

The Hillandale Bulletin

February, 2003

See us at: <http://www.hillandale-md.org/>

or

Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org

February Association Meeting

This month's Hillandale Neighborhood Association meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 26, at 8 pm. As usual the meeting will be held at the CHI Centers. There is no scheduled speaker for this meeting as the Executive Board decided that there is a need to devote a night to local and individual issues. The meeting will feature round table briefings and discussions about various items.

Recently neighbor meeting have featured very light attendance. It is the goal of the Executive Board to encourage residents of the community to come to the meetings and expand participation. We encourage you to come with your questions and concerns about our community. There is a lot going on and we need to hear from you.

Snow Removal

In last month's Hillandale Bulletin, we mentioned the requirement to remove snow from your sidewalk following a storm. But what if you are unable to do so for reasons of ill health or other infirmity? Help is available! Call the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600, and be connected to a volunteer. Those who want to volunteer to shovel snow for the elderly and disabled (remember you may need the service some day) can also call the center.

Officers for Next Year

Even though it is only February, it is time to think of officers for your Citizens Association for next year. The Nominating Committee will be formed next month, and nominees announced in April. Your Association is always in need of more good input. Why not consider putting a few hours a month of your volunteer time toward helping to keep Hillandale a great place to live? Call 301-434-1707 and leave your name and phone number if you would like to learn more

Crime Watch Organization

Recently the leadership of the Hillandale Crime Watch has reorganized some of the Crime Watch Districts. They have taken the 4 smallest districts and combined them into two average size districts. Districts 8 and 14 are now combined into a new District 14, with Jane Stowe as District Organizer. District 13 and 15 are combined into a new District 15, with Gari Bain as the District 15 Organizer. Those with the Hillandale Directory may want to mark these changes on their District maps in the center part of the Directory. We will leave it to future generations to wonder what happened to Districts 8 and 13.

Hillandale Directory

Due to printing problems the directories were not ready at the scheduled time. By now, most of those who have paid their dues have received a copy. It is difficult to keep the directory up to date. For example more than 20 changes were made between the time it went to the printer and deliveries to Hillandale citizens commenced. We do make every effort to keep the Directory as correct as possible. If you note changes, please leave word at our E-mail address, president@hillandale-md.org, or by calling 301-434-1707.

If you have an announcement for the Bulletin, we would be glad to post your announcement. Any group or organization associated with the community is welcome to submit announcements to us. We reserve the right to reject or edit any announcements and will post them on a first come basis as space permits. You can send your announcements to the email address listed in the masthead above. Remember that each Bulletin comes out around the 20th of the month, so date specific announcements should be given to us well in advance. The Bulletin generally goes to print on the first Friday of the month.

Smoke Detectors in your Home

Montgomery County has expanded the requirement for smoke detectors. One smoke detector must be installed in every sleeping area and at least one smoke detector in or near each stairway for all homes built after July 1, 1978. Before this date, just one on each level. Furthermore, county law states that upon change of occupancy, whether by lease or sale, the seller or lessor must ensure compliance. (MC Ord. 22-96)

However, this is not strictly enforced. The Fire Marshall's office uses the permit date to determine the standard. Here are the guidelines you should follow for your home:

- a. Built before July 1975, battery or hard-wired smoke detector outside sleeping areas and one on every level.
- b. Built July 1, 1975 to January 1, 1989, Hardwired only outside sleeping areas and one on each level.
- c. Built July 11, 1989 to July 1, 1990, hard-wired and interconnected smoke detector in each sleeping area and on every story.
- d. Built July 1, 1990 to April 10, 1995, same as c. above but must have battery backup.
- e. Built after April 10, 1995, same as d. above, except install a smoke detector in every bedroom.

It is important to note that if you have a major improvement done to your home such as an addition, where the contractor is required to pull a permit, then the contractor is required by law to retro fit your home to the latest County standards. With the shakeout in the insurance industry since the 9/11 disaster, home insurers are becoming much more strict about code violations in residential properties. For this reason and for your own personal safety, you should be sure that your home is in compliance.

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Did you know that you can read the Bulletin online? You can view it at the new Hillandale web page well before it is printed and sent to your home. Just go to the web address listed on our masthead.

The Cresthaven Elementary School PTA is holding a tea for prospective parents Friday, February 21 from 8:00 to 9:00 am. If you are considering sending your child to our neighborhood school, come meet current parents and the principal! Learn about teachers, the PTA, after-school programs, the gifted and talented program and more.

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