

SPRING  
2011

# HOTLINE

The Neighborhood Newsletter of West Laurel

## President's Message

Spring is always a busy time of year in West Laurel. With luck as you read this issue of the *Hotline*, you will have seen the new sign going up at the entrance of West Laurel at Route 198 and Bond Mill Road. Thanks to all of you who spent time doing design work, shopping for construction materials, digging holes, and lettering the sign. If you're interested in helping to complete the project, please contact Tony Spezio ([spezio@care2.com](mailto:spezio@care2.com)) or Bryon White ([bryonjos@hotmail.com](mailto:bryonjos@hotmail.com)).

For every job completed, there are several more needing community helping hands.

Since being elected to the WLCA, I, along with many of the WLCA Board Members, have been working on ways to make West Laurel a community that allows seniors to age in place. During our most recent "Dumpster Day" with help from five volunteers — John, Matthew, Ian, Jason, and Terry — WLCA made seven house calls to seniors and disabled citi-

*(Continued on page 4)*

### WLCA Spring General Meeting

Thursday, May 19

7:30 PM

West Laurel Community  
Building

### Meeting Topics

New WSSC Pipeline

Q&A

Update from Elected  
Officials

Election of WLCA Board

## Spring General Meeting

The upcoming May 19 WLCA General meeting is of importance to every home owner in West Laurel. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) is going forward with a new water pipeline beginning at the Rocky Gorge dam and traversing the entire length of West Laurel before crossing State Route 198 and ending at the WSSC plant. The WSSC team, **Cheryl Young**, Project Manager, **Luther Bathurst**, engineer, and **Thomas Fegley**, engineer

will be presenting the project to you.

What does a new pipeline really mean? This is not a small pipeline but a major pipeline that requires an 8 foot by 8 foot trench with very large digging machines that will take 12-18 months to complete. WSSC began with eight options from following the current pathway in the back of approximately 50 backyards and currently narrowed the choice to two op-

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## West Laurel Housing Values

The first quarter of 2011 was slow in real estate. A total of eight homes sold in West Laurel, all in Prince George's

County but the average price of the homes shows an increase over home prices in 2010. The chart below shows home sales from 2008 to the present for all

homes sold in Montgomery County and Prince Georges County. It does not include no-cost property transfers or unimproved property.

Quarter	Total # Sold	Average Cost	Lowest Price	Highest Price
Jan-Mar 11	8	\$358,152	\$160,000	\$547,365
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$358,152</b>	<b>\$160,000</b>	<b>\$547,365</b>
Jan-Mar 10	9	\$341,638	\$197,650	\$536,432
Apr-Jun 10	23	\$338,662	\$130,000	\$552,175
Jul-Sep 10	16	\$356,906	\$190,000	\$661,003
Oct-Dec 10	16	\$352,262	\$191,250	\$610,150
<b>Totals</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>\$ 347,128</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>	<b>\$661,003</b>
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>\$329,761</b>	<b>\$176,500</b>	<b>\$546,727</b>
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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$402,471</b>	<b>\$201,000</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>

For more information visit the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation web site at [http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp\\_rewrite/](http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/). After selecting the county, you can search by address, property sales, property account, or map references. West Laurel addresses in Prince George's County are located in District 10, Map 0002 and Map 0005; West Laurel portions of Montgomery County are located in District 05, Maps LS11, LS21 and LS22. ❖



### WEST LAUREL HOME SALES — 1ST QUARTER 2011

ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE
5809 Parkway Drive	\$160,000	6301 Forest Mill Lane	\$230,000
16004 Kenny Road	230,000	7005 Marmick Place	317,597
15812 Bradford Drive		16097 Gales Street	517,000
16308 Education Court	525,250	16401 Leo James Court	547,365

# Community News

## WEST LAUREL SIGN

Construction of the West Laurel entrance sign is expected to begin on April 30 and be completed by the weekend of May 30, weather permitting. The sign is located on the northwest corner of Bond Mill and MD 198, behind the community flower garden.

## TRAFFIC

The newly formed West Laurel Traffic Committee had its initial meeting the last week in February. This kick-off meeting was well-attended. Participants discussed safety and speeding concerns around select areas throughout the community. Currently, the



community. Currently, the

Committee is collecting data in an effort to put together a report documenting residents' concerns. This will report will be presented to DPW&T and to our local County Councilperson. The next meeting will be announced on the West Laurel Yahoo Group.

## WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

West Laurel has several on-line resources available to residents to keep you informed about what is happening in our community.

The West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) has a public website at [www.wlcaweb.org](http://www.wlcaweb.org) which contains news articles, copies of the *Hotline*, maps of West Laurel, and links with County and State resources.

The West Laurel Recreation Council website is <http://www.laurelmd.us/loc/westlaurel/wlrc.html> and also appears also on the WLCA web site.

The West Laurel Swim Club's website is <http://www.westlaurelswimclub.com/>.

A discussion board for West Laurel residents only is sponsored on Yahoo. Information on meetings, lost pets, and other general information is shared among residents. To join please go to [www.wlcaweb.org](http://www.wlcaweb.org) and click on the link in the upper right hand corner.

Finally, the Prince George's County Police have recently begun making data available online at [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com). ❖

# News You Can Use

## PARKING VIOLATIONS (PG COUNTY)

The WLCA gets lots of emails on what are the parking rules and who to call for assistance. Here are the answers to the most common questions received.

- No vehicle over 10,000 lbs allowed to park on public streets without moving for more than 72 hours.
- No unregistered vehicle or trailer may be parked on public streets at any time.
- No parking in front of a driveway, on a sidewalk, within 15 feet of a hydrant, within 20 feet of a crosswalk, within 30 feet of a stop or yield sign, in a direction opposite the traffic flow, on an unpaved area of a residential lot less than 1 acre.
- No person shall leave an abandoned or inoperable vehicle

for more than 48 hours on a public street.

- No commercial bus may be parked on a public street unless they are in the course of a commercial purpose.

Call 301-772-2060 or email [dsmc-graw@co.pg.md.us](mailto:dsmc-graw@co.pg.md.us) to report all violations. A new unit, Revenue Authority of Prince George's County, is now handling these violations.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

- All animals are subject to being on a leash
- Owners of dogs and cats must remove pet excrement for public or private property
- All dogs, cats, ferrets must be licensed and inoculated for rabies
- Pit bulls are illegal
- Guard dogs must be licensed

and able to demonstrate obedience training

- Owners must be informed of noisy animals. If the noise is not abated residents may contact the Commission for Animal control to file a complaint (Commission for Animal Control, 9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 520, Largo, MD 20774).

## PROPERTY STANDARDS

- Grass may not be more than 12 inches high.
- A rental license is required to rent a single family dwelling
- No more than 5 unrelated individuals may live in a single dwelling
- Most small business are illegal to be operated out of a residential home
- Call 301-883-6100 to report problems. ❖

# Welcome to West Laurel

The West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) extends a warm welcome to the families who became residents of West Laurel this summer and fall. Every homeowner is automatically a member of the Civic Association and upon payment of the annual dues, entitled to vote in elections. West Laurel is an active community with many

volunteer opportunities, including the Civic Association, Recreation Council, and Bond Mill elementary school. We look forward to meeting you at the May Civic Association General Meeting.

**Ryan Faggard** (Forest Mill Drive)

**Artur Stele** (Gales Street)

**Russell Lambert** (Kenny Road)

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## President's Message

*(Continued from page 1)*

zens and hauled their materials to the dumpsters. During these house calls, several seniors asked for assistance with simple tasks such as changing light bulbs or moving an item. These are basic activities you or I take for granted, but imagine yourself with limited mobility in a dark house because you couldn't stand on a chair to change a light bulb. If you can pitch in with 30 minutes of your time, please call me ([mdaston@verizon.net](mailto:mdaston@verizon.net)) or Jason Float ([Jason.float@gmail.com](mailto:Jason.float@gmail.com)).

The second activity that would benefit many West Laurel residents is participation with the Recreation Council. For those who don't know the Rec Council is, like the Civic Association, all volunteer. Their goal is to bring activities to residents of West Laurel of all ages. If you have an hour once a month in the evenings, please consider giving **Kim Passmore** (301-725-3157) or **Rush Kester** (301 490-1310) a call.

I want to report that after much effort from West Laurel residents, the Park Police, and the Prince Georges County Department of Parks & Recreation, the rules for rentals at the West Laurel Community Building have been changed. Many residents are aware that over the past two years the size, noise, and general rowdiness of renters has negatively impacted our residents. The new rules allow 6-hour rentals beginning at 8 AM that must be concluded by 4 PM and cleaned up by 5 PM. Prior to this decision, 14 rental agreements were negotiated and will be honored.

*Melissa Daston*, President  
[mdaston@verizon.net](mailto:mdaston@verizon.net)

**Spring General Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 19**  
**7:30 PM**  
**WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY BUILDING**

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## General Meeting

*(Continued from page 1)*

Both routes begin at Rocky Gorge and proceed down Brooklyn Bridge Road to Bond Mill Road and follows Bond Mill to the BGE right-of-way. At this point, alignment 6 proceeds up Bond Mill to Bauer Lane and up the center of Bauer Lane to Route 198; alignment 7 traverses the BGE right-of-way and proceeds along the rear of Bauer Lane and then back across BGE property to Route 198. The key to this is both routes will result in Brooklyn Bridge and Bond Mill being dug up with major disruption for 12-18 months.

I urge you all to come to the May meeting and raise your concerns, ask questions, and ensure your voices are heard. The WLCA Board has met with WSSC and focused on safety, but I'm sure that residents who live on the impacted roads have many more questions and concerns. After hearing from West Laurel residents at the May meeting, WSSC will make a final decision on the route to pursue.

In addition to the WSSC presentation, the Cub Scouts will Present the Colors, you will vote on the new WLCA board, and our elected officials will present a wrap-up of this year's activities in Annapolis and in Upper Marlboro. Please join me in welcoming **Senator Jim Rosapepe**, **Delgates Barbara Frush**, **Joseline Pena-Melnyk**, **Ben Barnes**, and **Councilwoman Mary Lehman**. I look forward to seeing you at 7:30 PM on May 19. ❖

## Beasock's Beat

By Officer James Beasock

I want to discuss two topics with you. I'll start with a topic that concerns me and will end with a topic that gives me optimism for the future of our community.

Speeding and disobeying traffic signs continue to be a major problem in West Laurel. I am sure that you all remember the chatter on the West Laurel discussion board concerning this issue. We have to do something to combat this serious situation. Based on the many suggestions made by West Laurel residents, the WLCA has organized a "traffic committee." The goal is to come up with solutions to keep everyone safe on our roads and sidewalks. **Tom Dernoga** and **Bryon White** co-chair this committee and I am a consultant for the group. All residents are invited to attend the meetings, and we are open to any suggestions that you may have.

I am sure that you have noticed that once drivers leave MD Rt. 198, the speed limit is drastically reduced. Roads in our community can safely handle speeds of 25 to 30 miles per hour. The dense residential population and the winding two-lane roads simply cannot accommodate higher speeds. Please remember that an automobile should be a source of pleasure and not a vehicle for heartache and destruction. Unfortunately, in my line of work, I am often confronted by situations in which speed is the root cause of a tragic situa-

tion. I and my fellow police officers will be patrolling your neighborhood. We are determined to get speeders and unsafe drivers off the road.

I am very pleased with West Laurel's response to Neighborhood Watch. There have been positive results in West Laurel due to this program. **Cpl. Knight** and I have noticed that residents are now more observant and not as hesitant to report suspicious activity. We have planned many interesting



programs for our summer and fall meetings. The topics concern many hot issues with law enforcement. We are also sponsoring community walks that are an excellent opportunity for all

residents to announce that they are joining forces with the police to protect their neighborhood. The walks also shout out to criminals that they are not welcome here. I hope to see you at upcoming meetings and on the walks. Keep up the good work, West Laurel! ❖

## Neighborhood Watch

The concept is simple -- the impact on a community is enormous. Neighborhood Watch shouts out: "We care! We are protective of our children and seniors. We are vigilant in protecting our property as well as our neighbors'. We care about the safety of everyone here. West Laurel is a great place to live." Sharing information is a key element in the program. To ensure that all residents of West Laurel are aware of incidents, all crimes are available on-line at [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com).

After our winter hibernation, our Neighborhood Watch meetings and walks have begun for this year. The most recent was in late April. West Laurel is fortunate to have two superb spon-

sors, **Cpl. Knight** and **PFC Beasock** of the Prince Georges County Police, who are dedicated to protecting us. These officers have developed excellent programs to educate us about issues that influence crime. Upcoming topics include cyberbullying, domestic terrorism, narcotics, gangs' influence on society and ways to protect your home and automobile. In the upcoming good weather, Neighborhood Watch will sponsor community walks as well as a family bike ride with the police.

Neighborhood Watch is open to everyone. Information is regularly posted on the West Laurel Yahoo Group. If you do not have access to a computer, please contact **Beth Evans** (301-490-5679). Please join us. ❖

# Election of WLCA Board

All Board members serve for two-year terms unless elected to fill a one-year slot. Board meetings are held monthly on the second Thursday at 7:30 PM at the West Laurel Community Building.

We prefer to have two alternate Area Reps in each area because we know it is often difficult for regular Area Reps to be at every meeting. Alternates are encouraged to attend as much as possible and participate in discussions and committee assignments, but will not be voting members unless filling in for an absent Area Rep for their area.

Please consider being an active member of the WLCA Board to help keep West Laurel well-represented and to stay in touch with what is happening in and around your community.

*Officers & Area Representatives in bold are up for vote at the May General Meeting*

## ELECTION OF WLCA BOARD FOR 2011-2012

### OFFICERS

- President.....Melissa Daston
- 1st Vice President.....Cassandra Hostetler**
- 2nd Vice President.....Barbara Sollner-Webb**
- Recording Secretary.....Tom Dernoga**
- Treasurer.....Susan Railey
- Zoning.....Jason Float
- Traffic.....Bryon White

### AREA 1 REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep (2 year).....Tom Sidor**
- Rep (1 year).....John Hebert

### AREA 2 REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep (2 year).....Bryon White**
- Rep (1 year).....Patty Sobel

### AREA 3 REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep (2 year).....Mike McPherson**
- Rep (1 year).....Jim Marchbank

### AREA 4 REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep (2 year).....Lucy Grimes**
- Rep (1 year).....Tony Spezio
- Alt.....Doris Reynold
- Alt.....Dennis Cook

### AREA 5 REPRESENTATIVES

- Rep (2 year).....Beth Evans**
- Rep (1 year).....Steve Steenrod
- Alt.....Elizabeth Schwartz

# Family Fun in West Laurel

Spaces are still available for the **West Laurel Neighborhood Yard Sale**, Saturday, May 14 from 8 AM to 2 PM. Tell your friends, and plan to stop by the sale on the lawn of the WL Community Building. Contact **Carmen Camacho** (301-317-4235) for details.

Don't miss the **West Laurel Ice Cream Social & Bike Parade** on Friday, June 3 from 7 to 9 PM. Take time out to relax with your neighbors and friends and enjoy FREE ice cream cones or sundaes. The Bike Parade is open to all youth. Let your creativity explode and decorate your wheels (scooter, bike, trike, or other)!

The WLRC and MNCPPC have joined together to offer TKA **Karate** for youth and adults this summer and the popular **Kidgineer** hands-on-science program for children in the fall. Sign up through MNCPPC SmartLink.

**Two of the four remaining WLRC (Rec Council) members will retire or step back to lesser roles after June. Without others stepping up to participate in this fun and rewarding neighborhood council, most of the annual events will cease to be offered.**

The neighborhood will certainly not fall apart without the Holiday Party or the Easter Egg Hunt, but these and other programs offer us time to have fun and relax together as a community. Please consider how you might contribute some time and energy to the Rec Council. Call **Kim Passmore** (301-725-3157) or **Rush Kester** (301-490-1310) for more information. ❖

# Support WLCA — Join Today!

**W**elcome West Laurel neighbors to spring! It is not too late to pay your annual Civic Association dues if you have forgotten. Dues are for membership from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011.

Your Officers and Board of the WLCA are committed to reaching out to our neighborhood and building an even stronger and more involved community for local issues and the broader issues that can and do affect us all. We care about street repairs and broken curbs, recycling bins, cable service, home security, gypsy moths, developers' plans, and the like on the local

level. We also care about County and State plans for major road building, zoning changes, high-traffic generating developments, and more in the broader picture as they affect West Laurel and the area around us.

## DUES

Each West Laurel household is asked to support the WLCA through a modest yearly membership fee of \$15 that will support our association from September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. WLCA provides a collective voice in County ad state government forums that address zoning, legislative, safety, environmental, educational, and recreational interests of our

community.

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, YOUR membership in the WLCA is important to assist in dealing with economic recession, lagging property values and urban encroachment of new developments.

To join, please stop by our membership table at the May 19 Spring General Meeting held at the West Laurel Community Building at the intersection of Bond Mill and Brooklyn Bridge Roads. ❖

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## WLCA Membership Registration Form 2010-2011

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Dues \$15 per Household\* — Please make checks payable to **WLCA**

*Please send your membership registration form to:*

West Laurel Civic Association • Susan Railey, Treasurer • 16922 Melbourne Drive • Laurel, MD 20707-2794

*Or drop by the membership table at the May 19 meeting*

\*Covers up to 2 voting members

**West Laurel Civic Association**

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Laurel, MD 20725

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**Hotline — Spring 2011**  
THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER OF WEST LAUREL