



**June 2013**

### **New look for the HTCA Web site**

Many thanks to Dona Patrick, our Webmaster, for her work in remodeling the HTCA Web site. Dona has looked after our Web site for many years, and we owe her a deep debt of gratitude for her commitment to the community. Please check out the new look at <http://www.htca.net>.

### **Ice cream social**



On Sunday, May 19, 2013, the HTCA held a fun-filled well-attended neighborhood ice cream social. In addition to ice cream with sprinkles, the event featured: a

lemonade stand staffed by neighborhood kids; the Huntington Terrace Jazz Fearless Avengers rocking the 'hood; face painting; crafts activities for the kids; and a moon bounce. While the day dawned with less than favorable weather, the event stayed rain-free, with the sun even shining toward the end. We served more than four gallons of ice cream and the kids raised almost \$70 from lemonade sales for the Children's Inn at NIH. Ten families joined or renewed their membership with HTCA. And, best of all, everyone had FUN.

We want to thank all our volunteers who made the event a success:

*Ice cream scoopers* – Pamela Janssen, Tara McFeeley, Rebecca Landau-Miller, and Amy Royden-Bloom.

*Huntington Terrace Jazz Fearless Avengers* – Will Layman on keyboards, Brad Strader on drums, Bob Schwartz on sax, Shyam Kannan on trumpet, Seth Greenstein on bass, and Nora Greenstein on vocals (thanks to the Deans for letting us use their lawn); *Face painting* – Anthony Clayman and Aleks Byrd.

*Children's lemonade stand* – MaryBeth Sitrick (organizer), Jenny Rock, Ania Gold, and Rachel Svec (donating lemonade), Eve and Arielle Gold, Sawyer Hays, Reider and Meyer McFeely, Anwen Morgan, Ted and Parker Rock,

Connor and Evan Root, Sander Schulman, Olivia and Emma Sitrick, Fiona Smith and Kendall Tippins.

*Crafts* – Keary Cope and Lisa Clemans-Cope (organizers), Eleanor Clemans-Cope, Joan Shin, Emma Sitrick, and Eve Gold.

*Moon bounce monitors* – Nicole and Ian Morgan (who also let us use their lawn for the moon bounce), Keary Cope, and Allan Gold.

*Magic tricks* – Harry Clayman. Also thanks to Rachel Svec, who lent us chairs; Howard and Ruthie Sokolove, who let us use their ice cream scoops and garbage cans; and Geetha Pai, who lent us her tables, tablecloths, and tables and let us store the ice cream in her freezer.

As you can see, we had many, many helpers, demonstrating the wonderful community spirit of our neighborhood. Thanks to you all!

### **July 4 parade**

We are seeking volunteers to help in our neighborhood's July 4 children's parade. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. at the top of Madison Street, and proceed to Bradley Hills park, where games and refreshments are planned in cooperation with our neighbors from Bradmoor. Please contact HTCA board members Keary Cope ([kearycope@gmail.com](mailto:kearycope@gmail.com)) and/or Ed Rock ([edwinrock@hotmail.com](mailto:edwinrock@hotmail.com)) if you wish to help. Thanks to both of them for offering to oversee the event.

### **Suburban hospital update (from Howard Sokolove)**

We have been waiting nine months for a ruling by the three-judge appellate panel at the Court of Special Appeals in Annapolis. This was our community's second appeal of the October 2010 opinion of the Montgomery County Board of Appeals' (BOA) approval of Suburban Hospital's proposed expansion plan.

Whatever the court's decision, and whatever implications it has for Huntington Terrace, let's take a moment to recall the successes that our community has achieved during the long and contentious legal battle with the hospital. Our efforts have been aimed at minimizing the adverse effects of Suburban's eventual expansion, rather than halting any expansion or modernization. Here's a before-and-after review highlighting the results of our efforts:

- In 2008, the hospital proposed the demolition of 23 of the 30 homes that it owns and rents along Southwick, Grant, and McKinley streets.
- *In 2010, the hospital won approval to demolish only 10 homes, thereby saving 13 homes for families in our community and maintaining more of a buffer between the hospital and the neighborhood.*

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- In 2008, the hospital proposed a new parking garage that would rise 68 feet - 5 stories above grade level - and which would accommodate almost 1,200 vehicles. By contrast, the existing garage is 21 feet above grade and accommodates 268 vehicles.

- *In 2009, the height of the proposed garage was reduced to 36 feet above grade with more levels below grade. The garage would still accommodate 1,200 vehicles. A Southwick Street entrance near Old Georgetown Road is restricted to employees only and will be designed to limit additional traffic on Southwick west of the garage.*

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- In 2012, the hospital proposed moving deeper into the community the locations at which its noise is measured. The proposal was to advance the noise measurement locations to the private-home property lines on the west side of Grant Street, effectively increasing the noise level in the community.
- *In 2012, the hospital was required to maintain the existing noise level measurement locations at the rear property lines of its Grant Street rental properties.*
- *In 2013, at the community's urging, the Montgomery County Planning Board restated this point as a condition of approval of the hospital's expansion plans.*

## Noise pollution

Noise is a constant in Huntington Terrace, as elsewhere. Construction sites, especially tear-downs and additions, are primary offenders. That's one of the costs of living in a desirable area. Leaf blowers and other garden equipment are also potential problems and it is only neighborly to restrict the use of such equipment as much as possible - not starting too early in the morning or going on too late in the evening - especially on weekends and holiday. Expect more noise and other environmental impact should the Suburban expansion go forward.

An HT neighbor's recent noise issues prompted us to visit with officials of the county department of environmental protection for a review of government noise regulation and what remedies are available to residents. We won't go into detail here - the specific regulations about decibel levels and hours and how to complain are available at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP> - but an important point came out of our conversation.

In construction projects, a key is communication. This is not surprising but is easy to overlook. Responsible builders should contact neighbors before a project begins and give them phone numbers to call if a noise issue arises. It is not in a builder's interest to create problems, either in a monetary or reputation sense. If builders don't contact neighbors before a project begins, residents are advised to take the initiative and connect with the builder (whose name will likely be on a sign in front of the property). Of course, noise issues may still arise but at least neighbors will have a relationship with the project manager and should feel free to call.

When all else fails, there's compliance through inspections and fines. We spoke with Stan Edwards, county division chief of environmental policy and compliance, and Steve Martin, environmental compliance supervisor. They are quite attuned to the issues in our neighborhood, and are ready to help. They are reachable at [stan.edwards@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:stan.edwards@montgomerycountymd.gov) and [steve.martin@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:steve.martin@montgomerycountymd.gov). Residents can also call the Department of Environmental Protection at 240-777-

7700 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Feel free to contact HTCA President Allan Gold ([allanrgold@gmail.com](mailto:allanrgold@gmail.com)) for help.

## Crime

We have had a surge in vandalism and car break-ins, even vehicles parked in driveways. Please be sure to lock your car doors, and consider removing valuable items from vehicles during the night.

Some people reported the crimes to the police. The HTCA contacted Councilman Roger Berliner, whose office pursued the matter with the police. Captain Falcinelli, commander of the Second Police District, based in Bethesda, assured Mr. Berliner's office that his officers were aware of the situation and "involved actively in the search for the perpetrators."

## Bradley Hills elementary school and park

Completion of the Bradley Hills elementary school renovation and expansion is on schedule, and the school should be ready for use in August. School and county playgrounds will be redone, as will the tennis court. Our Bradmoor neighbors are paying close attention to the landscaping plans.

Earlier this spring, we noticed that the Whitman High School lacrosse team was monopolizing afternoon use of the Bradley Hills park. Intervention of various HT and Bradmoor neighbors resulted in a reduced number of practices, and the hope that the team will find a different practice space next season.

## Annual dues

We're still collecting dues, which pay for events such as the ice cream social. Annual dues can be paid by:

- sending a check for \$20, payable to "HTCA" to HTCA Treasurer Stephen Brown at 5504 Hoover Street
- sending funds via Paypal to [HTCABethesda@gmail.com](mailto:HTCABethesda@gmail.com)
- use a credit card with the link on the Web site <http://htca.net/about-2/htca-membership/>

## Digital HTCA

- HTCA Web site - <http://htca.net>
- HTCA email address - [HTCABethesda@gmail.com](mailto:HTCABethesda@gmail.com)
- [HTCA Facebook page](#) - Huntington Terrace, Bethesda Maryland
- [HTCA Twitter](#) - @htcabethesda
- Nextdoor Huntington Terrace (registration required) - [https://huntingtonterrace.nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/](https://huntingtonterrace.nextdoor.com/news_feed/)
- To subscribe to our official announcements-only [HTCANet email list](#), please visit the Web site and look for email lists page. Fill in the form on that page.
- To subscribe to HT Exchange, our community discussion email group, email Stu Borman at [sab2d47@yahoo.com](mailto:sab2d47@yahoo.com) or visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/htcanet/> and click the button that says "Join this Group."