

The Hillandale Bulletin

January 2011

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

Town Hall Meeting for January

The HCA general Town Hall meeting for January will be held on Wednesday, January 26th at the CHI Centers facility located on New Hampshire Ave. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and go until 9 pm.

Our HCA committee has been working hard on revising our by-laws and constitution, which have been long overdue for revision and update. They will present these changes for your review at the meeting. At the next regularly scheduled community meeting, the community will vote on the proposed changes.

If you are interested in viewing the revisions before the meeting, they will be posted on the Hillandale web site listed on our masthead.

We are also very interested in hearing your concerns and thoughts about any topic concerning our community, so please do plan on attending.

Note from President of HCA

Hello Hillandalers! A New Year is upon us full of new opportunities and new challenges. Our Community is surrounded by development. While this is mainly to the east of us along Cherry Hill Road, there is continued expansion of the mammoth FDA complex and, as you are well aware, an unprecedented high volume of activity in the Hillandale Shopping Center itself. Our beautiful new schools are open and in full swing. I hope that you will encourage your neighbors to keep abreast of these activities as well as others close to home by joining the Hillandale Citizens Association.

For many years, we have been sending you the Hillandale Bulletin, which you are now reading. The Bulletin is an entirely volunteer publication and is sent out roughly six times a year. It can and should be a vehicle for far ranging items of interest to the community at large. Short articles such as those concerning our schools, gardens, local cultural events, local sports such as swimming and the like can serve to strengthen our sense of community and enhance our ability to help each other. Please consider submitting items of interest to the Editor of the Bulletin for the benefit of those around you.

Lou Giacchino
HCA President

From the East County Service Center:

Many of our young children do not wear proper winter apparel as they travel to and from school. Together, we can make a difference in their lives! Please join the County Executive's Youth Advisory Council (YAC) in their "Coats 4 Kids!" program running from January 11 through January 25.

New, or gently-used winter-wear items are needed for children attending elementary schools in our community. Please drop off coats, gloves, scarfs and hats appropriate for children in grades K-5 at the East County Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD, M-F, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. For more information, or other drop-off sites please contact Nona Watson at

nona.watson@montgomerycountymd.gov
or call 240-777-8416

We will be collecting children's winter clothing at the monthly meeting. Please bring a donation.

* * * * *

A special thanks to the Hillandale Fire Department who came out today (January 11th) to put out the fire that this editor managed to set in the woods next to his home. The firefighters were quick to respond and polite to me after I confessed my transgression.

Perhaps this is a good time to remind all community members that it is a good idea to let fireplace and wood stove ashes sit for 48 hours before disposing of them—especially outdoors. The firefighters suggested that a covered galvanized trashcan is ideal for this purpose.

Wood ash is a good fertilizer with many nutrients and favored by organic gardeners. It is very useful if you want to raise the PH level of the soil. I have been spreading my ash in the yard and woods for 20 years now, but this one time I was careless.

I now personally know how this “can happen to anyone” and how quickly a little bit of carelessness can turn into a fire. I am fortunate that conditions were calm. If the wind had been blowing a brush fire in the dry leaves could have spread very quickly. Mea Culpa!

Slow Down, You Move Too Fast!

Hillandale neighborhood streets have a speed limit of 25mph, which unfortunately, is regularly exceeded. Speeding complaints are common from residents on many “feeder streets” such as Elton, Cresthaven, Green Forest, Kinloch, Schindler, Sweetbriar, and Wooded Way.

In trying to understand the problem more thoroughly, HCA requested help from the Montgomery County Police Department. MCPD completed speed assessments for both Cresthaven and Schindler in November. The data from Cresthaven shows that 60-70% of vehicles are exceeding the 25mph limit with a median speed of just over 30mph for those traveling over the limit. Excessive speeding (defined as 12mph over the limit) happens about 5% of the time. One vehicle was traveling 61mph! That is truly EXCESSIVE and very unsafe for our neighborhood!

Speeding occurs most often as folks are traveling out of the neighborhood, probably “running a little late.” Going over the limit happens throughout the day, and is common on weekends. Since Cresthaven is not a cut-through street, speeders are our neighbors, our children, our guests and us. These speeders are NOT unknown commuters.

Cresthaven is not unique; all of our roads have neighbors speeding. Given the number of children, walkers, runners, dogs and dear friends in our community, please slow down. It will make a safer and much nicer community for everyone. It is the neighborly thing to do. Thank you.

If you want more on the MCPD assessment, please e-mail Eileen at: finnegan20903@yahoo.com

News Tidbits:

Third District Police Station: The new District Police Station planned for the Milestone Property on the north side of 29 to the east of New Hampshire was reviewed and approved by M-NCCP in December. The police station will utilize the majority of the property with a 2-acre area reserved for possible future use as a county office building. Construction of the station will begin next summer, with completion scheduled in 2012. To see plans, go to: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dgs> Click on Quick Links: Building Projects in Your Neighborhood and then on East County, 3D Station.

Army Laboratory, Adelphi: CoGeneration Plant: The Army will be commissioning the new power plant in January 2011. Noise measurements will be taken to assure compliance with noise ordinances.

West Hillandale Swim Club Cell Tower: The Montgomery County Board of Appeals approved the application of T-Mobile and the club to construct a cell tower on the pool’s property on Schindler Drive.

MD Liquor Law for Urban Bar-B-Que: Legislation is pending with the Montgomery County Delegation to modify state law to allow businesses at the Hillandale Shopping Center to apply for “Beer and Wine Restaurant” licenses. Currently the closeness to Church of Our Saviour prohibits application. To read the proposed legislation see:

<http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/> Click on Legislation; see MC 2-11. Let our District 20 Legislators have your input. HCA supports the legislation as proposed.

Hillandale Citizens Association
10000 Branch View Ct.
Silver Spring, MD 20903

Pre-sorted STD
US Postage
PAID
Silver Spring, MD
Permit No. 2116