

Westgate

Founded 1933

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.westgatemd.org

December 2009



SANTA is COMING!!

December 12th 1 PM—3 PM

Westgate Park at North Bend

Come celebrate the season with your Westgate neighbors! Santa will visit Westgate Park on December 12th from 1pm-3pm. He will have small gifts for the children. Come out and enjoy cocoa and cookies with Santa's elves! **Don't forget your camera!*

From the President's Corner . . .

The Board and some members of the Westgate Community Association have been very busy attending hearings on the many projects that are going on around our area. Some of these projects have included Bristol Green on Old Frederick road (near Western Star Cemetery), Uplands development, Red Line transit system and new plans for Edmondson High school. Please read our notes in this newsletter for updates on these projects.

Plan to attend our Santa in the Park on Saturday, December 12, 1-3PM. Remember to bring your camera for a photo opportunity. Come even if you don't have a child, the Board will be there and it will give you a chance to talk with us and share your concerns. Hot chocolate and cookies will also be available.

We hope you have a great and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

Linda Smith, President of WCA

Upcoming Meetings

General Meeting

May 2010 (Date TBA)

Board Meeting

**February 2nd @
7:30 pm**

(Board Meetings are open to everyone. If you would like to attend, please contact a board member for the location of the meeting—pg2)

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

**WESTGATE
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

PO Box 25331 Baltimore, MD 21229

**We Represent You!
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Uplands Update

By Linda Smith

The quarterly community meeting was held on November 3, 2009 at the Edmondson-Westside High School library. Janet Gross, Earl Blake and I attended. We learned that the demolition on the site is now complete. There are still seven properties that are in final purchase negotiations. They are beginning to work on the electric needs for the development.

Also important is the emphasis placed on employing citizens in our zip code for jobs on this project. This is part of the 'Get Baltimore Working' campaign.

It was announced that Clark Buzzoto Construction Company has been added to the Construction Team.

We were given a chance to see how public art can be incorporated in projects to enhance both looks and uniqueness. A com-

mittee will be formed to plan an art project for the '1% art fund' requirement for this project.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 2, 2010. Anyone interested can attend.

Edmondson-Westside Transformation Project

By Flo Schwarzkopf

A meeting was held on Nov. 11th for the Edmondson Community to get initial community input on planned changes to both programs and physical facilities at Edmondson-Westside H.S. Presently, the school has over a thousand students and offers academic and career training tracts. Some of the graduates receive not only a diploma, but a license to practice such as in the Nursing Assistant and Surgical Tech fields. The vision of the Transformation Team is to enhance existing programs and add others (e.g. Architecture, Interior Design, HVAC, Plumbing and Transportation) as well as adding more support services including career assessment and college and career planning services.

The goal is to have a community school; Edmondson is not a neighborhood school now, but is open to students city-wide. The community school would be a model of integrated career/academic/community and workforce education supported by a technology center of excellence. Support through affiliations and partnerships with community businesses will be paramount in the plans. (Affiliations already exist with U.M., Mercy Hospital and the Culinary College.) The school will be for non-traditional students including those taking short term education and training programs leading to high demand jobs, GED courses focusing in these programs on people who haven't been to school recently. The community component would use school space and facilities for community meetings and events, recreation and open space and become a commu-

nity hub.

To support all of these changes, the physical plant needs to be transformed and it is the hope that the physical plant can be totally rebuilt and redesigned if not replaced. The school property is 144 acres and discussion was held about tearing down the present structure vs. re-building especially since it is currently an open, viable school. Current budget limitations puts this project well into the future, but planning ahead is paramount and the feasibility study will be presented in February. This presentation was made by the two consultants hired to do the study and Michael Thomas, Director of Learning to Work, City Schools.

Red Line Update

By Linda Smith

The Red Line Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) met on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at Lockerman Bundy Elementary School at 7PM. One of our WCA members, Christopher Costello, is on the Council.

We had asked at the last meeting for clarification between two different route proposals: 4C and LPA (locally preferred alternate). Therefore, this meeting discussed the differences that included location of east side tunnel, station numbers and locations and several other minor adjustments in alignments. This is an effort to cut costs and make the project more doable.

A virtual trip on the red line was shown and discussed. Questions were posed and answers were discussed throughout this presentation. If you would like to experience this virtual trip go to www.baltimoreredline.com. Minutes of the CAC meetings can also be obtained on this site. It is hoped that the construction phase will begin in the spring of 2013.

The next meeting of the CAC will discuss 'Safety and Security.' The meeting will be January 14, 2010 at the Holy Rosary church in East Baltimore. There is ample parking available.

Bristol Green Update

by Lisa Wenrich.

I attended the Baltimore County Planning Board Public Hearing on November 5, 2009 at 5pm.

David Thaler of D.S Thaler Associates (the land planners for the project) gave a short presentation to the Planning Board about the Bristol Green PUD proposal. The site is approximately 8 acres. Currently the parcel has 6 different zoning designations, making it an ideal candidate for a PUD (Planned Unit Development). The site was originally approved for 24 semi-detached single family homes, then for a mixed use development PUD including senior housing. The changing financial market has made it impossible to get financing for senior housing projects, so the plan has been changed to reflect the potential market for high quality workforce housing for first time and move up buyers.

The latest plan is for 60 town homes with pricing from around \$289,000 and up. The exterior materials are proposed to be a mix of vinyl siding, cultured stone, and brick to relate to the surrounding communities. The site plan includes open space and a "village green" with a gazebo. Old Frederick Road will be widened to provide a turn lane into the development, and the developer will build new sidewalks along Old Frederick Road from the development to Academy Road, including the portion bordering the cemetery.

The modifications requested by the developer are mainly in reducing required building setbacks, increasing the number of parking spaces allowed in a row, increasing the number of townhouse units allowed in a row from 6 to 7, and reducing the required size of some of the rear yards.

Residents from Academy Road expressed concern about traffic from the proposed development driving down Academy to reach Edmondson Avenue, especially at the open and close of the Mt. DeSales school day when traffic backs up in front of their homes.

I spoke in favor of the PUD. It makes sense to have development in neighborhoods where services already exist, and new construction will help revitalize a portion of our community that has been an eyesore for years.

Information about the Bristol Green PUD, including all the drawings submitted to the county, can be found on the Baltimore County Website at <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/planning/PUD/currentpuds.html>

Speed Bumps on Rock Glen UPDATE

The efforts to have speed bumps placed on Rock Glen have hit a bump in the road. Rock Glen resident, Scott Caquelin, completed the required city procedures to have speed bumps placed on Rock Glen Road. Unfortunately, the city has denied our request. The Traffic Division indicated that a speed survey was conducted and that they simply didn't witness the speeds needed to justify speed bumps. Scott will be submitting a request to have a stop sign replaced on North Rock Glen Road at Brabant Road as an alternative traffic calming measure. Our thanks to Scott for all his efforts!

Baltimore County Rental Registry

As of January 1, 2009, all properties in Baltimore County containing 1 to 6 dwelling units are required to be inspected and licensed. Check the county website for more information and requirements at:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/rentalregistration/rentalfaq.html>

This program has created a rental registry with listings by street that you can check to see if units in your neighborhood have been properly registered. Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the alphabetical list by street name under the heading "Rental Registration Reports"

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/permits/rentalregistration/index.html>

In Danger of Foreclosure?

Call 2-1-1 for helpful information!

Holiday Safety Reminders from NW-COP

By Flo Schwarzkopf

Exercise care and vigilance when leaving and arriving home during this season.

Don't leave the trunk open while carrying things into the house and be observant of people coming and going around you.

Be careful of leaving curtains open when you are away so gifts etc. are not on display.

When out shopping put all purchases out of sight in the trunk, thieves love it when you make it easy for them!

At any time of the year remember it costs no dues to be a member of Neighborhood Watch . Just keep an eye on your own property and also the neighbors'. Speak to your neighbors and get to know them. If you see any strangers hanging around or any activities that seem suspicious do call 911. The police want you to be their eyes and ears and encourage us to call them so they can spot problem areas. If you are reluctant to call 911, make it easier by getting a Neighborhood Crimewatch number. This enables you to call 911 anonymously, giving only your Crimewatch number and the police will go to the location of the situation and not to your home unless you want them to come to your home. Call Flo at 410-646-5193 for info on getting a number.

Have a SAFE and Happy Holiday Season !!

S. G. Samuel Moxley

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**Board Members
 STILL Needed!**

**WE NEED MORE COUNTY RESI -
 DENTS TO JOIN THE BOARD!**
Interested?
 Contact Linda Smith at
 410-646-3959

YES! I want to join the Westgate Community Association.

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, payable to the "Westgate Community Association" to:

P.O. Box 25331, Baltimore, MD 21229

Membership Term: July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010

Dues: \$20 per household / \$15 per household of a senior (over 55)

Your dues support the activities and operations of the association, including: printing & distribution of the newsletter to all residents, maintenance of Westgate Park, social events such as National Night Out Block Party, Santa's Visit, Easter Egg Hunt, Community Yard Sale, administrative costs associated with general and board meetings.

***Westgate is a 501c(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.**

NAME: _____

- Neighborhood Watch/Citizens on Patrol
- Social Activities (Santa's Visit, Garden Club, Block Party)

ADDRESS: _____

- Newsletter (Write articles, Format, Distribution, etc.)

EMAIL: _____

- Advertising Sales
- Board Member
- Other _____

PHONE: _____

- I am unable to access the internet, please deliver the newsletter to me.

DUES Enclosed: _____

To receive a "confirmation of membership" receipt please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope.

DONATION* Enclosed: _____