



December 2011

Volume VIII, Issue VII

**Meeting: January 10 at 7:00 PM**

**St. Marks Church**

***Comprehensive Rezoning and the General Plan***

**President's Message:**

**We need your views & support**

The General Plan for our County is being re-written and will be adopted by the County Council in 2012. The Plan and the subsequent zoning regulations will shape the development of the entire County for at least ten years to come. The future of "The Rural West" is at stake. GHCA is determined to express our vision of how our portion of the west should evolve and what should be maintained.

GHCA continues to work with **The Department of Planning and Zoning, (DPZ)** on the task of developing the **General Plan** to deal with the population growth projected for the next 10 years in Howard County. **DPZ**, at the direction of **County Executive Ulman**, formed the **Rural West Ad Hoc Committee** to advise and assist DPZ on the particular issues in the West in order to assist the larger **Task Force** in shaping the General Plan. **Kevin Bell, John Cunningham, and Dan O'Leary**, GHCA members were members of the committee which represented business, development, farming and residential interests. Predictably, there were and continue to be a wide range of opinions regarding such measures as how to support the farming community, revitalize but preserve the historic crossroads and restrain intrusive conditional uses in the residential zones. A proposed new zoning category which might be called "**Business Rural**" to distinguish and recognize the areas dependent on well water and utilizing septic has been greeted with mixed reactions. In order to clarify and clear up any misconceptions **GHCA** is calling for a wide turnout to discuss these concepts and proposals.

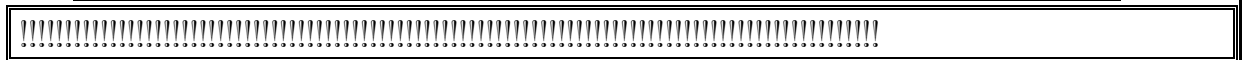
In our view all of these discussions must be carried out with the key concept of "sustainability" in mind. In keeping with that is our effort to sustain the rural character of our crossroads and community, which is dependent upon maintaining the lower level of density in the **Rural Residential (RR)** zone. This density level is not only preferable, but also necessary to maintain the environmentally sound system of well and septic. The sustainability and revitalization of our rural commercial crossroads and centers is also a priority that needs to be discussed extensively.

Please come early and sign in so that we may begin the meeting at 7:00 sharp.

### **GHCA Website**

**We still need a Webmaster.** Eric Kirksey returned to help with the preparations for Highland Day. But Eric and we desperately need a replacement. HELP! There must be someone out there who can manage a website. We need a volunteer ASAP. Contact Dan at: [danielol@aol.com](mailto:danielol@aol.com)

### **!!! THE SCOOP -- SIGHTINGS - RUMORS - BARGAINS**



- **Stink Bugs: I believe they have already adapted to Highland!** This past year those that survived learned to eat my garden vegetables and grapes, and sought shelter in the house in greatly reduced numbers. Your experience?
- **County recycling and holiday trash pickup schedule:** to get the latest go to: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442450955>
- **Best Of Howard: Congratulations to the many Highland businesses that scored awards in Howard Magazine.**
- ❖ **Pro-Built Construction: Best**
- ❖ **Highland Groomery: Honorable Mention for Pet Grooming**
- ❖ **Serendipity: Best Clothing Boutique**
- ❖ **Oaklawn Landscaping: Honorable Mention**
- ❖ **Mark Brew Plumbing: Honorable Mention**
- ❖ **Martial Arts Classes: Honorable Mention**
- ❖ **Win Kelly Chevrolet Buick GMC: Honorable Mention**
- ❖ **Little Builders Child Care: Honorable Mention**
- ❖ **Clarksville Flower Station: Honorable Mention**
- ❖ **Highland Day: Honorable Mention for Annual Festival Event**
- If they had a country butcher category, we know who would have won, and Highland Day finished second only to Wine in the Woods.

**It's membership renewal time again.** If every current member would get at least one neighbor to join, we could double our numbers and clout in 2012. Please join or rejoin GHCA. The Membership is **\$50** for the calendar year. **Now more than ever your participation and membership is needed to support the continued efforts of GHCA to represent your interests before Maryland/Howard County government, development interests, and community events.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make Your Check Payable to GHCA  
Mail to GHCA, PO Box 235, Highland, Maryland 20777

**THE GHCA CANNOT SUCCEED WITHOUT MEMBERS AND WITHOUT THE  
GHCA WE'RE ALL ON OUR OWN!!!!**

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