

**Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Association Newsletter**  
*Serving Mount Hebron, Patapsco Park Estates, Orchards Community & Everywhere in between!*  
Website: [www.mthoca.org](http://www.mthoca.org)  
**October 2025**

\*\*\*\* Association Meeting \*\*\*\*  
**October 14, 2025 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.**  
Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church  
2330 Calvin Circle at Mt. Hebron Drive  
Guest speaker – Lila Boor

**Next Community Association Meeting**

Mark your calendars! Our next Community Association Meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 7:00 pm** at Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church. Lila Boor, Senior Investigator with the Howard County Office of Consumer Protection is our guest speaker. Lila will share helpful tips on how to safely plan, budget, and choose a contractor—great for someone that is planning home repairs or renovations. Great way to ask questions directly to a trusted expert. We hope to see you there.

**Movie Night - How to Train Your Dragon** - was a great success. The weather was fantastic, with approx. 120 in attendance. If you missed the event and would like to get a glimpse of what you missed, visit our community Facebook page. We would like to hear your ideas on other events. If you have suggestions or would like to be involved, please contact us via our website <https://mthoca.org/>.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Halloween – Trunk or Treat – Make a note.** Although the actual date has not been announced, please make a note on your calendar near the end of October to attend the Annual Mount Hebron Trunk or Treat Event at Mt. Hebron High School. This event is designed to celebrate the diverse Mt. Hebron community through a fun and entertaining gathering for our Future Vikings and their families. Once the details have finalized, we will be sharing on Facebook

**Halloween House Decorating Photos.** Creak, whoo-hoo, clink-clank and the smell of pumpkin spice, Halloween is near. Again, this year we will be posting photos of neighborhood homes decorated for Halloween on the Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Association

Facebook page. We are asking for volunteers to help take pictures. Please contact [mthoca@comcast.net](mailto:mthoca@comcast.net) if you have time to help.

**2025 Holiday Decorating Contest**

Our annual Holiday Decorations Contest is coming up, judging will take place a few days prior to December 25th. Awards will be given by Wednesday December 24 to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and the best door winners. Happy decorating and good luck!

**2025 Santa Visit**

Every December, Santa makes a magical stop right here in Ellicott City! He's leaving the North Pole in style — riding through our neighborhood in a sleigh, with Mrs. Claus by his side, spreading holiday cheer to children and families. With help from the Ellicott City Fire Department, Santa will be waving, smiling, and sharing the spirit of the season as he makes his way through the community. Families can listen for the sirens and watch for Santa's sleigh lights to know when he's getting close! At the time of this newsletter, the department has not yet released their official route and schedule. For the latest updates on when Santa's sleigh will be visiting your street, please check their website:

<https://www.ellicottcityvfa.com/content/santa>

**Fall Winter Lawn Tips**

For Maryland's cool-season lawns, the University of Maryland Extension (UMD Extension) recommends fall aeration and overseeding, followed by mowing to 3-4 inches high. Leave chopped leaves on the lawn to decompose, and do not apply fertilizer between November 15th and March 1st due to Maryland's Lawn Fertilizer Law. Avoid walking on frozen grass to prevent injury

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**Security Alert - Check washing**

Reports have been made that checks have been stolen from blue USPS boxes and "washed". Police said this kind of mail theft is pretty common. "Check washing" is where a check is altered, by erasing the payee and amount, and then rewrites to steal money from the victim's bank account.

**How to protect?** Use the inside box at the post office during regular business hours or pass across the counter to postal employees. Use a Security Pen for writing checks. These pens use a non-erasable, permanent gel or pigment-based ink pen that soak into the paper's fibers, making them harder to remove with chemicals.

**Our current officers and board members are:**

President:	Roger Knight
Vice President:	Carl Utt
Treasurer:	Donna Liston
Recording Secretary:	Eric Ulanowicz
Corresponding Secretary:	Ken Mertz
Board Member / Social Media:	Christina Owens
Board Member	Erin Mossberger

You can reach any of these board members by emailing us at the community email address [mthoca@comcast.net](mailto:mthoca@comcast.net). And visit our website at <https://mthoca.org/> and our Mount Hebron/Orchards Community Association Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/p/Mount-Hebron-Orchards-Community-Association-100064603813033/> for neighborhood announcements and information on community events.

**Memory Lane by Carl Utt**

Among ranchers, split-levels, and colonials, Camel's Den Cave is just a short walk from the neighborhood. Camel's Den Cave is a small shelter cave near Daniels. The cave was formed from Cockeysville Marble, which is highly crystallized white metalimestone laced with calc-schist and a variety of other minerals. This type of rock was most famously used in the Washington Monument. The origins of the name are unknown, but an historical reference speculates that early settlers thought the arched entrance resembled the outline of a camel.

Another little-known cave was found on Main Street when Ellicott City flooded in 2017. This flood unearthed in a building's foundation, a hidden cave. Little is known about the cave, it's possible it was a site for storing Prohibition-era alcohol and as a stop on the Underground Railroad, at this time no documentation to support.

For photos and how to find Camels Den visit our Facebook page.

**Annual Dues reminder** – If you haven't already done so, please submit your 2025 voluntary Annual dues, using the form below to help us continue funding our community events. If you have already paid your dues, we thank you. If you would like to volunteer, you can use the same form below.

**Please submit your \$15 per household/ per year dues using this form. It helps support your Community. (202510)**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address: **(Print clearly)** \_\_\_\_\_

I can help with: ☐ Newsletter ☐ Easter Egg Hunt ☐ Halloween Parade ☐ Association Board  
☐ Yard Sale ☐ Other

Dues enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form and check (Payable to Mt. Hebron/Orchards Association) to:

**Mount Hebron-Orchards Community Association, P.O. Box 6810, Ellicott City, MD 21042**