

Westgate

Founded 1913

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.westgatemd.org

November 2008

Santa Claus is Coming to . . . Westgate!

Sunday, December 14th 1pm—3pm

Westgate Park at North Bend

Santa will have hot cocoa, cookies and small gifts for all good little girls and boys!



From the President's Corner:

My street had a great Halloween night. The children were polite and the costumes were delightful. I hope all of our other streets also had a safe experience. Email us and let us know how the night went on your street.

The Board is sorry about the confusion about the amount for dues to join our Association. In order to make our National Night Out picture larger the computer deleted the line containing the amount for dues. We thank everyone who called and asked for the amount and for those who were up to the challenge and sent in their dues anyway. (Dues are \$20 a year and \$13 for senior citizens). We thank everyone who has already joined and want to inform those who didn't that there is still time to do so. We use the monies to support our various programs and the cost of printing the newsletter.

Thanks to the efforts of Board member Suzanne Rollins and the University of Baltimore Law School, Westgate Community Association is now a federal tax exempt organization. Contributions are welcome and are now federally tax deductible.

At our Fall General Meeting, Councilwoman Helen Holton talked about the Redline transit proposal, Edmondson Village changes, Uplands and the schools in our area. She is concerned and wants to work with us. Councilman Sam Moxley, had talked at our Spring General Meeting, and he is actively working with us on our County issues.

The Redline Project is holding public comment sessions at this time (until Jan.). If you want to be heard, check out their website and either go to a hearing or send your thoughts by snail mail or by email.

It is getting dark earlier now, so, please be careful. Watch out for unusual activities and watch out for your neighbor's safety, too. Call 911 and let the police know when you observe suspicious things happening. They might not come right away, but they do track the calls and look for patterns. They are very aware that we are a strong community and they want to help keep us safe and incident free.

Santa is coming on Sunday December 14th from 1-3pm. at our Westgate Park. Come join us in welcoming in the holidays and meeting neighbors. Santa will be there, come with your camera so you can take pictures. Hope to see you there!

Linda Smith,

President of the Westgate Community Association

Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are held at 7:30pm at the West Baltimore United Methodist Church (Greenwich and Charing Cross) and are open to all community residents!

General Meeting

May 4th

Board Meetings

January 5th

March 3rd

April 27th

June 1st

If you would like to receive notice of upcoming meetings by email, please send an email to:

kellyjfranks@msn.com.

Megan's Law

Maryland law requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to create and maintain a central registry of individuals convicted of certain crimes against children and other sexual offenses. The registry can be found at: www.dpscs.state.md.us/online/servs/sor/. Members of the community should visit the website to educate themselves regarding offenders living in or near the community. Anyone who uses information to threaten, intimidate, or harass registered sex offenders is subject to criminal prosecution.

**WESTGATE
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 25331 Baltimore, MD 21229

We Represent You!

OFFICERS

President: Linda Smith410-646-3959

Vice President: Al Jourdan.....410-233-8825

Treasurer: Lisa Wenrich410-788-6377

Secretary: Kelly Claudias

BOARD MEMBERS

Earl Blake

Marge Collins

Kelly Franks443-831-2409

Suzanne Rollins 410-869-1760

Flo Schwarzkopf 410-409-1072

Mike Williams 410-947-9471

Goldia Wright

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Kelly Franks443-831-2409

Distribution: Al Jourdan.....(410) 233-8825

eMail: info@westgatemd.org

www.westgatemd.org

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH –
CITIZENS ON PATROL**

By Flo Schwarzkopf

The police department is encouraging citizens to make our neighborhoods safer by making it easier to call 911 and report incidents. City residents can fill-out the attached application and mail it in to receive an anonymous “crime watch” number. When you call 911, you just give the operator your crime watch number and tell them the location of the incident. They will then go to the scene of the incident and not to your home. County residents should continue to call 911.

Some people complain that the police never show-up. Remember, they prioritize calls based on the severity of the situation, but even if they don’t show-up for your call, the District Commander looks at the pattern of calls at the end of every month and can plan extra attention to areas that show a trend of possible criminal activity.

Your call is always important besides crime incidents, please report strangers in the neighborhood hanging around, going into neighbor’s yards or sitting in parked cars for extended periods of time. If kids are hanging around and you don’t know them, the police will do a little “field interview” which is sometimes a deterrent to more serious activities.

Let’s work together to keep our neighborhood a safe neighborhood. It takes every citizen working together. The police want our help!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WANT MORE INFO ABOUT NW-COP PLEASE CALL FLO @ 410-455-7449 OR EMAIL AT: fschwarzkopf@cbmove.com



HOLIDAY SAFETY HINT

WHEN SHOPPING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON REMEMBER TO KEEP ALL PACKAGES STORED IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR CAR OUT OF SIGHT. IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO PUT YOUR GPS AND IT'S MOUNTING DEVICE IN THE TRUNK AS WELL AS THESE ITEMS ARE HIGH ON THIEVES' SHOPPING LIST THIS YEAR!!

“RED LINE”

MTA is Accepting Comments until Jan. 5th!

The proposed Red Line is a 14 mile, east-west transit corridor connecting the areas of Woodlawn, Edmondson Village, West Baltimore, downtown Baltimore, Inner Harbor East, Fells Point, Canton and the Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center Campus. In addition, the goal of the Red Line is to provide enhanced mobility and connecting service to Baltimore’s existing transit systems - Metro Subway, Central Light Rail and MARC lines - while also serving major employers such as the Social Security Administration, the University of Maryland downtown campus and medical centers, and the downtown Central Business District, schools, churches, parks and tourist attractions.

Alternative modes being considered include Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), Light Rail Transit (LRT) and Enhanced Bus Service on surface, and in some locations, with tunnel options. The No-Build option is also being studied.

The Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) is accepting comments on the Red Line Corridor Transit Study AA/DEIS through January 5, 2009. Visit www.baltimoreregiontransitplan.com for more information.

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MONDAY - FRIDAY

'AROUND THE BEND'

by Marge Collins

Speed humps installed on

North Bend (Baltimore County).

Thanks to all of you on North Bend (Baltimore County) who signed the Traffic Calming Petition and wrote letters and emails of support for speed humps on North Bend. 46 of the 52 residents signed giving us 87% of residents signing in support. This is well over the 75% support that was required to move the project forward.

North Bend residents Marge Collins, Marvin and Laurie Imhoff circulated the petition. Every resident we approached supported speed humps. First District Councilman Sam Moxley and his legislative aide, Bryan Sheppard, were very helpful in sending us the petition information and explaining what we needed to do to address traffic concerns on North Bend.

To date two speed humps have been installed on North Bend according to the Baltimore County plan. Special thanks to those residents at 612/615 and 632/635 where the speed humps are located!

Due to the strong support from residents the county has agreed to do a follow up traffic study. If the study shows two traffic humps prove not to be sufficient they have agreed to add a third, and maybe a fourth speed hump.

We will not need to circulate a second petition for the additional speed humps. If the county finds that their follow up traffic study supports them the additional installation will be done before the end of the highways building season (end of November or mid December).

In addition, we have asked for speed hump, no parking and speed limit signs posted and clearly visible on North Bend.

This is good news. Together we are making our neighborhood safer for all of us!

Tax Exempt Status

By Suzanne Rollins

We are pleased to announce that the Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Westgate Community Association is a public charity which is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions made to Westgate Community Association are now tax deductible, and the Association is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts.

The Association would like to thank the University of Baltimore School of Law, Community Development Clinic for providing the legal services needed. The Clinic provided two very dedicated student lawyers who saw this project through. The process involved a lengthy application, re-writing our By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation, and multiple meetings at the Clinic. We appreciate the efforts which were put into this process and are very pleased with the result!

THE BRISTOL GREEN DEVELOPMENT UPDATE by Mike Williams

Here are some notes and highlights for the Bristol Green Development Project. A meeting of the Task Force was held on Monday November 3rd to discuss some minor changes to the development plan to include a bigger centralized area of green space.

- The development area is bordered by Old Frederick Road, Frederick Villa, Frederick Villa Professional Offices and the Cemetery adjoining Mt. De Sales Rd.
- The Bristol Green Task force has been in place and was formed by the Developer, Sandy Marenberg of Marenberg Enterprises Inc. It includes representatives of Academy Heights Community Association, St. Agnes Church and Westgate Community Association.
- The land contains three existing houses (I believe only one is occupied), an auto repair facility and a small Farm
- The development area is made up of three parcels of land and the total size is approximately 8 acres with 5 acres being buildable.
- The original design going back a few years consisted of Garaged Duplexes. It was discovered during soil testing that the soil consisted of fill which included a large amount of debris and additional prep work was needed provide proper footing for the houses.
- Due to the problems above, the initial design was scrapped and a new plan was put in place which consisted of a 68 Unit, 3 story condominiums on the back of the site with underground parking that would be geared toward seniors. The plan also included 2 structures along the entrance which would be Retail/Medical offices. Retail operations would be geared toward Starbucks, CVS, Cleaners, etc with most of the Medical Offices on the Top floors. This plan was to give the retail operations an "Avenue" look. This plan or Planned Unit Development (PUD) was approved by the County Planning Board. Due to the downturn in the housing markets, funding could not be secured for the proposal.
- A new proposal was introduced in July of 08 which consisted of Garaged Townhouses on the site. The original plan called for 68 town homes but was reduced to 61 due to community input. The amount of green space was also a concern.
- The latest meeting of the Bristol Green Task force was to discuss minor changes to the existing Plan. The changes mainly centralized the open space into a common area along the entrance. The Plan has been approved by the County Planning board and the developer has 60 days to submit a final plan.

Please support our advertisers as they help support us !

S. G. Samuel Moxley

Councilman, First District

Baltimore County Council
Old Courthouse, Second Floor
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
410-887-3386 Fax: 410-887-5791



District Office:
754 Frederick Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228
410-887-0896 Fax: 410-887-1012
E-mail: council1@baltimorecountymd.gov



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WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please use this form to renew your membership or sign-up as a new member of the Westgate Community Association. Just fill-out the form and send your check, made-out to the "Westgate Community Association," to: P.O. Box 25331, Baltimore, MD 21229.

The membership term is one year, running from July 1st through Jun 30th.

Dues are \$20 per household, \$13 per household of a senior (over 55) per fiscal year.

Name:

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- Citizens on Patrol (2 hours a month for a patrol)
- Citizens on Patrol (Steering Committee Member)
- Social Activities (Santa's Visit, Garden Club, Block Party)
- Newsletter (Write articles, Distribution, etc.)
- Advertising Sales
- Board Member
- Other _____

*If you would like to receive a "confirmation of membership" receipt for the 2008-2009 membership year, please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope .

*All donations made to the Westgate Community Association are tax deductible and your canceled check is your receipt!

Please make checks payable to "Westgate Community Association."