

August 2006



Join Your Community As A Member of
The Westgate Community Association

Westgate

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Founded 1913

WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Serving the Community Since 1913

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President's Perspective *By: Charmaine Mercer*

It is with great pleasure and much enthusiasm that I take this opportunity to introduce myself to the Westgate Community, as the newly elected President of the board. My name is Charmaine Mercer, and I have resided in Westgate since late 2004. In addition, I have served as a board member and as editor of the newsletter since the summer of 2005, and presently I continue to serve as co-editor. I am very excited about the upcoming year and I am looking forward to getting to know many of you in the community and hopefully working with you as well.

The newly elected board is comprised of many hardworking and dedicated residents, but we are always looking for a few good men (people) to serve as board members or help with other activities and projects. For example, the official web page for the community is up and functioning (www.westgatemd.org) and we constantly need new information and announcements to post, as well as stories and pictures. In addition, there are various other activities, such as park cleanup, community sign selection, community night out events, and Neighborhood Watch and Citizens On Patrol, to name a few, that could use some new energy and innovative ideas, from other individuals in the community. Finally, the community association is working on obtaining federal, non-profit tax status, which upon receipt of such status, would enable select contributions and donations made to the association to be eligible as a charitable deduction. If you are interested in helping with any of the ideas that I have mentioned, or you would like to offer your talents in some other area, please do not hesitate to contact me at: cnmercerc@comcast.net. Again, I am excited about the opportunity to work on behalf of the community and I look forward to working with each of you and getting to know you.

GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, October 2, 7:30 P.M.

West Baltimore United Methodist Church

Located on the corner of Greenwich and Charing Cross Streets

Find out about:

- Planned Developments Updates
- Neighborhood Watch – Citizens On Patrol NW-COP
- Community Website Progress
- Amendment to By-Laws
- Garden Club Events
- Street Trees Action

Come join us! Bring a neighbor!

NOTICE

At the next General Meeting on Monday, October 2, 2006, the Westgate Community Association will vote on proposed amendments to its Articles of Incorporation. The two amendments involve the distribution of corporate assets upon dissolution of the association, and the addition of a conflict of interest policy for employees, contractors and board members. Both changes are required by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for the Association to obtain non-profit tax status (501(c)(3)). The IRS requires that all non-profit associations, upon disbanding, expend all remaining funds for non-profit activities only. Additionally, non-profit groups are required to insure that all employees, contractors, and board members, do not have a conflict of interest with respect to all financial transactions. Once the language for the amendments is finalized, it will be made available on the Association's website (www.westgatemd.org), and at the General Meeting.

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/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!

OFFICERS

- President: Charmaine Mercer(410) 945-4248
Vice President:Al Jourdan
Treasurer: David Robison...(410) 719-8963
Secretary: Suzanne De Haan(410) 869-1760

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Karen Hull
Mark Puzdrak.....(443) 625-9600
Mike Williams.....(410) 947-9471
Goldia Wright

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EVENT LINE

(410) 230-1875

Drop a line to the Westgate Community Association P.O. Box 25331 Baltimore, MD 21229

National Night Out Event August 1, 2006

National Night Out (NNO) is a nationwide event created by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), a crime prevention organization. NATW works with thousands of crime-watch groups and law enforcement agencies nationwide to help reduce crime. The first NNO took place in 1984 and approximately 400 communities participated. By 2005, the event had grown to include over 34 million people. The purpose of the NNO is to heighten awareness of crime prevention, and strengthen participation in local anti-crime efforts. Traditionally,

neighborhoods have shown their support of the National Night Out by keeping outside house lights on all night, and having front porch vigils. While these two activities continue to be a part of the event, the NNO has expanded to include block parties, parades, police visits, festivals, rallies and meetings. The NNO seeks to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The residents of Westgate can show support of the National Night Out by leaving outside lights on all night on Tuesday, August 1, 2006.

Coordinator Needed For Westgate NW-COP

The Westgate Community Association currently has a Neighborhood Watch-Citizens On Patrol (NW-COP) program comprised of a group of concerned residents who maintain communication between residents, businesses, and local law enforcement. We are currently seeking someone who can serve a few hours a week to act as the coordinator for the 2006-2007 year. The responsibilities are as follows: maintaining the patrol calendar; arranging training for new volunteers; and helping monitor/update the event line. Our program does not require a lot of money or materials to operate, but it does take a lot of "people-power". Our volunteers are not paid, but they do receive the reward of safer streets and better peace of mind. Please consider donating your time to this important position. If you are interested, please contact Suzanne at 410-869-1760; or drop a line to Westgate Community Association, P.O. Box 25331, Baltimore, MD 21229.

Braeside Road and Old Frederick Road Crime and Zoning Violations

In June 2006 there were two car thefts in the area of Braeside Road and Old Frederick Road. Baltimore County Police are requesting residents to keep their vehicles locked at all times and to report all suspicious activity to the police by calling 911 that may contribute to crime in the areasuch as broken fences and overgrown vegetation. The same area has been targeted by Baltimore County Code Enforcement (410-887-3352) for various zoning violations. The County has indicated that zoning violations may contribute to crime in the area. Baltimore County Code Enforcement has asked Westgate Community Association to remind residents that OVERGROWN VEGETATION and BULK TRASH on residential property are zoning violations. In particular, Code Enforcement is targeting the alley behind the 5200 block of Old Frederick Road, as well as the commercial and residential properties which abut this alley.

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.

The Westgate Community Has A Website!

www.westgatemd.org

Visit your community website and learn a brief history about Westgate. Check out the extensive list and links to local attractions.

Read NW-COPS to learn how you can help keep your neighborhood safe. Pick-up on garden club news and the events calendar. Even get the latest traffic report from the WJZ 13 link plus more handy links. Voice your concerns via our email link.

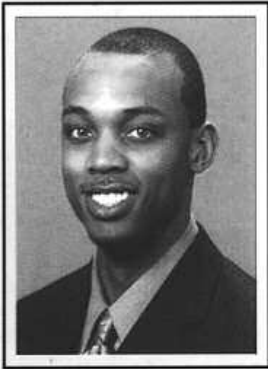
Visit soon and visit often. It's your website.



easy links to city, county and state information resources

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