

Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Newsletter

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

September 2017

**** Association Meeting ****

September 18th, 2017, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church

2330 Calvin Circle at Mt. Hebron Drive

Guest Speaker – Dr. Joelle Miller, the new principal of Mount Hebron High School

Dear Neighbors,

Please welcome Dr. Joelle Miller, the new principal of Mount Hebron High School, at our next meeting starting at 7 p.m. Monday, September 18, at Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church. Schools and our assigned districts are our focus. And we will have a presentation about the proposed redistricting from a member of our community.

To summarize, a major school redistricting is underway for the 2018-2019 school year. The education staff feasibility report put all of Mount Hebron and Patapsco Park Estates (PPE), including the portion (known as polygon 2161) that was moved to Waverly Elementary a few years ago, back at St. John's Lane. The Orchards (which is Polygon 262) stayed at Hollifield. Everyone stayed at Patapsco and Mount Hebron. The AAC, a working committee which proposes the school district boundaries, changed that and put 2161 into not only Waverly but also Mount View Middle and Marriotts Ridge High, even though 2161 is currently designated as "walkers" to Mount Hebron High. The AAC also proposes moving Polygon 262 to St. John's Lane.

It has ALWAYS been the association's position that our neighborhoods not be split within, dating back to the opening of Hollifield Station. Therefore, the association's board opposes any plan that further separates our Community or separates any part of our Community from Mount Hebron. Mount Hebron is more than just the closest school; it is an important part of what makes our Community so special. We need your help, including following our postings and emails for further developments and events, attending meetings and events in support of the association's position and signing our online petition.

Finally, we'll send out a dues payment envelope in our next newsletter. That \$15 and your participation in our meetings are investments in the quality and value of our neighborhood and your property, and why others know how special it is to live in the MtHOCA area.

Nellie Arrington, Association President

In other news —

Upton Road Development – On September 7th, there was a Howard County Planning Board meeting to hear the petition/plans for the Upton Road development. This is project is close to the intersection of Rt. 40 and St. John's lane, across from St. John's plaza. The developer is proposing 115 townhomes, rather than the mixed use it is currently zoned for. We want the petition for the zoning change to be DENIED! This change to 115 townhomes will impact our schools, our traffic, and area storm water management.

Bethany Glen - The developer of Bethany Glen, between Valley Mede and Route 99 and east of Bethany Lane, submitted its proposal on June 29. The Design Advisory Commission had recommended against it, but the most recent plan for 55+ housing has been submitted to the Department of Planning and Zoning. Reality is that some type of community will be built on that land. The association is most concerned about the traffic impact on Route 99.

Here is how you can help:

1. Follow our Facebook postings and emails for news and events pertaining to these developments and spread the word with your neighbors.
2. Attend meetings pertaining to these developments, including a HARP meeting scheduled for September 26 (more information about this meeting will be forthcoming).

Verizon Cell Tower - The Verizon submission to add antennae and a large equipment building behind the houses at the cul-de-sac end of Furrow Avenue has expired and no new plans have been submitted. We will continue to monitor this, but we consider this a win for our association's opposition efforts.

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Petition on Redistricting - In connection with the school redistricting discussed above, please sign our online petition to keep the Mount Hebron/Orchards Community together at Mount Hebron. Signing this petition will send a message to the HCPSS and the Board of Education to leave the walkers alone. The online petition can be accessed at:

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/612/707/684/>

Route 70 Widening - The county's request for state funding to widen I-70 from Route 29 to Route 40 remains active, and is nearer the top of the priority list now that Route 32 widening is in construction (which will also help alleviate traffic on Route 99).

PLEASE keep aware of these and other neighborhood issues by using our Facebook group, Mount Hebron, and by checking our website, www.mthoca.org. Carl Utt, our newest board member and a PPE resident, is doing a fantastic job with our website, keeping it up-to-date with news and all sorts of great information.

Our current officers and board members are:

President, Nellie Arrington, nelliearrington44@gmail.com

Vice President, Roger Knight, rogerknight@verizon.net

Treasurer, Tom Holly, ponddweller@comcast.net

Corr. Secretary, Ken Mertz, kenm126@comcast.net

Recording Secretary, Cathy Melvin, joe16@comcast.net

Safety Committee, Mike McGinty, magint@comcast.net

Board Member, Barry McQuay, Bpmcq16@comcast.net

Board Member, Charles Reed, creed121016@gmail.com

Board Member, Carl Utt, carlutt@gmail.com

Mount Hebron Community Association Facebook Page

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

Halloween Parade – Our 49th Annual Halloween Parade will step off at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 30th, from the intersection of Furrow Avenue and Furrow Court. Kids of all ages - wear your costume and be part of the fun! The parade will be led off by the sirens of the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, then we'll be joined by the award-winning Mt. Hebron High School Marching Unit down Furrow Avenue, where we make a left and turn onto Mt. Hebron Drive. The parade route ends at Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church where the marching unit will perform their half-time show just for us! Children then parade in a circle to show off their costumes. Make plans now to join us for this fun family tradition! A special thanks to Glen Hastings of Union Electric www.unionelectricco.com for providing the lighting again for this year's Halloween parade.

Join our Email List – If you would like to be added to our email database, email us at mthoca@comcast.net.

Membership Dues – If you missed paying your dues using the form from the June newsletter, please use the dues form below to send your check for just \$15.00. The Association Board would like to thank all the residents who pay the annual dues.

Please submit your 2017 annual dues of \$15 using this form. It helps support your Community. (201709)

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

I can help with: Newsletter Organizing Events Association Board 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