

THE HILLANDALE BULLETIN

October 2023

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

Published by the Hillandale Citizens Association, Inc.

Please Come to the Next Public Meeting !

Date and Time: Wednesday, 25 October 2023 / 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Place: We Achieve/CHI Center / 10501 New Hampshire Avenue

Agenda for the Meeting

1)Speaker: Commander David McBain, 3rd Police District

Topic: "Safety in Hillandale"

2)Election of officers for the HCA

(terms last almost two years, until the next HCA election, in spring 2025)

Volunteers Still Needed to Serve the HCA, especially:

Our warmest gratitude goes to the people who have stepped forward to serve the HCA in its various offices. Without you, this organization would not exist! Still, the following vital position remains unfilled:

***Treasurer** – Without this person, the HCA can scarcely function. The actual duties are clear but not overly demanding: depositing membership fees; paying a few recurring bills, preparing an annual budget for the HCA board's consideration, attending board meetings, providing a "treasurer's report" to board meetings, filing an annual 990-N exempt-organization postcard to the IRS, and an annual report to the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation. Knowledge of basic accounting skills, comfort with banks, familiarity with Paypal payment system would be helpful but not mandatory.

**Please don't be shy. Think of stepping up to serve Hillandale.
Nominations from the floor will be welcome at the meeting.**

HCA to Ken Harringer: Thank You!

Mr. Ken Harringer, our loyal treasurer for over a decade, is stepping down. His expertise in everything financial has been essential for the management of the Hillandale Citizens Association. He will be missed!

Proposed Slate of Officers for the HCA

President – Jeremiah Pope

Executive Vice President – ?

Vice President for Programs: Paul Rood

Treasurer - ?

Secretary - ?

Past HCA President – Margie Goergen-Rood

At-Large Representatives:

Old Hillandale – Barry Epstein
Hillandale Forest – Richard Sternberg
West Hillandale – Tom Helfand
West Hillandale – ?

Appointees:

Membership – Margie Goergen-Rood & Kay Taub
Editor, Hillandale Bulletin – Ann Perry
Natural Resources – James (“Eddie”) Hall

Archivist – Paul Rood
Beautification – Angie Logan-Pope
Housing and Permitting - ?
Public Safety – (Advisory) – Jai J. Green
Schools – Tom Helfand & Shana Davis-Cook
Website Maintenance – Russ Harris
Welcome - ?
Zoning and Planning – Eileen Finnegan

Ad Hoc Positions

Liaison to Friends of White Oak – Shana Davis-Cook
Transportation - ?

We would be most grateful for volunteers to fill the above-listed open positions.

Draft HCA Budget for 2023-2024

Management [same as 2019-2020]	\$ 1,400
Insurance Policy \$1,000	
Website (paid through April 2025)	
SSL certificate	80
Grants [same as in 2019-2020, except. Schools*]	
We Achieve/CHI Center	500
Party Events [same as 2019-20, + c. 15%]	
National Night Out	250
Holiday Party	750
Beautification [same as in 2019-20]	
Corner greenspace maintenance, water bill	420
Publications = \$3,330 [\$2,900 in 2019-20]	
*Postcard in October 2023	
\$715 postcard; \$400 Postage =	1,115
*Paper Bulletin (January 2024)	
Fundraising appeal + envelope + newsletter, c. [cost in 2019-20 + c. 20%]	1,100

*Postcard in April 2024	1,115
Total Expenses	\$6,730

Income dues from 350 members x \$20 = \$7,000
Fundraising campaign

Note 1: If HCA publishes a new directory, it might add another c. \$1,440 in costs and put the budget into deficit, which would require a transfer from reserves. (Note: 2017 directory cost \$1,200 x 20% = \$1,440.)

*Note 2: If Budget appears to be in the black, then as in 2019-2020, we could give \$800 in grants to the four local schools, at the rate of \$200 per school (4 x \$200 = \$800).

Coming Very Soon! Thursday, October 12th, 10:00 a.m.
Community Event – You Are Invited!
--Hillandale Center Ribbon Cutting--

The facade improvements at Hillandale's oldest commercial center will be celebrated with a ribbon cutting next week. The Hillandale Center, built in the early 1950s, is on the west side of New Hampshire just north of Powder Mill Road. Hillandale residents and other business owners are encouraged to attend. The exterior of the building and parking lot have been renovated and a wall mural titled "The Musicians" has been installed.

This project was completed under the **MoCo Countywide Facade Improvement Program**, which by sharing costs with the property owners, upgrades their business facades. Several of the long-time property and business owners, along with the County Executive, Dept of Housing and Community Affairs officials, and many folks involved with the project will be present.

The representative of the Hillandale Center's owners who put this project together enthusiastically commented by e-mail: "I think it is a significant improvement for our tenants, business invitees, neighbors and community. **This is no longer the shopping center that time left behind.**"

See these links:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA/Resources/Files/community/neighborhood/6436-02DRKC%20-%20Hillandale%20Center%20-%2010216%20New%20Hampshire%20Ave%20-%20Exterior%20Sign%20Concepts.pdf>

And:

<https://montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA/community/neighborhood/facade.html>

Community Dinner on May 21st – Successful!

Thank you for coming out to our organization's re-boot—the community dinner! We counted about 120 of you, the largest gathering of our community in years! We hope that the food, the displays, and the program helped to bring you up-to-date about developments in Hillandale. Likewise, we hope that you will come to future events and join our 85-year-old community organization, the Hillandale Citizens Association (HCA).

National Night Out on August 1st – Successful!

National Night Out was celebrated this year at two locations in Hillandale: West Hillandale Swim Club (WHSC), and Hillandale Swim and Tennis Association (HSTA). As before many, many families and their children came out for free swimming, free ice cream (provided by the HCA), and visits with the local police and fire department personnel.

The Hillandale Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD) brought fire engines, and the police brought their cruisers from the: the Montgomery County Police, Maryland State Police, and National Park Police.

We were pleased to welcome a number of county and state elected officials: 3rd District Police Commander David McBain, Councilmember Kristin Mink, State Delegates Lorig Charkoudian and Jheanelle Wilkins, and State Senator Will Smith. Thanks to one and all who attended!

Traffic/Transportation Update – New Improvements!

Traffic issues are a perennial concern of Hillandale residents. Some progress has been made lately (see below), but we remain hopeful for more progress.

1) In June 2023, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) established a four-way stop at the intersection of Cresthaven Drive and LaGrande Road. This fulfilled a long-held goal by the HCA. All thanks to Councilmember Kristin Mink, whose personal intervention with MCDOT made this possible.

2) MCDOT has agreed to make a crosswalk, together with ADA-compliant ramps, at the intersection of Cresthaven Drive and Royal Road. A bus stop is at this intersection, and the stop used by both Ride-On buses and school buses. MCDOT has informed us that these pedestrian safety upgrades should be completed by the end of October. Again, Councilmember Kristin Mink's intervention made this possible.

3) MCDOT created a pedestrian island and crosswalk across Powder Mill Road that connects Old Hillandale and Hillandale Forest.

Major thanks to MCDOT for implementing these upgrades that promote pedestrian safety!

4) HCA has appealed again to Councilmember Mink in the hope that we might get the pedestrian crossing upgraded at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Chalmers Road. When the newly-renovated Hillandale Park is completed in November (see below), families will want to safely cross over New Hampshire Avenue. Thus, the push to upgrade the intersection.

We have requested three upgrades for this problem intersection: 1) wide-striped, reflective paint that is eye-catching and is used in many pedestrian walk zones; 2) signs to notify drivers of the pedestrian crossing zone; and 3) the timing of the walk lights to be increased to accommodate families, children, and older adults. We will keep you posted!

Hillandale Park – Renovation Update – Opening November 4th

As you know, the \$6.5m renovation of Hillandale Park—along New Hampshire Avenue—has been underway since 2021, when the former office building at New

Hampshire and Chalmers was demolished. The work appears now to be in its closing stages.

The formal opening of the park is scheduled for Saturday, November 4th. At this event, we expect that a number of elected officials at both the county and state levels will attend. Perhaps we will see you there?

Brief List of Major New Facilities at the Park:

- 1) large, multi-purpose field with drainage, intended primarily as a full-size soccer field, although a new softball diamond will lie over part of it
- 2) two new, lighted basketball courts, separate from tennis courts
- 3) tennis courts to be re-surfaced (one might be converted to pickleball)
- 4) new, multi-age children's playground
- 5) a second picnic shelter, located near new restrooms
- 6) permanent public restrooms
- 7) new parking lot with space for 95 vehicles, together with another entrance to it on New Hampshire Avenue
- 8) accessible walkways from the neighborhood and the WeAchieve/CHI Center
- 9) new, hard-surface walking/exercise loop; plus a shared-use walking trail along New Hampshire Avenue
- 10) numerous trees to be planted along New Hampshire Avenue to serve as a buffer between the street and the park

For further information, see this link:

<https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/BASISCAPITAL/Common/Project.aspx?ID=P871742>

Hillandale Gateway – New Housing Construction!

Site: Southwestern corner of New Hampshire Avenue and Powder Mill Road where the Holly Hall Apartments stood previously. As you can see in passing by the site, the construction fences are up around this property, and presumably the actual construction is about to commence.

This development, which is estimated to cost \$302m, will consist of two towers holding a total of 463 apartments plus a parking garage. One tower will consist entirely of affordable housing for seniors (age 62 and up); the second tower will be available to the general public as a mix of both affordable and market-rate units. This will add more needed quality housing to Hillandale.

Hillandale Gateway LLC is a fulfillment also of Montgomery County's long-term planning document, Thrive Montgomery 2050, because it places high-density housing along a major traffic artery like New Hampshire Avenue.

Hillandale Gateway link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/exec/Resources/Files/Hillandale%20Gateway%20Spring%202022%20Community%20Update%20Release.pdf>

Thrive Montgomery 2050 link:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/>

Montgomery College's East County Education Center Update:

In the East County Citizen's Advisory Board meeting on October 4th, Mr Sherwin Collette (a Montgomery College VP) announced that the College's Education Center would be opening in April with a wide variety of short courses, non-credit offerings, and workforce-development courses including industry-certification-preparation classes in health and IT. During the summer sessions, credit classes will be added to the offerings, and beginning in the Fall 2024 a fuller mix of credit, non-credit and life-learning classes will be offered. The Center, at 2221 Broadbirch in the WestFarm area, is undergoing a \$12M renovation prior to the opening. The facility will have 11 classrooms, 7 learning labs, and student services. The College has a future full East County Montgomery College Campus in mind. The development of this major expansion will be coordinated through a comprehensive planning and design process, in conjunction with the capital budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

More detail may be learned on Oct 16 when the College's Board of Trustees takes up the Draft 2023-2033 Facilities Master Plan.

HCA Archive

Early records of the Hillandale Citizens Association (HCA) are already on deposit in the Special Collections of the Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland-College Park. We hope that other former officers of the HCA will step forward and arrange for the transfer of their HCA-related papers to the UMD Library for permanent safe-keeping. Contact email: lib.umd.edu/special