

Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Newsletter

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

December 2017

**** Association Meeting ****

January 10th, 2018, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M. (Snow date – Jan 17th)

Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church

2330 Calvin Circle at Mt. Hebron Drive

Guest Speaker – Dr. Miller, Principal of Mt. Hebron High School

Dear Neighbors,

Below are updates on matters affecting our Community

Verizon – A new site development plan was submitted to the county in late October, still in the BGE easement between Furrow Avenue and Route 99. (Verizon did not pursue the one presented in 2015) The property has not been posted as of this letter, and I've contacted the county planner to learn more. There is no point in protesting the extended antennae, because FCC regulations require the extension of public communications facilities, but we remain concerned about the ground-based installation which, in its first design, had an industrial appearance directly behind several of our neighbors' houses. By the January meeting we'll have details.

APFO – The Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance was rewritten after a lengthy citizens' committee effort and numerous hearings, at which I testified for modifications that would benefit our community. These included reducing the school capacity 'trigger' but with consideration of education programming changes that would require more space, and including congested intersections of county roads with state roads, such as our roads coming off of MD Route 99.

School Redistricting – Our stance was to keep our neighborhoods as intact as possible going into the schools, and not split them. That was particularly true of a proposal to split the neighborhood for high schools, sending the western area to Marriotts Ridge despite them being walkers to Mount Hebron. Those changes have been tabled pending construction of another high school. We will continue to monitor this as land for another elementary school was acquired on November 13. Thanks to the many folks who provided testimony, wrote letters, responded to surveys, attended rallies, hearings and meetings or otherwise dedicated time and energy towards giving our Community a voice in the process.

Bethany Glen – Housing for those 55+ is proposed for this entire area now. The major impact for us is the congestion on Route 99, and that may give us enough of a traffic count to finally get a traffic light at one of the intersections. A hearing is scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on December 13, 2017 at 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD.

Route 99 – We continue to lobby our state delegation to support County Executive Allen Kittleman's requested state budget for widening I-70 and Route 29 to increase capacity and lessen the demand on Route 99 in rush hours.

Dues – Best deal in town! Your \$15 per year goes toward our community-wide events, maintaining the entry walls at Mount Hebron Drive, yard sale advertising, and the costs of our website (which has fantastic information thanks to the efforts of Carl Utt). They're due now! Please complete the form on the reverse side and return with your check in the envelope provided.

Questions? Concerns? Comments? Please come to our meetings!

Nellie Arrington, Association President

2017 Santa Visit - Santa will visit our community on Sunday, December 3rd, 2017. Listen for the sirens and come out to say hello. To find out the times and stops for his visit, go to www.ellicottcityvfa.com/content/santa/.

Holiday Decorating Contest - The 2017 Holiday Decorating contest will take place between Friday, December 15th and Sunday, December 17th. We award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for overall decorations as well as a prize for the best door decoration. The winners will be awarded the Red Association plaques to proudly display on their front porches. The 2016 winners will be the judges this year. We will send out an email announcement of the winners and post pictures on our Facebook page! Good luck and have fun!

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Safety Committee Update – We have received one report where mail was stolen from a mail box. The stolen mail contained a check, which was subsequently altered and cashed. Here's what you can do to protect your mail from thieves:

- Use the letter slots inside your Post Office for your mail, or hand it to a letter carrier.
- Pick up your mail promptly after delivery. Don't leave it in your mailbox overnight. If you're expecting checks, credit cards, or other negotiable items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail.
- If you don't receive a check or other valuable mail you're expecting, contact the issuing agency immediately.
- If you change your address, immediately notify your Post Office and anyone with whom you do business via the mail.
- Don't send cash in the mail.
- Tell your Post Office when you'll be out of town so they can hold your mail until you return.
- Report all suspected mail theft to a Postal Inspector.
- Consider starting a neighborhood watch program. By exchanging work and vacation schedules with trusted friends and neighbors, you can watch each other's mailboxes (as well as homes).
- Consult with your local Postmaster for the most up-to-date regulations on mailboxes, including the availability of locked centralized or curbside mailboxes.

If you see a mail thief at work, or if you believe your mail was stolen, call police immediately, then call Postal Inspectors at 877-876-2455 (press 3).

Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church Playground – The Association Board would like to support the church's efforts to keep the playground safe for everyone. The rules that the preschoolers follow during the school day include not digging in the grassy or mulch areas and not removing sand and sand toys from the sand box. If your child uses the playground after school hours, please ask your child to follow these same rules.

Viking Backers Tree and Trim Sale – The Viking Backers will hold their annual Tree and Trim Sale from November 24th through December 24th, 2017. A donation is made by Payne Landscaping to the Viking Backers Booster Club for every product sold. Student groups will be selling refreshments on special dates during the sale.

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, 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>

Mount Hebron Community Association website
www.mthoca.org. While the newsletters are distributed approximately once per calendar quarter, the web site is updated regularly with new and relevant information.

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

Please submit your 2018 annual dues of \$15 using this form. It helps support your Community.

(201712)

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