

# Westgate

Founded 1913

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

www.westgatemd.org

July 2008



## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL WESTGATE BLOCK PARTY

August 5th 5pm-8pm

Westgate Park (at North Bend—behind Shell)



All are welcome at the 2nd Annual Westgate Block Party! This year's event will be held on August 5th, to coincide with National Night Out. We are inviting local government officials, police officers and most importantly YOU & YOUR FAMILY to come enjoy the evening with your Westgate neighbors! We will have FREE hot dogs and beverages for the first 100 people, along with games for the kids!

\*Get Involved!\*

### From the President's Corner:

I would like to thank all of you that came to our May General Meeting and voted for me to remain president for another year.

I wish to thank our special guests from the County: Councilman Sam Moxley and Police Officer Sgt John Rossbach, and our special guests from the City: Ms. Gloria Pack (the SW liaison representative from the Mayor's office, and Sgt. Darnell Brock (new District Commander of the SW District police station) and Sgt. Swinton. They discussed many ways that we as a community can join together for safety and improved services.

As an association, we collected \$50 at our meeting for the young mother, whose husband was killed on Mother's Day weekend in our area. Thank you to all who gave.

Several themes seemed to come forth from the questions asked at the meeting. Chiefly, what does a community association do? We have been a community association for over 75 years. We have been instrumental in maintaining the quality of our area and combating neighborhood deterioration. We meet with government representatives to discuss plans and problems. We offer many opportunities for our residents to have community involvement and to meet one another. A sample of these activities are our National Night Out celebration (NNO), Santa's Visit, Easter Egg Hunt, and COP/NW activities. We inform residents of the Westgate region of things that are happening in our area. The association does ask for yearly dues to help defray the expenses of publishing the newsletter, renting the church for our meetings, maintaining our parks, renting the post office mailbox so we can have one address (no matter who the officers at the time are), and for the social gatherings we mentioned above that we sponsor.

It seems realistic that it is to everyone's benefit to keep up their own house and property so that it can maintain its value, and make for a better community for all of us. We are not a home owners association (HOA), meaning that we do not collect membership fees based on the property assessments and we do not enforce compliance with association covenants.

So when and what is our next activity? Besides attending hearings for the Red Line, and the Uplands Projects, COP/NW to name a few, we are getting ready for our August 5th NNO celebration. It will be held at our North Bend Park. We need volunteers and participants. So plan to come out and meet your neighbors.

Linda Smith, President of the Westgate Community Association

We still need your help to make the Block Party a success! We need people to help run the games for the kids, set-up and clean-up the day of the event, face painting for the kids, and much more! If you would like to be involved, please contact Kelly Franks at 443-831-2409!

### 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

September 15th

November 3rd

January 5th

If you would like to receive notice of upcoming meetings by email, please send an email to: [kellyjfranks@msn.com](mailto: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/onlineservs/sor/](http://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.

# Summer Festivals in Baltimore !

## WESTGATE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

**We Represent You!**

### OFFICERS

President: Linda Smith .....410-646-3959

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

Treasurer: Lisa Wenrich .....410-788-6377

Secretary: — VACANT! —

### BOARD MEMBERS

Earl Blake

Marge Collins

Kelly Franks .....443-831-2409

Suzanne Rollins ..... 410-869-1760

Flo Schwarzkopf ..... 410-409-1072

Mike Williams ..... 410-947-9471

Goldia Wright

### NEWSLETTER

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eMail: [info@westgatemd.org](mailto:info@westgatemd.org)

[www.westgatemd.org](http://www.westgatemd.org)

### International Festival August 2nd & 3rd [www.baltimorecity.gov/ifest](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/ifest)

WHERE: Poly/Western High School parking lot, Falls Road and West Coldspring Lane

HOURS: noon-9 p.m. daily

The International Festival celebrates a multitude of ethnicities with food and dance. It's the best place to see Baltimore's many colors represented. Many go for the food and dancing, but don't miss the semi-pro level soccer matches, either!

### Fest Africa August 9th & 10th [www.festafrikausa.com](http://www.festafrikausa.com)

WHERE: Patterson Park HOURS: Noon-8 p.m. both days COST: \$5

A look at the sights, sounds and flavor of different African countries, with food, dancers and arts and crafts.

### Powwow Native American Festival August 22nd & 24th [www.baic.org](http://www.baic.org)

WHERE: Patterson Park HOURS: 2-9 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 10-6 p.m.

Sunday COST: \$6 daily, \$15 weekend pass

An American Indian gathering of multiple tribes, featuring dancers, drummers and artists. A Native American Health Village will offer free public health services.

### Maryland State Fair August 22nd—September 1st [www.marylandstatefair.com](http://www.marylandstatefair.com)

WHERE: State Fairgrounds near York & Timonium Rds COST: Adults: \$6, Kids 6-11: \$3,

Under 6: Free

A classic summer festival, the state fair is fun for all ages. There's popcorn, pony rides, livestock and live bands.

### Summer Antiques Show August 28th -31st 561-822-5440

WHERE: Convention Center HOURS: 12-8 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Fri—Sunday

COST: \$12 daily

The largest summer antiques show in the nation brings together more than 550 international dealers showcasing a diverse collection of fine art, jewelry, silver, porcelain, art, furniture, glass, textiles, a 60 dealer antiquarian book fair, and more.

### 35th Annual Catonsville Arts & Crafts Festival Sunday, September 7th

[www.catonsville.org/artsfestival.htm](http://www.catonsville.org/artsfestival.htm)

WHERE: Frederick Rd. bw/ Melvin & Bloomsbury HOURS: 10am-5pm COST: FREE

220+ arts and crafts vendors, live musical performances, children's activities and a variety of festival food.

## Ongoing FREE Summer Events

### FREE CONCERTS

Lurman Woodland Theatre (on the grounds of Catonsville HS at South Rolling Road & Bloomsbury Avenue). Concerts are every weekend, most at 6pm.

([www.lurman.com](http://www.lurman.com))

Harborplace Amphitheatre (Pratt & Light Streets). Concerts are Saturdays at 8pm & Sundays at 5pm. ([www.harborplace.com](http://www.harborplace.com))

### FREE MOVIES

Federal Hill (at the American Visionary Art Museum) Thursdays at 9pm

([www.avam.org](http://www.avam.org))

Little Italy (At High & Stiles Streets) Fridays at 7pm

## Westgate's Board needs a secretary!

Are you a good listener and note taker? Are you reliable? If you answered "yes" to these questions, the Westgate Community Association needs you to serve as secretary!

The secretary's duties include:

- attending all Board and General Meeting and keeping the minutes of what occurs

- Typing-up the Minutes and providing them to the Board

## JOIN OUR EMAIL-ING LIST!

Stay on top of neighborhood events and meetings by adding your email address to our emailing list. To join, send an email to: [kellyjfranks@msn.com](mailto:kellyjfranks@msn.com) -OR- simply include your email address on your 2008-2009 membership form.

## General Meeting in Summary

In case you missed it, here are the highlights of the May 19th Westgate General Meeting:

Elections Kelly Franks, Earl Blake, Marge Collins, Suzanne Rollins and Karen Hull were approved as Board Members. Karen Hull has since informed the Board that she is unable to serve, so there is a current vacancy. Officers were also approved: Linda Smith, President; Al Jourdan, Vice President; Lisa Wenrich, Treasurer and the Secretary position remains vacant.

Special Guests: Baltimore County Councilman, Samuel Moxley attended and addressed concerns about rental licensing that have arisen in light of the Plymouth Road "kidnapping" incident. He directed attendees to the county enforcement website to view the list of requirements. He also provided his email address: council1@baltimorecountymd.gov. Also in attendance to address issues raised by the Plymouth Road incident was Sergeant John Rossback from the Baltimore County Police Department. He discussed the problem rental home on Plymouth Road and indicated that the police had only received two complaints about this property over the past year. He strongly urged residents to report anything suspicious that goes on in your neighborhood as it is the only way the police can track "problem" properties. County residents may call 410-887-2222 to report problems, but are encouraged to report all suspicious activity to 9-1-1.

These sentiments were echoed by Baltimore city representatives: Sergeant Darnell Brock, the Southwest District Commander, Sergeant Swinton, the Coordinator for Community Services in the Southwest District, and Gloria Pack, the liaison to the Mayor's Office. The police can not be everywhere, so they rely on community members to report suspicious activity via 9-1-1. In the City, this can be done anonymously by obtaining a "Block Watcher Number." To obtain a number, contact Sgt. Swinton at 410-396-8226.

It is also important for residents to understand that police response to citizen complaints may not always be obvious or immediate, but that the complaints are critical to building a record of a problem. NW-COP To get more involved in keeping our community safe, join our Neighborhood Watch-Citizens on Patrol group! This group has recently been re-organized under the leadership of Flo Schwarzkopf and Karen Hull. For more info about NW-COP, visit [www.westgatemd.org](http://www.westgatemd.org). Contact Flo at 410-409-1072.

### Tired of Receiving Your Newsletter Late?

Join the many volunteers who deliver the newsletter! It's a great way to get some exercise and enjoy our lovely neighborhood. Whether you want to help deliver on one block or a whole street, any help is appreciated! Contact Al, to get involved:  
410-233-8825

## 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.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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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**Part-Time Babysitter Needed!**

We are looking for someone to care for our infant daughter on Wednesday and Friday afternoons (from 12:30pm - 2:30pm) while my husband attends class at UMBC during the fall semester. The start date would be August 27th and end date would be December 10th. If you are interested, contact Kelly at 443-831-2409.

**S. G. Samuel Moxley**

*Councilman, First District*

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