



Join Your Community As A Member of
The Westgate Community Association

Westgate

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Founded 1913

WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Serving the Community Since 1913

Inside This Issue:

Nice Neighbors	page 1
Community Forum	page 1
Leaf Collection	page 1
Nice Neighbors	page 2
Hazardous Waster Drop-Off	page 2
Fall General Meeting Held	page 2
E-Recycling	Page 3
Halloween Safety Tips	Page 3
Advertisers	page 4

President's Perspective

Nice Neighbors

By: Charmaine Mercer

The Oxford Dictionary defines neighbor, as “a person living next door or near or nearest another” or as, “a fellow human being.” Leviticus 19:18 says “Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself.” In early times a neighbor was indistinguishable from a relative because the bonds were so strong. Many neighbors shared open access to each others homes, assisted with child rearing, shared recipes and sometimes celebrated the marriage of their children. A person’s neighbor was a vital part of their life. Now that life is much faster paced and transient very few of us speak regularly with our neighbors and many of us don’t know our neighbors. As a result, when we notice things that may seem

strange, such as a person lurking around a neighbor’s house, we are unsure if that person is a resident of that house or if they are planning to burglarize the home. Further, when our neighbor or their children are displaying behavior that we find bothersome, such as their children playing loud music after midnight or a dog that digs up your flower beds, we are hesitant to speak with our neighbor because we don’t know the person and no one wants your first contact with someone to be a complaint. So what do we often do; nothing. This allows the person who is lurking to break in your neighbor’s house, your neighbor’s children to continue play

continued on page 2

Community Forum

On Thursday, October 26, 2006, Councilwoman Helen Holton, will host a community forum for the 8th District, featuring the Southwestern Division of the Baltimore City Police. If you are interested in learning about what action is being taken by the police in our area to maintain safety and order please attend this meeting. This forum will also provide you with an opportunity to express your concerns. The meeting will be held at St. Agnes Hospital (Alagia Auditorium. 1st floor), located at 900 Caton Avenue, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, November 6 @ 7:30 P.M.

West Baltimore United Methodist Church

Located on the corner of Greenwich and
Charing Cross Streets

If you have any issues or concerns that you would like for the board to consider please send them to info@westgatemd.org

Visit us on the web at

www.westgatemd.org

eMail: info@westgatemd.org

Leaf Collection



Beginning Thursday, October 5, 2006, City sanitation crews will start picking up bagged leaves on the second trash collection day of the week for Baltimore City residents. These collections will continue through January 27, 2007. Citizens may also drop off their bagged leaves, Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at three locations: the Solid Waste yards at 6101 Bowleys Lane, 2840 Sisson Street and 701 Reedbird Avenue. Please remember to place leaves in clear or labeled bags. Also, when cleaning up leaves, please do not blow leaves or place bagged leaves in the gutter or public right-of-way (violators will be cited). There will be no vacuuming or street sweeping of leaves by Solid Waste this season.

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.dpsc.state.md.us/onlineservs/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.

We Represent You!

Feel free to bring any concerns, ideas or kudos to any one of us. We're always looking for input!

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Drop a line to the
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Nice Neighbors

continued from page 1

ing loud music and the dog to continue digging up your flowers, all of which could be avoided or minimized if you simply went to your neighbor, introduced yourself, and then proceeded to calmly and nicely explain your concerns. In most instances you will find that the problem can be quickly resolved simply by communicating. So I challenge each of you to take some time out of your busy schedule and introduce yourself to your neighbor. If you already know the neighbors who live on both sides of you, walk across the street and meet the family who lives directly across from you. You may find that this person can be an invaluable resource or simply an extremely nice person. Also, make sure that you maintain the relationship once you introduce yourself, so when you see your neighbor, waive or ask about their day. All of these things will help build and strengthen community relations in and around Westgate.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event

On Saturday, October 21, 2006, Baltimore County residents can bring their household hazardous waste materials to the Timonium Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Acceptable materials include paint, pesticides, flammable solvents, acids and other corrosives, pool chemicals, mercury thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, and automotive fluids.

For additional information call (410)887-3745.

Love Alive Ministries

Rev. Dr. Goldia Wright, Pastor of Love Alive Ministries (located at 5105 Greenwich Ave.) , and the project manager, Andre Brown, addressed several Westgate residents who were in attendance at the General Meeting about the church's plans to build a single-story, pre-engineered building that will accommodate approximately 200 people, and will be architecturally designed and finished to compliment the community. This building will not only allow for growth in its congregation, but the church also has plans to house activities for the community. The current structure is expected to be demolished in spring 2007 in order to construct the church building and two parking lots (located on either sides of the facility). It is expected that construction will take approximately 12 months. For more information about the project, contact the church office at (410) 362-1912.

Fall General Meeting Held Oct. 2

The fall general meeting of the Westgate Community Association was held on October 1, 2006. There were several residents and guests in attendance, including Councilman Sam Moxley and Councilwoman Helen Holton. Councilman Moxley discussed zoning and code enforcement issues, provided an update on the work of the Council and answered questions. Councilwoman Holton also addressed the group, and provided an update on the Uplands redevelopment, the expansion of Transformation Church on Route 40, election-day needs and an upcoming meeting of the Baltimore City Police Southwest District Command staff (see announcement). Finally, Goldia Wright, Pastor, Love Alive Ministries (LAM), also discussed LAM's current expansion plans (see separate article in this newsletter).

Board President Charmaine Mercer

continued on page 3

Get Involved!

Support Your Community!

How?

- Help keep our park & streets clean
Report suspicious activity
Keep property clean, trimmed and free of junk & debris
Don't let pets run loose (for their safety and others)
Keep lids on trash cans and bring them in after pick-up

JOIN YOUR WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WHERE YOUR VOICE CAN BE HEARD.

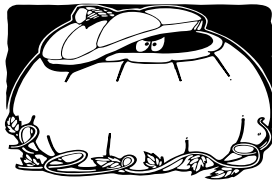
Fall General Meeting

continued from page 2

reported on the status of the Association's application for federal non-profit status in collaboration with the Community Law Center. The application is moving forward and will be submitted within the next month. An announcement of approval will be made in the future. Charmaine, as co-editor of the newsletter, also briefed guests on the newsletter timeline for submission of articles, encouraged members to submit articles about the community and reminded everyone of the new website "<http://www.westgatemd.org>" including how to send information to the association by email and submit articles. Board member Mark Puzdrak reported on his efforts on behalf of the association to resubmit applications for traffic calming studies on select streets in the community. Other business included a final fiscal year 2006 report by David Robison, Treasurer. The report included membership data, revenue and expenses. There was some discussion of a possible formal membership committee forming to bolster membership and organize membership activities. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members.

Some upcoming activities were announced including a Fall Park clean-up for late November – early December and the Annual Wreath-Making Social hosted by the Westgate Garden Club. The Garden club has also launched a Daffodil planting project at Westgate Park at North Bend. A \$10 donation will fund one ring of daffodils around one of the park trees and sponsors will be listed in the spring newsletter. For additional information contact Janet Gross. The Association will once again sponsor a visit with Santa at the park, on December 16, 2006 from 12 to 3pm.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



Tuesday, October 31st is Halloween, a favorite day for most children and some adults. On this day children can be seen wearing scary and cute costumes, knocking on doors and singing, "trick or treat." Well as we approach this most notable evening, we would also like to share a couple of safety tips to ensure that this evening is both fun and safe.

- Keep kids' away from jack-o-lanterns with candles. Costumes catch fire easily.
- Teach kids not to get into cars, talk to strangers, and to look both ways when crossing streets.
- Explain the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun but clean up and damages can ruin Halloween.
- Do not to cut through back alleys, yards and fields. Stay in populated places.
- Make sure an older sibling or adult accompany small children.
- Instruct children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined.
- Kids carry a flashlight, glow stick or have reflective tape costumes to be visible to cars.
- If you plan to hand out candy please keep your front porch light on.

E-Recycling

Beginning Monday, September 11, Baltimore County residents can drop off their unwanted household electronics for recycling at the Baltimore County Resource Recovery Facility (BCRRF), Monday through Saturday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is for household electronics only; material from businesses or institutions will not be accepted. Acceptable electronics include TVs, computer monitors, CPUs, mice, keyboards, cell phones, printers, power supplies, laptops, scanners, computer cables and cords, miscellaneous circuit boards, chips, and cards, other computer or electronic related accessories, VCRs, DVDs, stereo equipment, digital telephones, and other home electronics. Appliances will not be accepted.

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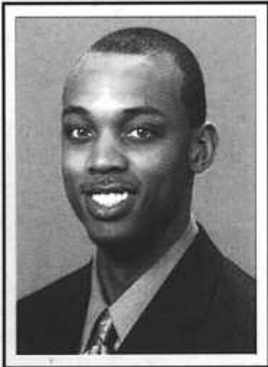
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