

From the President's Corner:

This has been a very busy summer for me. I have lots of updates!

Uplands Update

I attended several meetings concerning the Uplands Project. (One was four hours long on a Saturday. I did see one of our members there. Thanks for attending). We discussed what was planned to go in place of the 'eyesore' and the problems, concerns, and questions we had about the plans. At a later meeting in August, we received answers and updates. Buildings are now being fenced, and the demolition is to start in October. They think it will take about a year. We have been warned to keep our properties clean, wood stacked off the ground and not leave pet food outdoors all day. This is to help discourage rats from migrating to our area. Think positive; the Mayor lives in Hunting Ridge and she would see them first. The plans call for more than 700 residences to be constructed along with parks and a community center. It looks very nice. When you come to our General Meeting on October 6th, I will display the plans and answer any questions you may have.

The Red Line Project

The rapid transit system to serve the East West corridor, "The Red Line," has also necessitated me travelling to locations along the proposed route for meetings. This line will serve the CMS in Woodlawn, travel through the City, and connect to Bay View hospital on the East side. There will be several meetings in October for people to voice their thoughts concerning the project. Watch the paper or get your email address to Kelly so we can inform you when these meetings will occur.

Bristol Green Development

I want to thank Mike Williams for attending the meeting about the Bristol Green Project on Old Frederick Road. Money issues have necessitated design changes, so we are back in the planning stage. We hope to have more info at our General Meeting in October.

Homeless "Relocation"

This summer we also had an issue with a large group of the homeless people being bussed to Edmondson High school each evening. A meeting was held at the school. The Mayor, elected officials, the media and concerned citizens attended. We voiced our concerns because students were also in the building for the summer Bridge Program. Another place was found for the homeless so the school could go back to helping our students learn. The City is trying to have a large center so they can shelter the homeless and help them find jobs and training to eliminate the problem permanently.

Improving our Neighborhood Properties

I have received concerns about the property at 509 Charring Cross Road. It is very overgrown. A report has been filed with the Department of Housing and with our SW Liaison Officer to Mayor Dixon, Gloria Pack. If you have any information about the owners or other residents, please call me or email the information so this property can be cleaned. Thanks. I have been very thrilled to see so many homes having new landscaping, other outdoor improvements, etc. Thanks for keeping up appearances, but don't forget the permits when needed. The Housing Codes can be found on line and at the library. Thanks for making our area attractive.

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's Parent's Group Forming!

Westgate is starting up a new parenting network group, dedicated to helping parents and young children find friendship and support within the community. We're looking forward to playdates and local activities, parents night out, a babysitting co-op, as well as providing networking resources for homeschoolers in the area. We've had a lot of interest so far - for more info - please contact Leah H - (443)874-7475, or e-mail thiswhiterabbit@gmail.com.

We'll be having an Open House on the 11th of October, please call or email to RSVP.

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

October 6th

Board Meetings

November 3rd

January 5th

If you would like to receive notice of upcoming meetings by email, please send an email to: kellyjfranks@msn.com.

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NEWSLETTER

- Editor: Kelly Franks443-831-2409
- Distribution: Al Jourdan.....(410) 233-8825

eMail: info@westgatemd.org

www.westgatemd.org

**Westgate's Board still
needs a secretary!**

If you are interested in helping out the Community Association, please contact Linda Smith!

JOIN OUR E-MAILING LIST!

Add your email address to our emailing list. To join, email : kellyjfranks@msn.com -OR- simply include your email address on your 2008-2009 membership form.

Fun Fall Family Events !

- Free Fall Baltimore !
- Visit www.freefallbaltimore.com to see a full list of museums and cultural events free to the public throughout the month of October!
- Heavy Metal Truck Day www.baltimorepublicworksmuseum.org
- October 4th, 10am-3pm (Baltimore Public Works Museum 751 Eastern Ave.)
- Linda's Recommendation: My husband and I went last year. It was a blast. All the City public works trucks were there. The kids were allowed to climb on them, blow the horns and even operate (with assistance) some of the levers. It was 'free.' Coloring books, 'construction' hats were available for the kids. Bring your kids/ grandkids to see the trucks, and learn how they work. Don't forget your camera. Hope to see you there. It was a great opportunity to see the many vehicles the City uses to help make this a great place to live. The Public Works Museum was also open for tours.
- Fells Point Fun Festival www.fellspoint.us
- October 4th & 5th 11am - 7pm (Fells Point)
- 5 stages of Music, Kids & Family Area, La Plaza Hispanica, Carnival Rides, Food, Beer Garden, Crafts, Arts on Parage, International Bazaar, Antiques and much more!
- Baltimore Marathon www.thebaltimoremarathon.com
- October 11th
- "Baltimore Running Festival" includes a Health and Fitness Expo & Celebration Festival at M&T Bank Stadium.
- Great Halloween Lantern Parade www.creativealliance.org
- October 25th 8pm (Patterson Park)
- A nontraditional Halloween Parade, "a throwback to the days where the joy of creation trumped the business of promotion." Features unique Halloween Lanterns, stilt walkers, a puppet show and more!

Have you registered to VOTE? Deadline: October 14th!

There are many important elections and ballot questions at issue on election day this year. If you aren't registered to vote, visit: www.elections.state.md.us to download a voter application. Applications are also available at the Motor Vehicles Administration and many other Government Agencies, including most colleges. Don't forget to vote on November 4th!

Fall is Here! Leaf Collection Info:

Baltimore City Residents

Leaf Collection will start on 10/2/08. Place leaves in clear or labeled bags on the second trash collection day of the week. Questions? Call 311, or visit www.baltimorecity.gov/government/dpw/

Baltimore County Residents

Bagged leaves should be put on the curb the night before your scheduled collection day. (You can put out an unlimited number of bags, but collector may not be able to collect all at one time.) Questions? Call the Bureau of Solid Waste Management at 410-887-2000.

County residents should put out your leaves on "Y" (yard materials) days. If you do not have a "Y" day, leaves can be placed out on your regular collection day.

*Neither City nor County residents are permitted to blow or rake leaves into the street, gutters or sidewalks. There will be no vacuuming or street sweeping. Fines may issue.

President's Corner, Continued:



Lisa Wenrich was kept busy with facepainting most of the evening!
National Night Out Block Party In August we held our an-



nual Block Party and National Night Out. It was wonderful.

Councilperson Helen Holton from the City and Councilperson Sam Moxley from the County attended. Many police officers attended, and we got a real opportunity to voice our concerns. All expressed appreciation for the opportunity to really get to know us. Thanks to all who came, worked and supported this effort. Next year it will be held later in the year, so cooler weather and fewer vacations will enable more people to attend and to meet neighbors and elected officials, etc.

Let's Keep Westgate Green and Clean! Please do your part to save the earth. Remember to recycle. It is easy. You can make a difference. If you are not sure how to dispose of an item (s), email us and we will direct you. October 25 and 26 are set aside for City residents to get rid of hazardous waste (like paints and poison) at Polytechnic on Cold Spring Road. (Consult the paper or email us for county days, as they vary.) After the grass is cut, remember to sweep the trimmings up off the sidewalk and street. Don't be disrespectful of your neighbors. Leaves will soon need to be bagged and put out for trash pick-up; watch for details. I have observed the 'untaught' throwing their trash down on our streets and sidewalks as they go through our neighborhood. Please clean up after them and pray that someone will teach them better manners. I really want to thank Helen McDougal, who lives near our Park at North Bend. She replaced a city trash can that kids destroyed and bags the trash for our regular trash pick-ups. I appreciate your help. It really gives a better impression of our neighborhood for those traveling in our area. Thanks so much. Each of us can make a difference in the appearance of our community.

This week a fire destroyed a portion of Edmondson Village. It was the end at Swann Avenue, near the fire station. I remember when it was the Firestone store selling tires, bikes, and train sets. Does anyone have other memories of the City's first shopping strip that we could include in future newsletters? Remember the Christmas scenes and the lights coming on at Thanksgiving?

Renew Your Membership for 2008/2009! Remember to renew your membership to the Community Association. Funds

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, make a check-out to the "Westgate Community Association" and mail it to P.O. Box 25331, Baltimore, MD 21229.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____

Donation Enclosed: _____

- 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 _____

Please provide either an email address or self-addressed stamped envelope to receive a "confirmation of membership" receipt for the 2008-2009 membership year.

Make checks payable to Westgate Community Association.

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District Office:
754 Frederick Road
Catonsville, Maryland 21228
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E-mail: council1@baltimorecountymd.gov

