

**Mount Hebron / Orchards Community Association Newsletter**  
*Serving Mount Hebron, Patapsco Park Estates, Orchards Community & Everywhere in between!*  
**July, 2023**

**Association Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**  
**Special Guest: Caroline Feil, Howard County Master Gardener**

**Mount Hebron/Orchards Community Association  
Message from the Board:**

At our May board meeting, a slate of officers for the upcoming July 1 - June 30 term was tentatively agreed upon. If approved at the meeting, the following changes will take effect.

- Charles Reed will be stepping down as President
- Roger Knight will run for President
- Carl Utt will run Vice President
- Cindy Riedy will run for Treasurer (Incumbent)
- Ken Mertz will run for Corresponding Secretary (Incumbent)
- Eric Ulanowicz will run for Recording Secretary
- Tina Owens will assume the role of Social Media Manager. This includes Website, Facebook and Google Calendar
- Jim Matsakis will continue as Board member

We have openings for at large board members. If you are interested in running for office or being an at large board member, you may email [mthoca@comcast.net](mailto:mthoca@comcast.net) for more information prior to the July meeting.

Special thanks go to Charles Reed, our outgoing president, who has served since June, 2020. During Charles' time in this volunteer position, he has interacted with the community, organized events and acted as an overall liaison. His time and efforts have been greatly appreciated. He has worked to make our bylaws consistent with our actual practices. He has also kept our activities going despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic. Thanks very much, Charles.

**Community Safety:**

Ellicott City is not immune from crime. The most common crime is items stolen from unlocked vehicles and garages. Please lock your car and keep garage doors closed.

**Housekeeping**

We all have an interest in having our neighborhood appear attractive, neat and well-maintained. Recently the board has received some complaints about the appearance of some of our homes and yards.

This is a great community where many of us lend a helping hand to neighbors who may have a hard time maintaining their homes or yards. If you have a neighbor who seems to have this difficulty, please consider offering to help.

Also, please take a look at your own property and consider whether there are some issues that might be corrected.

**Upcoming events:**

**Association Meeting** - Our next association meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, starting promptly at 7:00 pm**. We are pleased to have Caroline Feil, a Howard County Master Gardener as our special guest. Learn about the basic equipment for pruning trees and shrubs, how to prune trees properly, what type of shrubs should be pruned each season, plus techniques necessary for ensuring your trees and shrubs look their best.

Howard County Master Gardeners are volunteers, trained by the university, who provide horticultural education services to individuals, groups, and communities including government agencies, neighborhood associations, non-profit organizations, historic sites, schools and youth groups, senior citizens and garden clubs.

We hope you can join us Tuesday July 25 at 7:00pm at Mount Hebron Presbyterian Church on Calvin Circle.

**Outdoor Movie Night** - The board is working on a possible outdoor family movie night in September in collaboration with the Mt. Hebron Presbyterian Church. Further details will be made available via

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email, Facebook, and the [www.mthoca.org](http://www.mthoca.org) website once finalized.

## **Free and Inexpensive Ways to Secure Your Home!**

*Article contributed by Tina Owens*

Did you know that the **Howard County Police Department's Community Outreach Division** offers a **Free Home and Commercial Security Survey** to all Howard County residents and businesses? After filling out a security survey form, officers will perform a detailed security analysis of your home or business and provide you with a list of recommendations. To request the survey, visit <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/police/community-outreach> and click on the "Request a Security Survey" at the bottom of the page.

**Reolink**, a seller of home security systems, also provides a basic checklist (see below) on how to protect your home if a security system is not in your budget. Visit <https://reolink.com/blog/secure-your-home-without-a-security-camera/> for more details.

1. Install Motion Detector Lights - Installing motion detector lights in front of your house is an easy and cheap to increase your home security.
2. Leave a Few Lights On - When you are not home, it is a good idea to leave at least one light on in the house
3. Lock Doors and Windows - Your front door, back door, and windows give the first layer of protection from intruders
4. Ask Your Neighbors for Help - When you are not home, having a trusted neighbor look after your house and pets is a good way to safeguard a home.
5. Keep Valuables Out of Sight - Keep your purse and wallet in your bedroom at night - not on an easily seen kitchen table or in your car.
6. Keep the Garage Door Closed - And keep the door from the garage to your house locked.

7. Be Careful with Spare Keys - Don't leave a spare key under the doormat or under a plant.
8. Don't Leave Notes - Do not leave notes on your front door indicating you are not home.
9. Do Put Up Security Signs - Fake security signs like "this house protected by closed circuit television" or "beware of dog" can help protect you.
10. Get a Barking Dog - Not the answer for everyone, but barking does deter thieves and alerts you to outside noises!

**Memory Lane**, by Carl Utt

### **Wheelbarrow Man**

There are many interesting people associated with Ellicott City. Have you heard of R. Lyman Potter, aka The Wheelbarrow Lunatic? He is one of those people.

Mr. Potter and a man named L. P. Federmeier raced by foot from San Francisco to New York, each pushing a loaded wheelbarrow. The combined weight of the barrow and contents could never be less than 100 pounds. The race was contrived as a publicity stunt by newspaper magnate George Hearst, father of Wm. Randolph Hearst, who offered a \$2,000.00 prize to the winner.

According to Edward Lilley, local Historian, R. Lyman Potter visited Ellicott in 1880 with his wheelbarrow.

Here in Ellicott City, a local paper reported on November 12, 1880: *Our citizens have been entertained today by an individual named R. Lyman Potter who represents that he has just arrived here from San Francisco having walked the whole distance and at the same time wheeling a wheelbarrow which contained specimens of gold, silver, lead and copper ore which he collected on the Pacific coast, weighing 200 pounds.*

For many more fascinating facts on the life of Mr. Potter visit [www.mthoca.org](http://www.mthoca.org).