

Winter
2010

HOMELINE

The Neighborhood Newsletter of West Laurel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Three months ago, the Board decided the topic of the February 18 General Meeting would focus on transportation. In the past week, *The Washington Post* featured an article citing the Washington Beltway as the third most congested in the United States, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has proposed significant service cuts that would negatively impact Prince Georges's County. I believe we all have experienced the negative impacts of our congested roads, our lack of public transportation, and are concerned how to manage these impacts on our lives and the community of West Laurel.

Coming to our February meeting will be representatives from the Maryland Department of Transportation and Prince

George's County government. At the state level, we will have speakers to address the ICC, Route 198, and public transportation. At the county level we have asked for updates on the new speed camera program, public transportation for the northern end of the county, and plans for bike/walking paths.

Specifically, we have asked the state-level speakers to review the proposed changes to the ICC in our area such as the curtailing of collector roadways, and discuss the impacts. We will also have a representative from the regional office to discuss our concerns with Route 198 — excessive speed, better lane markings (reflectors), the rationale for an extra lane that ends abruptly at Bauer Lane, and future plans.

(Continued on page 6)

COMMUNITY RECAP

This new column will focus on a general update on community happenings.

ZONING

After a relatively quiet period, several initiatives are underway in the West Laurel Community.

Route 198 & Bond Mill Road. The Korean Church who owns this property has opted not to build and has placed the property up for sale. As it is currently zoned, the only

commercial use of this site permitted is another block plant. No new information.

Route 198 & Riding Stable Road. The Elgise De Dieu has purchased this property and has submitted their initial plans with Montgomery County to build a church. The West Laurel Civic Association has been in touch with church representatives and a meeting to dis-

(Continued on page 5)

WLCA WINTER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 18 at 7:30 PM
WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY
BUILDING

TOPICS

- Transportation
 - Overview
 - Proposed changes to ICC
 - Rt. 198 Concerns
 - Public Transportation / Seniors Aging in Place
- WL Updates
- Good Neighbor Award
- Neighborhood Q&A

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Don't MISS West Laurel's
Easter Egg Hunt

March 27, 2010

See page 6 for details

WEST LAUREL HOUSING VALUES

From January 1 through December 31, 2009, 58 homes sold in West Laurel — 54 in Prince George's and 4 in Montgomery County. In addition to the 58 homes sold, there were 25 no-

cost property transfers in West Laurel (Prince George's & Montgomery counties).

Quarter	# Sold	Average Price	Lowest Price	Highest Price
Jan-Mar '09	17	\$357,839	\$276,000	\$493,830
Apr-Jun '09	12	319,135	230,000	410,175
Jul-Aug '09	11	346,841	176,500	503,100
Sep-Dec '09	18	295,230	190,200	546,727
Total 2009	58	\$329,761	\$176,500	\$546,727
Jan-Mar '08	15	\$529,992	\$201,000	\$950,000
Apr-Jun '08	11	377,284	203,560	891,611
Jul-Sep '08	12	373,648	228,000	635,000
Oct-Dec '08	16	309,263	306,063	374,000
Total 2008	53	\$402,471	\$201,000	\$950,000
Jan-Mar '07	23	\$434,414	\$345,000	\$559,000
Apr-Jun '07	15	469,181	355,000	850,000
Jul-Sep '07	10	444,689	335,000	775,000
Oct-Dec '07	6	548,167	340,000	1,200,000
Total 2007	54	\$458,806	\$335,000	\$1,200,000
Jan-Mar '06	16	\$453,900	\$160,000	\$785,000
Apr-Jun '06	26	425,281	75,000	700,000
Jul-Aug '06	10	480,230	395,000	625,000
Sep-Dec '06	18	441,800	323,500	806,000
Total 2006	70	\$443,829	\$75,000	\$806,000

The chart to the left shows home sales from 2006 through the present for all homes sold in the West Laurel areas of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. It does not include no-cost property transfers or unimproved property.

For more information visit the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation web site at http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/. After selecting the county you'd like to search, you can then search by address, property sales, property account, or map references. West Laurel addresses in Prince George's County are located in District 10, Maps 2 & 5; West Laurel portions of Montgomery County are located in District 05, Maps LS11, LS21 & LS22. ❖

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue of Hotline!
Gordon Anderson, Laurice Crawford, Melissa Daston, Lenora Dernoga, Matthew Dernoga, Cindy Dollen, Beth Evans and Kim Passmore.

WEST LAUREL HOME SALES — SEPTEMBER THRU DECEMBER 2009

CLOSING	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	CLOSING	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE
09/03/09	6606 McCahill Terr	\$300,000	09/04/09	6113 Goodman Rd	\$319,500
09/09/09	15301 Walker Branch Ct	546,727	09/15/09	15817 Wayne Ave	325,000
09/16/09	15808 Wayne Ave	350,000	09/30/09	5907 Parkway Dr	300,000
10/20/09	15308 Walker Branch Ct	350,000	10/20/09	15301 Riding Path Ct	354,000
10/22/09	15506 Bond Mill Rd	190,000	10/28/09	15824 Bradford Dr	315,500
10/28/09	5910 Maple Terr	327,542	11/02/09	15622 Bond Mill Rd	240,000
11/03/09	6904 Redmiles Rd	295,000	11/04/09	15505 Park Hall Ct	272,900
11/18/09	16305 Bond Mill Rd	220,000	11/18/09	16208 Laurel Ridge Dr	205,000
12/23/09	15310 Riding Stable Rd	403,000	12/30/09	6902 Bradford Ct	295,000

A MESSAGE FROM PFC BEASOCK

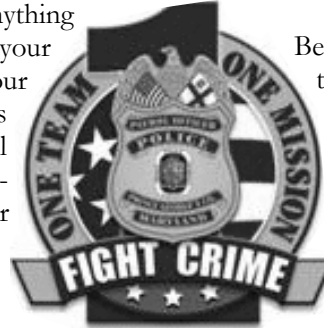
Hi, West Laurel, My name is **Pfc James Beasock** and I am your Prince Georges' County Police Community Response Officer. I have been associated with your neighborhood for about four months. During that time I have met many of the wonderful people who reside here. I hope to meet even more of you in the future.

Crime in West Laurel is down significantly but there is still much work to do. You have my assurance that I will do everything I can to ensure that West Laurel remains “a wonderful place to live” — but I

need your help. This is your community and I need your eyes and ears to help me do my job. Please report anything taking place near your home that arouses your suspicion. If it is urgent, please call 911. The non-emergency number for the police is 301-333-4000.

If I can't be on the scene, I will follow up with the police officer who was. I assure you, I listen, investigate and, if at all possible, report back. My e-mail is

jwbeasock@co.pg.md.us. I also monitor and interact with the West Laurel Yahoo Group.



Below are some helpful tips that will assist both of us.

- Have a list of the serial numbers of your high-value items. This is important because if they are stolen, the items can be returned to you. Keep the list in a secure place.
- Take all items out of your car when you are not in the car.
- Be aware of your surroundings — report any suspicious people and/or vehicles in the area.
- Most importantly, lock your vehicles and secure your homes.

The greatest deterrent to crime is Neighborhood Watch. **Cpl. Knight** is the police officer who heads up Neighborhood Watch in District VI. He is most anxious to reinstate Neighborhood Watch in West Laurel.

Cpl. Knight will be at the February General Meeting and will meet with individuals in the refreshment room so that anyone interested can sign up for this program. **Cpl. Knight** wants to start Neighborhood Watch as soon as possible. He is looking for a volunteer coordinator. The police will train this coordinator. The next step is Block Captains. We will tell you more about Neighborhood Watch at the General Meeting.

I want to close by thanking West Laurel for welcoming me with open arms. That, in itself, makes my job easier. ❖

RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

Partners In Care, a Maryland registered non-profit organization based in Pasadena, recently expanded into Laurel. Their goal is to empower older adults to remain independent and live in their own homes. To achieve this objective, Partners in Care uses a time exchange model as the foundation for its network of support for our older population. Members of the community may provide services, secure services or both. Every hour of service earned is an hour of service credited. That credit may be used at a later time or donated to help others in need.

Examples of services that may be performed include transportation to/from doctors' appointments (this is badly needed), grocery shopping, light handyman help (putting in light bulbs, installing railings), computer help, friendly visits and yard work. Services are matched to individual needs and schedules.

Individuals unable to donate time may still participate. They may provide goods for the organization's bake sales. Items such as furniture and clothes in good condition may be donated to a boutique that is maintained in Pasadena. In both cases, the items would be picked up. Credit points are assigned for each donation. There is no minimum number of hours that a volunteer must work to remain active. You can work for a while, take a break for a few months and come back again.

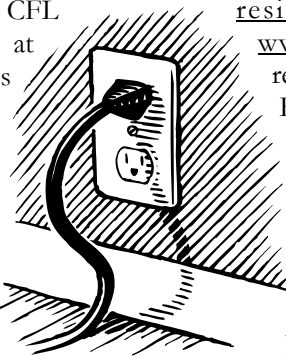
June Martin, a VISTA volunteer, maintains Laurel office, which is open on Tuesdays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Currently she is at the Laurel Boys & Girls Club on Montgomery Street. Anyone interested in participating should call June at 1-800-227-5500. She will receive her messages from the main office. I hope that the residents of West Laurel will answer the call for help. ❖

SAVE \$\$ ON ENERGY COSTS

Chances are when you received your BGE bill this month you cringed a little. With such frigid weather, your bills are sure to have gone through the roof. But there are simple ways to improve energy efficiency that will save you hundreds of dollars a year and make your home more comfortable year round.

Think of your home as an entire system. When you take cost-effective measures, you improve the performance of that system and save money at the same time! The least expensive kilowatt is the one you never have to use. Start with the small things:

- *Change the filter on your furnace/air conditioner quarterly.* This not only reduces the amount of energy the furnace uses, but also improves the air quality in your home.
- *Change your light bulbs from incandescent to compact florescent (CFL) or LED.* Most people don't know that the electricity to run a light bulb costs much more than the bulb itself! CFL and LED bulbs use at least two-thirds less energy and last twice as long, saving more than enough to pay for the initial cost several times over.
- *Upgrade to a programmable thermostat* that will allow you to set different temperatures for different times of the day.
- *Plant a tree this spring.* Or, plant a few trees. They will shade your home during the summer, which can reduce AC usage,



and let light in during the winter to warm the house. Be sure to plant on the sunny south side of your home, no closer than 15 feet to your home.

- *Insulate your home well.* Check the seals around doors and windows to prevent leaks and drafts. Replace old, worn-out weather-stripping and caulking, and make sure vents, recessed lighting and the attic accesses are properly sealed.

Everyday actions, like unplugging unused appliances, turning off lights when you leave a room and using cold water to wash your laundry are also some of the simple ways you can lower energy consumption.

Don't forget — appliances are the biggest energy eaters in your home, especially the refrigerator, dishwasher, and washing machine. Take advantage of the Energy Star program with rebates and discounts on appliances, windows, and heating/cooling systems. Visit <http://conservation.bgesmartenergy.com/residential> or <http://www.energystar.gov> for rebates and discounts on Energy Star appliances and more.

If you want to get really serious about energy savings, you can arrange for an energy audit of your home. This will help pinpoint areas of your home that waste energy, and could save you 15-40% on your energy bills! BGE provides this service, as well as many professional companies. Contact us for a list of reputable home energy audit companies.

By taking these simple steps, you can help reduce high energy bills, improve the comfort of your home and reduce pollution! For more ideas and/or questions, call or email Lenora Dernoga ([301-221-1700](tel:301-221-1700) lenora.dernoga@lnf.com) or Matthew Dernoga ([240-593-1268](tel:240-593-1268) mdernoga@umd.edu). ❖

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD!

The West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) extends a warm welcome to the families who have moved into our community this spring and summer. Every homeowner is automatically a member of the WLCA and, upon payment of the voluntary \$15 annual dues, entitled to vote.

- Carol B. Collado (McCahill Terrace)
- Kyle, Edward & Mary Synan (Goodman Rd)
- Ramon & Shelia Ortiz (Walker Branch Ct)
- Freisvinda Luna & Leticia Delao (Wayne Ave)
- Scott Hoglander (Wayne Ave)
- John W. Warring IV (Parkway Dr)
- Barry C. Herman (Walker Branch Ct)
- Act Properties LLC (Riding Path Ct)
- Cynthia Atkins (Bradford Dr)
- JP Morgan Chase Bank (Maple Terr)
- Marjorie Bosley (Bond Mill Rd)
- Jonathan & Monica Murphy (Redmiles Rd)
- Troy Queen (Park Hall Ct)
- Robert & Thelma Martin (Bond Mill Rd)
- John King, Jr. (Laurel Ridge Dr)
- James & Angela Dalton (Riding Stable Rd)
- Diana Canqui & Raul Flores (Bradford Ct)

Welcome, neighbors! We look forward to meeting you at the February WLCA General Meeting. ❖

COMMUNITY RECAP

(Continued from page 1)

Discuss the plans is being re-scheduled.

Route 198 & Sweitzer Lane. The owner of the property approached the WLCA Board in December and presented a conceptual use of the property as doctors' offices in January. The Board disagrees with his request to rezone the property from Rural Residential to Commercial and is in discussions with the developer on possible uses.

South Side of Route 198 & Old Gunpowder Road. The Artery Group has met with the WLCA Board several times regarding this property and will provide an update at the February Board Meeting. This development spans both Prince George's and Montgomery counties and is a mixture of townhomes and single family homes. WLCA has worked with the developer to reduce the density, improve the bike/walkways, and limit the impact on Fairland. The outstanding issue from our last meeting is the location of the entrance to the development in Montgomery County which was proposed to be opposite Riding Stable Road.

AREA MEETINGS

We have held small meetings with Areas 1 through 3 to date. This is a new trial initiative to allow residents to come and discuss areas of concern unique to their neighborhoods. As a result of issues raised in these forums, the burnt out home on Brooklyn Bridge Road has been boarded up and several other issues have been resolved.

The most popular aspect of these meetings has been the presence of **Officers Beasock** and **Knight** who have discussed specific prob-

lems with residents. Upcoming meetings are Area 4 on March 4 and Area 5 on April 15 at 7:30 PM at the West Laurel Community Building.

H1N1 FLU CLINIC

Courtesy of **Linda Landau** and the MEDSTAR Visiting Nurses Association, we had a wonderful turnout with almost 80 residents getting their H1N1 inoculations. Behind the scenes there was a flurry of work — thanks to **Beth Evans** for coordinating this effort, **Craig Newell** and **Lt. Conto** of the M-NCPPC, **Phil and Myrlene Ott**, **Lucy and Ed Grimes** and of course **Linda Landau** for their time and efforts to make this work.

DUMPSTER DAYS

Our snowy December dumpster day was not a deterrent to many of our residents. From piano harps to small upholstered chairs to construction debris, 80+ families came to the West Laurel community building with their junk. Based on the success of this program, we will have another dumpster day the morning of June 19. Thank you to **Beth Evans** and the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources.

CRIME & NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

In our area meetings, crime is a topic raised by many of our residents. West Laurel has had a number of theft from autos in the past two years with another round this month. **Cpl. Gerald Knight**, the Neighborhood Watch coordinator, is working with residents to re-establish this program in West Laurel. Data shows that crime drops by 98 percent when Neighborhood Watch programs are in place. **Cpl. Knight** will be present at the Feb-

ruary General Meeting to meet with residents. A few tips we can all use:

Vacation

- When leaving the house for an extended period, leave a note by your telephone or refrigerator with your contact info or info for someone who has a key to your home. If someone breaks in and the police are summoned, they must call someone to secure your house.
- Use timers on lights, radios, or TVs set to go off at different times throughout the house.

Driving & Vehicle Safety

- Maintain situational awareness. Do not leave your car if you see someone suspicious nearby.
- Use alternate routes home.
- Remove vehicle insurance cards and registration from the car when you are not in the car.
- If involved in an accident, do not get out of your car until the police arrive.

Banking

- Only use ATMs in a well-lit location.
- When using a drive-up ATM, make sure all doors are locked and passenger windows closed.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY POLICE SUBSTATION OPENS

There is a new District VI substation located at 13310 Laurel/Bowie Drive (Towne Centre shopping center) in South Laurel. One of the substation's many services is the monthly "coffee for seniors." The meeting is generally held on the first Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 PM. ❖

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

At the same time, we have asked about alternative and public transportation. One of the challenges facing West Laurel is our growing senior population and the lack of services to allow them to age in place. The WLCA is exploring ways to make our community one that makes aging in place possible. We have recently made contact with a new group in Laurel called Partners in Care that is a proponent of this issue.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not let you know that that traffic issues in West Laurel are one of the issues most frequently raised to Board members by residents. Please remember to observe the speed limits, observe stop signs in the neighborhood, do not park too close to intersections blocking line of sight, and wear reflective vests when jogging.

As usual, the meeting will begin with the Presentation of the Colors

by Pack 1635, Treasurer's report, presentation of our Good Neighbor Awards, a short presentation on MNCPPC's Envision Prince George's and our invited speakers. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the February 18th meeting.

Melissa Daston

FAMILY FUN IN & AROUND WEST LAUREL

BASKET MAKING (INT)

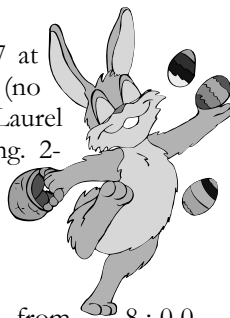
Tuesday, February 9 and February 16 from 6:30-9:00 PM. West Laurel Community Building. \$40 (residents). Register at www.pgparcs.com, SmartLink or call **Kim Passmore** at 301-725-3157.

"IN PERFECT SHAPE" FITNESS CLASS

Mondays or Wednesdays through March 22/24 from 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM. West Laurel Community Building. \$48 (residents). Increase energy, flexibility, strength while losing fat and inches with

NEIGHBORHOOD EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 27 at 10:00 AM SHARP (no kidding!). West Laurel Community Building. 2-11 years. FREE.



WLRC YARD SALE

Saturday, May 1 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM West Laurel Community Building. FREE.

These classes and fun events are brought to you by the West Laurel Recreation Council (WLRC). The WLRC meets the 3rd Monday of the month from 7:30 PM until 9:00 PM at the West Laurel Community Building. Funds from these classes support community events, Summer Playground at Bond Mill ES, Bond Mill ES Carnival, Laurel High Grad Night.

*Please consider lending a hand in planning or helping to run our programs. Several WLRC members are "retiring" after many years of volunteering, and the future of the WLRC will be in jeopardy without new members. For more information, contact **Kim Passmore** (301-725-3157) or **Rush Kester** (rwkester@aol.com). ❖*

WINTER TIPS

Please remember there is no longer vacuum leaf pickup! Bagged leaves can be picked up with yard waste; however, yard waste pickups have stopped for the winter and will resume in April..

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

No Leaf Vacuuming!

Yard Waste Pickup Begins April Snow Information

301-350-0500 or <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/snowtrack/>

Power Outages 1-800-685-0123 (BGE)

Police Non-Emergency Contact 301-333-4000

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Leaf Pickup 1-240-777-7623

Snow Information 1-240-777-ROAD

Power Outages 1-202-833-7500 (Pepco)

Police Non-Emergency Contact 301-279-8000

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 18 General Meeting
 March 4 Area 4 Meeting
 April 15 Area 5 Meeting
 May 20 General Meeting
 June 19 .. West Laurel Dumpster Day



Certified Personal Trainer Amy Wenhold.

Register at www.pgparcs.com, SmartLink or at the door.

LINE DANCE

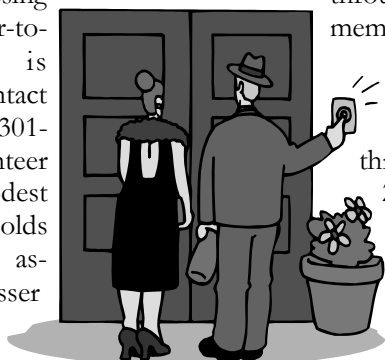
Wednesdays, February 10 through March 17 from 11:00 AM to 12:00 NOON. West Laurel Community Building. \$48 (residents). Register at www.pgparcs.com, SmartLink or call **Kim Passmore** at 301-725-3157.

SUPPORT WLCA – JOIN TODAY!

Welcome West Laurel neighbors to winter and a new fiscal year for the West Laurel Civic Association. This year, as in years past, WLCA seeks essential support for association activities through our annual members drive.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Membership canvassing support for our door-to-door campaign is needed. Please contact **Tony Spezio, Sr.** (301-498-3436) to volunteer in this effort. A modest number of households (12 to 24) will be assigned to each canvasser in his or her own neighborhood. Our



own neighborhood. Our volunteers from past years have enjoyed taking leisurely walks in their own neighborhood visiting with old friends and making friends with new neighbors.

DUES

Each West Laurel household is asked to support the WLCA through a modest yearly membership fee of \$15 that supports our association from September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010. WLCA provides a collective voice in county and state government forums that address zoning, legislative, safety, environmental, educational,

and recreational interests.

When WLCA has a high percentage of dues-paying households, more attention is given in these venues to our requests for improvements and increased support. More than ever, membership in the WLCA is important to assist in dealing with economic recession, lagging property values and urban encroachment of new developments.

Please complete the membership form below and mail it to the address listed on the form or hand deliver it to our membership table at the February 18 General Meeting held at the West Laurel Community Building at the intersection of Bond Mill and Brooklyn Bridge Roads. ❖

WLCA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM 2010

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues \$15 Additional Donation _____

Comments _____

Dues \$15 per Household* – Make checks payable to WLCA

Please send your membership registration form to:

West Laurel Civic Association | Laurice Crawford, Treasurer | 16300 Gales Court | Laurel, MD 20707

Or drop by the membership table at the February 18 meeting

*Covers up to 2 voting members

WEST LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 387
LAUREL, MD 20725



THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER OF WEST LAUREL

Hotline — Winter 2010

Speedy Labels

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