



HCCA President's Annual Report

May, 2014

On 7 May 2014 the Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) celebrated its 53rd anniversary by conducting its Annual meeting which was highlighted by a Candidates Forum. This included County Executive, Council and School Board candidates. Stu Kohn, HCCA President presented the array of HCCA activities, actions, and accomplishments in 2013 and 2014. These include such items as:

Aging in Howard County – Conducted a very successful “Aging in Place” Forum in the Fall of 2013 with the League of Women Voters, the Coordinating Center, and Office of Aging.

Community Organization Support – Worked with the citizens of Deer Springs in Laurel, New Town (NT) in Columbia, Clarksville, Dayton, Elkridge, Maple Lawn, Savage, Oakland Mills, North Laurel, and with the Rosa Bonheur Society for the preservation of their Cemetery regarding providing advice and support with their community concerns.

County Council and Planning Board Meetings – HCCA testified on various Bills and Resolutions.

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance – We have been an active advocate for years to expand APFO to cover quality of life issues.

Comp Zoning Referendum – Actively supported fixhoco.com in their initiative to bring several items approved under comprehensive zoning to referendum.

Candidates Forums – The HCCA partnered with the League of Women’s Voters Candidate’s on two of their spring candidate’s forums as well as sponsoring our own candidate’s forum in conjunction with the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Others can be found on our home page <http://howardcountyhcca.org/> under the tab – “Accomplishments.”

The 2014 Board Members were introduced consisting of Stu Kohn, President, Jacquie Sentell, Vice President, Ros Williams, Secretary, JD Smith, Treasurer, Brian England, Howard Johnson, and Paul Verchinski as Board of Directors. The importance of membership was discussed and a social event was announced inviting the audience to attend a tour of Montpelier Mansion in Laurel.

There was a very telling HCCA President’s report dated, 1989/1990 authored by Joyce Kelly, President of HCCA which was read to the audience. Excerpts are as follows:

“Will the 1990 General Plan become nothing more than another shelf-study, like the 1982 General Plan, with no follow through, no enforcement and no monitoring? Can we look forward to implementation being scattershot, at best, and meeting the Plan’s framework by accident, not by design? And will we be forced to rewind our past victories instead of moving forward to deal with the critical issues of comprehensive rezoning in the west, tree preservation and adequate facilities? Will these issues be deferred until we have lost the opportunity to be creative and constructive? Is our goal to emulate Fairfax County?”

Clearly our work, as concerned citizens, is cut out for us. We must not cease in our efforts, regardless of how frustrating and exhausting it might be. We can win, but only if each of us gives time and effort to the cause. Working together we can succeed. Our environment and our community are worth the effort, for ourselves and for our children.”

After 25 years not much has changed with the same problems we face today. Regardless, HCCA will strive to suggest and whenever possible will strive to make enhancements to ensure quality of life issues do not in any way deteriorate because of poor planning and asking what is the vision of the County.

We look forward to working with ALL to ensure our County is the best.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President