



February 2012

Volume IX, Issue I

**Pre-Submission Meeting
March 5 at 6:00 PM
St. Marks Church**

President's Message:

The meeting being held as noted above is not a GHCA meeting. Instead, it is a County required meeting related to **Hickory Ridge** -- you might have noticed the sign on Highland Road at **Hickory Ridge**, the historic property owned by the McDaniel family. **John McDaniel** tells us he is in the process of estate planning and has been advised to apply now for whatever final subdivision he envisions for his property. The subdivision process requires a pre-submission meeting, but, knowing John, I know he would have requested that GHCA host such a meeting anyway to share his plans with the community. The subdivision plan for the property is comprehensive and detailed, and an attempt to describe it here would be impossible, if not inappropriate. John hopes the turnout will be good, and hopes to answer your questions at that time -- Disclosure: John is a founding member, Board Member, and generous supporter of GHCA.

Another pre-submission meeting will be held February 29 at the **Clarksville Firehouse** at **6:00 PM**. This concerns an application for 22 residential units on 84 acres known as the **Regan Property**. It is located behind Pleasant View Drive which is off Hall Shop Rd.

We hope you remember that **GHCA** won its case in opposition to the 16-bed residential care/nursing home before the Board of Appeals on April 22, 2010. The Board denied the application, citing the mass and size of the 9500-square-foot building on a 1-acre lot, while adding that no evidence had been submitted to support the variance request. Board members

noted the building was "shoe horned on a small lot....just too big.... not compatible." On February 21, 2012 **Judge Becker of the Howard County Circuit Court** heard **Mr. Chopra's** appeal of that decision. **GHCA** had already submitted a **Response Memorandum** in support of the Board's Decision and Order. **Dan O'Leary**, supported by **Liz Davis, John Lehman, Sue Scheidt, and David Parr** in attendance, made oral arguments. We are hopeful the judge will rule in our favor, but the time frame is unknown. In the Board case, various witnesses had stressed that it would have severe adverse effects on the adjoining properties while altering the essential character of the neighborhood.

The next GHCA meeting will be April 12 at St. Marks at 7:00 PM.

GHCA Website

We still desperately 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

!!! THE SCOOP -- SIGHTINGS – RUMORS – BARGAINS

- **The Highland Inn** will finally open this year, maybe by July. **Greg Phillips** reports that **Chef Brian Boston of the Milton Inn** is anxious to open the doors. These days it's no small feat to find financing and participants to open a restaurant. Note the activity at the white house past **Boarmans** on Highland Rd. An information sign will be posted soon. We will pass along details as we receive them. **The Restaurant Association of Maryland** named Executive Chef **Brian Boston, "2011 Chef of the Year."** For more about Brian go to <http://miltoninn.com/>
- Zoning enforcement in **Howard County** is complaint-driven; the **Department** does not have the manpower to look for violations. If you feel the need to inquire or complain, here is the contact info:
Cindy Hamilton, Division Chief chamilton@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-4350; **Curtis Braithwaite, Regulation Inspector, Zoning Enforcement** cbraithwaite@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-4415; **Tamara Frank, Regulation Inspector, Zoning Enforcement** tfrank@howardcountymd.gov 410-313-3362
- **Illegal signs on public highways?** They may be reported online by going to this website: <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/IframeTemplate.aspx?id=6442455590>

Membership Special Appeal: Shortly, we will be representing GHCA's position on **Comprehensive Rezoning.** I ask every current member to bring at least one neighbor to our

next meeting and to join, we need 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: _____ (very important save postage, and keep informed)

Address (only if not on your check)

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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