

*The following letter is an invitation for you to come to the Main Street meeting on November 18th as described below. I'm sorry if you receive this more than once. Please share this information with anyone and everyone who may have expressed an interest in being part of the changes taking place in our community. This is a very important meeting and you are strongly urged to attend. Please contact me with any questions you may have. And by all means pass the word! Thank you!*

## **Main Street Vision Development: A Strategy for Success**

For many residents of Hamilton and Lauraville, Main Streets is a term we have been discussing for quite some time. From the strong letters of support to the announcement of the Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street (HLMS) designation, many members of our community have been invested throughout the process. The simple act of applying for the Baltimore Main Street designation brought us together as a community, working toward a common goal. It was with great hope of improving our commercial districts and the surrounding neighborhoods that we combined our efforts to become a Main Street.

Excitement abounds. Even before becoming an official Main Street, we have enjoyed the benefits of good solid business growth along the Harford Road corridor. We have wonderful choices for dining from fine foods to fast foods. We have a selection of pubs for gathering with friends and neighbors after a hard day of work. We have courageous new small business owners who are adding to our retail needs. And we have a mix of anchor businesses that have grown their roots deeply and remained stable in our business district. We are fortunate. And now, as a community, we have an opportunity to fine-tune our vision and work toward goals that will sustain our commercial districts and help them grow.

On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, personnel from the National Trust Main Street Center and Baltimore Main Streets will facilitate a discussion with us as members of our community to identify ways to improve our commercial districts. We will be encouraged to answer questions individually as well as in small discussion groups. Our small groups will reconvene to report and develop a list of priority issues and project ideas. Through our facilitators, our projects and ideas will be sorted into committee goals, objectives and activities. We will draft an action plan that provides the revitalization organization with a basis for its annual work plan.

This Main Street Vision Development meeting will be hosted by the HLMS Board and the HLMS Program Manager at Faith Community Church, 5311 Harford Road at Gibbons Avenue on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. A light dinner will be served at 5:30. The discussion will begin promptly at 6:00.

All are welcome. Bring your ideas, a notepad and a pen. If you know someone who may be interested, please extend an invitation. Get the word out. This is a great opportunity to be part of your commercial district revitalization.

Thank you,

Regina Lansinger  
HLMS Program Manager

Who: Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street  
What: Main Street Vision Development  
When: Tuesday, November 18, 2008  
Where: Faith Community Church  
5311 Harford Road; 21214  
Time: Light dinner at 5:30; meeting at 6:00

(Notes From Community Meeting, Tuesday, November 18, 2008)

Hi Neighbors,

For those of you who were unable to attend the meeting at Faith Community church last night, I would like to summarize briefly what you missed, and what you have to look forward to in the near future.

The meeting was conducted by Lauren Adkins of the National Main Street as well as members of the Baltimore Main Streets. This was a visioning session whereby the audience response was solicited through a series of questions. The questions pertained to things that you like best about your shopping district, things that need improvement, crime, traffic issues and what is your vision for 20 years from now.

The members of the community - all 50 of them - were enthusiastic in response and very willing to share their observations, opinions and suggestions in a very productive and positive manner. 26 people signed up to be part of one of the four Main Street committees: Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic Restructuring. This is a wonderful start. But it is just a start!

The second part of this meeting took place this evening, Wednesday 11/19. This meeting was for the Hamilton-Lauraville Main Street (HLMS) board members. We drafted and adopted a mission statement, as well as devised work plans for each of the four committees. I will share this information in the next few days. Our next step is to invite you to attend a follow up meeting in January - exact date not known yet. At this meeting, we will explain each committee in depth and present the suggested work plan for each of the four committees.

You all wrote letters in support of receiving the Main Street designation in January of 2008. I would like to personally invite you to become a part of this process. We were fortunate to receive the Main Street award. Now we must work together to put in place the work plan that will allow us to prosper in our business districts, which will then strengthen us as a solid community.

Many of us are pleased with some of the changes we have seen on Harford Road such as the streetscape, the new restaurants, the facade improvements, the renovations and the renewed commitment of many business owners. But that is just a beginning and we can't stop there. In these difficult economic times, we must support our existing businesses to the fullest to keep them open and operational. We have gotten a glimpse of what a nicer neighborhood looks, smells, sounds and feels like. If we do not roll up our sleeves and continue our work, a glimpse will be all we have gotten.

Please stay interested in your community and your business district. Support our businesses and take part in any and all neighborhood events that we will be trying to offer. I have attached a preliminary list of events that will take place on Friday & Saturday, December 5th & 6th. Please attend, bring friends, neighbors and family. Plan on having a good time! Choose to be a part of our community. Take ownership and pride in what we will accomplish together. We all have something wonderful in common - the neighborhood in which we live! Let's continue to build it.

Look for more information on the meeting in January. Share all of this information with your neighbors. Send emails to create a buzz. Encourage your friends & family members to be a part of something full of promise. Feel free to contact me with any questions or suggestions you may have. Stay tuned!

Thank you,

Regina Lansinger  
Director HLMS  
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