

Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Newsletter

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

Fall 2015

Message from the Association President

The volunteers on our board are planning our traditional events as well as some new/renewed activities for the coming year. We'd love for more of you to help (for instance, we need a social activities chairman). This is my third time as MthOCA president, and I know it's a valuable part of our collective neighborhood, which includes Patapsco Park Estates. Here's what's on our minds:

MEETINGS – (starting at 7:30 p.m. at Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church, 2330 Mt. Hebron Dr.)

September 22 – Andrew Cockley, new principal of Mount Hebron High School, to meet us and continue the very special relationship we have with the school.

November 17 – County Executive Allan Kittleman, to talk about our favorite topics – road congestion, nearby development, zoning, etc., and to take your questions.

Public hearing – Verizon Wireless has submitted plans to add cell transmitters to one of the high-tension power stanchions, and a gravel access road to it from Furrow Avenue. A hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. September 8 at the Kiwanis-Wallas Hall (little league fields), 3300 Norberts Way, Ellicott City.

Membership Dues – At \$15 a year, MthOCA may be the best deal going. But our collection rate is lousy. So, the next newsletter will include an addressed envelope so you can send in your 2016 payment. This has been successful in the past!

Fun Events Proposed – In the past, the association sponsored a family picnic in September/October, and an adult dance around March. Each gave us chances to know folks throughout the neighborhood. The board would like to get these going again – any volunteers to help? We have some basic plans.

Vendor Fair – Many of us own or manage businesses. How about a Saturday morning event to showcase them so we support each other? And maybe add a shredding service or bulk-trash dumpster? Probably scheduling for early 2016 – let us know if you want to present your business.

Please thank the nice neighbors who deliver this newsletter, who put out the reminder signs for events,

and who maintain the plants at the signs at Route 99 and Mount Hebron Drive. These are labors of love!

Finally, here's a reminder that MthOCA is not a homeowner's association (HOA). Dues are not mandatory, and are not liens on properties. We do not own open space or maintain 'common areas.' We do not maintain an architectural review board.

However – all properties are subject to covenants (you can search for yours at www.MDLandRecords.gov). Each section or phase of the neighborhood has its own, and they vary. Some require an amount of brick or stone on the house front, restrict fencing from protruding past the front corners of the house, limit or deny chain link fencing, forbid raising pigs or establishing a foundry, prevent visibly parking commercial vehicles or boats or trailers, and disallow commercial signs other than real estate signs on properties for sale. As a community association, the board tries to encourage adherence, and will ask homeowners in violation to correct the situation. If a zoning violation is suspected, the board can contact the county to investigate. Beyond that, adjacent homeowners must take legal action.

That's it, as we head into fall. Please e-mail me at nelliearrington44@gmail.com or phone me at 410-465-7946, or contact any other member of the board on the list to volunteer or ask questions.

Nellie Arrington, Association President

Don't Miss The Annual Halloween Parade!

The Mt. Hebron-Orchards 47th Annual Halloween parade will be occurring in late October but we are still working out the details. The parade will be highlighted with a performance by the award winning Mt. Hebron High School Marching Unit. Children should be prepared to show off their Halloween costumes at the parade. Please keep an eye out for further information to be circulated soon via email, Facebook and our website at www.mthoca.org.

Advertising

If you are interested in advertising in our newsletter, please email mthoca@comcast.net for rates and information.

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Association Officers

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 Chairman, Mike McGinty, magint@comcast.net

Board Members:

Barry McQuay, Bpmcq16@comcast.net
Ward Morrow, wardesq@aol.com
Brenda Skinner, skinner.4@comcast.net

Facebook Page and Email Subscribers

We have made some progress toward our drive to reach 500 "Likes" on our Facebook page, but we still have a ways to go. If you have not yet done so, please "Like" our page (Search for us: "Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Association"). The page provides timely updates regarding upcoming Community events and information.

We also have an email list of approximately 400 names, who receive newsletters and other timely distributions. Please email us at mthoca@comcast.net to be added to the email distribution list.

If you have provided your email address but have not received any communications yet, please note that some emails get returned as undeliverable. So be sure to print your email address clearly on the dues form and make mthoca@comcast.net a trusted source.

And under the category of Being a Good Neighbor,

Your Neighbors Wish You Would...
(from the repeated mutterings we hear!)

- * Please be conscious of where your pets are relieving themselves during your walks and thank you for picking up after them. And please put their picked up waste in your trash instead of someone else's trash can or in the storm drain.
- * Take in your empty trash cans when you get home.
- * Ask your guests not to park on lawns or block driveways.
- * Put tree trimmings in 4-foot lengths in containers or tied bundles so recycling will pick them up.
- * Drive slowly and gently through the neighborhood.
- * Please come to a full stop at stop signs, and avoid cutting corners when turning left.
- * Wear reflective clothing when you walk, run, or bike now that the daylight is lessening.
- * Call county police at 410-313-2200 (important but not an emergency) or 911 when you see suspicious vehicles driving slowly through the neighborhood or parked for long periods, or notice strangers walking up to neighboring houses. (These calls have found stolen cars, stopped drug traffic, and prevented break-ins and vandalism in our area.)

Please submit your 2015 annual dues of \$15 using this form. It helps support your Community. (201509)

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