

Winter
2011

HOMELINE

The Neighborhood Newsletter of West Laurel

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Every winter I mark the anniversary of when I moved to West Laurel and give thanks that I somehow landed in such a wonderful community. During the past year, I can't count the number of times that members of the community have stepped forward to help. Be it a personal crisis or a community need, you come through each and every time. This year has been no exception 2011 is off to a very positive start.

I am asking for your assistance as we kick off several new endeavors. First, the new West Laurel *Traffic Committee*. The single biggest and most recurring complaint heard across the community is about speeding and traffic. In the past few years, we have had several major accidents and this past year another traffic fatality on Bond Mill Road. We are stepping up our

efforts by forming a community-based initiative to identify all of the problem areas and work with the Department of Public Works, the police, and other county resources to resolve the problems. If you are interested in participating on the committee or just have inputs on areas of concern and/or solutions, please give **Bryon White** a call at 301-318-9329 or send him an email at bryonjos@hotmail.com.

Come this spring, the new entry sign for West Laurel will be built. After investigating the options for a commercially built sign using the design voted upon by community, there were insufficient donations. **Tony Spezio** and **Bryon White** have designed a sign that the community can erect this spring at the entrance at the corner of Bond Mill Road and Route 198 by the

(Continued on page 6)

FEB 17 GENERAL MEETING

The February 17 General meeting main speakers will be from the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources (DER). DER is responsible for code enforcement of homes, abandoned automobiles, animal control, recycling and foreclosed home remedies. **Carol Terry**, **Linda Lowe**, and speakers from Property Standards and Animal Control will review the programs and the processes — how do you report a

problem and what you should expect.

To prepare for this meeting, I would like to provide the DER officials a full listing of problems in West Laurel by address and ask that they follow-up and provide the West Laurel Civic Association official feedback on each action. Many of you who have called or written to me have been reluctant to report a neighbor. If you will

(Continued on page 6)

WLCA WINTER GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 17 at 7:30 PM
WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY
BUILDING

TOPICS

- Dept of Environmental Resources
 - Overview
 - How to report a problem & what to expect when a problem is reported
- WL Updates
- Treasurer's Report
- Good Neighbor Award
- Neighborhood Q&A

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's Message	1
February 17 Meeting	1
Housing Values	2
Message from PFC Beasock	3
Welcome to West Laurel	3
Zoning Updates	4
Family Fun in West Laurel	5
News You Can Use	5
Winter Tips	6
WLCA Membership Form	7

Don't MISS West Laurel's
Easter Egg Hunt

April 16, 2011

See page 5 for details

WEST LAUREL HOUSING VALUES

If we want evidence that people are excited about coming to West Laurel, take a look at the

trend in home sales. Although recent reports in the news show prices of homes in Prince George's County

still sinking, West Laurel prices were higher in 2010 than in 2009. Sixty-four homes sold this year, making it a big year for home sales. There were also numerous property transfers, including parcels of land for development in Bond Mill Station and along Joyce Lane.

The chart to the left shows home sales from 2007 through the present for all homes sold in the West Laurel areas of Montgomery and Prince George's counties. 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/. Select the county you'd like to search, then search by address, property sales, property account or map references. West Laurel addresses in Prince George's County are located in District 10, Maps 2 & 5; West Laurel portions of Montgomery County are located in District 05, Maps LS11, LS21 & LS22. ❖

Quarter	# Sold	Average Price	Lowest Price	Highest Price
Jan-Mar '10	9	\$341,638	\$197,650	\$536,432
Apr-Jun '10	23	338,662	130,000	552,175
Jul-Sept '10	16	356,906	190,000	661,003
Oct-Dec '10	16	352,262	191,250	610,150
Total 2009	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
Total 2009	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
Total 2008	53	\$402,471	\$201,000	\$950,000
Jan-Mar '07	23	\$434,414	\$345,000	\$559,000
Apr-Jun '07	15	469,181	355,000	850,000
Jul-Sep '07	10	444,689	335,000	775,000
Oct-Dec '07	6	548,167	340,000	1,200,000
Total 2007	54	\$458,806	\$335,000	\$1,200,000

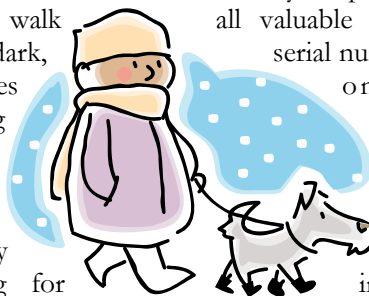
WEST LAUREL HOME SALES – SEPTEMBER THRU DECEMBER 2010*

CLOSING	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	CLOSING	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE
07/02/10	6416 Park Hall Dr	\$209,088	07/09/10	6904 Bradford Ct	\$221,500
07/16/10	6701 Sandy View Ct	540,875	07/16/10	15505 Misty Pine Rd	471,335
08/12/10	16001 Bond Mill Rd	350,190	08/19/10	6104 Parkway Dr	215,000
08/30/10	16303 Dahl Rd	285,000	09/02/10	6201 Kaybro St	335,500
09/08/10	15306 Walker Branch Ct	402,000	09/15/10	16102 Kenny Ct	255,000
09/16/10	4920 Riding Ridge Ct	830,000	09/29/10	16124 Kenny Rd	197,500
09/30/10	6803 Diploma Dr	661,003	10/04/10	6302 Sandy St	287,000
10/07/10	6211 Brooklyn Bridge Rd	395,000	10/14/10	16316 Bond Mill Rd	335,000
10/19/10	16204 Laurel Ridge Dr	358,189	10/26/10	6614 Carleton Ct	300,000
10/26/10	5910 Windham Rd	191,250	10/26/10	5910 Windham Rd	214,000
10/27/10	16607 Dougherty Ave	347,900	11/08/10	16008 Jerald Rd	257,000
11/09/10	15620 Bond Mill Rd	225,000	11/19/10	6716 Park Hall Dr	300,000
12/01/10	6410 McCahill Dr	340,000	12/02/10	16307 Education Ct	547,710
12/02/10	16401 Bond Mill Rd	610,150	12/07/10	16098 Gales St	465,000
12/10/10	6202 Straughn Ct	463,000	*includes some 2010 sales not listed in previous Hotline		

A MESSAGE FROM PFC BEASOCK

We are all dashing from home to car to work and reversing that order in the evening. These days staying warm is a high priority for us and there is little interest in standing outside to speak with the neighbors or going back out once we are home. Although I have not scheduled any Neighborhood Walks or meetings for January or February, please be aware that the cold weather does not stop criminals. Everyone needs to be aware of their surroundings and if you see something suspicious, report it. While we wait for the days to get longer and the weather to get warmer here are a few tips.

1. Don't start your car, leave it running with the keys in it, and retreat to your house. This is an open invitation for a criminal to jump into your car and take off. It is also against the law and there is a chance that you may receive a \$70 ticket.
2. If you exercise or walk your dogs after dark, wear reflective clothes or attach something reflective to your body and pet. Motorists should be especially cautious in looking for pedestrians.



3. If you have purchased "highly coveted" electronic equipment, don't advertise it to criminals by putting the empty box at the curb for pick up. Take the box apart and put the pieces in a trash bag or recycling bin.
4. Place your personal markings on all valuable electronics. Record serial numbers of electronics on a personal inventory list. Take a picture of anything of value in your home and put it with your inventory list.
5. Go over your home security. If you have any questions, contact me for a free home inspection (jwbeasock@co.pg.md.us or leave a message for me at the Beltsville Station: 301-937-0910).

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.

- John Cooke, Bond Mill Road
- Robert & Lois Schulze, Bond Mill Road
- Matthew Panizari, Bond Mill Road
- Scott Warfield, Bond Mill Road
- Simon & Sangeetha Mohan, Bond Mill Road
- Jennifer Roberts & Eric Riffle, Bradford Court
- John Thomas, Brooklyn Bridge Road
- Dustin Jeter, Carleton Court
- Nicki Eger, Dahl Road
- Rajeev Pillai, Diploma Drive
- Tonci Glassner, Dougherty Ave

- Nageswararao Chilukuri, Education Court
- Kelvin Williams, Gales Street
- Mark Merrell, Joyce Lane
- Eron Pagnussati, Joyce Lane
- Brian Fuhr, Kaybro Street
- Ricardo Myles, Kenny Court
- Michael & Nicole Thornton, Misty Pine Road
- Mark Whitehead, Park Hall Drive
- Loren Wilson, Sandy Street
- Jerry & Miki Gardner, Sandy View Court
- Karthik Moola, Straughn Court
- Bethany Gibson, Parkway
- Patrick & Kathleen Prada, Riding Ridge Court
- Carrie Khan, Walker Branch Ct

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 February meeting of the WLCA. ❖

Finally, I would like to tell you about an incident that occurred in West Laurel recently. "Officer, normally I would have never called 911 to report this, but after attending a Neighborhood Watch meeting, I decided to take action." This resident observed suspicious activity in his neighbor's driveway — a stranger was shining a flashlight inside his neighbor's car and examining the fancy rims around the car's wheels. When police arrived, the neighbor (who was unaware of what had happened) was deeply touched that someone cared enough to report the incident.

That, folks, is what Neighborhood Watch is all about. I look forward to resuming our walks and meetings. Until then, stay observant — look out for each other. Criminals are not taking a holiday. ❖

ZONING UPDATE

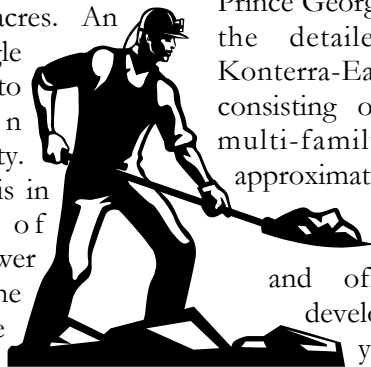
Zoning issues are always of interest to members of West Laurel. For those of you interested in monitoring what's happening in Prince George's County, you can sign up to receive planning agendas, become a person of record, or sign up to testify at <http://www.pgplanning.org/PlanningBoard/Agendas.htm>. The Montgomery County planning department address is <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/>

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES (SWEITZER LANE)

Construction is on schedule and they are awaiting Spring weather. To complete the dirt foundation they need the ground to thaw, then they will bring in more dirt and compress the ground. Once the foundation is complete, building will begin. The anticipated completion date for the Kingdom Hall is summer 2011.

BENTLEY PARK (FAIRLAND PARK DEVELOPMENT)

This development spans both Montgomery and Prince Georges County. In Prince George's County, from the west side of Old Gunpowder Road to just below the intersection of MD 198, a total of 104 single-family detached and 34 townhouse residential units will be built on 79 acres. An additional 247 single family homes are to be built in Montgomery County. The Artery Group is in the process of extending the sewer outfall through the golf course, and the



work is progressing well. The construction plans are in progress and their goal is to have a site grading permit during the late spring. There is no decision on when to start actual construction.

BOND MILL STATION (BOND MILL ROAD/ BROOKLYN BRIDGE ROAD)

The developers met with the WLCA board last April and worked with the Board through June to add additional models including first floor bedrooms. Three homes have sold since then and there are six additional to sell.

EGLISE DE DIEU (CORNER OF RIDING STABLE & ROUTE 198)

No news to report. The initial plans for a 7,900 square foot or 200-seat church are still on file with Montgomery County.

KOREAN BAPTIST CHURCH (CORNER OF ROUTE 198 & BOND MILL RD)

The property remains for sale as the church has decided not to build.

KONTERRA (EAST OF I-95)

Prince George's County approved the detailed site plan for Konterra-East in July 2009, consisting of more than 2,000 multi-family dwellings and approximately 2.2 million square feet of retail/commercial, hotel and office space to be developed over multiple years. In the last

several years, development of holdings outside of Konterra Town Center have moved forward with over 500,000 square feet of commercial development in Konterra Business Campus and over 600 dwelling units (approved and constructed) in the Wilshire community and in the Wellington community in the City of Laurel.

KONTERRA (WEST OF I-95)

In the June 2010 Regional Master Plan Amendments, the density of homes on the west side of I-95 was adjusted to yield comparable to existing R-R zoning with higher density in the West Town Center. High rises are limited to along I-95 with height governed by existing WSSC and the former SunTrust buildings. ❖



WE WANT YOUR JUNK MAIL (AND MORE)

Please bring your paper recycling to Bond Mill Elementary and add it to the green & yellow bins at the cafeteria side of the school. The bins are emptied year-round, not just during the school year. Newspapers, magazines, office and school papers, catalogs and junk mail, and even shredded paper (please bag) can be recycled. *Please do not use the bin for cardboard, plastic, glass, metal or trash.* ❖

Thanks to those who
contributed to this issue of
Hotline!
Melissa Daston, Beth Evans
Cindy Long & Kim Passmore

FAMILY FUN IN WEST LAUREL

One of the great perks of living in West Laurel has always been the fun family activities sponsored by the West Laurel Recreation Council. Please consider offering your talents and time to keep the community activities running. Due to lack of manpower, the WL Recreation Council will not be able to offer the (February) Swim Night this year, and the December Holiday & Craft Party may suffer the same fate. Please contact **Kim Passmore** (301) 725-3157, or **Rush Kester**, (301) 490-1310, if you can help. Just an hour or two can make such a difference!

Are you looking for ways to entertain your curious and imaginative child? Enroll your child in **Kidgineer**, a hands-on science experi-

ence to explore chemical properties and reactions, and engineering principles. More details available at www.kidgineer.com. Enroll online at www.pgparcs.com/Smartline, course #515665. Fee is \$125 for 6 sessions, Saturdays 3/5 through 4/9 from 9:45-10:45 am, West Laurel Community Building.

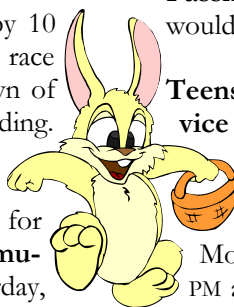
Don't miss the **FREE West Laurel Annual Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 16. Be there by 10 AM SHARP for this fun race to collect eggs on the lawn of the WL Community Building. Children ages 2-11.

Reserve your space now for the **West Laurel Community Yard Sale**, Saturday, May 14 from 8 AM to 2 PM on the lawn of the WL Community Build-

ing. Call **Kim Passmore** for space/table rentals at 301-725-3157.

Start your summer off right at the **West Laurel Ice Cream Social**, Friday, June 3 from 7-9 PM. Enjoy an ice cream sundae while relaxing with neighbors on the lawn of the WL Community Building. Would you or your teen like to run the **Bike Parade**? Please contact **Kim Passmore** (301-725-3157) if you would like to help.

Teens — earn Community Service Hours by volunteering for WLRC events!



The WLRC meets the 4th Monday of every month at 7:30 PM at the WL Community Building. All are invited to attend. ❖

NEWS YOU CAN USE

COFFEE WITH COPS RESUMES FEBRUARY 10

The next Coffee for Seniors with Prince George's County District VI Community Oriented Police Services officers will be Thursday, February 10 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM in the Police District VI Satellite Office (13310 Laurel Bowie Road, next door to Sapphire Indian & Thai restaurant).

WEST LAUREL DUMPSTER DAY MARCH 12

Yes, WLCA is sponsoring another Dumpster Day at the West Laurel Community Building on March 12 from 9 AM until 12 NOON, or until the dumpsters are full. WLCA needs volunteers with trucks willing to assist seniors and disabled residents by picking up their debris and delivering it to the dumpsters. If

you are able to assist, or are a senior who needs assistance, contact **Jason Float** at 443-878-6360 or Jason.Float@gmail.com.

JOIN CUB SCOUT PACK 1673

WLCA charts Cub Scout Pack 1673. Members are grouped by grade and age level. Unusually the smaller dens meet 2-3 times a month during the school year. Most of these meetings occur on Tuesday nights. Once a month all the dens come together for a Pack meeting. These also are usually on Tuesday with an occasional special event on a Saturday.

For information about joining Cub Scouts, please contact either Cubmaster **Kevin Stroud** at (301) 490-2969 or Committee Chair **Fran Niles** at (301) 776-7415.

JOIN BOY SCOUTS

Boy Scout Troop 1673 is chartered by the WLCA. The Troop meets year-round on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM at the West Laurel Community Building. For information about joining Scouts, please stop by or contact Scoutmaster **Mike House** at 301-362-7397.

A second troop, led by Scoutmaster **Bill Raynor** is sponsored by St Mary of the Mills. Please feel free to contact Bill at 301-776-3411.

JOIN GIRL SCOUTS

If you are interested in Girl Scouts contact Janet Alessandrini at jalessan@umd.edu, 301- 210-3939 or 301-405-1974. If you are interested in leading a troop, contact **Sandy Crowley** (301-937-1879) or **Kelly Donaldson** (301-498-7257). ❖

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONT.

(Continued from page 1)

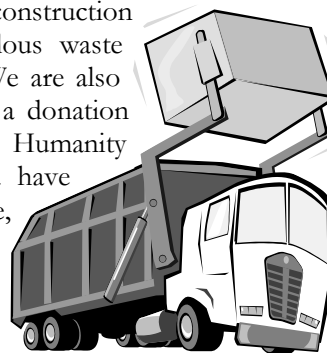
small garden that community members have already put in. It's a bit early but if you're willing to help dig footings or work on the sign, please let me know (mdaston@verizon.net or 301-776-2314). A reminder will be on our community discussion board.

As highlighted in the General Meeting announcement, the WLCA is stepping up our work with the Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources focusing on code enforcement. We are also working with Prince George's and Montgomery counties on the chronic littering and dumping along Sweitzer, Bond Mill and Riding Stable Roads. However, we need the community to join in this effort. Stay tuned for a Spring Clean Up announcement.

Finally, we have arranged once again for two dumpsters at the West Laurel Community Building provided by Prince George's County on Saturday, March 12 from 9 AM until 12 NOON, or until the dumpsters are full. They are for household and light construction debris — no hazardous waste and no electronics. We are also trying to arrange for a donation truck for Habitat for Humanity the same day if you have gently used furniture, appliances, light fixtures that can be used — pay attention to the discussion board and web site for updates.

Based on feedback from our last dumpster day, the WLCA is looking for volunteers with trucks willing to assist seniors and disabled residents by picking up

their debris and delivering it to the dumpsters. If you are able to assist, or are a senior or disabled resident who needs assistance, contact **Jason Float** (443-878-6360 or Jason.Float@gmail.com).



I'd like to end by thanking all of you for making West Laurel such a great place to live. We are extremely fortunate to have returning and new volunteers working on a multitude of projects. If you are interested in donating a few hours to canvass for new members, serve as secretary on the Board, or sponsor a special project, please let me know.

Melissa Daston
(mdaston@verizon.net) ❖

WINTER TIPS

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Yard Waste Pickup Begins April

Snow Information

301-350-0500 or <http://egov.princegeorgescountymd.gov/snowtrack/>

Power Outages 1-800-685-0123
(BGE)

Police Non-Emergency Contact
301-333-4000

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Leaf Pickup 1-240-777-7623

Snow Information 1-240-777-ROAD

Power Outages 1-202-833-7500
(Pepco)

Police Non-Emergency Contact
301-279-8000

FEBRUARY 17 GENERAL MEETING

continued from page 1

send me a personal email or call me, I will compile a full list of problems by address and be the point of contact for DER. If you know of an empty home, a property standards problem, recycling, or environmental issue, please let me know. Send your notes to mdaston@verizon.net or call me at 301-776-2314.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM with Presentation of the Colors by our own Cub Scouts, the Treasurer's report, and recognition of one of our many Good Neighbors. We will also have the design of the West Laurel entry sign on display along with a sign-up sheet for volunteers to build



and install the sign.

To support the WLCA membership drive, there will be a large membership table set up at the entry for you to drop off your dues or sign up to canvass the neighborhood. West Laurel is currently has 1,735 homes but fewer than 400 households have paid their \$15 annual dues. When we go in front of the Prince George's or Montgomery County Councils on issues such a zoning or requests for services, the more members the greater the clout we have. We will also run a membership effort during the March Dumpster Day. I look forward to seeing you on February 17 at the West Laurel Community Building at 7:30 PM. ❖

WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT

First, let me thank those of you who have paid your annual dues. Our volunteer civic association provides West Laurel residents with collective representation at all levels of government and public service offices that cost residents of incorporated communities hundreds of times the WLCA annual \$15.00 per household membership. So I'm perplexed why our dues-paying membership is so low, fewer than 400 homes out of 1,700.

WLCA promotes the interests of our residents in county and state governments on issues including zoning, legislative action, safety,

environment, education and recreation. When we go before Prince George's, Montgomery, and State officials, it matters how many households have their dues. The more people paying, the more attention is given to the WLCA when we represent you.

For \$15 per year, your entire household has membership for the period of September 1, 2010 through August 31 2011. If the \$15 is beyond your means, please enclose what you can with a note and your dues will be covered for the year with no questions.

Please complete the membership form below and along with your

\$15.00 check payable to WLCA either mail or hand deliver it to our membership table at the 7:30 PM February 17, 2011 WLCA General Meeting held at the West Laurel community center building. WLCA gratefully accepts donations in addition to the membership fee.

Anyone interested in supporting this year's membership drive please note your interest on your membership forms or contact **Tony Spezio Sr.** (301-498-3436) to volunteer your services in this effort. ❖

WLCA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM 2010-2011

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues \$15 Additional Donation _____

Comments _____

Dues \$15 per Household* – Make checks payable to WLCA

Please send your membership registration form to:

West Laurel Civic Association
Susan Railey, Treasurer
16922 Melbourne Drive
Laurel, MD 20707-2794

Or drop by the membership table at the February 17 meeting

*Covers up to 2 voting members

WEST LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 387
LAUREL, MD 20725



THE NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER OF WEST LAUREL

Hotline — Winter 2011

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