

Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Newsletter

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

November 2018

**** Association Meeting ****

December 5th, 2018, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church

2330 Calvin Circle at Mt. Hebron Drive

Guest Speaker – Ofc Casey Viou of the Howard County Police Dept.

Message from the president

Curious about the technology for those video doorbells and exterior lights that use a smartphone app to alert you when someone's at your door or on your porch? Come to our next meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 5, when Ofc. Casey Viou of the Howard County Police Department explains these, and how they can link to a new county police department app as well. Howard County has the first police application for the Ring products in Maryland. Ofc. Viou will also talk about general crime prevention at your house and in our neighborhood. As usual, our meeting is at Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church.

Meanwhile, it's once again the end of the year, and we are collecting annual dues. Your \$15 supports our activities, such as the Halloween parade, Holiday Decorations Contest, Santa Ride with the Ellicott City Volunteer Fire Department, Community Yard Sale, and more. It also funds our website, our new meeting reminder signs, administration costs, and some of our social media presence. Officers and directors are volunteers, and spend hours arranging events and meetings, researching issues that may affect the community, and advocating for our neighborhood's integrity through attendance at meeting and hearings, writing letters, and testifying. You may mail the dues in the attached envelope or bring them to the meeting and save the cost of a stamp.

As the new County Council, which also sits as the Zoning Board, takes office in early December, please keep up with local news. All 5 members are new, and we need to pay attention to proposed legislation. The new District 5 Council member is David Yungmann, who grew up in Patapsco Park Estates, and we expect to have a much-improved line of communication with him than we had with his predecessor.

We all look forward to seeing everyone's holiday decorations, and driving through the neighborhood to find those shield-shaped award placards for the best. However, we've noticed that the same houses are winning frequently, and would love to have some more competition. Please

consider doing a little extra this year – a customized door hanging, new lighting, yard or tree ornaments – and join in the fun!

Finally, many of the shops and restaurants are open for business in downtown Ellicott City. Please consider visiting them during this holiday season. They appreciate our neighborly support.

See you on the 5th!

Nellie Arrington, Association President

2018 Santa Visit - Santa will visit the Mount Hebron area on Sunday, December 9th, and the Orchards area on Monday, December 10th. Listen for the sirens and come out to say hello. To find out the approximate times and stops for his visits, go to www.ellicottcityvfa.com/content/santa or our website at www.mthoca.org.

Holiday Decorating Contest - The 2018 Holiday Decorating contest will take place between Friday, December 21st and Sunday, December 23rd. 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 2017 winners will be the judges this year. We will send out an email announcement of the winners and post pictures on our Facebook page!

Safety Committee – We've seen several social media postings about speeding through the neighborhood. Drivers, PLEASE monitor your speed, come to a complete stop at all stop signs, and avoid cutting the corner when you are turning left onto an adjacent street. On the pedestrian and cyclist side, please wear reflective clothing, even if you are carrying a light. This is especially important now that it gets dark early, and we have neighbors walking dogs and students walking home from schools. Additionally, many of our roads have curves and hills that limit lines of sight, which create additional challenges when sharing the road with pedestrians and cyclists.

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We've had several thefts from vehicles parked in driveways, as well as some vandalism. Please be sure your cars are locked at night, don't leave anything of value such as purses and electronics in sight, and keep outside lights on through the night. And yeah, come out to the December 5th meeting when Ofc. Viou gives us some more suggestions.

There are numerous scams going around to get you to either give money or to provide personal information. Two examples involve Gift Cards and Medicare. For more information on these and other scams as well as how to avoid becoming a victim, visit the Howard County website. The address is www.howardcountymd.gov. click on Departments, then Community-Resources, then Office of Consumer Protection.

Nextdoor Mt. Hebron: This is social media site that many residents within our community are joining. It allows the user to share news and events as well as things for sale. Visit www.nextdoor.com and search for Mt Hebron.

Mount Hebron Facebook Page - Lots of your neighbors and friends are posting on this site. The association also posts events and news in-between newsletters at this site. <https://www.facebook.com/mount.hebron.33>

Join our Email List – If you would like to be added to our email database, please include your email address on the dues form below. You can also email us at mthoca@comcast.net. If you previously signed up for emails but have not yet received any, check your settings and make mthoca@comcast.net a trusted source. And remember to please print your email address clearly when using the dues form below.

Mount Hebron Community Association website www.mthoca.org. Did you know we post our newsletters on our website? If you didn't receive a copy or would like to get previous copies, just click on the Newsletters tab and download a copy.

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, Carl Utt, carlutt@gmail.com
Safety Committee, Mike McGinty, magint@comcast.net
Board Member, Charles Reed, creed121016@gmail.com
Board Member, Shelly Mauck, shellyhmauck@gmail.com
Board Member, Paul Anderson, kathpaul51@gmail.com

Membership Dues – For those who paid the 2018 dues, we thank you. 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. If by chance you missed a previous opportunity, please use the dues form below to send your check for just \$15.00.

Volunteer needed for newsletter delivery – We are in need of someone who can deliver 42 newsletters to homes on Tiller Dr. If you can help us with this, please send an email to mthoca@comcast.net and we will supply you with the exact route and addresses.

Please submit your 2019 **annual** dues of \$15 using this form. It helps support your Community.

(201811)

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