

The Hillandale Bulletin

SEPT 2012

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

Ross Sutton, Editor

Hillandale Community Meeting Wednesday, Sept 19, 7:30-9:00 p.m. CHI, 10501 New Hampshire Ave.

The preliminary recommendations for our area's new master plan are designed to bring "**Transformational Changes**" to the New Hampshire Corridor area over the coming years. To learn more about these yet-to-be-approved plans and to have input to the zoning, density and transportation aspects of the proposal, make sure you attend the September 19 HCA meeting. The lead planner for the project, Nancy Sturgeon, and transportation planners will provide a targeted look at what's contemplated for Hillandale and White Oak.

If you are not sure how master planning can change an area, County Cable has a short 10 minute video tour featuring Nancy Sturgeon speaking about each of the area's major development nodes: Hillandale, White Oak and North White Oak.

To see the video, go to Montgomery Plans at:
<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccmtmpl.asp?url=/content/CableOffice/CCM/montgomeryplans.asp>
Then, select Montgomery Plans #37, and move the time slider to 17:09

In addition to the zoning changes contemplated, the plan relies heavily on a Bus Rapid Transit—BRT—System to better serve the area and provide the needed infrastructure for any new development to proceed.

Now is the time for area residents to learn about, question and formulate opinions on all aspects of the proposed recommendations. As the plan goes forward to the Planning Board and then to Council next year, your input is needed to insure that the plan works for developers, homeowners and residents. Having community consensus on the plan, agreement on what community amenities we need and the future of our neighborhoods would be a positive beginning.

All Hillandale residents are invited to participate with questions about the plan, transportation, and provide input. There will be ample time for Q & A. A brief HCA business meeting including the approval of the 2012-13 HCA Budget will follow. If you have detailed questions or requests, please call HCA President Eileen Finnegan at 301-439-2263 or by e-mail to finnegan20903@yahoo.com

Miscellaneous HCA News and Tidbits Special Thanks:

The summer season is often a challenge for HCA to keep up with the community entrance sign areas. Mowing the grass, trimming, weeding, painting sign posts, and picking up trash is all done by volunteers. This year, Phyllis Solomon has done the mowing of the corner at Powder Mill and New Hampshire. With her efforts, the corner has looked good AND we have been able to reduce expenses. Corner "trash duty" has been accomplished by the efforts of Susan Levine and Beth Rogers. Dick Stowe repainted and repaired the signposts at our McCeney/New Hampshire and PowderMill locations. And, Tom Helfand and Luanne Spiller have been working to improve the planting bed at the McCeney sign. Thanks to everyone for pitching in. When Hillandale looks better we all benefit.

National Night Out Success:

The National Night Out in August was a full fledged success! Lots of ice cream was enjoyed, neighbors got to meet and greet, and many folks took the time to talk to our firefighters and police. Thanks to Andrew Harris for organizing the event. If you want to see photos from both NNO locations, check out the Hillandale site at: www.hillandale-md.org

Get HCA News via E-mail:

HCA sends out announcements and alerts to subscribers and would like to have every Hillandale household included. If you are not getting the Yahoo Groups Hillandale-Bulletin e-mails, and you want to be added, please send your request to

Hillandale-Bulletin-owner@yahoogroups.com

Accessory Apartment Public Hearing

At 7:30 p.m., September 11, the Montgomery County Council will hold a public hearing on ZTA 12-11, which proposes to change the requirement that all accessory apartments be approved by Special Exception. HCA has adopted the position that ALL accessory apartments should continue to be approved by SE. Please attend the hearing at the Council Hearing Room to support this community position.

Controlling Deer in Our Neighborhood

Kay Taub

If you love to garden and grow flowers in your yard, you are creating the perfect habitat for deer. They are edge feeders, not deep forest animals, and the increasing amount of development within our County has provided many attractive and easily available places for deer to feed, as many homeowners with gardens have experienced. Having deer feed on our gardens is an aggravation, but they generate many other, more serious problems, such as the following: (1) they are the cause of many vehicle collisions (over 30,000 in the last five years); (2) they help to spread Lyme's Disease; and (3) they cause ecological damage to our forest by eating the tree seedlings that would provide replacements for dying trees. This results in an increase in the growth of exotic plants, which reduces biodiversity, an important element in a healthy forest. Deer have, in fact, eaten so much of our forest under story that many small mammals and birds may well lack sufficient habitat for their reproduction and survival.

Why isn't the government doing more to control our deer population? Ninety-three percent of the land in the State of Maryland is in private ownership. That leaves seven percent of the land under Federal, State or local management, and it is only on this relatively small amount of property that controlled hunts may be permitted by governmental authority. Lethal options are important as a control measure for our deer population. Statewide, hunters kill 100,000 deer annually, and since 1997, hunters and farmers have donated 606 tons of meat to food shelters, resulting in over 4.8 million meals served to the needy.

As private homeowners, we can play an important role in helping to control the deer in our own yards using several non-lethal methods:

- Deer love to eat the following trees: Japanese maple, pear, Leyland cypress, white pine, apple, crabapple, balsam fir, Norway maple, cherry, plum and hemlock. The following trees are generally not eaten by deer, and should instead be considered for planting: Allegheny serviceberry, Heritage birch, Japanese false cypress, Japanese cedar, Scotch pine, Douglas fir, San Jose/American holly, Colorado blue spruce, Flowering/Korean dogwood, and Honey locust

trees. If you are interested in other deer resistant plants, visit: njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/

- Deer repellants have proven to be effective. Area repellents can be placed near plants, but have an unpleasant odor to both deer and humans. Contact repellents can be placed directly on the plants, and have an unpleasant taste. Systemic repellents are absorbed by the plant roots and impart an unpleasant taste as well.

- A variety of fencing options have also proven to be effective. Electrical fences today have a very small pulse of current that, while sufficient to repel deer, will not cause harm to people or pets. Large nurseries have used wireless dog fencing successfully. Plastic fencing is light, inexpensive and easy to repair, and blends in nicely with a wooded backdrop. Deer netting is effective for the protection of individual plants.

What other management options do we have? Trapping and relocating deer would be impossible since we have no place to take them where they could do less harm. Could we introduce predators? It would be difficult to attempt to introduce greater numbers of deer predators such as coyotes (which already live in our County) and bear; such predators may or may not be effective, but their introduction may also generate other negative consequences to our ecological system.. Contraceptives, which can cost \$1,200 per deer for tubal ligation, is simply not cost-effective. Gonga Con is the only approved fertility control drug for wild deer, and while it renders females infertile for a period of 1-3 years, this is hard to use for large numbers of deer, since it must be administered by hand and requires their live capture.

In conclusion, the methods discussed above for the protection of our gardens from deer is the best that we as homeowners can do to assist in minimizing the growing deer population. If you would like additional information, please see the following website.

http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Hunt_Trap/deer/deer_management/index.asp:

This article was based on a presentation by Mr. George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leader, Maryland Department of Natural Resources to The Neighbors of Northwest Branch.

Hillandale Garden Awards

The dry weather and hot summer heat has not been kind to local gardens. However, our judges were able to find quite a few nice yards in Hillandale for our end of summer awards. This time we decided to focus on the “far corners of Hillandale” for our awards and encouraged our judges to look for homes in the community on our more remote streets. The winners in no particular order are.

2015 Forest Dale Dr. For a neat, trim and creative front yard.

800 Devere Dr. They had us with the butterflies.

10217 Royal Rd. A simple home with nice roses and plenty of color in the yard.

Congratulations to our winners. We encourage all Hillandalers to take a ride down some of our quieter streets. You will be pleasantly surprised. Once, again we extend a heartfelt thanks to all of our judges.

Crime Watch

It has been a quiet summer for crime in Hillandale, but we have had our usual share of petty crime with car break-ins and an occasional burglary. However, considering the slow economy and the summer weather, the number of incidents has been minimal. One of the most common crimes in our area is theft from “unlocked” cars. We recommend two easy solutions to this. The first of course, would be to lock your car. Even better, would be to remove all items from your car worth stealing. The top of this list would be electronic items, which always are popular as they are easy for thieves to resell. Even if you have a lot of low value items in your car it is an invitation to thieves to break in and rummage around.

One of the strengths of our community has always been the willingness of Hillandalers to keep an eye out for and report suspicious activity. We urge you to not be bashful if you see something going on that you think is suspicious or out of the ordinary. A simple phone call to the police is the first line of defense in crime prevention.

If you think you are observing a crime then you should call 911.. If the problem is not urgent, then you should call the police non-emergency number.

Montgomery County 301-279-8000

Prince Georges County 301-352-1200

HCA Budget for 2012-2013

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

HCA 2012-2013 Budget

Income

Membership	6,400
Account Interest	25
Other Donations	100
From Reserves	4,755

Total Income \$11,280

Expense

Publications	6,140
HCA Bulletin (7 issues)	5,200
USPS Bulk Mail Fee	190
Directory Allocation	750
HCA Sponsored Events	2,000
Annual Holiday Party	600
National Night Out	200
Site Fees	500
Community Dinner	700
Beautification	400
WSSC Bill	100
Community Entrances	300
Membership Drive	750
Crime Watch	150
Welcome Committee	150
School Community Support	300
Mo Co Civic Fed. Fee	65
Slow-Down Signs	350
HCA Board Expense	975
Web Site	125
Treasurer Supplies	75
Misc. copies, phone	100
PayPal Fees	25
Tax Return Filing	300
Insurance	350

Total Expenses \$11,280

Neighbors of the Northwest Branch invite you to:

Living with Beavers

Did you know that our Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park, on the wilder side, is home to North America's largest rodent? Perhaps you've seen evidence of this fellow at work in the park. Or perhaps you have planted much needed trees in the park only to find them cut down? Living with beavers is the subject of the Neighbors of the Northwest Branch **October 2** program at the Wheaton Recreation Center, 11711 Georgia Avenue, one block north of the library.

Beavers are North America's largest rodents and are renowned for their ability to harvest trees, build dams and create beneficial wetlands. Near human development, however, the work of beavers can create conflicts by flooding roads and property, and reducing tree cover.

Come learn about the lives of beavers and their impact on county parks from wildlife specialist Rob Gibbs, Natural Resources Manager with the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Department of Parks. Rob will help us understand beaver biology and ecology and different approaches to managing beaver in urbanized environments.

All are welcome! Enjoy light refreshments before the program. The program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Beltsville Garden Club invites you to learn about:

150 Years of Research at the US Department of Agriculture; Plant Introduction and Breeding

Dr. Robert Griesbach, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office Technology Transfer, US Department of Agriculture is the guest speaker on September 26, at 7:30 p.m. at the Duckworth School, 11201 Evans Trail, off Powder Mill Road in Calverton. For more on the meeting or other Club activities, check their web site > <http://www.beltsvillegardenclub.org/>

Bus Rapid Transit and Hillandale

Eileen Finnegan

Planners are now preparing a new Master Plan for Highways and Transit, which will become the blueprint for a countywide BRT system. Planning staff recommendations will be posted on October 4 on their web site:

<http://montgomeryplanning.org/transportation/highways/brt.shtm> A Planning Board public hearing on the recommendations will be held later in the fall.

There are differing ideas as to how to pay for the initial construction and also the on-going operating costs for this system. One plan that got attention this past spring was to raise property taxes for those living within 1/2 mile of the routes. Nothing regarding funding has been decided. The County Executive is expected to weigh-in on the funding issue this fall.

If you want to see one concept plan for New Hampshire Ave. (done for the Transit Task Force), see Binder 007 at this Scribd link:

<http://www.scribd.com/freestategal>

This plan has travel lanes re-purposed for the BRT instead of a median-based approach.

As this Bulletin goes to the printer, the recommendation to deny Washington Adventist's move to the Cherry Hill Road area has been published by the MD Health Care Commissioner reviewing the case. To see the full report on the web, see item 16 at:

<http://mhcc.dhmh.maryland.gov/certificateofneed/Pages/recommendations.aspx>

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