



Howard County Citizens Association

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The Voice Of The People of Howard County

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This year has been a quieter year with more behind the scenes work. Hopefully, you have gone to the new HCCA website (<http://howardcountyhcca.org/>). With the professional help of Ros Williams from Asage Marketing, we have a new website, web address, new facebook page and can now accept credit cards for donations or membership dues. Ros has been wonderful in helping us utilize newer technology, and we hope you enjoy the facelift.

- Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU)

We have continued to push – and have been frustrated – with the county’s lack of progress on implementing more of the Engagement and Land Use (PELU) Task Force Report’s recommendations from four years ago. The report of this task force can be seen at

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CCdocs/FINAL%ReportPDFonline.pdf>.

Some items that we want to see implemented are a more user friendly website for citizens who are trying to figure out the land use process, an “on deck” docket of what is coming before the Planning Board, and the strengthening and monitoring of pre-submission meeting requirements.

- Good Health Care in Howard County

We continued our efforts in working for first-class health care for citizens in Howard County. In this last year, HCCA, in conjunction with the Howard Co Health Department and Howard County General Hospital, held an informative Urgent Care Services evening that informed attendees of the range of urgent care providers in Howard County and the types of services that they provide.

Afterwards, we worked with the Howard County Health Department to post the providers on their website, and we have a link to that on our website. This is part of our ongoing focus to ensure that good health care is available to the citizens of Howard County.

- Expansion of the Adequate Public facilities Ordinance (APFO)

HCCA continues to be concerned that local infrastructure needs keep pace with our growth and that the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) is strong enough to insure that. It appears that the general plan is outlining a change to the current APFO legislation. HCCA will continue to work to address our concerns that the costs of increasing infrastructure are primarily borne by current residents.

- The General Plan: Plan Howard 2030

The General Plan will lay the framework for development in Howard County for the next decade. We had a board member, Valerie McGuire, on the advisory committee that had input into the plan and who kept us informed on what was

going on. Although neither the economic analysis of the plan or the traffic maps are available, the plan is expected to go to the County Council in June. We will continue our study and testimony on the plan and we urge citizens to participate in whatever way they are able. I particularly commend the library of documents that have been accumulated for this plan at www.planhoward.org. To understand the direction the General Plan desires to take, I especially urge folks to read the market analysis that was commissioned and that can be found at <http://www.planhoward.org/Rt1SnowdenDobbinMarketAnalysisDec2011.pdf>

- Local Legislation

Additionally, HCCA testifies on various county legislation and has listserve discussions about timely issues. We spent considerable time reading, investigating and testifying on proposed legislation. Recently, HCCA testimony, as well as that of other citizens and groups, helped to cause the withdrawal of proposed legislation that would have severely placed citizens at a disadvantage in Board of Appeals cases. With the breadth of experience that HCCA has on its board, we bring important details, insight and knowledge to our testimony on behalf of the citizens of Howard County.

This next year will be a full year. What will the General Plan look like? How will Howard County come up with the funds to pay for the storm water projects that will be needed to stem our pollution of our waterways? Will citizens be willing to step up to do their part to help the Chesapeake Bay and our rivers and lakes? What will be the next steps in the development of Columbia, the Rt 1 and Rt 40 corridors, Western Howard County, as well as other areas in Howard County? How will the APFO be changed? Big changes are coming. HCCA will need all its members to find a way to participate. Thank you for coming tonight, and I look forward to hearing your input.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hudson, President
HCCA