Greater Highland Crossroads Association

September 2014 **Volume XI, Issue VII**

Allnutt Farm Hearing
September 11, 2014 at 6:00PM

President's Message

Hi-Land Farm and Firefighters Museum. **Scott Shearer's** efforts to restore and preserve the farm and the buildings on the site known as **Hi-Land Farm** on Highland Road are approaching a crucial test this Thursday. His sole intent is to preserve the current buildings and uses there. The **Howard County DPZ** has required him to apply for a conditional use for a museum to house and maintain his antique firefighting equipment. He needs the support of the entire Highland community, especially his neighbors in **Allnutt Farms.**

The remaining 14 acres of the dairy farm that began in the 1940s is a valuable asset to the community. It provides the open space and the buffers that would be required if the Allnutt development were proposed today. And, if all the equipment were "agricultural," no conditional use would be required even though the fire-fighting equipment is quieter and less intrusive.

The museum will open to the public only once a year on **Highland Day**. To support Scott, come to the hearing before the Hearing Examiner on **September 11, 2014 at 6:00PM** at the George Howard Building 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City.

How to Help? Some suggestions:

- The hearing rules do not allow petitions, but you can sign up to testify "in support." When you are called, you do not need to testify if you have nothing to add to the previous witnesses' testimony, (it might even be counter-productive to be repetitive unless you are an adjacent neighbor). The **Hearing Examiner** cannot help but notice the number of supporters willing to testify if necessary.
- There may be an opportunity to stand in support, and even seated your very presence is persuasive.

- Be sure to fill out the sign-up sheet clearly showing your address.

The Right of Petition thwarted by the Howard County Board of Elections, the Courts and Legal Ploys. Judge Tisdale , HC Circuit Court and the **MD Court of Appeals**, **(COA)** have all ruled against the petition signed by almost 7000 citizens. The August 18 deadline has passed; petition circulators have been subpoenaed and threatened with arrest and sanctions. It is all very discouraging and complicated. More on this subject in the future, but getting out this reminder on **HI-Land Farm** is crucial.

Highland Day X

The 10th. festival under the auspices of **GHCA** and recently **HBA** is shaping up. Although **The Steering Committee** - recently featured in **Chuck Gait's** Column in the **HCT** --has been meeting for a couple months, it is always a month of last-minute preparation. We are looking forward to another capacity group of exhibitors and events More details to come; **it's Saturday October 4.**

Highland Post Office

So far the efforts of member **Steve Thomas** and others resulting in the meeting with the regional supervisor, **Edward Williamson** have been disappointing. This, even though Steve has identified another PO official and exchanged numerous email and follow-ups. The flag was replaced, some of the grass was cut a few times, but little else has been done. More on this subject later.

GHCA Website

Chuck Gait, whose column appears in the **Howard County Times,** loyally continues as **GHCA Webmaster**. Visit the site, http://www.highlandmd.org/ and send your comments or suggestions to **Chuck** at: Chuck.Gait@gmail.com

Membership Special Appeal: I ask every current member to bring encourage at least one neighbor to attend **Highland Day**, visit the **GHCA booth** and bring your dues to become a member for 2014 and 2015. 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:_____
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