

The Pike Packet

News from The Snickersville Turnpike Association

June 2006

TURNPIKE REPAVING COMPLETE

In early May VDOT completed the repaving of the last section of Snickersville Turnpike, which was between the two bridges just west of Airmont. Despite projected delays which might have caused slippage until November, VDOT did an excellent job, and we commended them. Supplemental work along the shoulders of the entire Turnpike is ongoing.

HIBBS BRIDGE SCHEDULE

A problem has arisen in obtaining the required environmental permit. The Virginia Marine Resource Commission has called for a "Habitat Assessment for freshwater mussels" to be conducted. This assessment, due to be completed by the end of June, hopefully will conclude "with reasonable confidence that habitat is unsuitable for mussels and that mussels are absent from the construction zone."

Consequently, the construction Invitation For Bid; previously scheduled for 9 May, is now planned to go out in "early fall." Recently, a bulge on the northeast side of the bridge's stone exterior occurred. VDOT is planning to install a metal plate to add additional support until the rehabilitation work begins.

BACON FORT

The Snickersville Turnpike Association has recently been working with Mitchell & Best, developers of Fieldstone Farm, to locate a pull off with historic signage identifying the original site of Bacon Fort, where in 1769, when it had become an ordinary, George Washington, his wife, and her daughter "slept there" on their way from Mt. Vernon to Berkeley Springs, (now) West Virginia.

Previous information indicated it had been built as a fort sometime between 1742 and 1750. Recent data confirms that the fort was there in 1755, and additionally that during the French and Indian War (1754-60) George Washington ordered Lt. Bacon (I) to construct other nearby forts.

BIKE/HIKE THE PIKE

STA will be holding a family fun Bike-the-Pike and Hike-the-Pike event on Sunday morning, October 15th. Both will start at the Bluemont Community Center with the bikers traveling to the turnaround point just west of the flashing light at Route 690. The hikers' route is to Airmont and return, accompanied by a band on a flatbed truck.. Tired bikers and hikers may return to Bluemont at any time along the way.

At the conclusion of this event, food and music will be provided at the Bluemont Community Center. Safety issues are being coordinated with appropriate Loudoun County officials, and all residences along the route will be alerted beforehand.