

The Hillandale Bulletin

January, 2003

Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org

January Association Meeting

The HCA community meeting will be held at the CHI Centers on **Wednesday, January 22nd** at 8 pm. As there was no meeting in December, there will be much to talk about and we hope that all who are interested will attend.

This month our special guest will be Officer Joy Patil from the Montgomery County Police. Officer Patil will come prepared with crime statistics from the previous months, and bring new pamphlets and their newsletter. Officer Patil will take some time to offer up some crime prevention tips as well.

Come to the meeting and bring your news, concerns and questions concerning all aspects of our community.

Free Radon Test Kits

To celebrate National Radon Action Month this January, the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection's Indoor Air Quality Program will provide free radon test kits to eligible residents.

More than 30 percent of households in Montgomery County have radon levels that exceed recommended limits set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These residents are strongly urged to take action to cut health risks by lowering radon levels in their homes.

Radon is a naturally occurring, invisible, cancer-causing radioactive gas given off by uranium in rocks and soils. Radon, the second highest cause of lung cancer in the United States, becomes a health concern when it seeps into homes, where it is easily inhaled.

Hey, it's free! Call 240-777-7770 for information on a free radon test kit.

Get Healthy!

Now that the holidays have passed again and you are done with the annual orgy of eating, we highly suggest that you check out the Martin Luther King, Jr. Swim Center, located at 1201 Jackson Road.

The swim center is open to all from: Monday-Friday 6:30 am to 8:30 pm. Weekend hours are shorter. The indoor pool features a 25-meter main pool with eight lanes. There are one and three meter diving boards for the bold. The facility has a separate Teach Pool for children, the handicapped and seniors are in an adjacent facility. Also available is a hydrotherapy pool and a weight and exercise room where you can tone up those muscles. You can call the center at 301-989-1206 for information on fees and scheduling. There are times available for lap swimming, recreational swimming, water fitness classes, swimming classes, kayaking, water safety and lifeguard instructor courses, CPR and much more!

Become a Weed Warrior

Invasive (non-native) plants are major problem in Montgomery County as well as all communities across the nation. To help combat invasive plants in our area M-NCPPC is assembling a team of volunteers (Weed Warriors) to monitor and remove invasive alien plants species from Montgomery County Parks.

Volunteers will receive a short training session from the M-NCPPC Forest Ecologist in the identification of removal and control techniques for invasive plants. Volunteers can then work at their own pace as they visit and hike the County's parkland.

Interested? You can call: 301-949-2818 for details or e-mail at mcp-weedwarriors@mncppc-mc.org.

The Hillandale Directory for December 2002 has now been printed. If you have paid your Association dues last year and/or this year, a copy should be delivered to your home during the month of January. If it has not arrived by February, please call 301-434-1707 and leave a message.

Have a Business in your Home?

The zoning laws of Montgomery County allow for home-based businesses in Hillandale's single-family (R-90) zoned neighborhood under various conditions. There are basically three types of home occupations. Here are brief descriptions of the categories. For full details you must consult the County's Zoning Code. *

1. No Impact Home Occupation: This business must be run by a member or members of the resident family (homeowners) and have a maximum of five car visits per week (including any deliveries) associated with the business. No sale of goods on the premises is allowed. The business must be accessory to the residential use of the home and there must be no discernible impact on the surrounding neighborhood. *No County approval is required for this type of home business.*

2. Registered Home Occupation: This type of business must be run by a member of a the resident family and may employ no more than one non-resident employee; have a maximum of 20 (car) visits per week and no more than 5 visits per day, excluding deliveries. Visits by employees or associates for the purpose of collecting equipment or merchandise for use or delivery elsewhere are not permitted. Some specific businesses (landscaping, motor-vehicle repair, day care, etc.) are excluded from this category. *Homeowners MUST register with the County's Department of permitting Services if they are running this type of business in their home.* There is no charge for this required registration.

3. Home Occupation, Major—Special exception Required: The County Code specifically defines Special Exceptions allowed in residential zones, such as doctor's offices, landscape contractors, schools, day-care, accessory apartments and businesses with two-or more non-resident employees. *Review by the Planning Board and approval by the County's Board of Appeals is required.* Fees are charged for Special Exceptions.

If you have questions regarding a home business, or if you need to register your home business, contact the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services at 240-777-6360, or on the web at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mc/services/permitting/z/nfhor .

* Full text of the County Code is available on-line at www.montgomerycountymd.gov .

Now that it is snow season, residents should be aware that a County ordinance requires that you clear the snow from your sidewalk within 48 hours of the end of the storm. Not only is this a requirement, but it also shows kindness and consideration to your friends and neighbors. So please take the time after clearing your driveway and clear the sidewalk in front of your home as well.

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