

Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association



NEWSLETTER • March 2015
A PROUD MEMBER OF HARBEL

Next General Meeting

**March 18
7:30 PM**

**Faith Community United
Methodist Church**

(formerly St. John's) Lower Level
5315 Harford Road, Baltimore,
MD 21214-1910

AGENDA:

- **HHNA Officers**
- **Vince Pompa on Water Bills**
- **Mike Hilliard of Harbel**
- **N.E. District Police**

Future Meetings

Mark your calendars for future
Hamilton Hills meetings!!!

May 20, 2015
3rd Wednesday

Steering Committee

OFFICERS:

- Gavin Schmitt, *President*
Dian Combs, *Vice President*
Stanley Harris, *Treasurer*
Secretary – Katie-Rose Imbriano
Scott Hengen-*Main Street Rep.*
- Jean Baer • Carol Hartwill
 - Joe Stolkovich
 - Charlene Tyler • Sandy Young

COMMITTEES:

- **Residential Concerns:**
John Rhodes, Stanley Harris,
Katie-Rose Imbriano, Tom Green
- **Newsletter:** Jean Baer
- **Special Events:**
Dian Combs, Charlene Tyler,
Brad Royuk
- **Development:** Carol Hartwill
- * **Business/Economics:**
Lois Jones-Smith

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[hamiltonhillspresident
@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonhillspresident@gmail.com)

**WE NEED VOLUNTEERS
TO HELP DISTRIBUTE
NEWSLETTERS!!**

At Our March 18th Meeting

Welcome member **Gavin Schmitt**, a 5-year resident of Hamilton Hills, who has volunteered to lead our organization in 2015 as its President. **Katie-Rose Imbriano**, a Baltimore City employee, will bring her expertise to the office of Secretary. **Dian Combs**, who has served in many capacities on the board of HHNA, has agreed to take the office of Vice-President. **Stanley Harris** will again be our treasurer; we appreciate his continuous commitment. This new leadership provides a successful HHNA continuance. You, too, can make a difference by becoming a member of our scheduling committee. As in most organizations, we barely get by with a very few members doing all of the work. One or two new committee members, attending only one meeting before our regular general meeting, would make a major difference in how many activities we can attempt. Your increased participation in HHNA would result in a more meaningful association.

Our guest speaker, **Vince Pompa**, from the Baltimore City Department of Public Works, will answer your questions about water bills, billing, and Baltimore's new water meter program.

“Live Baltimore” Promotes Hamilton Hills

A recent Baltimore Sun article lauded Hamilton Hills as a “low-crime Northeast Baltimore neighborhood, which features many houses with front and back lawns and a main stretch of shops and restaurants.” “It’s family-friendly, fabulous walkability and there’s a real sense of community,” said Pam Wallace, program manager for Hamilton-Lauraville Healthy Neighborhoods. Wallace and ambassadors from nearby neighborhoods met potential homebuyers at an event hosted by **Live Baltimore** to promote a \$5,000 incentive offered by the city to those who qualify through a lottery. Those who are interested in applying for the homebuyer’s incentive but missed that event should contact **Live Baltimore**, City housing, or Pam Wallace (pallace113@verizon.net) for information on a similar event in March. After that, a bigger, biannual “Buying Into Baltimore” event is scheduled for May and September.

Creative Arts of Maryland

Have you ever wanted to travel to Cuba? That possibility for Americans might be in our not so distant future; however there is a lot to learn about traveling in a country that has been closed to the US for half a century.

Creative Arts of Maryland is hosting their guest artist for March, Baltimore based photojournalist Eric Stocklin, who has traveled to Cuba a handful of times in the past decade, often backpacking out of the cities into uncharted territories to photograph the true lives of Cubans. You can meet Eric at their next opening reception on March 13th from 5-9 PM as he discusses his photos and journeys in Cuba, or drop in someday while his exhibit is there and get some insight into exploring this island trapped in time. All are welcome! **Creative Arts of Maryland** is located at 5424 Harford Road. Call 410-444-2320 for further information, dates and hours.

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake ReStore will pick up home furniture, cabinets, building supplies, appliances, etc. from your home. Accepted donated items are then resold to the public at discounted prices. 100% of the profits generated by the sale of these items are invested into fulfilling the mission to create affordable homeownership opportunities in Central Maryland. For more information or locations, call 410-633-0506 to make an appointment for pick up or visit the website: <http://chesapeakestore.org/>

Mutt Mart

Mutt Mart, at 2904 Hamilton Avenue across from Harvest Fare, is a pet supplies store and resource for new pet owners in need of advice with nutrition, training, and general pet care. They offer a selected variety of natural and healthy food and treats, collars, beds, toys, grooming supplies and more. They also carry a wide variety of gently used pet supplies at a fraction of the cost. Bring in unwanted used items in exchange for store credit that can be used or saved for a later date. Mutt Mart hosts adoption events every weekend for various local animal rescues. They welcome friendly, leashed pets who receive complimentary treats. The next dog training session begins Sunday, March 22nd. To learn more and to sign up, stop by or contact them at www.MuttMartBaltimore.com

Join Our Online Email List

Email hhna@hamilton-hills.org to be added to the Hamilton Hills list to receive the newsletter by email and be added to our data base for updates on what's happening in your area.

COPS (Citizens on Patrol)

Volunteer to help us at the next HHNA meeting or write to: COPS, c/o Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 24643, Baltimore, MD 21214. Email hamiltonhillspresident@gmail.com for residential issues.

Newsletter Advertising

Sponsor this newsletter! The Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published bi-monthly and delivered to approximately 2,000 households. It is the official publication of the Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association. Cost of ads is as follows: **1/8 page (business card size)** \$120 for one year. **1/2 page** \$100 per issue. **Full page** \$150 per issue. Please mail your donation and a business card, or typewritten ad copy to: Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association, **P.O. Box 24643**, Baltimore, MD 21214. Make checks payable to Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association.

Membership Reminder:

Remember to renew your annual dues! And, if you can, volunteer to help the association grow! Please bring your annual dues of \$10 per household to the next meeting, or mail to **P.O. Box 24643**, Baltimore, MD 21214.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address: _____

I'd like to volunteer: Newsletter Distribution COPS Crime Prevention Housing Neighborhood CleanUp Other _____

Community Resources:

Numbers to call for Citizens' Services

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Rodent problem | 311 |
| Community Affairs | 410-396-5819 |
| Gangs | 443-984-7351 |
| Homeless Shelters | 410-361-4677 |
| Clogged storm drains, opened fire hydrants, flooding, etc. | 311 |
| Lead paint abatement | 410-396-8576 |
| Housing violations, vacant blgs | 311 |
| Abandoned vehicles | 311 |
| Traffic signals & signs | 311 |
| Park maintenance | 311 |
| Illegal drug activity | 410-685-DRUG |
| Bulk trash collection, street & alley cleaning | 311 |
| Graffiti removal | 311 |
| Sanitation enforcement | 311 |
| Reporting potholes | 311 |
| Energy assistance | 410-396-5555 |
| Recycling schedule | 410-396-5916 |

Contact Information:

Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

e-mail: mayor@baltimorecity.gov
City Hall Room #250, 100 N. Holliday Street,
Baltimore, MD 21202 410-396-3835
fax:410-396-9425

Bernard "Jack" Young 410-396-4804

e-mail: CouncilPresident@baltimorecity.gov

Andrea Curley

Community Outreach Liason 443-984-3995
email: andrea.curley@baltimorecity.gov.

Bob Curran 410-396-4812

(3rd District City Council)

Major Richard Worley

(NE District) 410-396-2440

Sgt. Chris Tserkis

(NE District) 410-396-2444

Joe Banks

(NE District) 410-889-6499

email: joseph.banks@baltimorepoice.org

Hamilton- Lauraville Community Solar Meeting

Retrofit Baltimore is expanding home greening services to include solar energy options by partnering with MD SUN to launch a solar co-op. Based on the same principal as buying in bulk, the co-op will go through the process of purchasing solar systems together. The group will select a single contractor to install systems on all of the homes, but each participant owns their own system and will sign their own contract with the chosen installer. By going solar as a group, members will save 30% off the cost of a solar system. They'll also have the support of the co-op throughout the process instead of having to go it alone. Learn more about the basics of solar and how the co-op works at a Solar Co-op Info Session to be held on Monday, March 23rd at 7pm at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, 5801 Harford Road. RSVP: http://www.retrofitbaltimore.org/solar_co-op_info_session

Free Tax Prep

The Baltimore CASH (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) Campaign is offering free tax preparation services. Last year, more than \$20 million in refunds and tax credits went to thousands of low-to-moderate income Baltimoreans. The group plans to unveil 14 community tax sites where citizens can receive free professional tax preparation services. Marylanders who earned less than \$53,000 in 2014 may be eligible to have their taxes prepared and electronically filed. According to the group, more than 100,000 low-to-moderate income Maryland workers who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit fail to claim the benefit. Since its founding, the CASH Campaign has returned more than \$155 million in refunds and tax credits to working families in Baltimore. The organization estimates that its efforts have helped save taxpayers \$15 million "in unnecessary filing fees." For additional information and to find out if you are eligible for the service, visit www.baltimorecashcampaign.org. Tax Solutions Free tax Prep: 7002-F Golden Ring Rd. Rosedale, MD 21237. Art Douglas, Volunteer Director. Phone: 410-391-4051 artlovestaxes@msn.com www.taxsolutions-md.com

Hamilton Figs

It has been a very cold winter and many neighbors have been concerned about the fig trees in their yards. These generally over productive fruit trees can suffer some serious damage or be a total loss during these severe winter freezes. Hopefully your figs are located in an area with some protection and overwintered well. If that's the case, vigorous trees can use some maintenance pruning. Trees should be trimmed in the late winter before any spring activity. Cut away any dead or diseased wood, and leave 5 or 6 of your strongest upright branches for fruit production. Remember, figs fruit on old wood at the beginning of the season; so if you want 2 crops that season, don't get crazy and level your plants. Prune your chosen fruiting branches at a manageable height and always prune at an angle right past a growth node. The worse your tree fared, the more you will have to deal with suckers growing from the roots of the tree. These suckers should be removed at the ground to avoid draining energy from your designated fruiting branches. If you suffered total loss, pick your strongest suckers as replacements and your tree will quickly come back to capacity over the next few seasons. Figs are an interesting tree in general and have a flowering habit that is worth describing. The "fruit" is actually an inverted flower cluster (a synconium) and not the swollen ovary (pistil) like an apple or such. Fig trees can be monoecious like corn (separate, incomplete male and female flowers on same plant) or have complete flowers with alternating viability of male and female parts. All edible figs are hermaphrodites with dysfunctional male parts. The resultant "fruit" gets bigger than their counterparts, the caprifigs, which are complete flowers functioning as male. Wasps actually enter and hibernate in caprifigs, and will eventually transfer pollen to the larger female flowers. The female synconium structure is such that the wasps may not enter but only enough to pollinate leaving your edible figs tear free. Your tree may have edible figs, a mix of inedible smaller and edible larger figs, or completely small non-edible "fruit" depending on how your plant identifies. What kind of figs are they? One easy way to tell is by observation. Caprifigs fruit three times a season, female figs twice. If you have small inedible fruit three times a year, you should replace your tree. *A last note on figs:* cleaning up fallen fruit throughout the summer not only cuts off rodent food supplies, but prevents garden disease. So enjoy them, freeze them, or jam them up but don't let them compost *in situ*. Email me with any tips or questions at planthamilton@gmail.com

– Joe Stolkovich



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to share our faith
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