

The Hillandale Bulletin

September 2011

On the Web: www.hillandale-md.org or Contact: newsletter@hillandale-md.org

Ross Sutton: Editor

HCA General Meeting: Weds, September 28

There's a lot on HCA's radar this fall, and our September General meeting will cover a host of topics of interest to all.

HCA's Crime Watch Chair, Lynda Williams will hold a short meeting from 7:15 to 7:30 p.m. More participation in the effort to keep Hillandale safe and crime-free is needed. Please consider helping out and attend at 7:15 for more info.

At 7:30 p.m., our guest speaker will be a local expert on RainGardens and environmental gardening, Ed Murtagh. Ed's efforts have spurred the Woodmoor community to begin a neighborhood Green Team. (See: <http://www.neighborsnwb.org/WoodmoorGreenTeam.htm> Info on MoCo rebates for rain gardens will be available.

At 8:15 p.m., HCA will present an update on the Master Plan activity, Board activity and projects. The 2011-2012 HCA Budget (see page 2 inside) will be presented for approval. The meeting will conclude promptly at 9 p.m.

All residents are invited attend and participate in the community discourse on neighborhood issues. The meeting is held at CHI Centers, 10501 New Hampshire Ave.

2011 Hillandale Directory

By now those who paid Hillandale Association dues in calendar year 2010 and/or 2011 should have received their copy of the new 2011 Hillandale Directory. If you have not received it, please notify Hall Crannell, 301-434-1707 or hallcran@aol.com. In addition, there are a few extra copies that will be given to those who want one **and** pay their dues for this year. Supply is limited, so take a look at the last page for information on how to become a HCA member.

Copperheads Sighted

Residents near Northwest Branch Park have reported seeing copperhead snakes. Copperheads are one of two venomous snakes that live in Maryland. Take this opportunity to learn how recognize this snake. See the Maryland Department of Natural Resource (DNR) at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/plants_wildlife/vsnakes.asp

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection suggests that if you are concerned about a snake on your property, contact their office at askdep@montgomerycountymd.gov or call Maryland DNR Nuisance Animal Hotline at 1-877-463-6497.

Hillandale Summer Garden Awards

Yes, our panel of dedicated judges has been at it again. In August we combed the various "burgs" of Greater Hillandale looking for late summer gardens that are worthy of the award. As usual we found many great yards and gardens that merited the awards. Below are listed our three winners, in no special order.

- 1925 Pagebrook Dr. – Crepe Myrtles with a nice border garden
- 10418 Royal Rd. – The nicest flowers in all of Hillandale.
- 915 Crest Park Dr. – Everything in place with great curb appeal.

Congratulations to our winners and once again we thank our judges for their time and help. If you have a favorite yard that you think merits our attention – even if it is your yard, send us a note at The Bulletin e-mail address found at the top of this page. Or call Ross or Elizabeth at 301-439-6217.

FS KEY COMMUNITY DAY

September 24, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

On Saturday, September 24, Francis Scott Key Middle School along with its Parent/Teacher/Student Association is hosting a Community Day carnival. From noon to 4 p.m., visitors can enjoy the moon bounce, dunk booth, face painting artistry and many other games and activities for all ages. Stop at the food concession stands as well as the cotton candy and snow cones booths.

Proceeds from this event will support the school's initiatives and programs. Please stop by, enjoy some food, see neighbors and check out what's happening. Support Principal Rogers and the students of our middle school by attending.



HCA Budget for 2011-2012

HCA operates on a fiscal year of October 1 through September 30. The Board publishes and presents the budget for approval at the September General meeting. Here are the details:

HCA 2011-2012 Budget

Income

Membership	8,000
Account Interest	25
Other Donations	0
Carry over from reserves	3,250

Total Income **\$11,275**

Expense

Publications **5,435**

HCA Bulletin, 6 issues	4,500
USPS Bulk Mail Fee	185
Directory Allocation	750

HCA Sponsored Events **1,900**

Annual Holiday Party	500
National Night Out	400
Site Fees	500
Community Dinner	500

Beautification **940**

WSSC Bill	90
Community Entrances	600
Shaw Tree (new lights)	250

Membership Drive **750**

Crime Watch **250**

Welcome Committee **250**

School Community Support **300**

Mo Co Civic Fed. Fee **65**

Slow-Down Signs **250**

HCA Board Expense **885**

Web Site	60
Treasurer Supplies	75
Misc. copies, phone	100
PayPal Fees	25
Tax Return Filing	300
Insurance	325

Total Expense **\$11,275**

USPS Mail Collection Box Story....

Many residents in West Hillandale neighborhoods have lamented the loss of the Postal Service's iconic blue collection mailboxes on their street corners. A request was recently made to HCA to see if this beloved, convenient service could be brought back to the neighborhood.

Jeff McNeil, HCA's VP, made inquiries and unfortunately, the collection boxes are gone for good. Postal officials studied the service before the removal and concluded that there was not sufficient usage, there were few reports of stolen outgoing mail from home mailboxes, and there are multiple collection boxes in the general area. These factors, combined with the diminishing financial resources of the Postal Service, and fact that the old metal boxes were recycled with a scrap metal dealer, mean that the decision is final.

USPS wants you to know you can place outgoing mail in your own mailbox for your carrier to pick up. And, the old familiar blue collection boxes remain at the Hillandale and White Oak shopping centers.

Housing Code Questions

"Call 311 To Get It Done"

Montgomery County's Call 311 System has made it easier for residents to get information on any County service and bring individual concerns to the attention of appropriate authorities. HCA encourages residents to use this system to report any vacant home, or other property-condition concerns, (If 311 does not work from your phone, call 214-777-0311 to be connected.)

HCA's Role

However, if there is a code issue which is not resolved by the County, please let HCA's Housing and Permitting Chair, Jeremiah Pope know of the difficulty and determine if HCA can assist. He can be reached by e-mail at: codehelp@hillandale-md.org

New Parking Rules Take Effect

Beginning on October 24, vehicles are no longer allowed to be parked on unpaved surfaces in the front yard. On-property parking must be on surfaced areas. Paving of a front yard has also been limited by recently enacted code. And finally, only one light commercial vehicle is permitted to park on-property.

For more on the new parking requirement, see <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/content/PIO/goodneighbors/index.asp#paving>

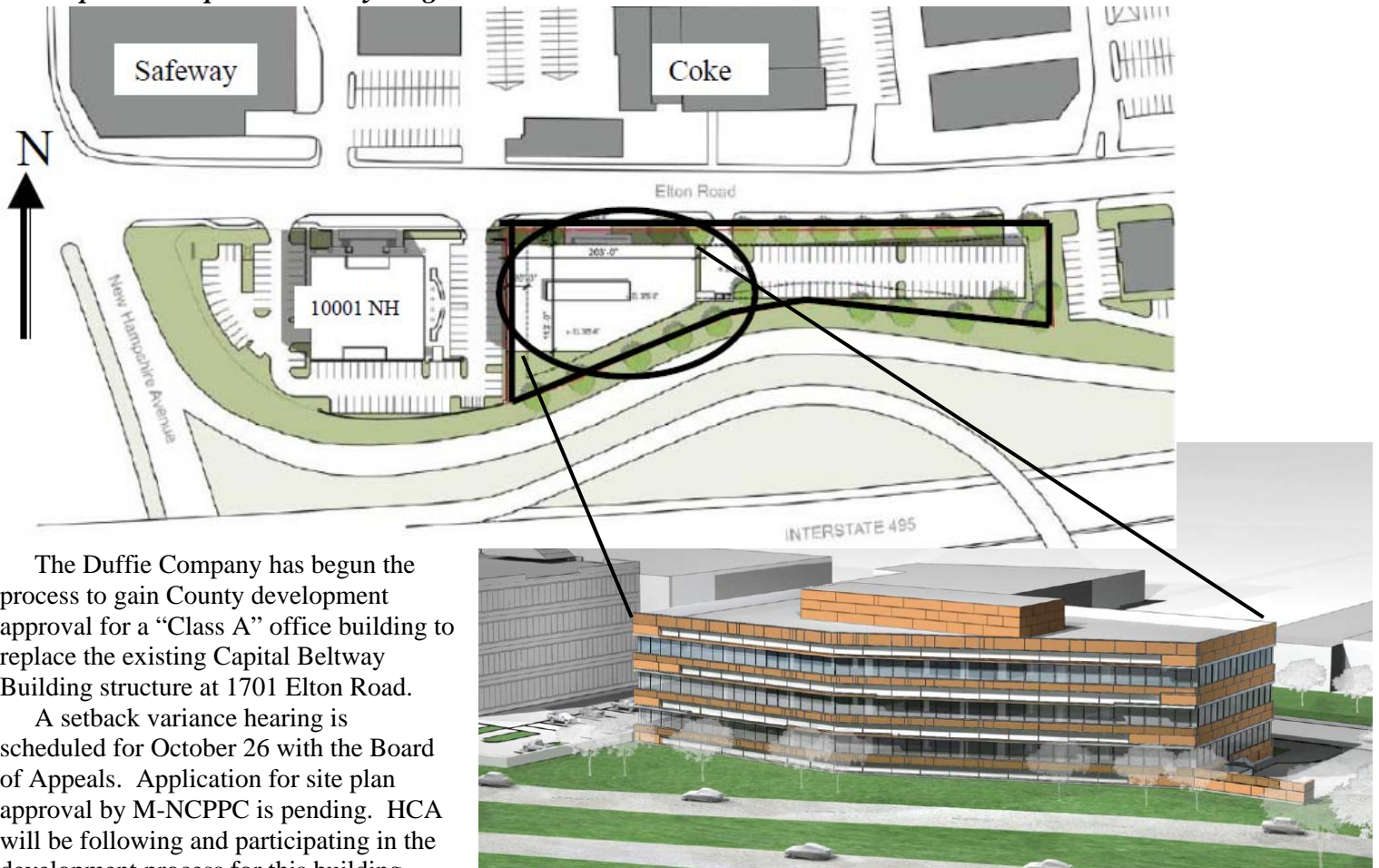
Or, call 311 or 240-777-0311 for all the details.

Prince George's Information

For property standards issues in Prince George's County call the Department of Environmental Resources at 301-883-6100.

NEW OFFICE BUILDING FOR ELTON PLANNED

Development Proposal In Early Stages



The Duffie Company has begun the process to gain County development approval for a “Class A” office building to replace the existing Capital Beltway Building structure at 1701 Elton Road.

A setback variance hearing is scheduled for October 26 with the Board of Appeals. Application for site plan approval by M-NCPPC is pending. HCA will be following and participating in the development process for this building.

HCA Crime Watch Updates:

Thefts from Vehicles

Two spates of “thefts from vehicles” occurred in Hillandale recently. Along with residents having cars rifled, windows broken and GPS, DVDs stolen, another disturbing fact has become apparent—Victims are not reporting the incidents to the police. According to word-of-mouth and e-mail reports, it seems that **fewer than half of the crimes were reported to MCPD.**

Although you may think that it is a waste of time to make the call, it is imperative that the police are informed of these petty crimes in our community. It is unimportant whether your car was unlocked, or if the items stolen were inconsequential – MCPD needs to know. Additional resources are only allocated when there is data to support the need, and if we are not reporting the problems, there is no apparent need.

Please remove valuables from your car—or lock them in the trunk. By making vehicles less attractive, the criminals will consider Hillandale less lucrative.

Aggressive Roadside Solicitation

Community members recently met with the Third District’s H2 Deputy Commander, Lt. Elizabeth Hattenburg to discuss concerns pertaining to the roadside solicitation at New Hampshire Ave. and Powder Mill Road. Current State law allows for roadside solicitation from the sidewalk and medians, but not while standing on the road surface.

Lt. Hattenburg encourages drivers who experience aggressive or threatening solicitation to call the MCPD non-emergency number. Also if you see open public consumption of alcoholic/beer beverages, call the non-emergency number.

HCA has requested that outreach to the homeless in the area be done by the Department of Health and Human Services.

MCPD Non-Emergency: 301-279-8000
PGPD Non-Emergency: 301-352-1200

PLEASE BE A MEMBER OF THE HILLANDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC

The **Hillandale Citizens Association** exists to improve our neighborhoods by taking action to assure a safe and friendly community; protecting our property values; working to represent our neighborhood with government, and participating in area development plans. The Association holds regular membership meetings, sponsors the Annual HCA Holiday Party, maintains a community list serve and mails this Bulletin to every Hillandale home six times per year. Your membership dues of \$20 per year support all these HCA activities.

Have you paid for 2011 yet? Please look at the address label below. The number above your name, or resident, indicates the year through which your membership is paid. **IF NO YEAR IS SHOWN, YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOW REQUESTED.** For example, the number 2011 indicates you are paid up for this year; 2012 indicates you have paid up for next year; 2013, etc. If your dues are now due, please fill out the form below and mail with your check to the address provided below; or pay via PayPal at the HCA website: www.hillandale-md.org

Hillandale Citizens Association Membership Form
Please print clearly; it helps us keep our records straight

Last Name: _____ Do NOT list my name in the Directory

First Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

Any additional Last Name: _____ (No additional cost for this service)

Additional First Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Do NOT list my phone number in the Directory

E-Mail Address: _____ Do NOT list my E-mail in the Directory

- Enclosed \$20 for dues for the year 2011
- Enclosed \$40 for dues for the years 2011 and 2012

Please make checks payable to **Hillandale Citizens Association, Inc.** and return to
Hillandale Citizens Association Membership,
c/o Hall Crannell, 10000 Branch View Court, Silver Spring, MD 20903-1617

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

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