the same story."

"Good going," the man in charge said. "Now we have to do something to dramatize the opposition's stance on defense."

"I've been working on that one," said Red Suspenders. "We will say the reason what's-his-name is weak on defense is that he has refused to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag for the last 20 years."

"We better trial-balloon it, just in case people don't buy it. Anything happen on us maintaining that what's-his-name burned the U.S. flag during the war in Grenada?"

"We're putting out a story that it was not the candidate but his mother who did it."

"Will they believe it?"

"Of course they will. How could anybody make something like that up?"

"Has anyone dealt with the 'God Bless America' issue?"

"We're going to leak a story that if he is

elected President what's-his-name has promised the ACLU that he will ban the song from all three networks, if he has to stack the Supreme Court to do it."

"Our man will gladly insert it into his speech without asking us where we got it."

"We can get more votes by accusing their side of a 'God Bless America' ban than explaining how we're going to balance the budget."

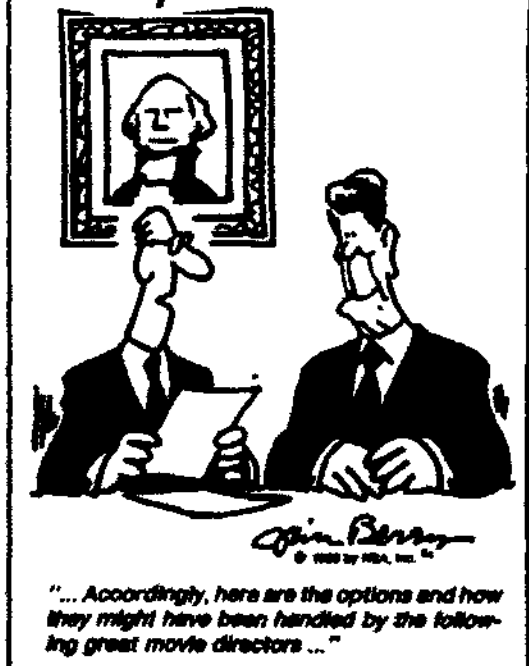
"Speaking of votes, the boss wants us to give him something as good as the stuff we put out on what's-his-name's mental health," Striped Tie said.

"Tell him we're working on it. What do you guys think of this? We say that if Shorty is elected, anybody over 5-foot-1 will lose his right to bear arms. That will scare the hell out of Texas."

"That's a little far-fetched. Who is going to believe it?"

"The people."

## Berry's World



"... Accordingly, here are the options and how they might have been handled by the following great movie directors ..."