

The Hillandale Bulletin

November 2011

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

Ross Sutton: Editor

HCA'S General Meeting

Montgomery Co. Zoning Code Changes

Thursday, November 17, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

CHI, 10501 New Hampshire Avenue

Please come and learn what's about to change countywide with the first comprehensive zoning code rewrite since 1977. Montgomery County Planning Director Rollin Stanley and Project Manager for the Zoning ReWrite Pamela Dunn will present the rationale for the changes anticipated to be considered by Council next year. Additionally, information on the new family of Mixed-Use Zones that may be applied to our local commercial areas through the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan will be discussed. These new zones — CR, CR-Town and CR-Neighborhood — reportedly have distinct advantages over the old C1 and C2 commercial zoning.

Following our guest speakers at 8:30, HCA's business meeting will consider a number of agenda items including a position on pending state legislation on roadside solicitation. See inside for more on this issue. Board members will update residents on ongoing HCA activities. Please make the time to attend and participate at the association's meetings.

DO YOU WANT COMMUNITY ALERTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BY E-MAIL?

HCA uses a "Yahoo Group" to get time-sensitive messages to residents quickly and efficiently. This announcement-only e-mail list serve is not interactive — so there is not a lot of e-mail. We limit the number of communications to a few e-mails per month. You do not need to be a member of HCA to join the Yahoo Group, but you do need to be a resident of Hillandale. If you want to join the list, please send your request to: finnegan.20903@yahoo.com

White Oak Library

Those of you who are fans of the White Oak Library should know that its hours have changed a bit in the past few months. The hours for the library are now 1 to 8 PM on Monday and Wednesday and 10 AM to 6 PM every other day of the week. The library is closed on Sundays.

If you have not visited the library lately, you are missing out on a lot of nice new features. The library is constantly changing and growing to adapt to the needs of the community. It now has a broad DVD collection. You can now check out movies on a weekly basis. Over the past five years, its books on tape (now CDs) collection has grown extensively. There are many more computer terminals for the public to use and automatic check out stations. Oh yeah, they still have books there as well. For more information, go to

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>

Thanksgiving Parade

Silver Spring's local holiday tradition will return on Saturday, November 19, when the ninth annual Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade steps off from Sligo and Georgia Avenues at 9:30 a.m. This year's route will take the parade from Sligo Avenue, north on Georgia, right onto Ellsworth Drive, past the reviewing stand and ending at Cedar Lane. The northbound lanes of Georgia Avenue, from East-West Highway to Colesville Road, will close at 7 a.m. and re-open at the conclusion of the parade at about 1 p.m.

Reminder-Please Slow Down

We are again getting complaints about speeding through the neighborhood—especially around and near the schools. Make it a point to remind yourself and family members to follow the speed limit when driving Hillandale streets. Thanks.

Pending Legislation: Roadside Solicitation

Eileen Finnegan, HCA President

HCA has long advocated for improved safety at intersections by controlling or prohibiting solicitation from occupants of operating vehicles. Having people on medians approaching drivers is a distraction and hinders traffic flow. Soliciting while “in the roadway” is illegal under state law.

Two competing Montgomery-only state bills have now been advanced to allow County Council to enact local control over the practice. The bills will be considered by the County Delegation over the coming weeks, with the probability of only one bill going forward to the General Assembly in January 2012. Both bills would enable the County to establish a yet-to-be-defined permit system, but one bill provides the option for the County to ban the practice. (See: MC 10-12 & MC 11-12 at: <http://www.montgomerycountydelegation.com/legislation.html>)

The difference between the two is the provision in MC 11-12 to give County officials the option to ban the practice. Council supported this provision last session, as did the HCA Executive Committee.

At the heart of the issue is the question: Will a permit system provide a solution to the safety problems witnessed daily, or is a ban needed?

Any permit system must meet First Amendment principles. As such, the Maryland Attorney General has opined that permits cannot be limited in number, or by association to any cause. Everyone must be accommodated freely. Furthermore, asking an applicant’s name may not be legal, nor would denying a permit be possible.

A total ban is in effect in six Maryland counties, with a ban on state highways in a seventh. Establishing and enforcing a ban has been effective in Anne Arundel County. Once established with a countywide implementation plan, the ongoing police effort has been part of standard duties.

Many proponents of the permit system point to the needs of the homeless, or jobless, and their need for soliciting at intersections. County professionals advise that roadside panhandling is not a viable solution for those engaging in the practice. It does enable alcohol or drug use, and unhealthy or dangerous lifestyles. And although budgets are stretched, Montgomery County has resources to help those truly in need. In some cases, solicitors may be fraudulent, relying on charity for unknown purposes.

The most ardent supporters of roadside solicitation are the Montgomery County Career Firefighters Local 1664 and the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The annual “Fill the Boot for MDA” collects significant funds for local MDA efforts. Unfortunately, many of the donations have been collected while firefighters are in the roadway—in violation of existing law.

So, what do you think? HCA’s position on these bills will be discussed at the November 17th HCA business meeting with the intent of providing a community position to our Delegation and County officials.

Miscellaneous Community Updates

Political Redistricting: Every ten years, following the federal census, boundary lines of elective areas are adjusted to provide proportional representation. The responsibility of redistricting is both state and local. New districts are effective in the next election for those positions

- **Congressional:** Lines have been redrawn and approved by the State General Assembly during the Special Session in October. The Montgomery County area of Hillandale will be in Maryland’s Third Congressional District currently represented by John Sarbanes of Towson, MD. (FYI: The GSA/FDA property west of the Paint Branch is now in Van Hollen’s Eighth District.) The Prince George’s area of Hillandale will be in Maryland’s Fourth Congressional District, currently represented by Donna Edwards of Fort Washington, MD. The next Congressional election is in 2012. (Primary April 3, General November 6)

- **State Delegates and Senators:** New district lines, yet to be made public, will be considered during the regular General Assembly Session beginning in January 2012. The next State election is in 2014.

- **County Council:** The Montgomery Council is considering the Council District changes, which as proposed will not change Hillandale’s assignment to District 5. The Prince George’s Council has passed that redistricting plan which held the Hillandale area in District 1. Council elections are in 2014.

Army Laboratory Center: The power CoGen facility is in final testing, and the Army will be asking the Maryland Department of the Environment for an operating permit soon. Sound measurement data has been taken with initial reports indicating that the actual results are lower than the projected levels. A final report will be provided to HCA.

WSSC: Some waterlines in the Old Hillandale area east of New Hampshire and north of Powder Mill will be refurbished/replaced beginning in the summer of 2013. Survey markers in the neighborhood are associated with the engineering for this work. Prior to the commencement of work, WSSC will outreach to inform individual residents of the project’s details and how homeowners may be impacted.

HCA Needs Your Time and Help

There are two open slots on the Executive Committee:

VP Programs: Coordinate speakers and events.

Greeter: Deliver welcome packets to new residents.

If you are interested, want to learn more, and have time for one meeting per month, please contact Eileen Finnegan at 301-439-2263, or by e-mail to finnegan20903@yahoo.com. Thanks.



CALLING ALL DOGS & THEIR 2-LEGGED FRIENDS

**COME PARTY AT THE "NEW" HILLANDALE DOG PARK
SATURDAYS 9:30—10:30 am & SUNDAYS 4:00-5:00 pm**

ALL FRIENDLY DOGS INVITED. NO RESERVATIONS NEEDED.

BYOB (Bring Your Own Bag – for cleanup!)

\$35 PER FAMILY FOR SEPTEMBER-APRIL 2011-2012 MEMBERSHIP

1st visit is FREE. Make checks payable to HSTA. Bring with you on 2nd visit.

QUESTIONS? HSTAUPDATE@GMAIL.COM or 301-233-3921

Hillandale Swim & Tennis Club is located at 10116 Green Forest Drive, Silver Spring

½ block from corner of New Hampshire Avenue & Powder Mill Road

WWW.HILLANDALEPOOL.ORG

The Hillandale Swim & Tennis Club has been a vital part of our community every summer since 1957. While the pool is closed for the season, HSTA is offering its acres of beautiful grassy fields as a playground for friendly canines. Owners assume all responsibility for their canines. No swimming by humans permitted. While HSTA fully intends to open its facility during the above designated days/times, the HSTA Board reserves the right to discontinue the Dog Park at any time with no refunds given. All proceeds will be used by HSTA for facility maintenance and beautification.



Everyone's Invited

Hillandale's Annual Holiday "Pot Luck" Party

When: Sunday, December 4, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: CHI Centers, 10501 New Hampshire Avenue

This wonderful neighborhood tradition has good food and great company. Sarah Crooke, Pam Reid, Lynda Williams and Janet Cromes are planning a family-friendly party with food and fun, open to all residents, old, young, new, long-time, HCA member or not. Just Come and Enjoy!! This is your opportunity to meet other Hillandale neighbors and catch-up with old friends.

Dinner will consist of beef barbecue, hotdogs and the more traditional fare of turkey and trimmings. Drinks, along with the wide assortment of Sarah's homemade pies, will be provided. You are invited to bring a POT-LUCK dish to share. Please bring a serving utensil for your dish, if needed.

Children will have the opportunity to decorate Sarah's renowned gingerbread cookies, and join in other craft activities. A very special invitation has been sent to a famous North Pole visitor, and he (along with his entourage) is expected to attend. As is the tradition, entertainment with neighborhood connections is being arranged.

Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, the serving line and clean up. Please contact Lynda Williams to volunteer, either by e-mail to sealynda@aol.com or telephone 301-439-8812.

Hillandale Citizens Association
10000 Branch View Ct.
Silver Spring, MD 20903

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