

The Hillandale Bulletin

March 2010

See us at: <http://www.hillandale-md.org/> or Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org
Join the e-list, e-mail to: Hillandale-Bulletin-subscribe@yahoogroups.com Ross Sutton: Editor

HCA General Meeting

Weds., March 24, 7:30-9:00 p.m.,

Hillandale's Future:

Master Plans, Zoning and Transportation
CHI Centers, 10501 New Hampshire Ave.

During our January discussion with the National Labor College (NLC), many questions were raised about what was planned for our area and how our transportation network was to handle increased development. Our March meeting is structured to explore these questions and provide a look at future transportation plans that *could* be coming to Hillandale. Presenters for the evening include Council staff and representatives from the Department of Transportation. An update on the NLC plans will be provided. Please come and bring your questions. Your input is valued and needed.

Following the program, HCA will have a business meeting from 8:30 to 9:00 p.m. The HCA Board will report on activities and other pending business will be covered.

A Look at Neighborhood Stormwater

The costly issue of stormwater run off reduction is an ever-growing problem for our State and local governments. Recently the Army Corps of Engineers released a comprehensive study of proposed improvements needed in the Anacostia Watershed, including Hillandale's streams and streets. To see the plans for the middle sections of the Northwest Branch/Paint Branch, see:

http://anacostia.net/Restoration_Plan/action_plans.html

Montgomery County's Department of environmental Protection is now working on action plans to involve home owners in reducing run off from residential properties and encouraging rain gardens and rain barrels. To learn more about these stormwater management programs go to:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/deptmpl.asp?url=/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.asp>

Please Dispose of Pet Waste Properly

WSSC has released their 2009 fecal bacterial survey of local streams. Believe it or not, dog poop makes up 12% of the fecal bacteria found in the Paint Branch (measured at Powder Mill Road) and 8% in the Northwest Branch.

**Please bag ALL of your dog's solid waste,
and place that bag in the trash!**

Crime Watch Meeting: March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Please come and meet with Crime Watch Chair Lynda Williams, and others organizing to make our community safe and secure. This is a short, half-hour meeting prior to the General Meeting.

To contact Lynda, e-mail her at:
watch@hillandale-md.org

AARP Workshop

Hillandale Baptist Church, in partnership with AARP-Maryland, will hold an **Estate Planning and Wills Preparation Workshop** on Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Putnam Fellowship Hall. Attorneys will be present to prepare your Will free of charge! The public is invited.

Hillandale Baptist Church is located at 2601 Powder Mill Road. (Just turn left at the Powder Mill/ Riggs intersection.)

Save the Date: HCA Community Dinner

Thursday, May 6, at the new KEY Middle School

Bring the whole family and enjoy dinner with neighbors and friends. More information on making reservations will be in the next Bulletin and via the Yahoo Bulletin e-mail.

Report Potholes & Other Road Problems

MD State Roads (those are numbered routes, like New Hampshire 650; Riggs 212): Call: **301-952-0555**, by web: http://marylandsha.force.com/customer-care/request_for_service

Montgomery County Roads: Call: **240-777-6000**, web: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dpwt/pothole/Pothole.asp>

Prince George's County Roads: Call: **301-499-8520**, or http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/AgencyIndex/DPW&T/Improvements/pothole_form.asp

HCA Crime Watch Tips:

Warming Weather Brings Out Home Improvement Con Artists

The Montgomery County Police would like to remind members of the community to be on the lookout for unlicensed home improvement contractors. As the weather warms up, the activities of so called “woodchucks” increase. “Woodchucks” are scam artists who generally target our elderly residents. These individuals will approach a victim and tell them that their trees need to be trimmed or removed. Then they will pressure the victim into paying thousands of dollars to have a few tree branches removed. The “woodchucks” then continue to tell the victim that their roof is leaking and scam the victim out of thousands of dollars.

Recently, there have been several high profile cases involving fraudulent contractors who have conned residents out of hundreds of thousands of dollars. In one case, the victim lost \$90,000 dollars, in another case, the victim lost \$82,500 dollars, and in yet another case, the victim was lucky and only lost \$3,000 dollars.

The unlicensed home improvement contractors will drive through neighborhoods looking for elderly residents or cars with handicapped license plates on them. They will then approach the house and try to solicit business. Several clues that a fraudulent contractor is present include saying things like “we have material left over from another job in the area and can give you a real good price.” When a contractor tells the victim that they must pay half or all of the cost of the job up front, this is also a clue that they are fraudulent. Maryland state law states that a contractor may not charge more that 33% of the total cost of the job as a down payment.

For more information regarding home improvement jobs and hiring a contractor, please contact the Office of Consumer Protection at 240-777-3636, or go to the Montgomery County Government Website, <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/> and click on “Departments,” then click on “Consumer Protection.”

Door-to-Door Sales License Required in Montgomery County

A door-to-door vendor's license is required of all individuals traveling from dwelling-to-dwelling, or from office-to-office to sell goods or services in Montgomery County. This license is issued by the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) and has a photo identification of the vendor. If a door-to-door sales person comes to your door, ask to see his/her vendor's license along with his company identification before entertaining any discussion. If the person is selling something for immediate delivery or taking funds for future delivery, a bond is also required. Please make sure that all door-to-door vendors are licensed, for your sake and your neighbors safety too!

If the vendor is not properly licensed, you can contact the Montgomery County Police non-emergency number 301-279-8000 for further action, or inform the Permit Technician at the DPS at 240-777-6386. Provide the company's name and business location to DPS. **If you are concerned that the vendor is fraudulent, or suspicious, CALL the Police!** When you call the police, please have all relevant information possible: description of the person, make/model of the car, and direction of travel.

Hillandale Citizens Association
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