

## Facelift along Great Mills Rd. ready to start

### Contracts awarded for road, water, sewer improvements in Lexington Park

Friday, June 19, 2009

By JASON BABCOCK  
Enterprise Staff writer

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Things are going to get messy this summer in Lexington Park along Great Mills Road, but in the end, one of the oldest subdivisions in the county will be sitting among new infrastructure, which should help to revitalize the neighborhood and buoy property values.

Bids have been awarded to contractors to replace the water and sewer lines under the Patuxent Park neighborhood and under Great Mills Road. After that work is done, the gutters, roads and sidewalks will be replaced in the workforce neighborhood and Great Mills Road will physically look better with safer pedestrian lanes.

#### Meeting set

A public informational meeting to explain the scope of the work in the Patuxent Park neighborhood in Lexington Park will be held on Tuesday, July 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall at 46900 South Shangri-La Drive in Lexington Park. Mailings will be sent out to the owners of the homes there and letters will be hung on doors for the renters to also explain the upcoming work. For more information about the work, call the department of public works and transportation at 301-863-8400.

The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission last week

awarded Gradient Construction its segment of the work to be done in the first phase at Patuxent Park for \$1.1 million. MetCom's portion of the work is \$516,506.

From Midway Drive to Bunker Hill Road in the area of Nicolet Park, sewer and water lines will be replaced or relined. Then the drainage, roads and sidewalks will be replaced over them, according to the designs of the department of public works and transportation.

Before the contractor gets started on work, "We want to hold a community forum," to inform the neighborhood what to expect during the work, Chet Frederick, chief engineer with MetCom, said Wednesday.

"We're excited," he said. "It's long overdue, it really is."

The first families moved into the homes at Patuxent Park in April 1947, as a new neighborhood to support workers of Patuxent River Naval Air Station. There are more than 300 homes there now.

The gutters in the neighborhood have long since crumbled, along with the roads and sidewalks. "It's just a mess," Frederick said.

A project years in the works, the bid was awarded to Rustler Construction for the streetscaping on Great Mills Road, which includes state and federal funds. The work to improve and add sidewalks in some places, replace water and sewer lines under the road, and other aesthetic improvements will be made on 1.4 miles from Coral Drive to the entrance of St. Mary's Square, where the owner is also making improvements to the shopping center.

The contract is \$4.6 million. MetCom's work totals \$1.5 million. Some of the infrastructure under the road dates back to the 1950s, Frederick said. "Some of this stuff should last 100 years after we do it," he said.

"The dust will start flying this summer," said Robin Finnacom, director of the Community Development Corporation, which

oversees revitalization efforts for Lexington Park. "This is the culmination of many years of hard work to push forward some of the larger infrastructure reconstruction projects that are needed in Lexington Park," she said.

The streetscaping project on Great Mills Road should take 18 months to complete. The work in Patuxent Park, which is funded locally, will "stretch out over the next several years to complete," she said.

"It is an incredibly exciting time," she said, and the work shows that "revitalization is serious and continuing."

In another project, MetCom awarded another contract to AB&H Excavating for \$551,544 to expand a sewer line from Rue Purchase Road to Buck Hewitt Road in Lexington Park. The line will serve new development including a new hotel on Rue Purchase Road, run under Route 235 and connect to the main sewage interceptor line that runs down to Lexington Park's sewage treatment plant.

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release:  
June 18, 2009

For more information contact:  
Karen Everett  
301-475-4200 ext. 1342

### **Patuxent Park Revitalization Project – Phase 1 Launch**

The Patuxent Park Revitalization Project – Phase 1 has begun and a Public Information Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department Social Hall in Lexington Park to discuss the project.

“This is a significant investment in a traditional neighborhood,” explained County Commissioner President Jack Russell. “Patuxent Park was built in the 1940’s and this subdivision remains a vital neighborhood. These improvements will enhance the quality of life for current and future residents and will preserve and revitalize Patuxent Park as a desirable place to live.”

Improvements to be made for Phase 1 include the reconstruction of roads and sidewalks, installation of a storm drainage system and stormwater management facility, and installation of new water/sewer lines. Phase 1 improvements include the following roads: Midway Drive (from MD 246 to Bunker Hill Drive), Bunker Hill Drive, Princeton Drive and Gambier Place. The meeting will also discuss project funding and scheduling for all phases of the project.

While work on this project is underway, residents may experience temporary inconveniences, such as parking restrictions, roadway lane closures, construction noise and construction vehicles in the area.

All interested persons are invited to attend the Public Meeting to present comments and suggestions. Please contact the County’s Department of Public Works & Transportation at (301) 863-8400 for more information, or if you cannot attend the meeting and would like to provide comment. Any reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities should be requested by contacting the St. Mary’s County Public Information Officer at (301) 475-4200, Ext. 1340.

The meeting will be videotaped and broadcast on County Government channel 95. For a schedule for Channel 95, log on to [www.stmarysmd.com](http://www.stmarysmd.com) or call the Public Information Office at 301-475-4200, x1340.

## Public Meeting Notice

Dear Property Owner(s):

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, the St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation and the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission will hold a Public Meeting to provide information regarding construction work to be performed within the Patuxent Park Subdivision as part of the Patuxent Park Revitalization Project – Phase 1. The Public Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at the Bay District Volunteer Fire Department, Company 9 - Social Hall**, located at 46900 South Shangri-La Drive, Lexington Park, Maryland.

Improvements to be made include the reconstruction of roads and sidewalks, installation of a new storm drainage system and stormwater management facility, and installation of new water and sewer lines. Phase 1 improvements will include the following roads: Midway Drive (from Great Mills Road - MD 246 to Bunker Hill Road), Bunker Hill Drive, Princeton Drive, and Gambier Place. Please see the reverse side for a map of the affected streets (Great Mills Road is located at the bottom left of the map). In addition, the meeting will discuss project funding and scheduling for all phases of the revitalization project.

While construction of this project is underway, residents may experience temporary inconveniences such as parking restrictions, roadway lane closures, construction noise and construction vehicles in the area. In an effort to inform those most affected by construction, we will also deliver notices directly to the residents (including tenants) along Phase 1 and work with them individually on these issues.

As a follow-up to our prior notices, meeting and updates to the project; we have selected a contractor and are ready to begin construction. All interested persons are invited to attend the Public Meeting to present their comments and suggestions. If you have any questions in the interim, please do not hesitate to contact this Department.

Very truly yours,

Allen M. Settle  
**Project Manager**  
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