

Civic Association Proposes Revised Bylaws for October 27 Vote

After a thorough review of the MH-CK Civic Association's bylaws, the community will vote on proposed new rules at the October 27, 2011 Association meeting. Prior to such an important vote, this article reviews the process of crafting the new bylaws and highlights key changes that are suggested for community approval.

Why are the bylaws important?

In January 2011, the incoming Executive Board was charged with undertaking a comprehensive review of the Association's bylaws. The bylaws serve as the constitution of the Association. The bylaws outline who can become a member, define Association boundaries, dictate votes, and provide certain powers for the Executive Board.

The bylaws create the framework for how the Association achieves its goals, and the process for debate and dispute if there is conflict with respect to those goals or how they are achieved. In essence, if you want to have a role in defining how the Association works, you should review and vote on the bylaws.

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Why does the Association need to update the bylaws and what is the process for this update?

The bylaws were originally drafted in 1994. The original bylaws are a great foundation but do not reflect the current community (i.e., boundaries, methods for voting, etc.).

To review and update the bylaws, the Executive Board created a subcommittee headed by the Treasurer. The subcommittee drafted bylaws and based on the Treasurer's knowledge of the community as well as following best practices of other civic associations in the area.

In order for the final bylaws to be adopted, a proposed revision must be distributed one month prior to meeting in which the community will vote. The proposed bylaws were first presented to the community during the April 28, 2011 MH-CK meeting as well as all subsequent meetings. Further revisions have been distributed via newsletter and during community events. Given the extensive notice and comment period, the final draft of the bylaws will not be open to comment until the vote. Please see below for information regarding bylaw changes during the October 27, 2011 meeting.

A vote of two-thirds of the active members at the meeting may adopt the proposed bylaws. We encourage you to come to vote on this important document.

What is different?

Many things. The chart on p. 5 highlights the principal differences between the 1994 bylaws and the proposed version.

Continued on Page 4

President's Corner

What's Going On in the 'Hood

As you can see by the rest of the newsletter, the Civic Association (CA) has been busy working through the summer to prepare for some important fall events. First, the bylaws have been thoroughly reviewed and rewritten for clarity. A final vote to accept these changes, including the proposed expansion of the CA's boundaries, will occur in the October 27th community meeting. This is the future of your CA and what your membership dues support. I hope to see every street represented at the October meeting for the final vote on the rewritten bylaws and proposed boundary changes.

Over the summer, the CA also has improved the website resources, created welcome packages for new neighbors, and started organizing the full community block party for September 17. If you'd like to volunteer to help with any of these tasks, please email the Executive Board at board@mhckcivic.org.

The Parks and Plants Committee has been busy all summer working on plans to keep the community involved and educated about our neighborhood and parks. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact the committee at parks_and_plants@mhckcivic.org.

Under the direction of Zoning Committee Chair Dick Tingley, we also held a National Night Out on August 2 that was quite a bit of fun. I met a few members of the old Neighborhood Watch at the event, and we are still looking for more volunteers for that program. If you are interested, please email neighborhoodwatch@mhckcivic.org.

These past three seasons as Civic Association president have been extremely rewarding, and I'm looking forward to a lively autumn to close out my term. This fall will feature the block party on September 17, the autumn park cleanup on October 15, and a Halloween Parade for the kids on October 29. I hope to see you at these events that help ensure the MH-CK community remains vibrant and strong.

Elections for new officers will be held in January 2012. If you'd like to run, or to nominate someone for an officer position, please contact the Nominations Committee at nominations@mhckcivic.org. ♦

Vincent Bradley
MH-CK Civic Association President

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Vincent Bradley via email: officers@mhckcivic.org.

Volunteer Now!

The MK-CH Civic Association offers information, services and events that will strengthen the neighborhood as a whole. This cannot be done without volunteers offering their time and skills to make MH-CK an even better place. Please consider volunteering for one of these important projects for our community! Simply email officers@mhckcivic.org to get more involved in your neighborhood.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH: One of the cornerstones of community involvement, volunteers for this program educate residents about safety in our homes and neighborhoods.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Volunteers are especially needed to help organize National Night Out (August) and a block party (summer) for the entire MH-CK community.

ZONING: This committee reports on traffic, school zoning, and other essential community issues. Committee membership is small right now, so we need more hands available to stay on top of these matters.

PARKS & PLANTS: With such a beautiful, green neighborhood, we need a lot of help to organize events and informational sessions to help keep MH-CK looking good!

COMMUNICATIONS: Volunteers are especially needed for projects to translate the website into Spanish and to organize welcome packets for new residents.

NOMINATIONS: It's never too early to start thinking about CA leadership for 2012 and beyond. We are seeking volunteers as well as suggestions for candidates.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER:

Email officers@mhckcivic.org, or correspond with the Civic Association officers at:

McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association
P.O. Box 2102
Silver Spring, MD 20915

Neighbor Profile: John Jacobus



For John Jacobus, it's not just about the cars.

The automotive history writer and Gates Avenue resident may an eye for hot rods—the high-gloss paint jobs, gleaming fenders and bubble roofs can all make heads turn—but for him it's more about the talented designers and engineers who create them.

A former auto safety analyst for the U.S. Department of Transportation, Jacobus traded in his boyhood obsession with cars into a full-fledged automotive career.

For five years as a youth, he designed and built model cars as part of a nationwide contest sponsored by The Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild, a group of car designers later absorbed by General Motors (GM).

After studying industrial design, his boyhood hobby blossomed into a dream job as a design engineer at GM in Warren, Michigan. Later, Jacobus settled in McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls as a federal worker for more than three decades. First as a renter on Churchill Road (1974-1983) and later as a homeowner on Gates Avenue (1983-present), he was drawn back to the mid-Atlantic weather he experienced growing up nearby.

“Michigan had four seasons—June, July, August, and winter—and the winters were endless.

Being from Baltimore, I knew Washington would be a good place to work and still be near family,” said Jacobus, a single father. He also saw the neighborhood's parks and proximity to public transit and retail as good ground to raise his now-adult son, Chris.

Still, his passion for stylish cars grew into what became his first book, *The Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild -- An Illustrated History*, published in 2005.

Now his latest book, *Inside the Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild: Contestants Recall the Great General Motors Talent Search*, due later this year, takes a more personal look at how the guild contest for young, aspiring automotive designers helped many boys change their lives. While some participants realized their true calling for cars, others simply had the chance to experience life outside of their rural hometowns or win crucial college scholarships.

As for his own wheels, there has been a Ford Taurus in front of his brick colonial since 1991.

Now retired from the government, Jacobus has worked as a contractor and spends time visiting his family, including two grandchildren. Next year his own household will expand when he weds neighbor Jeanie West of Gladstone Street. (More on that another time!)

You can read more about John and contact him via his website: <http://www.fisherguild.com/>.

Susan Heavey

Have an interesting neighbor we should profile? Send your nominations to communications@mhckcivic.org.

JOIN THE MH-CK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Paying dues allows you to become a member of the Civic Association for the 2011 calendar year. All residents of the community (both owners and renters) are eligible for membership. These dues go towards fun, year-round neighborhood events and activities and the quarterly newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please detach this portion of the form and return it along with your suggested contribution of \$10.
Please make checks payable to McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association.

**McKenney Hills-Carroll Knolls Civic Association
P.O. Box 2102**

Silver Spring, MD 20915-2102

Civic Bylaws *(Continued)*

The chart does not include all of the changes so we encourage you to review the latest copy of the bylaws as well.

When will the vote for the new bylaws be held?

The official vote will be held during the October 27, 2011 MH-CK Civic Association meeting. The meeting will be held at the Park Recreation Building at Capital View Homewood Park at 8:00 p.m.

How will the vote be administered?

The proposed revisions to the bylaws takes into account community input from meetings held in the past 5 months. While there are a few open items for discussion (see below), once those items are resolved, the bylaws will be voted on as a “yes/no” vote, meaning that you may either accept or reject the bylaws as a whole. We will not have a line item vote. If you would like to discuss certain text during the meeting, you must contact the Bylaws Committee at mhck.treasurer@gmail.com by October 14, 2011.

Open items for discussion:

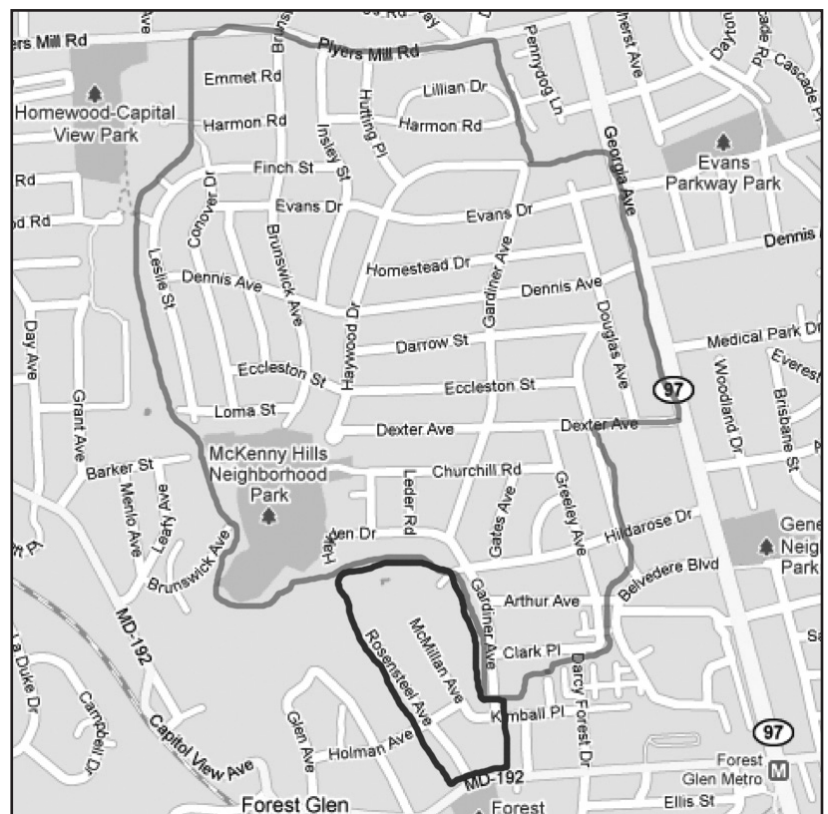
- Membership: Offer three levels of membership to the community.
- Dues: Increase dues slightly, to \$12 annually (\$10 annually previously).
- Quorum: Create a quorum for community meetings and voting.
- Dissolution: Create a procedure to dissolve the Association.
- Boundaries: Include Rosensteel Avenue, McMillan Avenue and south end of Gardiner Avenue within Association boundaries. ◇

Eric O’Neill
MH-CK Civic Association Treasurer

Andrea Gehman
Associate, Paul Hastings

For more information, please contact the Bylaws Committee at mhck.treasurer@gmail.com. Full text of the bylaws is available at <http://www.mhckcivic.org/by-laws.html>.

MH-CK Civic Association current boundaries in light grey, and proposed extended boundaries in black.



MH-CK ASSOCIATION PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

1994 Bylaws	Proposed Bylaw Changes
<p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active membership: Household within boundaries and in good standing with the Association (annual dues paid). May vote and hold office. • Associate membership: Household outside boundaries with dues paid. May not vote or hold office 	<p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associate members now called Honorary members, with no dues required. • Honorary members may be added with a 2/3 vote of Active members at a meeting with a quorum (see “Quorum” below for requirements). • Create a Geographic membership category to include households within boundaries that do not pay dues or are in arrears. Cannot vote or hold office until dues are paid.
<p>Annual Dues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual dues: \$10. 	<p>Annual Dues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase annual dues to \$12. • Create process for increasing dues, such as a three-fourths vote of Executive Board plus majority vote at a meeting with a quorum present.
<p>Quorum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No quorum required for meetings. 	<p>Quorum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a valid vote, there must be a minimum of 10 Active members present at a meeting.
<p>Voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific requirements on voting other than for elections. 	<p>Voting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions may only take place at meetings where a valid quorum has been established. • Actions are passed with a simple majority of Active members present in person or by proxy. • Proxy voting (voting by alternative means or through an active member present at the meeting) is allowed in limited circumstances for hardship. To vote by proxy, the Active member must have prior approval from the Executive Board. • The Executive Board may provide for special votes that are taken via Internet or mail.
<p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no specified process for meetings. 	<p>Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used for Association procedures.
<p>Indemnification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No legal protection for Association officers. 	<p>Indemnification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the officers face liability resulting from their duties to the Association (not including actions taken in bad faith or willful misconduct), the Association shall cover their legal fees to the extent possible. Insurance may be purchased to cover such losses.
<p>Dissolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No procedure for dissolution. 	<p>Dissolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board and notice to the community 30 days prior to a community vote on dissolution.

The full text version of the proposed bylaws, as well as the original 1994 bylaws, are available at the kiosk at McKenney Hills Park next to the playground and online at <http://www.mhckcivic.org/by-laws.html>.

County Begins Work on MH-CK Traffic Proposal

To address vehicular and pedestrian needs in the community, the Civic Association (CA) submitted a Traffic and Sidewalk Proposal to Montgomery County in January 2011. Due to the size of our proposal, the county split it up into several pieces to ensure that it addresses all of the proposal's issues. Here's the latest report on their progress:

1. The county is close to completing the construction impacts and cost estimates for proposed sidewalks in our neighborhood. Once those impacts and estimates are complete, it will request feedback from our community and make changes as appropriate. We hope that a county representative will present the results at an upcoming CA meeting.
2. The Safe Route to School study is underway for the new elementary school under construction at the old McKenney Hills Elementary site. This study will provide for crosswalks and other traffic calming measures to ensure children can walk to the new school safely.
3. A traffic study was completed at the intersection of Gardiner and Dennis. The volume of traffic did not warrant a four-way stop. The county will look at other options to calm traffic in that area and provide safe pedestrian access at that intersection.
4. In order to calm traffic in the stretch of roadway on Gardiner between Dexter and Hayden and provide safe pedestrian access via the existing sidewalk infrastructure, the county proposed installing curb extensions on both sides of Gardiner, just south of Churchill. The county has provided a mock-up of the changes, which can be found at <http://www.mhckcivic.org> under the Community News tab (click on "Proposal 1: Gardiner at Churchill").

Montgomery County will continue to provide traffic calming suggestions as they are developed. Due to funding constraints, priority is given based on safe pedestrian passage on the routes to schools and public transportation. For example, in the first proposal at Gardiner and Churchill, the county prefers to link the two existing sidewalks rather than build a new sidewalk on either side of Gardiner for that two-block stretch.

Finally, the Division of Highway Services reports that the entire MH-CK neighborhood is scheduled for resurfacing during fiscal year 2014. This means work can start as early as July 2013. Please note that this is a tentative schedule tentative; residents will receive a pamphlet in the mail explaining the project prior to commencement.

The Traffic Committee will continue to update the community on these and other traffic and pedestrian matters to give residents opportunity to offer feedback.

◇

Brian Bhandari
MH-CK Traffic Committee Chair

To volunteer or for more information about the Traffic Committee, please contact mhcktrafficcommittee@yahoo.com.

¿Habla Español?

The MH-CK Civic Association seeks assistance with translation from English to Spanish of the quarterly newsletter and some portions of the website. Our community of over 1,000 households is diverse, and we want to ensure that this information reaches as many households as possible.

If you can assist with this program, please contact us at board@mhckcivic.org.

Fall Park Cleanup on Oct. 15th!

Mark your calendars for the Fall Park Clean Up on Saturday, October 15 from 10:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. in McKenney Hills Park. We'll have supplies to help you cut non-native invasive vines or pick up trash in the park and stream. Also, join us in welcoming 15 new trees that will bolster the park and woodlands and curb erosion! Community service credits are available for students. Snacks and drinks provided. For more information, contact parks_and_plants@mhckcivic.org.

Events Calendar

Date	Event
Saturday, September 17, 2011 - 2-6pm	MH-CK Block Party, end of Brunswick Avenue adjacent to McKenney Hills Park
Thursday, September 22, 2011 - 8pm	Community Meeting
Saturday, October 15, 2011 - 10am-1pm	Fall Park Cleanup at McKenney Hills Park
Saturday, October 29, 2011 - 3-5pm (Rain Date 10/30)	Halloween Parade at McKenney Hills Playground
Thursday, October 27, 2011 - 8pm	Community Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2011 - 8pm	Community Meeting
Thursday December 22, 2011 - 8pm	Community Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2012 - 8pm	Community Meeting
January 2012 - TBD	Winter Blues Festival 2012
Tuesday, February 28, 2012 - 8pm	Community Meeting

All dates are tentative; please check the website for up-to-date information.
 The community events calendar is updated online at: <http://www.mhckcivic.org/calendar>.

All community meetings are held at the Capitol View Homewood Parks and Recreation Center behind Oakland Terrace Elementary School. Lower parking lot is located off of Leslie Street.



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Thank you for your support of the MH-CK newsletter!





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