

Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Newsletter

Serving Mount Hebron, Patapsco Park Estates, Orchards Community & Everywhere in between!

November 2020

**** Association Meeting ****

None scheduled due to Covid 19

Message from the president

On June 1st, 2020 I (Charles Reed) took over as the Mount Hebron/Orchards Community Association President from Nellie Arrington. Cindy Riedy took over as the Treasurer from Tom Holly after we both ran unopposed in the March 2020 nominations. Nellie Arrington then joined the board, and Mike McGinty/Tom Holly/Shelly Mauck left the board of their own volition in good standing due to prior commitments. On behalf of the entire community, the current officers and board members extend our thanks and gratitude for the services and time given by the parting members of the board.

So, we currently have 2 openings on the board for anyone who is interested. We are especially interested in any lawyers who could potentially lend their legal guidance from time to time when needed especially with changing bylaws (even if you don't want to make the commitment to the board).

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we haven't been able to have a Community Association Meeting since March 2020, but the Community Association Board has met twice in the last two months. During those meetings we have focused mainly on updating the Community Bylaws that were last updated in 1979 by typewriter, audited our financial transactions with the transition (concluded our accounts are up to date), and converted all files to digital for future transitions. We hope to discuss the voted-on changes in more depth at our next Community Association Meeting once COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, and have each member of the board stand up to briefly introduce themselves.

The Community Association Board voted on the following important updates to the Bylaws/Community Association Rules (still have to be voted on at a Community Meeting):

- Added a minimum attendance rule of at least 1 community meeting, and 1 board meeting a year to stay on the board (usually 4 of each a year)
- Upgraded the bylaws to digital form for easier dissemination as well as all future Community Association Documents
- Making all members of the board able to vote instead of just the 5 Officers, and implementing a majority rules voting standard
- Defined positions, and their roles

Mount Hebron/Orchards Community Association Board:

- President: Charles Reed
- Vice President: Roger Knight
- Treasurer: Cindy Riedy
- Recording Secretary: Carl Utt
- Corresponding Secretary: Ken Mertz
- Past President/Board Member: Nellie Arrington
- Board Member: Paul Anderson
- Board Member: Demetrios "Jim" Matsakis

You can reach any of these board members by emailing us at the community email address mthoca@comcast.net

All community events as well as news relative to our community are listed on the following sites:

Facebook -

<https://www.facebook.com/mount.hebron.33>

Web site - www.mthoca.org

Nextdoor Mt. Hebron - www.nextdoor.com

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2020 Holiday Decorating Contest - Our annual **Holiday Decorations Contest** is coming up in December. Winners from the previous year judge for the 3 best houses and one best door, and award the plaques. The dates for this year's contest will run from Wednesday, December 16th to Saturday, December 19th with the awards to be given by Sunday, December 20th.

2020 Santa Ride – For those new to the neighborhood, the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department sends the fire engine with Santa and Mrs. Claus around the community to spread cheer during the holiday season. The department has not posted their schedule as of this newsletter but has posted the following message on their website <https://www.ellicottcityvfa.com/content/santa/>.

Every year in December, Santa makes a special stop in Ellicott City. Santa trades in his reindeer for a fire engine to pull him around the neighborhoods to visit the residents of Ellicott City.

With the ongoing pandemic, Santa is in current talks with the elves about how to safely visit the neighborhoods. Please understand that this will look different this year as the safety of the residents of Ellicott City and Santa are of the utmost importance to us.

We will do our best to get Santa to each of the neighborhoods, however, due to the current situation, weather and/or possible calls, Santa may not make it to every neighborhood. Changes in the schedule will be announced both here and on social media.

We will monitor their website and post dates on our Facebook page and website. We will also send reminders to everyone on our email list. Please check the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department's website for updates. On the days of the Santa Rides, listen for the sirens and come out to wave to Santa.

Memory Lane by Carl Utt

During a recent walk through the neighborhood, I noticed a tube hanging from a mailbox with the faded-out words Baltimore Sun. I started reminiscing about a time when most people would have had a newspaper delivered to a tube on the side of their mailbox post. In fact, they might receive a paper in the morning and one in the afternoon. It was so important to receive a newspaper, that was the source for the latest news --- news that was over 12 hours old. You could purchase a paper in almost every store. It would only require a coin. Now, the paper edition of the local newspaper is like a solar eclipse, something rarely seen.

So, this triggered additional memories of things that have faded into history. For example, most houses would receive a telephone directory. In Ellicott City you would likely receive 2 books over 3 inches thick, one white page and 1 yellow page. If you need a plumber you would go to the yellow pages. TV not working, find a TV repairman. If your TV quit working today, would you even try to have it repaired?

To see the rest of this article, go to our website at www.mthoca.org.

Please submit your 2021 **annual** dues of \$15 using this form. It helps support your Community.

(202011)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail address: (**Print clearly**) _____

I can help with: Newsletter Easter Egg Hunt Halloween Parade Association Board
 Yard Sale Other

Dues enclosed: _____

Mail this form and check (Payable to Mt. Hebron/Orchards Association) to:

Mount Hebron-Orchards Community Association, P.O. Box 6810, Ellicott City, MD 21042