

## Champion Pawn & Jewelry

Jose Garcia, owner of Champion Pawn at 5509 Harford Rd has been in business since 1993. For the past few years, he has used his business network and relationship with the Baltimore Police Department to assist community members in the recovery of property from burglaries.

His impact in the community won him recognition from the Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association in 2017 with a good neighbor award. Champion Pawn is run with simple goals: to serve the community, provide the best products, and to operate with honesty and integrity.

This year bill pay services have been added to the options available in this local business (including BGE, water, and Verizon) making it easy to pay bills in person in the neighborhood. Champion Pawn also offers bus passes, Notary services, jewelry sales, faxes, copies, and money orders.

When we asked Jose what he wants community members to know most before stopping in, he responded with this: "I've been in business since 1990 and have always managed my stores with community partnership in mind. I want people to know that we are available, if they ever have any concerns or questions. We also want to provide the services and products that the community wants. Our doors are open!"

Store hours are 10am - 6pm (Monday - Friday) and 10am - 5pm (Saturday).



HHNA  
GENERAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY JUNE

20

7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**HARBEL BUILDING**  
5807 Harford Rd. 21214

[www.HamiltonHillsMD.org](http://www.HamiltonHillsMD.org)

[www.Facebook.com/  
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## Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Party Saturday, 6/23 from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Come one, come all Hamilton neighbors to this year's first annual Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Party on Saturday, June 23rd from 3:00-7:00 p.m. at Mutt Mart. Hamilton Hills Neighborhood Association has been awarded a small grant from MECU to support this event.

There will be children's activities, live music, desserts, and a food vendor. Attendees are welcome to bring a picnic lunch as the Mutt Mart lawn will be available for picnic blankets and lawn chairs. Food will also be available for purchase. Details will be forthcoming in the following weeks. Be sure to check Hamilton Hills Association Page for more information.

## HAMILTON STREET FESTIVAL

SAVE THE DATE! JULY 28th!

Join Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street on Saturday, July 28th from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 5400-5500 blocks of Harford Road for three stages of music, all of your favorite neighborhood vendors, fun kids' activities, and more.

More details to follow at **BmoreMainStreet.com**.

## PUT THE BRAKES ON BREAK INS

There are a few easy steps you can practice to greatly reduce the chances your vehicle will become a target.

- **Lock your doors**

Up to a quarter of vehicle thefts are from unlocked cars. Even if you're running into the post office to mail a letter, that's too long to leave your vehicle's contents open for the taking. Simply locking the doors will deter those who might just be waiting around for an easy target.

- **Keep It Tidy**

Keep shopping bags or belongings out of sight. Even though you may know your shopping bags are empty someone looking to take advantage may not. Almost any worthless personal item that's visible from the outside could be seen as a valuable or a carrier of valuables. Keeping things tidy and out of sight can greatly reduce your chances of being burgled.

- **Conceal all the evidence**

Don't leave electronics and accessories out in the open. To further protect yourself and your belongings take all power plugs, phone chargers and auxiliary cables with you. This easy step can thwart any thieves who may be looking for an easy accessory grab.

- **Completely close windows and sunroofs**

Not only can thieves break in through gaps by opening locks with a coat hanger but open windows can disable the pressure sensor in some car alarms. This leaves the vehicle more vulnerable to break-ins and potentially giving thieves more time before the alarm sounds.

## Community Resources

Rodent problems, clogged storm drains, open fire hydrants, flooding, housing violations, abandoned vehicles, traffic signals & signs, park maintenance, bulk trash collection, street & alley cleaning, graffiti removal and sanitation enforcement call: 311

Community affairs .....410-396-5819  
Homeless shelters .....410-361-4677  
Lead paint abatement ....410-396-5716  
Illegal drug activity .....410-666-DRUG  
Potholes .....443-324-6926  
Energy assistance .....410-396-5555  
Recycling schedule .....410-396-5916

Mayor Catherine Pugh  
City Hall Room #250, 100 N Holiday st  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
mayor@baltimorecity.gov  
410-396-3835

City Council President "Jack" Young  
councilpresident@baltimorecity.gov

Tony Savage - City Council President's  
Neighborhood Relations Liaison  
410-396-4826 (o) 410-926-6938 (m)

3rd District Councilman Ryan Dorsey  
ryan.dorsey@baltimorecity.gov  
410-396-4812

NE Police Major Jeffrey Shorter  
jeffrey.shorter@baltimorepolice.org  
410-396-2440

NE Police Natalie Preston  
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410-396-6499

45 District Delegate Cory McCray  
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410-841-3486

43 District Delegate Maggie McIntosh  
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410-841-3407



## MAYOR'S SPRING CLEAN UP

On April 23rd, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. neighbors from Hamilton Hills participated in the Mayor's Spring Cleanup facilitated by the Department of Public Works.

Volunteers, including Morgan University students, came together from around the community to help cleanup our neighborhood. This year was the largest clean up in 12 years with over 260 sites across the city.

Hamilton Hills had six locations and close to 50 volunteers. We thank all of our volunteers for their commendable service and helping to make our neighborhood a cleaner place to live.



## LIVE BALTIMORE - TROLLEY TOUR

Hamilton Hills will be one of ten neighborhoods featured in Live Baltimore's 2018 Trolley Tour. Prospective home buyers will not only enjoy a narrated bus tour but can meet with real estate professionals and community organizations (including Hamilton Hills), sit in on expert-led workshops, AND become eligible for \$5,000 toward the purchase of a home anywhere in Baltimore City!

Thirty Buying Into Baltimore \$5,000 incentive awards are available following this event. Ready to buy now? Just curious? Everyone will benefit from this fun and informative tour! More information can be found at **LiveBaltimore.com/events**.



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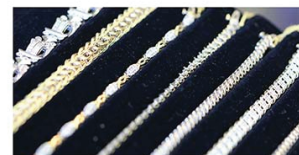
3015 Hamilton Ave.  
Baltimore, MD 21214

[hamiltonemusic.com](http://hamiltonemusic.com)

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**Champion Pawn & Jewelry**

5509 Harford Road  
Baltimore, MD 21214  
410-254-1110



 **BILL PAY • NOTARY PUBLIC**

**BUY • SELL • PAWN**  
WITH CONFIDENCE 



## PREPARING YOUR GARDEN FOR SPRING

By Joe Stolkovich

Hamilton Hills is blessed by many attributes not shared by other neighborhoods in the City. We have the convenience of downtown amenities and the bonus of large enough lot sizes to garden as we like. It has been said; however, that a people's history is told in its soils, and our soils hold an unfortunate reminder of past land use as well as the negative aspect of our location: lead and arsenic contamination. Many parts of our community were used for fruit production up until suburban development near a century ago, and until the forties, lead arsenate was a widely used pesticide to control codling moth on those orchards.

Additionally, leaded gasoline polluted the air from our highways and settled on our houses and in our yards while paint containing as much as 50% lead was used on the exterior of our homes. These minerals are toxic to humans and have collected to varying degrees in our topsoil which may be of concern for the home gardener. Everyone considering food gardening should have their soil tested to assess their risk. Test kits as well as testing instruction may be found at the University of Massachusetts' soil lab website:

**<https://ag.umass.edu/services/soil-plant-nutrient-testing-laboratory>**

Aside from identifying and avoiding the most contaminated soils in your yard, here are a few pointers at mitigating the risk:

- Locate your vegetable garden at least 10' out of the "drip zone" surrounding your house. Old flaking paint and emissions particulates that settled on walls wash downward where they settle in the top few inches of soil and remain until physically excavated.
- Concerning test results? Don't grow root crops or leaf vegetables like lettuce or spinach. If you do grow them, peel or thoroughly wash off all soil and dust. The soil itself will have a much higher concentration of lead than the plant material, and is actually the greater risk.
- Don't compost plants grown in contaminated soils.
- Lead solubility and absorption by plants is regulated by pH, organic composition and phosphorous content of the soil. Increase your pH by liming, add organic material by composting, and increase your phosphorous content with bone meal or rock phosphate fertilizers.
- These steps noted, unfortunately the chemistry of arsenic requires opposing mitigation considerations than those of lead. Consult a soil scientist about your test results should this be the case.
- After working in contaminated soil, always be sure to wash your hands and make especially sure children do. Try to avoid tracking soil into your home by utilizing a chosen set of gardening clothes.

Here's to a productive summer. Email me with any plant/gardening questions at **[planthamilton@gmail.com](mailto:planthamilton@gmail.com)**.

**Renew your 2018 Membership!** Please pay your \$10 dues at your next meeting, on our website [HamiltonHillsMD.org](http://HamiltonHillsMD.org), or mail "attn HHNA" at 5807 Harford Rd, Baltimore, MD 21214

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer: ☐ Block Captain ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## HHNA BOARD & STAFF

Our association is run by an all volunteer group of people living in our neighborhood. Members of the Board of Directors help neighbors connect with our city government and public partners, keep in touch with neighboring communities, and serve as points of contact when the city has questions for Hamilton at large. The Board is elected at our annual meeting in December.

Block Captains are the association's most local eyes and ears. They help track vacant and nuisance properties, public safety concerns, street and sidewalk damage, as well as deliver our quarterly newsletter by hand. Block Captains are not elected but may join at any time, either by contacting Mia Blom or by attending the monthly Block Captains' meeting.

Mia Blom - President  
[president@hamiltonhillsmid.org](mailto:president@hamiltonhillsmid.org)

Joe Talavie - Vice President  
[vicepresident@hamiltonhillsmid.org](mailto:vicepresident@hamiltonhillsmid.org)

Shannon Chorba - Secretary  
[secretary@hamiltonhillsmid.org](mailto:secretary@hamiltonhillsmid.org)

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