

The Hillandale Bulletin

March 2011

See us at: www.hillandale-md.org or Contact us at: newsletter@hillandale-md.org
Ross Sutton: Editor

Town Hall Meeting for March

The HCA general Town Hall meeting for March will be held on Wednesday, March 23rd at the CHI Centers facility located on New Hampshire Ave. The meeting will begin at 7:30 pm and go until 9 pm.

Our HCA committee has been working hard on revising our by-laws and constitution, which have been long overdue for revision and update. They will present these changes for your review at the meeting. At the next regularly scheduled community meeting, the community will vote on the proposed changes.

If you are interested in viewing the revisions before the meeting, they will be posted on the Hillandale web site listed on our masthead.

We are also very interested in hearing your concerns and thoughts about any topic concerning our community, so please do plan on attending.

Special March HCA Meeting Planning for Hillandale's Future March 28, 7:30 p.m., at CHI

Come hear about the planning effort for Hillandale in the East County Science Center Master Plan at a specially scheduled HCA briefing on MONDAY, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at CHI Centers, 10501 New Hampshire Avenue. Once completed, the ECSC plan will guide the development of our area for the next twenty-plus years. (See a related article inside.)

Our presenter for the briefing is Nancy Sturgeon, Community Planner, with the Montgomery County Planning Department at M-NCPPC. Ms. Sturgeon is heading up the planning team for the ECSC Master Plan. She will brief us on the plan's Scope of Work; the extent of potential plan recommendations—including rezoning of various areas; discuss the planning process and outline opportunities for community input.

Please attend and participate in this important meeting as our community begins to tackle planning for our New Hampshire Avenue Corridor, potential mixed-use at our shopping centers, the Labor College's future land use and transportation planning for the area.

Threshold of Spring

Born and raised in California, like some other members of our community, I like short, painless winters. And this year we have been fortunate. Only one bad storm on January 26-27 - while other parts of the East have gotten repeatedly clobbered. Now we can look forward to rising temperatures and another chance to try our skills in the garden. Sun, water and reasonably good soil we have. And we are surrounded with garden clubs, as frequently noted in the Gazette and other media. Fifteen minutes away is Brookside Gardens, with its marvelous array of plants, its programs and presentations, its botanical library, and its formidable rose garden. The Potomac Rose Society and the Arlington Rose Federation are also ready to help anyone with an interest in roses.

If one's preference runs to things edible, you certainly can't get them any fresher or less expensive than those that you grow in your own yard. All the local nurseries stand ready to help you get started. At the other end of the growing spectrum, Hillandale can and often does produce some of the loveliest flowered landscapes in this area. As our blooming cycle progresses from camellias to azaleas, from laurel to rhododendrons to hydrangeas, to an assortment of impatiens and a multitude of other flower varieties -- our yards can be in flower all the way to August when the heat tends to slow things down, then to revitalize in the fall. And notice that I have not even mentioned roses - my favorite. Because roses start in May and with a little TLC, continue to fascinate us all the way until November!

If you are looking for a wonderfully satisfying way to spend some free time think about your garden. Beyond the personal satisfaction, your efforts might be recognized when the Garden Awards committee tour Hillandale three times yearly.

Lou Giacchino
President, HCA



Swim The Summer Away

We are very lucky in Hillandale to have two member-owned community pools. Both pools have been around for quite some time and offer up a range of opportunities for families and individuals who live in and around Hillandale.

The **West Hillandale Swim Club** is located on Schindler Drive near Key Middle School. The pool has been serving members for close to 50 years. It is open from Memorial Day through Labor Day and features a 35-meter Z-shaped pool and a separate fenced-in baby pool facility. Among the pool features are:

- Locker rooms with hot showers
- Lanes for lap swimmers
- MCSL Swim Team and Lessons
- Tetherball arena
- New, spacious patio area
- Adult, teen & kids socials
- Holiday festivities
- Ping-pong tables
- Basketball court
- Volleyball area
- Tree-shaded picnic area w/ BBQs
- Picnic tables w/ umbrellas
- Trained, friendly, CPR-certified staff

For more information you can go to

<http://www.westhillandaleswimclub.org/>

The **Hillandale Swim and Tennis Association** is located on Green Forest Drive in Hillandale Forest. HSTA has offered its 25-meter L-shaped pool and tennis courts to the community for over 50 years. HSTA also offers:

- Hot showers
- Snack bar
- Lanes for lap swimmers
- Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL) Hellcats Team (for ages 5 - 18)
- Swim lessons
- One-meter low dive and three-meter high dive (one of four remaining in Montgomery County)
- Two lighted tennis courts
- Adult, teen & kids socials
- Ping-pong tables
- Basketball court & Volleyball area
- Tree-shaded picnic area w/ BBQ grill
- Picnic tables w/ umbrellas
- Trained, friendly, CPR-certified lifeguard staff

For more information you can go to

<http://www.hillandalepool.com/>

SUPPORT CHI CENTERS

The **CHI Centers'** Spring Flea Market will be held on Saturday, April 2nd on the CHI grounds located at 10501 New Hampshire Ave. The event will run from 8:30 am until 2:30 pm. The sale will feature items such as baked goods, books/videos and cds, clothing, garden items, jewelry and toys. Lunch is served from 11 to 1.

CHI is asking for donations of "next to new items" for the sale. You can contact them at 301-445-3350, ext. 100 for more information on how to donate.

Going Green in Hillandale – Refrigerators

In Montgomery County, approximately 1/3 of our greenhouse gas emissions come from our homes. Refrigerators use the most energy out of all home appliances. If you want to reduce your carbon footprint, pay close attention to your refrigerator.

According to Pepco, a refrigerator purchased prior to 1993 often uses more than twice the energy of a new ENERGY STAR qualified model. On average, a unit from that era costs over \$50 MORE per year to operate than the latest efficient models. Models from 1980 and earlier are estimated to cost an ADDITIONAL \$150 to operate annually!

Excess use of energy and the wear and tear on your wallet can really add up. Utilities in some parts of the US and in other countries are actually paying customers to get rid of these old refrigerators. Unfortunately, I have not been able to find any references to this kind of "cash for clunkers" in Maryland. However, many new refrigerators do qualify for special energy star rebates.

If you are keeping that extra refrigerator or freezer around simply for convenience, think this through very carefully. We all really need to be paying attention to how much energy we use. And take a close look at Pepco's Home Energy Savings details to determine what you should do about the refrigerator in your kitchen. Go to <http://homeenergysavings.pepco.com/md/faq#refrigerator>.

Your neighbor is not going to peek into your home to see what you are doing – and neither will this editor. But all of your neighbors will benefit when we all take steps to reduce our impact on our fair planet. AND – KEEP THAT REFRIGERATOR DOOR CLOSED!

GET ON THE BULLETIN E- LIST

Are you getting Hillandale Bulletin alerts and announcements by e-mail? If you aren't, you're out of the loop on important neighborhood news. To be added to this announcement-only Yahoo Group, send a request to: finnegan20903@yahoo.com

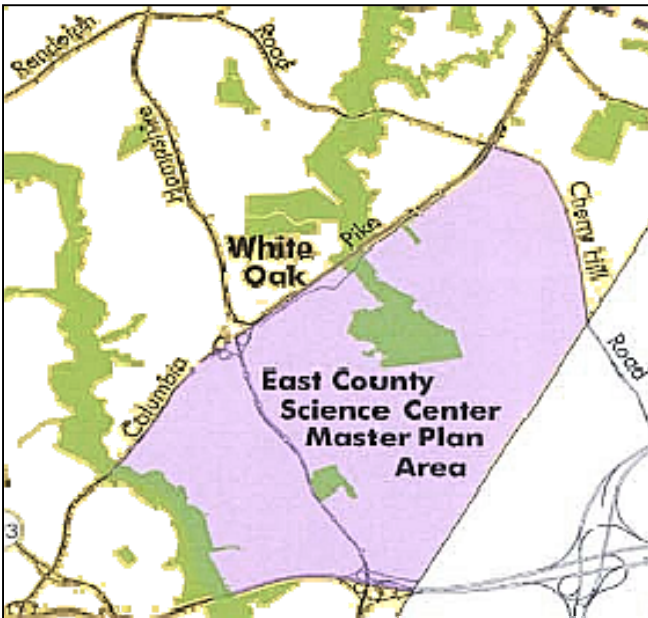
East County Science Center Master Plan

Submitted by Eileen Finnegan

Montgomery County Developing In-Depth Plan for Area

As stated in the Scope of Work for the just-begun East County Science Center Master Plan: The consolidation of the Food and Drug Administration at the White Oak Federal Research Center provides the opportunity for the County to re-examine its long-term goals and objectives for our area. This plan will assess the extent to which FDA can be a catalyst for economic development activity and explore questions such as:

- Will existing companies want to relocate near FDA
- How much development demand will be generated
- How do constraints and costs of transportation and other impact costs affect future development
- How will new development integrate with existing communities
- What kind of infrastructure is needed for new mixed-used development



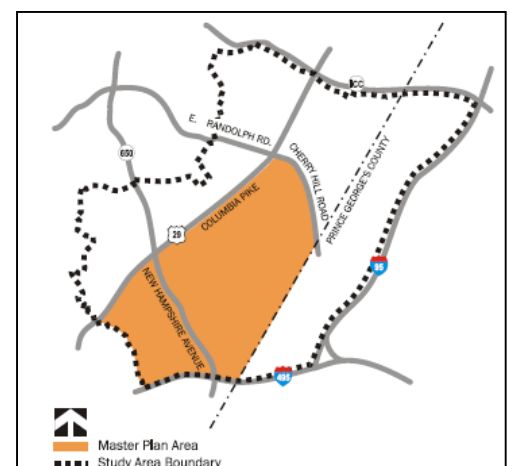
Last spring, the Hillandale Citizens Association requested that Hillandale and the New Hampshire corridor be part of the ECSC Master Plan and that request was granted. In addition to the two undeveloped properties (old WSSC Site 2 and Percontee) which total approximately 300 acres to the east of the Paint Branch Stream Valley Park, **the plan will examine the future of several specific sites, such as the 47-acre National Labor College which borders the Hillandale Heights neighborhood, several vacant properties along Route 29 in Burnt Mills and White Oak. Additionally both the White Oak and Hillandale Shopping Centers will be studied.** (Independent of the master plan, the county is developing new zoning categories which will affect these commercial centers in a year or so, so having a master plan review of these properties now is an added benefit for our area.) Our older community shopping centers could become mixed-use nodes.

A difficult aspect of the master plan study is transportation. Regional travel demand has increased traffic volumes on Route 29. Grade-separated interchanges have had mixed results with congestion increasing. The New Hampshire corridor, a major north-south connector, also acts as a main street to communities that have limited connectivity. Transit options, including Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) options will be considered for the area. The hope is that BRT may provide options for both future employment in the area and be integrated to serve existing communities well. The ECSC plan has a larger transportation study area to ensure a complete analysis of the transportation issues. See the drawing below for the boundaries (dashed lines) of the larger transportation study area.

As with any master planning effort, there will be review of environmental concerns watershed protection strategies, evaluation of recreation opportunities for residents, consideration of historical areas, and analysis of the jobs housing ratio.

Please attend the briefing on March 28, at 7:30 p.m., at the CHI Center, 10501 New Hampshire Avenue and learn more about the ECSC Master Plan and how our community can be engaged in the process. This plan will define the long-range future of Hillandale.

See more about the plan and the full scope of work at:
<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/ecsc/>



HCA's New Hampshire Avenue Discussion: Answers from MoCo DOT and SHA

At the November 2010 Hillandale Citizens Association meeting, representatives of Montgomery's Department of Transportation and the State Highway Administration heard concerns and promised answers on a number of questions regarding New Hampshire Avenue. Here are some of the answers provided.

From MoCo Dept of Transportation:

Q. Signal at Chalmers is not operating properly!

A. The firehouse only has the ability to override the timing when necessary. Signal Operations has now rechecked the vehicle detection system and believes signal is operating properly.

Q. Can more time be provided for south bound (SB) left turns at Powder Mill in the morning?

A. Signal Operations is still looking into this.

Q. Street lights seem dim in Hillandale's commercial area. Can lighting be improved?

A. Existing County/PEPCO lighting from Overlook to Powder Mill is adequate at 250 watts. SHA is responsible for lighting from Powder Mill to Oakview. Ask SHA. [No SHA answer yet]

Q. The intersection of Greenacres and Powder Mill has many vehicles making illegal left turns. Can this be re-engineered?

A Sign call-out flags will be added. [Not done.] Beyond that, it's an enforcement issue.

Q. What is the procedure to get a mid-block crossing of Powder Mill at Sweetbriar?

A. DOT will evaluate, but there must be a high volume of pedestrians to justify a refuge island or a marked crosswalk across four lanes.

From State Highway Administration:

Q. Can the traffic signal on north bound (NB) New Hampshire at Schindler be made to be a "left turn with caution" along with the left green arrow?

A. After evaluation, SHA does not recommend a change.

Q. Lane markings from WB Beltway exit to NB New Hampshire are incorrect causing vehicle conflict.

A. The lane markings will be fixed in late spring or early summer when weather conditions permit.

Q. Drain inlet at this Beltway exit needs repair

A. Highway maintenance has been informed.

Q. Pedestrian markings and curbing at Beltway ramps need improvement.

A. These pedestrian improvements are only possible when ADA ramps are present. A project, now in design, to install ADA ramps at the 650/Beltway interchange will be ready for construction this summer. Some crumbling curbs are the responsibility of MoCo DOT. Re a flashing pedestrian signal, crash data does not support installation.

Q. Can SHA do some clean up under the Beltway?

A. When crews are in the area they will remove debris. We encourage your community to participate in the SHA "Adopt a Highway" program.

Q Please review the speed limit of 40 MPH and consider reduction to 35 MPH in Hillandale commercial area.

A. After a speed evaluation, we do not recommend lowering the limit. Enforcement is needed for SB traffic.

Q. What are the SHA standards for median fencing for prohibiting pedestrian mid block crossings?

A. We do not have standards, but believe that fences do not stop mid-block crossings, and lead to fence hopping. Our previous study between Elton and Powder Mill did not support the installation of a median fence, and we crash data does not warrant installation of such a barrier.

If you want the full answers, e-mail finnegan20903@yahoo.com

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