

# The Hillandale Bulletin

February 2005

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

or

Contact us at: [newsletter@hillandale-md.org](mailto:newsletter@hillandale-md.org)

**Ross Sutton: Editor**

## No Association Meeting in February

HCA will not have a neighborhood association meeting this month. Our next public meeting will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the usual CHI Centers location. An agenda has not been set but among other items we will discuss a proposed increase in the annual dues.

## West Hillandale Woman's Club

The guest speaker for the next woman's club meeting will be John Eldridge who will present "THE HISTORY OF BROOKSIDE GARDENS". The meeting will take place on March 10, 2005 at Cresthaven Elementary School at 7:30 P.M. Mr. Eldridge will speak at 8:00 P.M. Refreshments are served after the program. Paper goods are always welcome to be donated to The Shepherd's Table. For more information or if you need a ride please call May Savage at: 301-445-1630. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

## Back by Popular Demand

Those of you who attended last spring know that the Community Dinner held at Cresthaven ES was a smashing success. The crowd was large and the food was excellent. So, we have decided to do it again. This year the community dinner will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup>. We are working on the details now and should have more information by the next issue of the Bulletin. Stay tuned....

## Hillandale Directory

Yes, the new Hillandale Community Directory is hot off the presses and by now you should have gotten your copy. The directory is provided free to all community members who have paid the annual dues to the HCA. If you have not gotten a copy and think you should have, you can contact Hall Crannell at [crannell@cua.edu](mailto:crannell@cua.edu). The directory is an bi-annual release of the HCA. It contains the names and addresses of current residents along with any listed phone numbers. Lately we have been adding email addresses.

Also included in the directory is a neighborhood watch map, some important numbers from non-commercial institutions in the area, and a list of our current HCA officers.

## Proposed Dues Increase

For over 15 years, your voluntary annual dues of \$10 have supported the HCA and its community activities. HCA is proposing an increase to \$15 to meet our spending needs for the foreseeable future. Reasons for the proposed increase include:

Postage and mailing: This is by far the most expensive portion of the budget. Since our last increase the cost of a 1<sup>st</sup> class stamp has gone from 22 cent to 37 cents.

Bulk mail costs have risen proportionally as well; Expanded Community Activities: A number of HCA activities have been added or revived that bring the community together;

The HCA Website: It did not exist 15 years ago; National Night Out: Held at both community pools the last two years and scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup> this year. Revival of the Neighborhood Watch Program: We hope and expect to expand the program over the next few years; and

HCA monthly meeting and the holiday party: And other small expenses such as our "Welcome Book" for new residents and yard signs.

In short, last year the HCA budget operated with a shortfall and we need to increase revenue in order to meet our obligations to the community. We try to maintain a reserve fund of approximately \$20,000 to meet any emergency that might occur and are reluctant to dip into that fund.

We invite all interested community members to attend the next meeting in March when the subject of the dues will be on the agenda.

Hope to see you there.

## **Neighborhood Crime Watch Update**

Joseph Branch, our Executive Vice President, has volunteered to help organize and revitalize the Hillandale Neighborhood Crime Watch Program. There are several districts that need District Organizers and Block Captains. Both of these positions require little time on your part, and are very rewarding to the neighborhood we live in. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Joe at (301) 431-0180 or [jdbranch\\_36@msn.com](mailto:jdbranch_36@msn.com) for more information.

Even if you cannot volunteer for one of these positions at this time, please help to keep our neighborhood safe, by keeping an eye out for suspicious activity. Suspicious situations, persons or vehicles can be called in at anytime to the non-emergency number – 301-279-8000 (Montgomery) and the caller can remain anonymous. Prince Georges residents should call - 301-336-8800. Suspicious situations could be anything from an unoccupied parked car unfamiliar to the neighborhood, persons walking /cutting through backyards (even kids), or vehicles driving slowly through the neighborhood. It is anything that captures a community member's attention, making them look twice or questioning the course of conduct. A parked car unfamiliar to you doesn't have to sit in front of your house for 2 or 3 days before you call. It may be a stolen car that's been dumped and the sooner we get that information, the better. Most people hesitate to call saying they don't want "to bother the police" with something that may be nothing. Others think another neighbor will call. The police would rather get 10 calls for nothing, than have to take 1 burglary, stolen auto or robbery report. The more often the police are through the neighborhood, the more of a visible deterrent they can be.

There have been a few incidents in our neighborhood recently with property being taken from yards. Please help to deter crime by removing valuables from your yard. Make sure the locks on your sheds, garages, etc. are working properly. If you are not able to secure your outdoor equipment in a shed, garage, or in your home, please make sure it is securely locked to a railing, fence, etc.

For a detailed crime report, please visit and become a member of the Hillandale Neighborhood Watch group at <http://groups.msn.com/HillandaleNeighborhoodWatch>.

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