

2017 Howard County Citizens Association (HCCA) Annual Report

We, the HCCA Board of Directors sincerely hope that all of you have a Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

It is HCCA's pleasure to provide you with our 2017 Annual Report. Like in other years we have tried to see that progress is not a forgotten word in our role of promoting good governance, quality of life issues, and that our zoning will someday become a more level playing field. To this end we are proud to say we have accomplished a multitude of items we believe to benefit the residents of Howard County. Please go to our website which identifies these at <http://howardcountyhcca.org/hcca-accomplishments/>. We hope that after viewing our activities and actions that you consider renewing your 2018 membership at -- <http://howardcountyhcca.org/get-involved/membership-renewal/>. If you would like to become a new member please go to <http://howardcountyhcca.org/get-involved/join-hcca-membership-application/>.

We continue to be a civic coalition with The People's Voice (TPV) to serve as a joint hub of information on County issues. To see TPV's monthly civic updates and legislative positions go to <http://www.ethicsballot.com>. The HCCA is a non-political organization and is not associated with the Ethics Ballot.

One of our major highlights was the production of our documentary film titled, "Columbia at 50 – A Bridge to the Future" which was sponsored by British American Motors, the Columbia Association, the Columbia 50th Birthday Celebration, Inc., and many of our caring members. At our premiere in September we had over 350 attendees and received great reviews. We are currently taking the film on the road to be shown to the Howard County community and have received many compliments. To view the film you can go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUwS66HmF1c&feature=youtu.be>.

Perhaps the biggest surprise this year was working with the Howard County Delegation to now have HB677 passed by the Maryland General Assembly and signed by Governor Hogan into law to reduce excessive sound levels emitting from Merriweather Post Pavilion. The Bill is titled "Howard County – Noise Control – Outdoor Concert Venues formerly HO. CO. 18-17. You can go to this link - <http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2017RS/bills/hb/hb0677F.pdf> to see the Bill.

We continue to testify in front of the Planning Board, County Council / Zoning Board regarding the proposed Bills and Resolutions as you can see by going to <http://howardcountyhcca.org/member-info/reports-documents-and-testimonies/>. We meet with the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Administration on a periodic basis to discuss zoning concerns. In addition we were very instrumental in suggesting the Development Regulations Assessment with the goal of a re-write regarding the zoning code.

We have worked with communities such as Albeth Heights off Marriotsville Road. We represented them by acting as consultants in front of the Zoning Board for the last two and half years to oppose a proposed development in their neighborhood by Chapelgate Church of 134 town homes. We also

continue to work extensively with the Savage community regarding their case known as the Settlement of Savage Mill.

We continue to be focused on the needs of the expanding older adult population. This was evident by our suggestions to revise two new and expanded Howard County property tax credits in our testimony before the County Council and our full support of promoting Aging in Place and Livable Homes within the County.

We were honored by Congressman Sarbanes office asking for him to visit with us to speak on issues which he did. To see pictures go to <http://howardcountyhcca.org/congress-visits-hcca/>.

At our HCCA Annual Meeting in May we were privileged to have as our guest County Executive, Allan Kittleman. To hear what he stated go to <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/Branches/County-Executive/Town-Hall-Meetings-schedule> - under May 17. At our annual meeting we bestowed our annual Activist(s) of the Year Awards, which went this year to two well deserving individuals -- Maria Alvarez and Barbara Krupiarz.

We continued to be extremely involved in having a better Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) and to ensure the health and safety of citizens in no way will be detrimental because of the passage of CB60 – Mulching, Composting and Natural Wood Waste. Our Board was represented on the APFO and mulching task forces. We are fortunate that two of our HCCA Board Members are members of the BWI Roundtable regarding continuing excessive airplane noise and vibrations heard and felt at Howard County residents caused by the “Nextgen” program. Also, two of our Board Members are part of the Zoning Regulation Assessment Steering Committee and graduates of the inaugural class of the County's Planning Academy.

Winston Churchill is quoted as saying, *“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”* This is what HCCA is all about.

We believe we have had a very rewarding and prolific year and hope you agree. For further information you can go to our website at <http://howardcountyhcca.org/>. Your continued support is always appreciated and we are pleased that because of you the Howard County Citizens Association is a success.

Sincerely,

Stu Kohn
HCCA, President

Your HCCA Board of Directors: Jervis Dorton, Brian England, Susan Garber, Howard Johnson, Lisa Markovitz, Alan Schneider, JD Smith, and Paul Verchinski