

The Hillandale Bulletin

March, 2004

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

or

Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org

March Association Meeting

A talk with the County Executive's Office.

Please come and make the most of an opportunity to meet and have a community dialogue with Jerry Pasternak, Special Assistant to Montgomery County Executive Duncan. Since the County Executive's office sets priorities which impact our neighborhood, this is our chance to learn about issues and provide our input to Mr. Pasternak about issues of concern of Hillandale.

This month's Hillandale Neighborhood Association meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 31st at the CHI Centers, 10501 New Hampshire Ave., and begins with refreshments at 7:45 p.m. The meeting begins at 8 p.m.

THE HILLANDALE SWIM & TENNIS CLUB INVITES ALL OUR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND MEMBERS TO: HSTA'S ANNUAL SPRING MEMBER & GUEST DINNER & MEETING

Sunday, April 18th 6:30 p.m.
Episcopal Church of Our Savior
(Corner of New Hampshire & Powder Mill Roads)

ENJOY AN ITALIAN FEAST
Lasagna, Macaroni, Salad, Bread, Dessert & Drinks

\$8 per person, \$16 for two, \$30 family maximum.

Payable at Door

Reservations Required. Call 301-431-1474 or email:

ClaudiaD55@hotmail.com

OPEN TO ALL -- BRING A FRIEND -- BRING YOUR NEIGHBOR!

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET PEOPLE AND
LEARN ABOUT

HILLANDALE'S MOST VALUABLE ASSET.

RSVP by Friday April 16th

Crime Watch News

Our police have informed us that while most categories of crime in our area are down, auto thefts continue to rise and are a major problem. Many of these thefts involve younger persons taking a car for a "joy ride" but cars are also sometimes taken for their parts. Please be watchful and take reasonable precautions. Always lock your car, and an anti theft system is helpful. Don't leave your car running unattended and don't leave children in the car.

Book Fair

The Cresthaven Elementary School Spring Book Fair will take place in the media center Thursday, March 18th from 8:30 AM -7:00 PM., Friday March 19, 8:30 AM-8:30 PM, Monday March 22 and Tuesday March 23 from 8:30 AM-7:00 PM.

It is a wonderful opportunity to purchase books as Easter/Passover gifts and for summer reading. Open to all.

Spring Cleaning

April 3rd is the 16th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. The local Neighbors of the Northwest Branch are sponsoring a cleanup at Burnt Mills from 9 to 12. They are hoping to attract at least 50 volunteers. For details go to their web site at:

<http://neighborsnw.org/cleanup%20day.htm>

The Northwest Branch runs through our county and borders Hillandale. It is a fine resource for us all to share. Let's work to protect it.

Hillandale is home to the largest Paper Birch Tree (*Betula papyrifera*) in Maryland. Next time you pass 1102 Cresthaven Dr., take a look.

Paper Birch or White Birch trees are commonly found in more northern climates. Although you will find them in Maryland, they do not fare too well in heat and drought-something we are too familiar with in recent years.

Do you know of any other unique features or our area? Lets us know and we will try to give them mention in the Bulletin.

Call to Action

The HCA has been vocal in its support over the past few months for the modernization of Cresthaven Elementary School and the construction of a new school in the Oakview neighborhood that will service our area as well. Cresthaven ES is the oldest elementary school in Montgomery County that has not been modernized. The school is feeling its age and is experiencing record overcrowding as the school age population in this area grows. Currently there are more children learning in portable classrooms at Cresthaven ES than there are actually learning in the building.

The County Council is considering the budget details and the projects that we support (building the new school, modernization of Cresthaven and seeing that both schools have suitable gyms) are targeted for delays. Once again, the eastern portion of the county has taken on the role of unwanted stepchild. Quality schools are critical to any neighborhood. They affect everybody in the community-not just those who have school age children.

It has been proposed by the Board of Education to “surplus” (sell off) some properties in the western portion of the county to raise funds to help finance capital improvement projects such as the ones discussed above. In addition these excess properties will be used as part of the county’s affordable housing initiative for county employees such as teachers and firefighters.

Please take five minutes of your time to help our schools! The Board of Education president suggested to the HCA and PTA that a viable way of putting more money into the school facilities budget is by showing your support for the surplussing of these MPCS properties. You can show your support by sending an email or letter to the BOE addressed to Mr. Gabriel Romero, Mr. Walter Lange, Mrs. Patricia O’Neill, Mr. Kermit Burnett, Mr. Reginald Felton, Dr. Charles Haughey, Mrs. Sharon Cox and Mr. Sagar Sangvi. Send the email to boe@fc.mcps.k12.md.us. Copies will be sent to each member.

In your email or letter state the following:

1. State your address and that you live in the Hillandale Community that Cresthaven ES services.

2. Say that you support the superintendent’s recommendations that the Edson Land and Brickyard Road sites be surplussed as requested by the county, contingent on being able to generate funding to support facility improvements for MCPS.

3. Say that you further support the examination of the Kendale Road site as proposed by the superintendent in his recommendation of February 23, 2004.

4. Say that as a resident of the community that Cresthaven ES services, you are aware of the overcrowding at the school and think that it has a negative impact both on the community and the children who live here.

5. Say that the board must address the needs of school-aged children currently living in Montgomery County.

6. Say that we need Northeast Consortium School #16 (in Oakview) to be built to relieve congestion at Cresthaven ES, and we need it fully funded now. We need Cresthaven, the oldest elementary school in the county never to have been renovated, to keep its place on the renovation schedule. Our neighborhoods are bursting at the seams with school-aged children, and we are losing green space. Our children and community need the school in Oakview to be built and Cresthaven renovated, both with gymnasiums.

7. Ask the board to

- a) Support the Superintendent’s recommendations to surplus these properties.
- b) Fully fund the construction of the Oakview School, and
- c) Support keeping the neediest schools foremost in the Boards priorities.

If you are not using email the individual members can be sent a conventional letter at the following address:
Carver Educational Services Center, Room 123, 800 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

The Hillandale Citizens Association
10000 Branchview Ct.
Silver Spring, MD 20903

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