

FALL
2011

HOTLINE

The Neighborhood Newsletter of West Laurel

President's Message

September has rolled in along with school buses and a new year of activities for the West Laurel Civic Association. Our first event was held this week, with presentations from the 9-1-1 dispatchers and **Corporal Beasock** (West Laurel Community Officer/District VI). On hand to answer questions were **Officer Colleli** (Park Police), **Chief McLaughlin** (Laurel City), **Major Brewer** and **Officer Johnson** (District VI) and **Brian Moe** (Director of Homeland Security, Prince George's County). Critical tips included: if you call 9-1-1 and get put on hold, do not hang-up as they have to call you back; cell

phones do not always provide accurate location and your call can be misrouted to the wrong 9-1-1 call center; and if you use a Voice Over IP (VOIP) phone, your address may not be accurate. Coming up are the General Meeting on October 27 with **County Executive Rushern Baker**, and Dumpster Day on November 5.

I, along with many of the WLCA Board Members and residents, continue to work on ways to make West Laurel a community that allows seniors to age in place. Board Members **Jason Float** and **John Hebert** have kicked off a special

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**WLCA Fall
General Meeting
Thursday, October 27
7:30 PM
West Laurel Community
Building**

Meeting Topics

Community Discussion

- **Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker**
- **County Councilwoman Mary Lehman**

2011-2012 WLCA Budget

Fall General Meeting

The Fall West Laurel General meeting is scheduled for October 27 at 7:30 PM and will feature a community discussion with **Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker** and **County Councilwoman Mary Lehman**. This is your opportunity to ask questions, provide inputs on current initiatives, and have your voice heard.

Inputs for questions include: Why doesn't code enforcement work? What is happening with Dimensions Healthcare and the Laurel Hospital? Why hasn't Prince George's County put into place

strong environmental programs such as credits for rain barrels and rain gardens as Montgomery County has? When is Prince George's County going to provide a transfer station in the Northern area of the county instead of making us drive to Upper Marlboro? Why can't Prince George's or Montgomery police cross county lines to answer 9-1-1 calls? After promising to add transparency to the zoning process, why has Mr. Baker appointed a leading development attorney to lead the planning board and proposed moving selected zoning oversight from

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West Laurel Housing Values

This year, 2011, continues to be slow in real estate. From January through the beginning of September, only 33 homes have sold in West Laurel, all in Prince George's

County. The average price has dropped approximately \$40,000 from 2010. The chart below shows home sales from 2008 to the present for all homes sold in Montgomery County and Prince Geor-

ges County. It does not include no-cost property transfers or unimproved property.

For more information visit the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation web site at http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/. After selecting the county, you can search by address, property sales, property account, or map references. West Laurel addresses in Prince George's County are located in District 10, Map 0002 and Map 0005; West Laurel portions of Montgomery County are located in District 05, Maps LS11, LS21 and LS22. ❖

Quarter	Total # Sold	Average Cost	Lowest Price	Highest Price
Jan-Mar 11	17	\$336,806	\$160,000	\$714,060
Apr-Jun 11	12	\$282,511	\$180,000	\$297,700
Jul-Sept 11	4	\$269,750	\$179,000	\$355,000
Totals	33	\$307,356	\$160,000	\$714,060
Jan-Mar 10	9	\$341,638	\$197,650	\$536,432
Apr-Jun 10	23	\$338,662	\$130,000	\$552,175
Jul-Sep 10	16	\$356,906	\$190,000	\$661,003
Oct-Dec 10	16	\$352,262	\$191,250	\$610,150
Totals	64	\$ 347,128	\$130,000	\$661,003
Jan-Mar 09	17	\$357,839	\$276,000	\$493,830
Apr-Jun 09	12	\$319,135	\$230,000	\$410,175
Jul-Aug 09	11	\$346,841	\$176,500	\$503,100
Sep-Dec 09	18	\$295,230	\$190,200	\$546,727
Totals	58	\$329,761	\$176,500	\$546,727
Jan-Mar 08	15	\$529,992	\$201,000	\$950,000
Apr – Jun 08	11	\$377,284	\$203,560	\$891,611
Jul – Sep 08	12	\$373,648	\$228,000	\$635,000
Oct – Dec 08	16	\$309,263	\$306,063	\$374,000
Totals	53	\$402,471	\$201,000	\$950,000



WEST LAUREL HOME SALES — APRIL 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE
6319 Sandy Street	\$265,000	6503 Darwin Court	\$240,147
7604 Brooklyn Bridge Road	180,000	16204 Laurel Ridge	195,000
7015 Brooklyn Bridge Road	350,000	16124 Kenny Road	299,000
6800 Diploma Drive	514,990	6107 Parkway Drive	292,000
15713 Bond Mill Road	297,000	6512 Darwin Road	297,000
16101 Malcolm Drive	260,000	15604 Bond Mill Road	200,000
5904 Parkway Drive	210,000	7510 Brooklyn Bridge Road	355,000
15504 Bauer Lane	179,000	16110 Julie Lane	335,000

Membership Information

Membership is critically important as our WLCA strives to fend off the latest attempts to ravage the delicate West Laurel ecology, to minimize crime in our neighborhoods and to promote a enjoyable suburban environment that we have come to expect.

This year, in an effort to reach out and draw broader membership support, an individual letter/invoice was mailed to each West Laurel residence requesting that WLCA dues be returned to our treasurer **Susan Railey**. This is being done to solicit membership on a much wider scale than we

have the manpower to accomplish through canvassing. All West Laurel residents are urged to respond quickly and positively to this request.

Our volunteer civic association provides West Laurel residents with collective representation at government and public service offices that cost residents of incorporated communities hundreds of times the WLCA annual \$15.00 membership dues. A single membership enrolls an entire household for the period spanning September 1, 2011 through August 31 2012.

The number of our dues paying constituents provides strength to

our WLCA representation at forums at the county and state level. Please stand up as a dues paying member and when you are able offer your services to WLCA activities. This is the best deal in town, so be sure to complete the membership form included in your invoice mailing and along with your \$15.00 check payable to WLCA and mail to Susan Railey, Treasurer WLCA, 16922 Melbourne Drive, Laurel, MD 20707. In response to your inputs, you may also pay your dues via PayPal using the button on the upper right corner of the WLCA home page (www.wlcaweb.org). The cost of PayPal is \$16 (\$15 dues + \$1 PayPal fees).❖

News You Can Use

DUMPSTER DAY!

On Saturday, November 5 from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, the West Laurel Civic Association and the Prince George’s County Department of Environmental Affairs, Waste Management will sponsor another dumpster day at the West Laurel Community Center. Residents are invited to come to the front parking lot to unload their junk into two 3-ton dumpsters. The dumpsters are open on a first-come/first-served basis. When both dumpsters are full, no further articles will be accepted. Hazardous waste and electronics will not be accepted.

Residents who wish to discard electronics should go to BEST BUY in Laurel. The store accepts small objects at no charge. Larger objects are also accepted but a \$10



charge will be assessed for each item. The customer is then issued a \$10 gift card for each \$10 paid.

If you are a senior or disabled citizen and need assistance transporting your junk to the dumpsters, please call **Jason Float** in advance at 443-878-6360. If you are a willing volunteer and have access to a pick-up truck, please call or email **Jason** (jason.float@gmail.com).

HELPING WL NEIGHBORS

Starting this fall we will begin a service for our seniors and citizens with disabilities. If you need help with simple household tasks like changing a light bulb, moving furniture, or taking your trash to Dumpster Day we are here to help. Several seniors called asking for assistance during the dumpster day

last year. Based on the positive feedback from seniors during Dumpster Day, we have decided to expand this to an ongoing service. We hope this service can help our neighbors stay in their homes and enjoy West Laurel for years to come.

If you need assistance or are willing to volunteer, please contact **Jason Float** (jason.float@gmail.com or 443-878-6360) or **Beth Evans** (elizevans@verizon.net or 301-490-5679).

PAPER RECYCLING

Bond Mill Elementary School wants your junk mail, your school and work papers, your old paperback books and workbooks, spiral notebooks, newspapers, magazines, and shredded paper (in bags)! The Paper Retriever bins on the cafeteria side of the school are available for all your paper recycling. Please, no cardboard, phone books, or trash.❖

Beasock's Beat

by Corporal James Beasock

When Commander Brewer wants to know what is happening in West Laurel, he summons me because in addition to being a patrol officer, I am also a community officer, and West Laurel is my beat. I keep my fingers on the pulse of this neighborhood. It is my duty to not only patrol the area but also to act as liaison between the police and West Laurel residents.

It is my duty to educate you so that you can join forces with the police to keep your community crime free. Is this a monumental task? Yes, but when we work together we can accomplish great things. Listed below are ways in which we can all work together.

Be proactive. For two years, I have stressed the importance of police home inspections. The inspections only take about an hour and many of the changes that I suggest are low-cost and easy to accomplish. Some residents have taken advantage of this but I wish more would come forward. Schedule your home inspection by calling me at my office in Beltsville at 301-937-0910 or e-mailing me at jwbeasock@co.pg.md.us.

Another way to be proactive is to fill out an inventory list. I have posted one on the West Laurel Yahoo group. If you don't have this list, make up your own. It is important to list the serial number, make and purchase price for all electronics. This is a big help to me if your items are stolen. Also separately list all items of value in your house. A picture of each item is also helpful. Please don't forget to take anything of value out of your car and lock your car upon exiting.

Attend Neighborhood Watch Meetings. Corporal Knight and I

are willing to discuss recent crimes with concerned citizens. We also invite speakers to our meetings to answer questions that you have. In September, Neighborhood Watch hosted a meeting with a 9-1-1 dispatcher. Many questions were answered that evening. In the coming year, I am sure we will have more speakers of interest to you.

Participate in family walks and bike rides. This is West Laurel's way of demonstrating to everyone the support your neighborhood gives to me and my colleagues. This is our way of announcing to

criminals that West Laurel is serious about reducing crime and residents have formed a solid partnership with the police. You should report suspicious activity when you see it and be vigilant in watching out for fellow residents. We are determined to assist community youth in growing up to be useful and productive adults.

Yes, West Laurel is my beat and I am proud to be a part of this community. In the two years that I have been your community officer, we have accomplished much, but there is still much to do. ❖

Neighborhood Watch

C rime in West Laurel is low and to keep it low, your participation in Neighborhood Watch is needed. At the September Neighborhood Watch meeting, **Corporal Beasock** presented statistics on crime in our community from January 1 to the present. There have been seven thefts from autos and nine break-ins, including three at the end of the summer. We also had several vandalism incidents over the summer but all in all, West Laurel is doing well.

As Corporal Beasock states in his column, we need to continue to show our presence through sponsored walks, reviewing our own home security, and staying alert. There are times when a community should band together to protect all citizens and there are times when we should stand aside and allow professionals to do their job.

Initiating new laws for protection of citizens is the responsibility of all citizens. It is our responsibility to let our elected representatives

know how we feel about issues affecting us about crime. These elected officials should listen to their constituents and enact new laws for our protection. An example of this is cyber bullying. The state of Maryland does not currently have laws against cyber bullying. As we have seen in the news many are hurt by the practice and some are driven to commit suicide. Join Neighborhood Watch in petitioning our elected officials to rectify this shortfall.

In West Laurel (Prince George's County), law enforcement is the responsibility of District VI Prince George's County Police, led by our community officer, Cpl James Beasock (jwbeasock@co.pg.md.us). Montgomery County's community liaison is **Officer Joy Patil** (Joy.Patil@montgomerycountymd.gov). Incidents at the West Laurel Community Building fall under the Park Police, and activity at the boat launch and along the river is under WSSC Police. It is not the respon-

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President’s Message

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West Laurel working group on how to provide outreach to seniors. **Beth Evans** continues to spearhead our Neighborhood Watch program which hosted a terrific children’s event this summer, Biking with Beasock. **Bryon White**, our in-house traffic and safety lead, has recently been asked to serve at the county level in this capacity. **Tony Spezio** continues to head our membership team. These are just a few of our activities. If you have an idea for an outreach program and wish to volunteer, please contact a member of the board — we’re always looking for new people to increase our reach.

Last May at the General Meeting, WSSC presented its alternatives for the new pipeline which was straight through the middle of West Laurel. After several follow-up meetings with WSSC and **Senator Rosa-pepe, Delegate Pena-Melnyk, Councilwoman Lehman**, and the WLCA, we were unsuccessful in identifying an alternate route for the new pipeline. It is currently slated to start at the dam, progress along Brooklyn Bridge Road and down Bond Mill to the power lines, and along the back of the homes on Bauer Lane. WSSC has commissioned an updated survey and will notify West Laurel when it is completed. As soon as I know anything, I will pass it along to all of you.

Finally, many residents have asked questions about the various developments and requests to both Prince George’s and Montgomery counties for zoning variances and water and/or sewer category changes. The WLCA has a long reputation for being proactive in this area. Last year we provided inputs into the Prince George’s county updated Master Plan, participated in public hearings at the

state level, and provided letters in support of increased bicycle and pedestrian pathways. Laurel and Burtonsville along the Patuxent River are designated as “rural tier” or “rural residential” which in essence limits development to preserve Rocky Gorge Reservoir and the drinking water it provides to over 500,000 residents. Regardless of the project, the WLCA position has been consistent over time. The WLCA supports the current zoning regulations in both counties which govern development in the rural tier. Our concerns focus on the impact of development on the environment and Rocky Gorge Reservoir, traffic on existing roadways, and increased density on schools, police and fire. The outcome of several of the more recent hearings is still unknown. But as this area contains some of the few large tracts of undeveloped land, we anticipate increasing requests from developers. If you are interested in helping the WLCA monitor zoning, please contact me at 301-776-2314 or mdaston@verizon.net.

Neighborhood Watch

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sibility of private citizens to take the law into their own hands. We should not be vigilantes. If you see a crime being committed, call 911. Do not try to apprehend a criminal yourself; even an innocent looking person may be carrying a hidden weapon. Let the police handle the situation. Our community officers are not on call 24/7, so please call 911, do not wait for Cpl. Beasock. If Cpl Beasock cannot be there, he will review the reports and get back to you.

Preventing crime is a partnership between police and citizens. Once

General Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

the county council to a closed door process?

I know that each of you has specific issues that you want to ask. To help us manage this interactive session, I ask that you submit your questions in advance. We will also have file cards at the meeting for you to write down your questions. I urge you all to come to the October meeting and raise your concerns, ask questions, and you’re your voices heard.

In addition to Mr. Baker’s community discussion, the Cub Scouts will present the Colors, and you will vote on the 2011-12 budget. I look forward to seeing you at 7:30 pm on October 27. ❖

Fall General Meeting
Thursday, October 27
7:30 PM
WEST LAUREL
COMMUNITY BUILDING

again West Laurel has the good fortune to have the guidance of two great officers: Cpl James Beasock and Cpl Gerald Knight. The police cannot do it alone. They need us to be their “eyes and ears.” We live here 24/7.

Upcoming Neighborhood Watch meetings are designed to educate us about how to protect ourselves and about various influences on crime such as narcotics and gangs. Join us for our Neighborhood Watch meetings. Citizens joining forces with the police are a huge deterrent against crime, and criminals will soon get the message -- stay out of West Laurel! ❖

Your WLCA Board

2011-2012 Officers

President	Melissa Daston.....	301/776-2314
1 st Vice President.....	Cassandra Hostetler	301/498-0894
2 nd Vice President.....	Barbara Sollner-Webb	301/604-5619
Recording Secretary	Tom Dernoga	410/792-0332
Treasurer.....	Susan Railey.....	301/490-7172

Area I Representatives

Rep (2yr)	Tom Sidor.....	301/604-8023
Rep (1yr)	John Hebert.....	301/549-1129

Area II Representatives

Rep (2yr)	Bryon White	301/318-9329
Rep (1yr)	Patty Sobel.....	443/250-7838

Area III Representatives

Rep (2yr)	Mike McPherson	301/776-5021
Rep (1yr)	Jim Marchbank	301/776-7547

Area IV Representatives

Rep (2yr)	Lucy Grimes.....	301/490-0414
Rep (1yr)	Tony Spezio.....	301/498-3436
Alternate	Doris Reynold.....	301/490-8639
2 nd Alternate	Dennis Cook	301/776-4314

Area V Representatives

Rep (2yr)	Beth Evans	301/490-5679
Rep (1yr)	Steve Steenrod	301/725-6835
Alternate	Elizabeth Schwartz.....	301/776-0542

Welcome to West Laurel

The West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) extends a warm welcome to the families who became residents of West Laurel this summer and fall. Every homeowner is automatically a member of the Civic Association and upon payment of the annual dues, entitled to vote in elections. West Laurel is an active community with many volunteer opportunities, including the Civic Association, Recreation Council, and Bond Mill elementary school. We look forward to meeting you at the October Civic Association General Meeting.

Mariano Santos (Bauer Lane)

Karen Kester (Bond Mill Road)

Kevin Brezler (Bond Mill Road)

Elizabeth Houchens (Brooklyn Bridge Road)

Mary Catten (Brooklyn Bridge Road)

Gretchen Shannon (Brooklyn Bridge Road)

Michael Lathrop (Diploma Dr)

Richard McEdward (Julie Lane)

Clifton Wynter (Kenny Rd)

Trang Nguyen (Laurel Ridge)

Kimberly John (Malcolm Drive)

Chad Magnum (Parkway Drive)

Christopher Barre (Parkway Drive)

Jonathan Puckett (Sandy Street) ❖

Family Fun in West Laurel

For those who have not heard, **Kim Passmore** stepped down from the Recreation Council after more than 20 years. Thank you, Kim, for making such a tremendous contribution to West Laurel! Succeeding her are **Cynthia Atkins, Malaika Sams, Raquel Samson** and the ever stalwart **Rush Kester**.

The West Laurel Recreation Council (WLRC) is a self-supporting group of West Laurel volunteers, offering educational, social, and recreational programs to the citizens of West Laurel. Join the WLRC and help turn your ideas into something fun or educational for West Laurel kids, teens, singles, parents or seniors. You can help year-round or just for a specific event that interests you. You can also help behind the scenes from your home without having to attend meetings. For more information, visit <http://www.laurelmd.us/loc/westlaurel/wlrc.html>.

The WLRC meets monthly (except June-August) at the West Laurel Community Building. The public is invited to attend. If you would like to join in on the fun of our Council, please stop by our next meeting. Call **Cynthia Atkins** at 301-490-4566 for the date and time.

The WLRC's next event is a Teen Halloween party on Monday, October 31 from 7:00-9:30 PM. To attend, you must live in West Laurel and register via MNCPPC's SmartLink or in person at Deerfield Run or Beltsville Community Centers. The cost is \$5 to cover food, movie rental and monster makeup class. Each child must have his or her parent or guardian's permission to attend. The Park Police will be available to support. ❖

Proposed WLCA Budget 2011-2012

Each year the General Membership reviews and the votes on the annual budget. This year there have been small changes that include: setting aside \$1,200 for the annual membership drive which included letters to each household reminding them of their annual dues, creating a budget line for the Boy Scout donation (moving from miscellaneous), and reducing the Laurel Fire and Laurel Rescue donations to \$100 dollars each. As you can see, the largest cost is the printing and mailing of our annual *Hotline*. The WLCA collected bids from three printers and has selected the lowest bidder. To break even on the 2011-12 budget, we need to increase the number of households paying dues by 250 homes.

Expenses	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012
	Approved	Actual	Approved	Actual as of 8/11/11	Proposed
Hotline	3800	4098	4400	4705	5000
PO Box	115	52	100	116	120
PO Permit & Fee	0	0	0	0	0
Cub Scout Sponsorship	300	300	300	300	300
Boy Scout Donation	0	0	0	0	100
Laurel Fire Department	150	150	150	150	100
Laurel Rescue Squad	150	150	150	150	100
LHS Grad Night Donation	100	100	100	100	100
West Laurel Rag Tag Band	100	100	100	100	100
Bond Mill ES PTA Carnival	75	75	75	75	75
Laurel 4th of July Committee	100	100	100	100	100
PG/MoCo Civic Association Dues	50	0	50	0	50
Office Supplies	150	215	250	168	250
Zoning & Legal Fees	1000	0	500	100	500
Liability Policy	250	218	250	218	250
Good Neighbor Award	300	50	150	150	150
Mosquito Control	0	0	0	0	0
Refreshments	175	212	225	154	200
Membership Drive	0	0	0	0	1200
Misc Expenses	400	350	400	676	400
Total	7,215	6,169	7,300	7,262	9,095

Membership 2009-2010..... 435
 Membership 2010-2011 (est) 450
 Membership 2011-2012 as proposed requires 607 paying members

West Laurel Civic Association

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Hotline — Fall 2011

THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER OF WEST LAUREL