

The Hillandale Bulletin

May 2008

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

or

Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org

Ross Sutton: Editor

May HCA General Meeting

May's General Meeting Agenda includes a discussion of what Hillandale can do about controlling mosquitoes this summer. In response to community members questions on this issue, Jeannine Dorothy from the Maryland State Mosquito Control Office will discuss treatment of these pesky insects and advise residents on prevention strategies for the problematic Tiger Mosquito. The HCA Board will also report on activities over the 2007-2008 year. Elections for the 2008-2009 Officers will be conducted. Time will be allocated to discuss any other topics of interest to community members.

Please support the HCA by attending and participating at this May General Meeting, Wednesday, May 28, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the CHI multi-purpose room, 10501 New Hampshire Avenue.

Crime Watch

We are sorry to report there have been several recent break-ins in the neighborhood. According to the Montgomery County Crime Reports on-line, these occurred on Devere, Ruppert, Nolcrest, Edgewater and New Hampshire.

Taking precautions and reporting suspicious activity is critically important in deterring crime. Please program the Police Non-Emergency Dispatch phone numbers into your cell phones and land-line speed dials so you can more easily report unusual activity in the neighborhood.

Montgomery County: 301-279-8000

Prince George's County: 301-333-4000

The burglaries seem to target homes when no one is home. The thief takes small, valuable, easily-carried items. This just might be someone "on foot." Please make the effort to be on the look out for suspicious activity. If you are going to be away from home, make sure that your neighbors are aware of it and have them pick up your mail and newspapers. We need to help each other keep our neighborhood safe.

Not So Loud

We have heard a few recent complaints about loud music in the neighborhood. This is a problem that seems to come up every year when the weather warms. Remember that there are laws that govern the amount of noise you can make and the time of day you can make it. Please respect your neighbors and mind the volume when you are making music.

This issue is not just limited to loud music. There are county restrictions that apply to mowers, leaf blowers and barking dogs as well as other sources of loud noise.

If you have a problem with excessive noise, you should call the police non-emergency number and report it. Do not call 911 about loud music.

Spring Garden Awards

It is that time again and our hard working judges have selected five homes to receive the Beautiful Hillandale yard signs. The winners are (in no particular order) the homes located at:

1939 Kimberly Rd.
10228 Green Forest Dr.
4 Schindler Ct.
1106 La Grande Rd
10260 New Hampshire Ave.

Congratulations to the winners and a special thank you to our judges.

Enough Already!

The Building and Grounds Committee of the Church of Our Saviour has taken action regarding the shortcuts taken through the church front driveway to access Powder Mill Road (from Greenacres Drive) or to Greenacres Drive (from Powder Mill Road). For safety reasons, the church driveway will be closed (by locked cables) to through traffic - except for church services and special events. The illegal use of the driveway as a thoroughfare is dangerous and has necessitated the change.

Tips to Rid Your Home of Mosquito Breeding Sites

1. Clean rain gutters to allow water to flow freely.
2. Remove old tires or drill drainage holes in tires used for playground equipment.
3. Store plastic wading pools inside or turn them upside down when not in use.
4. Turn over or remove clay pots and plastic containers.
5. Dispose of all empty beverage containers, plastic wrappers, discarded toys, etc.
6. Check for trapped water in plastic or canvas tarps used to cover boats, pools, etc. Arrange the tarp to drain the water.
7. Replace water in bird baths at least twice a week.
8. Remove pet food and water dishes that are not being used.
9. Don't leave garbage can lids lying upside down. Be sure water does not collect in the bottom of garbage cans.
10. Flush water in the bottom of plant holders twice a week.
11. Fix dripping outside water faucets.
12. Turn wheelbarrows upside down when stored outside.
13. Check around construction sites or do-it-yourself improvements to ensure that proper backfilling and grading prevent drainage problems.
14. Check ornamental ponds, tree holes and water-holding low areas for mosquito larvae. Call the nearest Mosquito Control Office (see below) if you find, or suspect, mosquito larvae are present.
15. If ditches do not flow and contain stagnant water for one week or longer, they can produce large numbers of mosquitoes. Report such conditions to a Mosquito Control Office. Do not attempt to clear these ditches because they may be protected by wetland regulations.

Contact the *Mosquito Control Section of the Maryland Department of Agriculture nearest you for additional assistance and advice.*

Maryland Department of Agriculture Mosquito Control Offices Annapolis (Headquarters) 410-841-5870 Central & Western Maryland 301-927-8357 Eastern Maryland 410-543-6626 Southern Maryland 301-373-4263

Dog owners are also urged to have their pets checked for heartworms, the most common disease transmitted by mosquitoes in Maryland. Dogs in all Maryland jurisdictions should be on a heartworm preventive program. Pet owners should consult with their veterinarians.

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