

The Hillandale Bulletin

November 2002

Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-

md.org

November Association Meeting

The HCA community meeting will be held at the CHI Centers on **November 20th** at 8 pm. This meeting is open to all and we encourage you to attend. As always, there are many important issues facing our community and the monthly meetings are the perfect place for you to find out what is going on.

This month the featured speaker will be *Go Montgomery!* director Art Holmes. Mr. Holmes will give a briefing on County Executive Duncan's 10-year, \$10 billion proposal to relieve transportation congestion.

This plan includes a number of proposed projects such as the ICC and the widening of the Beltway for HOV lanes. Other nearby transit projects will be discussed such as the Outer Purple Line, the White Oak Transit Center and a Transitway on Route 29.

Join us at the meeting and use this excellent opportunity to meet and hear from other members of our community.

Annual Holiday Party

Here is an open invitation for all to attend the Holiday party on **December 8th** at the CHI Centers (10501 New Hampshire Ave.). The party will start at 5 pm and end at 7 pm. Refreshments will be served.

As always, volunteers are needed to help out with the event. If you are interested in helping, you can call Meghan Moriarty at (301) 445-1215.

Dues Shortfall

It was brought up at this month's board meeting that we have not had as much success in collecting dues this year as in the past. Thus far this year, about 800 households have paid their \$10 HCA dues. In recent years, it has been normal to collect dues from between 900 to 950 households. The annual dues are, of course,

voluntary and the money goes to help the HCA finance its operation budgets. The money that you give to the association pays for items such as this newsletter. Since volunteers do all the job of collecting dues, there are many gaps and many households that want to contribute get overlooked.

If you were missed during the collection process and want to pay your dues, you can mail a check (made out to Hillandale Citizens Association) for \$10 to Hall Crannell at 10000 Branch View Ct., Silver Spring, Maryland 20903. Or better yet, bring your check to this month's meeting on the 20th.

Cresthaven Day at Learning Express

Learning Express, a toy store in Burtonsville is having a Cresthaven Elementary School day on **November 23rd** of this month. Everyone gets a 10% discount and an additional 10% is donated to the Cresthaven PTA.

Learning Express is a children's specialty toy store that features many excellent educational (and fun) items for kids. The emphasis is on stimulating toys that foster children's intellectual growth. "A toy store geared to fuel curiosity, introduce ideas, and inspire young minds".

Learning Express is located at: 15771 Columbia Pike in Burtonsville (Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center). You can phone them at: (301) 476-7711. If you have holiday shopping to do and want to find great toys for your kids as well as helping out our local elementary school, here is an excellent opportunity to do both.

A reminder that school is now in session and there are lots of kids out walking about. We all do it-speeding- that is, on neighborhood streets. Most residential streets in Hillandale have a speed **limit** of 25 miles per hour. Let's all make a conscious effort to drive more slowly while passing through the neighborhood and near schools.

November 4th Board Meeting

The HCA Executive Board met early in November to discuss business and issues facing our community. Many items get discussed at these meetings but there were two serious issues facing this area that the board devoted much time discussing.

Zoning Conflicts

We live in a rapidly changing area. Some of these changes have a positive effect on our community while other trends do not bode well. More and more we are seeing a rapid growth of home-based businesses in this area. This is especially true for homes that front busy roads. While most home based business have little impact on the quality of our life, some can be very intrusive and damage the look and feel of the neighborhood. Unlike newer communities, we do not have a true Home Owner's Association with bylaws and covenants that restrict how a homeowner can use his property. We have to rely on the zoning laws established by the county. These laws can be complex and sometimes at cross-purposes. Enforcement can be slow and usually only comes about if a concerned neighbor makes a complaint.

However, we are not powerless in these matters. There are members of this community who are diligent about watching for gross misuse of residential property. Home-based businesses are only one problem. Other code violations have occurred such as excessive trash, mistreated animals, abandoned vehicles and illegal apartments. It is important for somebody to take action and file a complaint and then follow through with the County to insure that action is taken.

If you have a concern about a potential code violation, you can call the County and make a complaint.

If you have a complaint about illegal construction activity, right of way usage, or improper signs, you can call the Department of Permitting Services at: 240-777-6259

If you have a complaint about, improper maintenance, overgrown weeds, trash, abandoned cars, illegal occupancy or business use you can call the Department of Housing and Community affairs at: 240-777-3785

Hillandale Shopping Center

By now everybody is aware that the Ames store in the Hillandale shopping center is going out of business. This represents significant loss to the center and many in the community are worried about the direction in which the shopping center and neighboring stores are headed. A lot is riding on who will be using that space in the future. It is not good for the shopping center for that large space to remain vacant and it can be even worse if the space is not used well.

There is a group of Hillandale citizens who are meeting to explore our options and who want to work with the County and owners of the center in order to find the right match for our community. If you are interested in participating in this process, we encourage you to do so. You can find out information on the next meeting on this subject by calling Hall Crannell at: 301-434-1709

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