

HCCA 2016 Annual Report

Message from Stu Kohn, HCCA, President

All,

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would like to take this time to provide you with our 2016 Annual Report.

We were very pleased of the turnout to our 2016 HCCA Annual Meeting held on 11 May. Many in the audience were first time attendees. At the meeting we were proud to present some well-deserved special awards to Chris Alleva, Shun Lu, Paul Markovitz, and Russ Swatek who have greatly assisted us during the year(s) and have been extremely active in the community. You can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZdZGoyt6jA> to view our event.

During the year we have been involved in many activities and have tried to ensure our goals are accomplished. Please see <http://howardcountyhcca.org/hcca-accomplishments/> to view some of these actions. During the year we have been engaged in providing testimony in front of the Council and Delegation to voice our opinion in the hope of positive steps being taken for the betterment of the county. Please go to <http://howardcountyhcca.org/member-info/reports-documents-and-testimonies/> to see our testimony.

Some highlights of our activities include performing public services and working with communities throughout the County. They include:

- ✓ On April 16 sponsored a Longevity Forum: Getting Older is Not Optional: How You Deal With It Is – we partnered with the Howard County Office of Aging, Columbia Association, and the National Active and Retired Federal Employees, NARFE, nearly 150 were in attendance.
- ✓ Participated in Candidates Forum by partnering with the League of Women Voters.
- ✓ The Albeth Community – for the last 15 months as consultants to a Zoning Board case who are opposed to a proposed 134 additional townhomes which the Chapelgate Church is trying to develop.
- ✓ Clarksville – working with residents who for the past several years have been vehemently against a proposed Mortuary to be developed in their neighborhood.
- ✓ Columbia – to ensure that Affordable Housing becomes reality in Downtown and the County stick with the original plan of no greater than 5500 units. Working to ensure that the County listen and take action for those concerned with the excessive noise and vibrations regarding Merriweather Post Pavilion. Testified to the Planning Board about not permitting Royal Farms to build a mega gas station on Snowden River Parkway.

- ✓ Dayton / Western Howard County – assisted in trying to prevent industrial Mulching on Agricultural Preservation land.
- ✓ Highland – Working with the community and testified that the BRX Zoning should be eliminated.
- ✓ Savage – Assisting the community to prevent a development known as the Settlement of Savage to not be developed, but if it is to ensure it is compatible with the existing historic character. We have gone before the Historic Preservation Commission and the Planning Board.
- ✓ Periodically meeting with Director Department of Planning and Zoning and President of Howard County General Hospital.

We look forward to continue to serve the communities and to try and ensure our quality of life issues do not deteriorate because of poor strategic planning. If anyone would like to consider becoming a HCCA paid member you can refer to <http://howardcountyhcca.org/get-involved/join-hcca-membership-application/>. If you have not as of yet renewed your membership please go to <http://howardcountyhcca.org/get-involved/membership-renewal/>.

Thanks for all your support.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn

HCCA, President