

The Hillandale Bulletin

January 2013

See us at: www.hillandale-md.org or Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org
Ross Sutton: Editor

HCA General Meeting January 30, 7:30-9:00

At CHI, 10501 New Hampshire Ave

Are you thinking about making your home more energy efficient? Do you need ideas of how to get the most savings for the least investment? Are you curious about solar and geothermal systems? If you want to learn about simple approaches to save money and energy, come to the January 30 meeting and get reliable information from Stan Edwards of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Edwards will also brief us on two proposed laws designed to maintain and increase the tree canopy and protect trees in the right-of-way along streets. Under the proposals, trees will have to be specifically considered when sediment permits are required for work on a property, or if 5k ft² of canopy is removed. Under the street tree legislation, ALL tree work done in the right-of way (other than that preformed by utility companies) must be permitted by the County Department of Permitting Services. Given all the large trees and large right-of-way setbacks in Hillandale, these proposed laws are important to understand.

Following our speaker, HCA will have updates on activities and the opportunity for community discussion. Please take the time to attend and participate in the civic activities of the community.

Heads Up:

A warning from MCPD & US Postal Inspectors Owing to thieves stealing outgoing mail containing checks from residential mailboxes, altering and then cashing the checks, an alert was recently issued for all county residents to take care with outgoing mail. Please use the secure USPS collection boxes at the shopping centers or the Post Office for any mail that contains checks or any sensitive information.

Accessory Apartment Code Changes

The Montgomery County Council tentatively approved sweeping changes to the zoning laws regarding accessory apartments during their January 15 Council session. Final action on the legislation is scheduled for February 5.

According to Councilmembers these changes will increase the quantity of affordable housing in the County without incurring any cost to the County government. The effective date of the legislation will be in the spring, possibly as early as May.

The new rules will allow accessory apartments to be granted by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) under defined licensing standards and appealable by neighbors for only factual inaccuracies or insufficient parking. The size of the apartment will limited to less than 50% of the home while occupancy will be limited to a maximum of two adults and (unlimited) children. In order to restrict the number of units in any area, a restriction of 300 ft between homes with apartments is within the standard. For homes not meeting this standard, the owner may apply for a Special Exception.

Following the passage of the legislation, DHCA will be developing the procedures for the licensing process and additional details will be available.

Please Pitch In To Make Hillandale Great!

Lots of Hillandalers do little things to make our community better...like picking up trash flying around the street, or making a phone call for a pothole repair. None of these things are anyone's specific responsibility but if we all "Pitch In" when we see something that needs attention, it helps all. Luckily Montgomery County's 311 System makes it easy to fix "stuff" that need attention, like potholes, or street lights out, or street tree problems. "Call 311--or for many Hillandale phone exchanges call 240-777-0311---To Get It Done.

Virtual Hillandale

More and more people are using the internet to keep up with the world today. In Hillandale we have a number of on line resources for our community to use. Below is a list of web sites and groups that you might find useful.

Web Pages:

* The HCA site includes all kinds of great information about Hillandale news, events, and history.

<http://www.hillandale-md.org/>

* Both of our neighborhood pools, Hillandale Swim and Tennis & West Hillandale Swim Club have loads of information on their pages for summer fun right here in Hillandale.

<http://www.westhillandaleswimclub.org/>

<http://www.hillandalepool.com/>

Email Lists:

* Subscribe to the E-Bulletin to get important updates from the HCA in between the bi-monthly mailings. Send an email to Hillandale-Bulletin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or use the form at the bottom of the HCA web page to start receiving E-Bulletins.

* Keep an eye on the Neighbor Watch mailing list to stay abreast of communications from the Hillandale crime watch. Send an email to Hillandale_Neighborhood_Watch-subscribe@yahoogroups.com to join.

* The Community Discussion group is the email address for talking about all things Hillandale related. Join the conversation by sending an email to Hillandale_Community-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

* The long running Parents Information Exchange (PIX) is the email alias for Hillandale parents to share ideas, gear, and organize family friendly community events. Become a PIX member by sending a note to Janet, the PIX moderator, at jkgall2004@yahoo.com.

Ron Camp Rose Guild

When Ron Camp, a long time resident of Hillandale, passed away he left a rich legacy of close associations with the rose community of the greater Washington DC area. He is remembered for his enthusiastic support of the activities of the Potomac Rose Society and the Arlington Rose Foundation. On 16 October 2012, Ron's widow, Ann Camp, approved the establishment of a Rose Guild in Ron's honor. The Guild meets twice yearly, once in the Fall and once in the Spring, to discuss rose culture, and best growing conditions. Membership is entirely voluntary. There are no dues. And meetings are always informal. Hillandalers who have an interest in roses may contact Lou Giacchino, a Consulting Rosarian with the American Rose Society. Tel 301 434 9073 or LJacchino@aol.com.

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