

The Hillandale Bulletin

March 2005

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

or

Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org

Ross Sutton: Editor

Association Meeting for March

Plans are in the works to feature "Neighborhood Safety" as the topic for the March HCA meeting. The meeting will be held March 23rd, at 7:30 PM.

Representatives of the Montgomery and Prince George's Police Departments, along with Hillandale Fire Station 12 have been invited to meet citizens and discuss safety issues.

Hillandale's new Crime Watch Chair, Joseph Branch encourages all residents, especially Block Captains, District Organizers, Neighborhood Watch supporters, and all new residents to attend and get to know each other. Joseph is working to revitalize the organization and needs new volunteers in many areas of the community.

A business meeting will also be held to consider the proposed increase in the annual dues from \$10/year to \$15/year per household. Details of the proposal have been provided to all households in the February HCA Bulletin.

All Hillandale residents are invited to attend and participate. The Association needs to hear from residents. HCA meets at CHI Centers, 10501 New Hampshire Avenue.

Breast Cancer Support Group

In January we put out a call for Hillandale residents who are interested in joining a breast cancer support group. The call was successful and a number of residents responded. So, we think it is a good idea to mention it again. If you are interested in participating, give Cindi Gibbs a call at: 202-537-6488 or email Cindi at: cgibbs@cathedral.org.

Hillandale Executive Committee

It is time again to elect officers for the HCA Executive committee. As always we are in need of residents to step in and serve as officers on the Executive Board. The term is for one year and all positions are open. If you want to get more involved with your community you can contact Ross Sutton at 301-439-6217 or ross.sutton@verizon.net.

Permitting for Your Property

We have been approached lately with some questions about permits for improvements. Many residents are unaware that even simple improvements such as a fence, shed, retaining wall or wood stove require you to obtain a permit from the county. Many people ignore the permitting process and build without a permit. This could have serious implications later when you go to sell your property.

If you are planning any improvements to your property, it is best to check with the appropriate department for your county before embarking. In Montgomery County, you should contact the Department of Permitting Services at: 240-777-6300, and in Prince George's County you would contact the Department of Environmental Resources at their Permit Information Desk: 301-883-5784

County Health Freedom Walk

Local residents can learn about Maryland's integral role in the Underground Railroad while enjoying a morning of physical activity with family and friends at the "Health Freedom Walk: A Path to Wellness 2005," to be held in Sandy Springs on Saturday, April 23rd.

The local, 1.5-mile walk will be held at Woodlawn Manor Park on Norwood Rd., on the Rural Legacy Trail. It begins at 10 a.m., with check-in and registrations starting at 9 a.m., and will follow the routes of the Underground Railroad. There will be live entertainment and health information at both events, and all participants will receive a T-shirt and other free giveaways.

For more information, or to register for the walk, call 240-777-1833. To obtain a complete listing of the training sites go <http://montgomerycountymd.gov/rec>.

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Don't forget that we are planning our HCA Spring Community Dinner. The event is scheduled for the evening of May 26th. Last year's dinner was a huge success. Although, the menu has not been set, word on the street is that you all should be thinking Greek. More details in the next Bulletin.

Neighborhood Crime Watch Update

The Neighborhood Watch is one of the most effective and least costly ways to prevent crime and reduce fear. Neighborhood Watch fights the isolation that crime both creates and feeds upon. It forges bonds among area residents, helps reduce burglaries and robberies, improves relations between police and the communities they serve, helps build pride and serves as a springboard for efforts that address other community concerns.

The Neighborhood Watch is neighbors helping neighbors. They are extra eyes and ears for reporting crime and helping neighbors. Members meet their neighbors, learn how to make their homes more secure, watch out for each other and the neighborhood, and report activities that raise their suspicions to the police.

You may be wondering what your responsibilities are as a Neighborhood Watch Member. Fairly simple, be alert, know your neighbors and watch out for each other. Report suspicious activities and crimes to the police. Learn how you can make yourself and your community safer.

What kind of activities should you be on the look out for?

- Someone screaming or shouting for help;
- Someone looking in windows of houses and parked cars;
- Property being taken out of houses where no one is at home or from closed businesses;
- Cars, vans, or trucks moving slowly with no apparent destination or without lights;
- Anyone being forced into a vehicle;
- A stranger sitting in a car or stopping to talk to a child;
- An unfamiliar parked car; or
- Unfamiliar persons walking/cutting through backyards (even kids)

Suspicious situations, persons or vehicles can be called in at anytime to the non-emergency number, (301) 279-8000 (Montgomery County) or 301-333-4000 (Prince Georges County) and the caller can remain anonymous. Emergencies should be called in to **911**.

Please get involved and join the Neighborhood Watch today at <http://groups.msn.com/HillandaleNeighborhoodWatch> or contact Joseph Branch, (301) 431-0180, the Hillandale Neighborhood Crime Watch Chairperson.

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