

Fall 2001

HOTLINE

The Newsletter of the West Laurel Civic Association

FALL MEETING — OCTOBER 18, 2001 AT 7:30 PM

WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY BUILDING

Meeting Topic: Update on Important Community Issues

GREETINGS FROM YOUR NEW WLCA

PRESIDENT

Hi! My name is Barbara Friedman and I live in Area 3 of our West Laurel community. (See the map on back of this Hotline.) I have been a resident of West Laurel for 31 years and I am always pleased to say so. I even own (and wear) a T-shirt that says, "I Love West Laurel." We have a rather large unincorporated residential community here in Prince George's County that has aged with grace and beauty, and I like to think that the West Laurel Civic Association has had a lot to do with keeping our West Laurel quality of life gratifying and desirable. The several new housing areas within West Laurel seem to affirm our efforts and bring new life and vitality into the community.

My husband, Jerry, and I have been active Civic Association members for many years, both having served terms as President of the Association in the 1980's. I also served at different times as secretary, zoning chairman, and VP while we raised our two sons. Many folks tell us they remember those days and the projects and issues we all worked together on as neighbors, but I know we have many new neighbors who have never heard my name and don't know my face, since I have not held office in a number of years. I do hope you will all try to attend

our Fall General Meeting. (We typically have only three community wide meetings a year...fall, winter, and spring.) Mark your calendar RIGHT NOW and plan to come and meet me and our new board and officers. I definitely want to meet and greet you. I welcome each and every one of you to West Laurel and hope you will be as happy living here as I have been.

The Fall meeting will be devoted to updates on the current issues, and activities affecting our community. We expect to have further information on most of the topics addressed in this Hotline, and, yes, refreshments will be available. Fall is a great time to become active in your chosen community. Attend the community-wide WLCA meeting, join the Civic Association for a very reasonable \$10 fee, find out what's happening in the neighborhood, and let your elected Association leaders know where you stand on the issues that affect you, your quality of life, and the value of your property. That's what it's all about. See you at the meeting. ❖



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Next Meeting — October 18, 2001

FAREWELL & GOALS

PASSING THE GAVEL

Two years have come and gone and my term as president of the West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) ended August 31. A former two-term WLCA president, Barbara Friedman, has returned to lead a fully staffed and very able WLCA board of 16 people with 6 alternates. Among these are five newly elected board members Allan Mulligan and Robert Cox (Area I), Lidia Garner (Area II), Gary Holt (Area III), and Lila Toller (Area V). Each has shown an active interest in helping with community issues and I trust that they will be valuable assets to the community in the days ahead.

During the Spring meeting, Barbara was elected president and Justin Chappell moved to first vice president. Tom Dernoga gave up his spot as VP and Lidia Garner was added as an alternate Board Member. These were all changes from the proposed list as published in the fall WLCA newsletter. The 2001-2002 board is listed in its entirety in this issue of the HOTLINE as well as our website at URL: "<http://www.webtrek.com/md/westlaurel/>" Come to our fall meeting October 18 and meet your new board members!

The past two years have brought some interesting experiences and subjects such as Y2K, various road projects, WSSC privatization, zoning enforcement, community improvement projects, and big development proposals such as the Fairland Golf Community. I'm pleased to say that the WLCA board has had many successes in the past two years and met many of our goals. I'm confident that the board will continue in this trend because they have the skills, dedication, and energy that is required. I certainly will continue to be involved with the WLCA.

I'd like to thank many of you who supported me during the past two years. It was my pleasure to serve and work with you. In fact, I'll be handing out some letters of appreciation at the fall meeting so be sure to come early to the meeting and see who the recipients are.

West Laurel continues to be a wonderful place to live. Your board is dedicated to helping West Laurel residents. They have a plethora of issues to deal with and sacrifice much time and effort to preserve our neighborhood and quality of life. It is my hope that you will call on them frequently and support them in the future. Thanks for allowing me to serve you as president these past two years. I hope I'll have a chance to do so again in the future. ❖

John Dollen

WLCA GOALS FOR 2001-2002

Identify, review, discuss, establish position, testify about, and influence the issues which will affect WLCA members and properties, and especially anything within or adjacent to the boundaries of the WLCA area.

Identify issues of lesser affect to WLCA members and properties and decide which to address.

Pursue improvements, such as road surfacing, sidewalks, curbing, and recreational facilities, with county officials.

Support any property use in West Laurel consistent with the approved county Master Plan, and communicate with developers of same to work out any issues that may arise

Improve or establish on-going communications with Laurel officials and civic associations in areas surrounding WLCA boundaries.

After County Council elections, establish strong communications ties to Council member representing WLCA area.

Expand WLCA paid membership by at least 10%.

Contact all new residents of West Laurel and encourage them to join the WLCA.

Make sure the WLCA membership knows that the monthly board meetings are open for any WLCA member to attend and encourage WLCA members to do so. ❖

COMMUNITY ISSUES

PALOTTI EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Palotti has long had a well attended day care center in the city of Laurel, run by Sister Eileen. It seems that Pallotti has decided not to keep the day care center on its property; therefore, Sister Eileen who runs the center has been looking around the Laurel area for a new location. Sister Eileen has looked at several properties in West Laurel, but is now focusing on one property on Brooklyn Bridge Road across from the Supplee baseball fields. The WLCA has not seen final plans for this potential project, but we understand from Sister Eileen that she is looking to construct a new day care facility to be called Pallotti Early Learning Center. It would initially serve 220 students, with an ability to expand to about 260 students. The WLCA does not have enough information to take a position at this time; however, we are very concerned about the potential size of the center, its location, traffic, safety, and the precedent a “special exception” to the residential zoning code might set for future non-residential property uses. For similar reasons, we have discouraged institutional and commercial uses proposed along Brooklyn Bridge Road in the past. We will provide an update on the status of this proposal at the Fall Meeting. ❖

UPDATE: FAIRLAND GOLF COURSE COMMUNITY

At the last WLCA general meeting, the proposed Fairland Golf Course Community -- with its associated destruction of Gunpowder Golf Course and taking forests from Fairland Regional Park — packed the hall and generated the most spirited discussion since the infamous “refuse collection” meeting years ago. After this and other input, the developers modified their proposal and presented to the WLCA Board last month. The revised plan indeed somewhat reduces their massive wetlands intrusions, but it does not begin to resolve WLCA’s many critical concerns about traffic patterns and. about the proposed private for public land swap constituting a major loss for citizens, especially the local golf community and those who enjoy the forest interior of

Fairland Park. Furthermore, this new plan exacerbates other of WLCA’s concerns, taking more centrally located and considerably larger areas of forested parkland.

This article summarizes the impetus behind the proposal, citizen reaction, the revised plan, and how to convey your feelings to county decision-makers.

Impetus: The Gould family owns property that is zoned Rural Residential west of Old Gunpowder Rd. and south of Rt. 198. However, it is scarred from mining with swampy expanses. In contrast, the adjoining Gunpowder Golf Course and forests of Fairland Park are much higher quality land. Ryland and Artery Corporations, endeavoring to develop Gould’s land, propose combining these private and public holdings, including forests of Fairland Park, and build an “upscale” residential community with a sprawling intertwined “championship” golf course. They claim the current golf course needs replacing, rather than the “renovation” called for in the Fairlands Master Plan. The new course would be open to the public, with green fees to recoup construction costs, and revert to public domain in 40 years.

Citizen reaction: WLCA members raised many issues. It is positive that Gould’s land would be developed residential, as currently zoned. However, negative comments predominated, including: (1) loss of the cheapest and most exercise friendly golf course in the region, one that many area residents can afford to enjoy regularly and is heavily used; later getting a course expected to charge five times more and that cannot feasibly be walked, (2) concern that the developer’s proposed entrance from Rt. 198 opposite Riding Stable Rd. would create frequent traffic accidents, (3) destruction of environmentally sensitive and unique areas of Fairland Park (including old growth Chestnut forest), (4) assessment of a bad deal for taxpayers, trading public high-quality (buildable) land for private low-quality land (previously mined and swampy), and concern that this could set a precedent, encouraging other developers to seek public parkland on which to build, (5) concern that three new, high-priced golf courses within a few miles of each other (Gunpowder, Cross Creek, and

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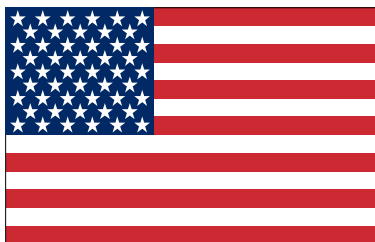
COMMUNITY ISSUES

Hampshire Greens) will not be able to attract sufficient clientele, and (6) numerous environmental concerns.

At the May meeting, WLCA members voted virtually unanimously to: (1) oppose the current plan and (2) oppose trading away any Fairland Park forest, but (3) support residential development on Gould's land, and (4) accept a proposal if developers adequately address our concerns. The developers' plan was also discussed at several other public meetings and received similar responses. For example, at a joint Montgomery and Prince George's Park & Planning Commissions meeting, 30 citizens (including WLCA's Bill Ferguson and Barbara Sollner-Webb) testified against the plan, while one citizen (an attorney for Gould) testified for it.

The developers' current plan: As presented last month, the developer's plan did show several reconfigured fairways with somewhat less wetlands destruction, but now their development extends much further into forest interior of Fairland Park. We could not get a clear answer on how much more parkland was being taken. Hiking/bird-watching/biking/equestrian trails, now buffered by dense forest, would be moved to the edge of the property where users seeking tranquility and wildlife would be exposed to the sights and sounds of traffic, ball games, and other activities. In addition, the "revised" plan did not lessen WLCA's concerns about density, traffic patterns, the land swap, or the loss of reasonably priced recreational golf.

Your input: County hearings on the proposal should be this fall and will be announced in local newspapers. West Laurel residents are strongly encouraged to participate. Also, write to Liz Whitmore (MNCP&PC, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772). We can effect change in the planning process, but only if we participate and speak out. To get a current update on this proposed development on our doorstep, come to the WLCA fall meeting.



MAGLEV MAGNETIC LEVITATION TRANSPORTATION

Are you ready for transportation that lifts, propels and guides vehicles at up to 270 miles a hour? That is what the Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MMTA) wants for the Baltimore-Washington area. They want a nationwide program of rail investments and high speed ground transportation. Nine states already want to connect with this train going about 800 miles. Washington to New York would take about 70 minutes versus 270 minutes by car and would cost about \$35.

MMTA has decided that there are three choices in what they call the Baltimore-Washington Maglev Corridor: **Alternative A)** Runs parallel to Interstate 95 (39.75 miles). This route would go beside Interstate 95 (within 50 feet) right past West Laurel, crossing the road as necessary to go around overpasses. **B)** Parallels the Baltimore Washington Parkway (37.45 miles). This route would also run parallel to the road, and possibly in the center since it is a wider right of way. **C)** Runs parallel to the Amtrak/ MARC Penn lines (35.53 miles). They would run it beside the existing tracks. The stations would be at Camden Yards, Union Station, BWI and a possible Beltway stop. Both BWI and Camden Yards would have underground stations.

The magnetic guideway, which the train travels on controls the speed of the train and can be on, over, or under the ground. The above ground guideways are on T shaped towers that they place 100 to 200 feet apart. They are preformed and can be placed over roads and wetlands at 10 to 30 feet off the ground. The promoters of this Maglev plan say that this kind of rail will have little impact on protected areas. The train is described as being almost silent going at slower speeds (100 mph or less) and about 79 decibels at 200 miles per hour. The noise is from the air as it passes since the train does not touch the tracks. With raised guideways, the sound of the Maglev train passing would probably not be blocked by the existing sound barriers between I-95 and West Laurel residences along that possible route. They propose about 12000 people would be traveling each

PROPOSED BYLAWS

day for a cost of \$7 to \$26 per trip. However, these people would most likely be riders diverted from current transportation with only 5% coming from autos.

Your WLCA Board is trying to stay on top of the information coming out about this proposal, the process, and the progress of the decisions being made, specifically as to how they may impact our community. We will have an update at our October meeting. For additional information call Mass Transit Administration at 410-767-3771 or check out their website at www.bwmaglev.com. ❖



WLRC NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS CALENDAR

West Laurel Holiday Party

Fri, 12/7/01, 7-9pm West Laurel Community Building. Craft fun, music, bring finger food snack to share and an unwrapped child's gift to donate to Laurel Advocacy Referral Service

West Laurel Fun & Swim Night at Fairlands

Fri, 2/1/02, Fairlands Aquatic Center
6:30-9:30pm, \$1/person

The WL Recreation Council is looking for people just like you to offer ideas and/or help in running our fun activities. Call a council member, or just come to our monthly meeting, 7:30pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the WL Community Bldg. WLRC Message/voice machine, (301) 317-0917.

PROPOSED WLCA BYLAWS REVISION

Your WLCA Board is proposing a comprehensive revision of the organization's by-laws as they are currently displayed on the West Laurel website. Much of the revision is structural, to clarify wording, to rearrange the order of the sections for better continuity, and to more fully describe the duties

off the various officers. A rather major change in the proposed revision involves the job of zoning chairman being split off from that of 1st VP, where it currently resides. The zoning chairman would be made an elected executive officer called "zoning officer". Until he stepped down as 1st VP, Tom Dernogna, one of our resident lawyers, had been filling both roles--that of 1st VP and that of Zoning Chairman — under the current bylaw structure. We will be nominating Tom Dernoga to fill that new "Zoning Officer" position if the bylaws revision is approved. That nomination would also be voted on at the Fall meeting. This will allow us to utilize the interests and expertise of two different people in these distinctly different offices — that of 1st VP and that of Zoning Officer — both now and in the future. The position of Zoning Chairman could be made an appointment by committee chair, but being an "elected officer" of our Association is a requirement for the person testifying at zoning hearings and in regard to other land use issues. Thus the need for the new "Zoning Officer" position.

Also part of the bylaws revision is the definition of area representatives as "board officers" of the Association. If and when we ask an area representative to speak for the Association at a hearing or some other forum, he or she will be able to do so as a duly elected "officer" of WLCA. The term "board officer" will be interchangeable with our more familiar title of Area Representative."

For comparison purposes, the current WLCA Bylaws may be accessed on the Association's website (the URL is on page 13 of this Hotline), or you may call your Area Representative to request a hard copy. The revision of the Bylaws as proposed by your WLCA Board is printed in its entirety in this Hotline starting on the next page. The Board feels that the proposed revised Bylaws will better meet the needs of our Association at this time and for the foreseeable future. Please read them and be prepared to vote your acceptance or rejection of these changes at our October 18th general membership meeting. If you have questions or concerns about something in the proposed by-laws revision as printed in this Hotline, please contact one of your area representatives. ❖

PROPOSED BYLAWS

PROPOSED WLCA BY-LAWS REVISION 9/25/01

ARTICLE I—GENERAL

1.01 Definition of Civic Association Title

The title of this non-profit organization shall be West Laurel Civic Association, Inc., hereafter referred to in these bylaws as “the Association”.

1.02 Use of Title

This title shall appear on all official papers and communications of the Association.

1.03 Area Boundaries

The boundaries of the Association are:

- The Laurel City limits on the east;
- Route 198 on the south, including properties abutting on the south side of Route 198;
- The Patuxent River on the north; and
- Prince George’s County line and Riding Stable Road on the west, including properties on any roads abutting Riding Stable Road, and including properties on Birmingham drive.

1.04 Business Calendar

September 1 shall be the first day of the fiscal year for the Association.

1.05 Community Newsletter

The HOTLINE shall be the official publication of the Association.

ARTICLE II—PURPOSE

2.01 Protect the Quality of Life

To protect and improve the community.

2.02 Civic and Community Activities

Participate in civic and community activities and other affairs affecting the West Laurel area.

2.03 Non-endorsement Policy

To interact with government officials and agencies in a non-partisan manner, not endorsing political parties or specific candidates.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP

3.01 Membership Requirements

Membership in the Association is limited to persons who are at least 18 years old who reside or own property within the area boundaries defined in Article I, Section 1.03.

3.02 Types of Membership

There shall be two types of Association members: non-voting members and voting members. Every person within the boundaries of WLCA who meets the membership requirements is considered a non-voting member of the Association. Residents or owners (described in section 3.01) who pay their annual dues become voting members.

3.03 Membership Voting Regulations

One vote is allowed per resident voting member, with a maximum of two votes per paid family membership. Any nonresident who is a member by reason of property ownership, and payment of dues, shall be entitled to one vote.

3.04 Annual Dues

The Board of Directors shall recommend the annual dues to the membership for consideration at the spring meeting. If approved, the annual dues will take effect at the beginning of the fiscal year.

3.05 Membership Authority

All authority not specifically delegated to the Board of Directors of the Association by these By-laws shall remain with the membership.

ARTICLE IV—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

4.01 Board Composition

The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the Executive Officers and the Board Officers. The Association Executive Officers shall consist of a President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Zoning Officer, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board Officers shall consist of two Area Representatives elected from each geographic area described in Attachment A to these by-laws.

4.02 Conducting Business

The Board of Directors will conduct the business of the Association with the guidance of the membership. Prior to the fall membership meeting, the Board of Directors shall establish goals and prepare a budget for the Association year. The goals and budget shall be presented to the membership for approval at the fall meeting. At any appropriate time during the year, the Board of Directors shall establish committees to carry out the Association’s goals, studies, or actions. The Board shall receive committee reports and have the results reported at the general membership meetings.

4.03 Approval of Expenditures

The Board of Directors shall approve all expenditures greater than \$100.
(See Section 6.02)

PROPOSED BYLAWS

ARTICLE V - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5.01 Election Procedures

Officers (See 4.01) shall be elected by a majority of the votes cast at the spring meeting. At least one Alternate Area Representative will also be elected from each area. (See 7.02)

5.02 Nominating Committee

The Second Vice President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of at least three voting members to solicit candidates for each office.

5.03 Non-committee Nominations

Additional nominations may be made from the floor prior to the close of nominations at the spring meeting.

5.04 Term of Office

The term of office for Executive Officers shall be two years, coinciding with the fiscal year/years of the Association. All Executive Officers shall be elected at the same time. The term of office for the Board Officers shall be two years, with one Area Representative from each Area elected each year.

5.05 Filling a Vacant Office

In the event that any vacancy occurs during the term of an Executive or Board Officer, the Board of Directors shall fill such vacancy at the next regular meeting of the Board. That action shall be announced in the next Hotline and presented at the next general meeting for membership approval or rejection.

ARTICLE VI - DUTIES OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

6.01 The President's Duties and Authority

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. He/she shall:

- Preside at all Board and general meetings or specifically designate a presiding officer if the President and both of the Vice Presidents are unavailable;
- Call special meetings after consulting with the Board of Directors;
- Call meetings of the Board of Directors at least every other month;
- With approval of the Board of Directors, appoint chairmen, members of standing and special committees (except for the nominating and audit committees), and delegates to other civic associations or other appropriate groups;
- Call for regular committee reports and refer matters of business to the appropriate committee;
- Insure that elections are held in accordance with these by-laws; and
- Appoint a parliamentarian to rule on points of order at membership meetings.

6.02 Incidental Expenditures

The President may authorize incidental expenditures not greater than \$100 without prior approval of the Board of Directors or the Association but he/she shall detail these expenditures to the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting and the Treasurer shall report such expenditures at the next general meeting.

6.03 The First and Second Vice Presidents' Duties and Authorities

(a) The First Vice President shall:

- Have the powers of the President in his/her absence;
- Insure that the records of the Association are properly maintained, and upon completion of his/her term of office shall make sure all permanent records of the Association are properly archived and current records turned over to his/her successor;
- Appoint and oversee any audit committees;
- Conduct such other responsibilities as specifically assigned by the President.

(b) The Second Vice President shall:

- Have the powers of the President in the absence of both the President and First Vice President
- Function as corresponding secretary;
- Maintain copies of all correspondence of the Association in corresponding secretary's files to be passed on to his/her successor at the end of his/her term
- Give copies of all correspondence to the First Vice President quarterly for archives
- Appoint a nominating committee to identify candidates for election;
- Conduct such other responsibilities as specifically assigned by the President.

6.04 The Secretary's Duties and Authority

The Secretary shall:

- Insure that minutes of regular, special and Board meetings are recorded, and preserved in hard copy
- Pass on copies of all the minutes to the next Secretary and to the First Vice-President at the end of his/her term of office;
- Read or refer to minutes of prior meetings of the Board, or the Association if asked to do so.
- Insure that all official notifications to the membership are made as prescribed in these By-laws (See Section 8.03);
- Notify Board Members of all Board meetings.

6.05 The Treasurer's Duties and Authority

The Treasurer shall:

- Receive and deposit in the Association's bank accounts all monies paid to the Association;
- Reconcile all bank accounts;
- Keep an account of the funds of the Association;
- Disburse such funds when properly authorized by the President, the Board of Directors or the Association;

PROPOSED BYLAWS

- Make a report to the membership at each general meeting;
- Maintain the official list of paid members of the Association;
- Turn over to his/her successor all monies, property and records of this Association;
- Maintain an inventory of Association property;
- File with the First Vice President a receipt for all money and property of the Association;
- File a financial statement for the fiscal year.

6.06 The Zoning Officer's Duties and Authority

The Zoning Officer shall:

- Chair the Association's Zoning committee;
- As directed by the President, represent the Association in all matters related to land use;
- Develop Association positions and strategies in Zoning matters and present these to the Board of Directors for approval.
- Form Ad Hoc committees to study land use issues as needed

When the Zoning Officer is unable to attend meetings or events, he/she shall try to arrange for representation by another officer of the Association.

ARTICLE VII - BOARD OFFICERS AND ALTERNATES

7.01 Duties of Board Officers (also called Area Representatives)

Area Representatives shall:

- Represent the interests and concerns of the residents of the area which they represent;
- Regularly attend all Board of Directors meetings, general meetings, and special meetings and be voting participants;
- Encourage active Association membership among the residents of their areas;
- Arrange for a duly elected Alternate Area Representative from his/her area to attend any meetings in his/her absence.

7.02 Duties of Alternate Area Representatives

- To be ready and willing, whenever possible, to attend a Board meeting and function in place of his/her area's representative when asked to do so by that representative or an officer of the Board;
- Alternate Area Representatives do not have a vote in Board of Directors meetings unless the Area Representative is not present.
- Alternate Area Representatives are expected to keep current on issues in order to perform as the Area Representative when needed;
- Encourage active Association membership among the residents of their areas.

7.03 Election Requirements for Board Officers and Alternates

- Each Area Representative must be a resident of the area which he/she represents. If no individual is elected from an area, this vacancy will not interfere with the functioning of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

8.01 General Meetings (Full Membership) and Associated Business Agendas

There shall be at least three general meetings each calendar year: A spring meeting, prior to school closing; a fall meeting, after the beginning of the school year; and a winter meeting.

- At the spring meeting the voting members will elect the Executive Officers and Board Officers to succeed those whose terms are expiring (see section 5.03), receive the Treasurer's report, and dispose of old and new business as required;
- At the fall meeting, the membership will approve the proposed goals and budget for the year, receive the Treasurer's report, and dispose of old and new business as required;
- At the winter meeting the membership will receive the Treasurer's report, and will dispose of old and new business as required.

8.02 Special Meetings

- Special meetings may be called by the President.
- Upon written request to the President by at least ten percent of the membership the President shall call a special meeting for the purpose designated in the request.

8.03 Community Notification of Meetings

- Notice of general membership meetings shall be published in the HOTLINE at least five days prior to the date of the meeting, and shall be published in local newspapers and on the Association Internet website.
- Special meetings shall be published in the Hotline at least five days prior to the date of the meeting whenever possible. An acceptable notification alternative when timing does not coincide with the Hotline publication shall be to post signs of topic, date, time and location within the Association boundaries at all intersections with Bond Mill Rd, Brooklyn Bridge Rd., Riding Stable Rd., and at Birmingham and Rte. 198 at least five days before the meeting and on the Association Internet website.

8.04 Quorum Definition for General Meetings

A quorum for all general meetings shall be 30 members.

8.05 Meeting Rules

Meetings shall be governed by Robert's Rule of Order insofar as they do not conflict with these bylaws.

MORE COMMUNITY ISSUES

ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9.01 Authorized Attendance

All Board and committee meetings shall be open to the membership.

9.02 Reporting Board Meeting Activities to the Membership

The President or his/her designate will provide a written summary of the Board meetings for publication in the HOTLINE and on the Association Internet Website.

9.03 Quorum Definition for Board Meetings

A quorum for Board meetings shall consist of a majority of the existing members of the Board or their designated alternates.

ARTICLE X - CHANGES IN THE BYLAWS

10.01 Rules for Amending or Modifying the By-laws

These By-laws may be amended, repealed or modified in whole or in part at any regular meeting of the Association upon an affirmative vote of two thirds of the members present provided that:

- The change has been proposed at a previous general meeting; or
- The proposed change was submitted in writing to the Board of Directors or to a specially established By-laws committee for consideration;
- Any proposed change shall be published in the HOTLINE and on the Association’s Internet Website at least five days prior to the meeting at which a vote on the proposed amendment or modification is to be taken.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?

Picture land zoned for single family homes (RR) after several years study by the Northwestern Area Master Planners. Picture all levels of the planning and zoning bureaucracy — technical staff, Planning Board, Zoning Hearing Examiner — recommending against an application to rezone the property for industrial use (I1). Would one not logically conclude that the County Council sitting as the District Council would accept the recommendation of its own experts? Not in Prince George’s County! By a 6-2 vote the District Council overruled its own experts and granted the change. So much for the taxpayers’ dollars, which pay for all that planning and zoning expertise. So much for the five year plus effort by the citizen volunteers and staff to fashion a Master Plan which would encourage

the kind of orderly growth which, supposedly, is the goal of our county government.

Your Board of Directors believes that the District Council’s action represents such a blatant disregard for the master plan, for the recommendations of its own experts, and is based on the flimsiest of grounds that we have a good chance to overturn this decision in the court system. Therefore, we have filed a notice of appeal; the first step in what could be a long and expensive process.

You might ask why we are so concerned about a plot of land a mile or so south of WLCA’s southern boundary? Simply stated, the Board believes that each slice off the Master Plan brings the developers’ bulldozers closer to West Laurel. Even as this is being written we are being “nibbled” on every side — the City of Laurel’s persistent annexation policy, the transformation of the Gunpowder Golf Course and the surrounding woodlands/wetlands into a high priced golfing area with its attendant environmental, traffic, and public facilities impacts, and zoning changes such as this one. If we stand idly by we could awake one day to see Laurel’s banner flying on the West side of I95 and unwanted commercial and industrial development on both sides of I95 thereby justifying the broad expansion of that artery (as well as Rte. 198) to support that development. Finally, we need to send a message to the county that we will not stand idly by as they trample on their own planning and zoning process.

If we are to win this case we need your financial help. Even a bare-bones effort will be costly. We could probably pay for this appeal from our treasury reserves, but that would severely restrict our ability to take action in other zoning cases. Therefore, we are asking you, the membership, to contribute to our “war chest”. We have approximately 465 paid members in the Association and, thanks to the civic spirit and generosity of our “legal eagle” Tom Dernoga, we may not have to spend as much as an “outsider” might charge for an appeal of this type. Give what you can but please give something to protect your investment and your quality of life and please encourage your neighbors to do the same. Please make checks payable to WLCA and indicate, “appeal fund” on the check memo. ❖

MORE COMMUNITY ISSUES

WILL PLANS FOR RT. 198 & 28 IMPROVE LOCAL ROADWAYS OR CREATE AN ICC?

Remember the InterCounty Connector (ICC), the proposed freeway between I-95 (Laurel) and I-270 (Gaithersburg) which WLCA members have twice voted should not be built, by over a 9:1 margin both times? That vote was based on projections that such an ICC would:

- greatly increase traffic through our community, bringing noise, pollution, and pressure for higher density,
- cause gridlock on most major roads in Laurel,
- afford negligible traffic improvements on the Beltway, I-95, I-270, or other major roads,
- encourage sprawl development, and
- degrade many important environmental treasures.

Last November, State Highway Administration (SHA) ran notices in the Washington Post that they had attempted to build a freeway running from I-270 to Georgia Ave. at Rt. 28 (basically the western third of the ICC). However, this plan failed because it was projected to create massive traffic jams at its eastern terminus, on the existing two lane Rt. 28 (no surprise there). With an uncommon level of candor, they went on to announce “a new study”, to enlarge precisely that roadway from Georgia Ave. to I-95, specifically Rt. 28, the Rt. 28/Rt. 198 connector (currently being constructed) and Rt. 198. Yes, our Rt. 198 that runs through West Laurel!

Many feel that such an expanded roadway would become a major commuter and truck route and would allow construction of the afore-mentioned connecting freeway segment to I-270. Voilà, a virtual ICC. Indeed, that added traffic would likely create pressure to freeway-ize the entire I-95 to I-270 route.

Last spring, SHA assembled a focus group of citizens representing numerous civic organizations and a few businesses along the affected route, to provide input during the planning. The civic representatives (including Barbara Sollner-Webb from WLCA and Stuart Rochester from Fairland) are united in not wanting this roadway to become a de facto ICC and are trying to rein in the study.

SHA is now revising their all-important “Purpose and Need Statement”. This is the federally required

document stating the goals against which to judge the various roadway scenarios that will be specified in the upcoming months. It is critical that these criteria be stated as clearly as possible, for otherwise a full ICC freeway could be selected. We are urging the project manager, Shawn Burnett, to submit a less generalized Purpose and Need Statement, with more honesty about the character of our area. For example, we have suggested wording that states:

- the high quality rural residential lifestyle this area now enjoys should be preserved (not just that the quality of life must end up “acceptable” by some unknown standard).

- it is important to protect the area’s environmental assets including the Patuxent watershed and the Upper Paint Branch Special Protection Area (not just that un-named features will be “considered”).

- plans should be in keeping with the area masterplans’ efforts to protect local features and rural ambiance (not to create a generously wide roadway, for that would take many more front lawns and houses).

- analysis should include the increased traffic this roadway would cause in the City of Laurel (not exclude downtown Laurel from the analysis).

- analysis should eliminate the year where road construction caused abnormally high accident rates (from which the current roadway is incorrectly deemed unsafe).

Please help with this effort! Write Shawn Burnett (Project Planning Division, SHA, 707 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202; e-mail: sburnett@sha.state.md.us) and send a copy to Governor Parris Glendening (State House, 100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401; e-mail: governor@gov.state.md.us); the Laurel Leader (jmurchison@patuxent.com), and the Journal Newspapers (PGedit@jml.com; mtgedit@jml.com). Tell them what you think the Rt. 198/ Rt. 28 roadway should become, or not become, and the kind of clarity that needs to be reflected in the Purpose and Need Statement. If you would like to discuss this study further, please call **Barbara Sollner-Webb (301-604-5619)**, and/or attend the WLCA Fall meeting for an update. We need your help to maintain our neighborhood!

WLCA BUDGET

WLCA PROPOSED BUDGET 2001-2001

The 2001 - 2002 WLCA Budget will be voted on at the Fall Meeting. Please read the information below and bring any questions or comments to the Fall General Meeting. WLCA has generally kept a balanced budget, but it has been hard with a fluctuating number of members. We have a realistic goal of at least 10% increase in membership this year which would mean having 512 paid members. We would need 655 residences to balance this year's budget, even more members would help in some of the big issues coming up. We're proud to be one of the largest civic associations in the County, and having that stature is an effective tool in certain forums. Please join WLCA and support your community.

	Approved 99-2000	Actual 99-2000	Proposed 2000-01
Hotline Issues	2800	2723	2900
P.O. Box	64	80	80
P.O. Permit and Fee	100	125	125
Cub Scout Sponsorship	300	300	300
Fire Dept Donation	150	150	150
Rescue Squad Donation	150	150	150
Grad Night Donation	100	100	100
WL Rag Tag Band	100	100	100
Bond PTA Carnival	75	75	75
Civic Association Dues	75	50	75
Office Supplies	75	57	75
Zoning and Legal Fees	150	125	*2000
Refreshments	150	171	200
Misc Expenses	200	81	200
Total	<u>4489</u>	<u>4370</u>	<u>6545</u>

Income Years	Members	Dues	Total
1999-2000	425	@10.00	4245
2000-2001	466	@10.00	4665
Estimated 2001-2002	512	@10.00	5120

Checkbook Balance 9/12/2001	7057
Bank CD's @1,000 each	3000
Total	10057

* Based on current information, the Board is anticipating an increase in zoning cases requiring legal fees this year. If that kind of expenditure proves necessary, we will fund this item by drawing from our ample reserves being held in the bank account for just such an occasion.

BOARD MEMBERS

2001-2002 WEST LAUREL CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD PHONE NUMBERS

WLCA OFFICERS

<u>WLCA OFFICERS</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>E-MAIL</u>
President	Barbara Friedman	725-2832	barbyf@aol.com
1 st . Vice President	Justin Chappell	470-1655	wiz@erols.com
2 nd . Vice President	Barbara Sollner-Webb	604-5619	bsw@bs.jhmi.edu
Zoning Officer	Tom Dernoga	490-3286	tedzone@starpower.net
Rec. Secretary	Mary Lehman	498-0694	dalehma0@aol.com
Treasurer	Laurice Crawford	490-8684	crawfordanderson@earthlink.net

AREA I REPS.

Rep. (2yr)	Robert or Sophia Cox	549-3609	rosobud@bellatlantic.net
Rep. (1 yr)	Jurgen von Bredow	549-3150	jbredow@cvm.fda.gov
Alternate	Allan Mulligan	549-1007	amulligan1007@aol.com

AREA II REPS.

Rep. (2 yr)	Richard Weiblinger	490-8686	rweiblinger@hotmail.com
Rep. (1 yr)	Bill Ferguson	776-6993	retired00@juno.com
Alternate	John Dollen	725-3202	dollenj@hotmail.com
Alternate	Lidia Garner	776-3901	garnerlidia@jhmi.edu

AREA III REPS.

Rep. (2 yr)	Gary Holt	725-2567	gholt2@prodigy.net
Rep. (1 yr)	Howard Rosenberg	776-4228	hrmkr@earthlink.net
Alternate	Ron Holmberg	604-7598	holmberg@erols.com

AREA IV REPS.

Rep. (2yr)	Lucy Grimes	490-0414	lucygrimes33@hotmail.com
Rep. (1 yr)	Irene D'Amato	490-8441	irened@prodigy.net
Alternate	Barney Walsh	490-7357	walshcebs@aol.com

AREA V REPS.

Rep. (2 yr)	Lilia Toler	953-1558	N/A
Rep. (1 yr)	Bob Klein	776-3687	robertjklein@earthlink.net
Alternate	Carol Bounds	725-6012	carolbounds@hotmail.com

ICC

Barbara Sollner-Webb 604-5619 bsw@bs.jhmi.edu

ENVIRONMENTAL

Justin Chappell 470-1655 wiz@erols.com

HOTLINE COORDINATOR

Ron Holmberg 604-7598 holmberg@erols.com

WL REC. COUNCIL OFFICERS

President **Kim Passmore** 725-3157 passm@quixnet.net

WL COMMUNITY CENTER INFORMATION

Deedee Sisson 953-2199 www.pks.sisson.com

LAUREL LEADER COLUMNIST **Chris Folks** 490-0797 cbfolkswl@aol.com

LAUREL GAZETTE COLUMNIST **Cindy Dollen** 725-3202 dollenc@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIP/HOME PAGE

SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

We wish to welcome all our new neighbors and say hello once again to all our old neighbors. This is the beginning of another new year for the West Laurel Civic Association. Our Civic association has a lot to be proud of in protecting our neighborhood to keep it green, beautiful, and safe; trying to keep out industries that will produce major traffic jams in and around our community, i.e. ICC, country music theatre, Redskin Stadium. However, we do need your help by supporting the Civic Association and by becoming a member. We would love to see you at any of our Board meetings and at the General Meetings held 3 times a year.

Mail your check for \$10.00, payable to WLCA, to: **Laurice Crawford, 16300 Gales Court, Laurel, MD 20707** or stop by the table at the **October 18th General Meeting** at the West Laurel Community Center. Thank you for your support. ❖

HOTLINE CONTRIBUTORS

Many thanks to those who contributed to this issue of *HOTLINE*: Gordon Anderson, Laurice Crawford, Tom Dernoga, Irene D'Amato, John Dollen, Barbara Friedman, Ron Holmberg, Mary Lehman, Kim Passmore, and Barbara Sollner-Webb. ❖

WEST LAUREL HOME PAGE

The West Laurel Home page on the World Wide Web is being continually updated and includes many new features. The calendar page has dates and times for most West Laurel events. If you have an event to include on the calendar page, please contact **Ron Holmberg at 301/604-7598 or holmberg@erols.com.**

The Website also contains a multitude of hotlinks to government, county, and community pages. The site has links to most of the Montgomery and Prince George's County websites. West Laurel Swim Club and the West Laurel Recreation Council have links or pages on the site. We invite you to take a look at the pages — we welcome your feedback! The URL is <http://www.webtrek.com/md/westlaurel/index.html>. ❖

LEAF COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Both the PG & Montgomery County Departments of Public Works will be collecting leaves from West Laurel streets starting this November. They recommend that you not put the leaves “in the street” but rather, on the side off of the road. Leaves in the street are a hazard. Children inevitably will play in the leaves and that can mean trouble. Leaves piled on the street will blow into the roadway and that makes a slippery hazard for cars. Leaf collection signs will be posted in area streets. For more information on leaf and snow removal, call **301-499-8576 (PG County) and 240-777-6530 (Montgomery Co.)** for a recorded message of the removal schedule. ❖

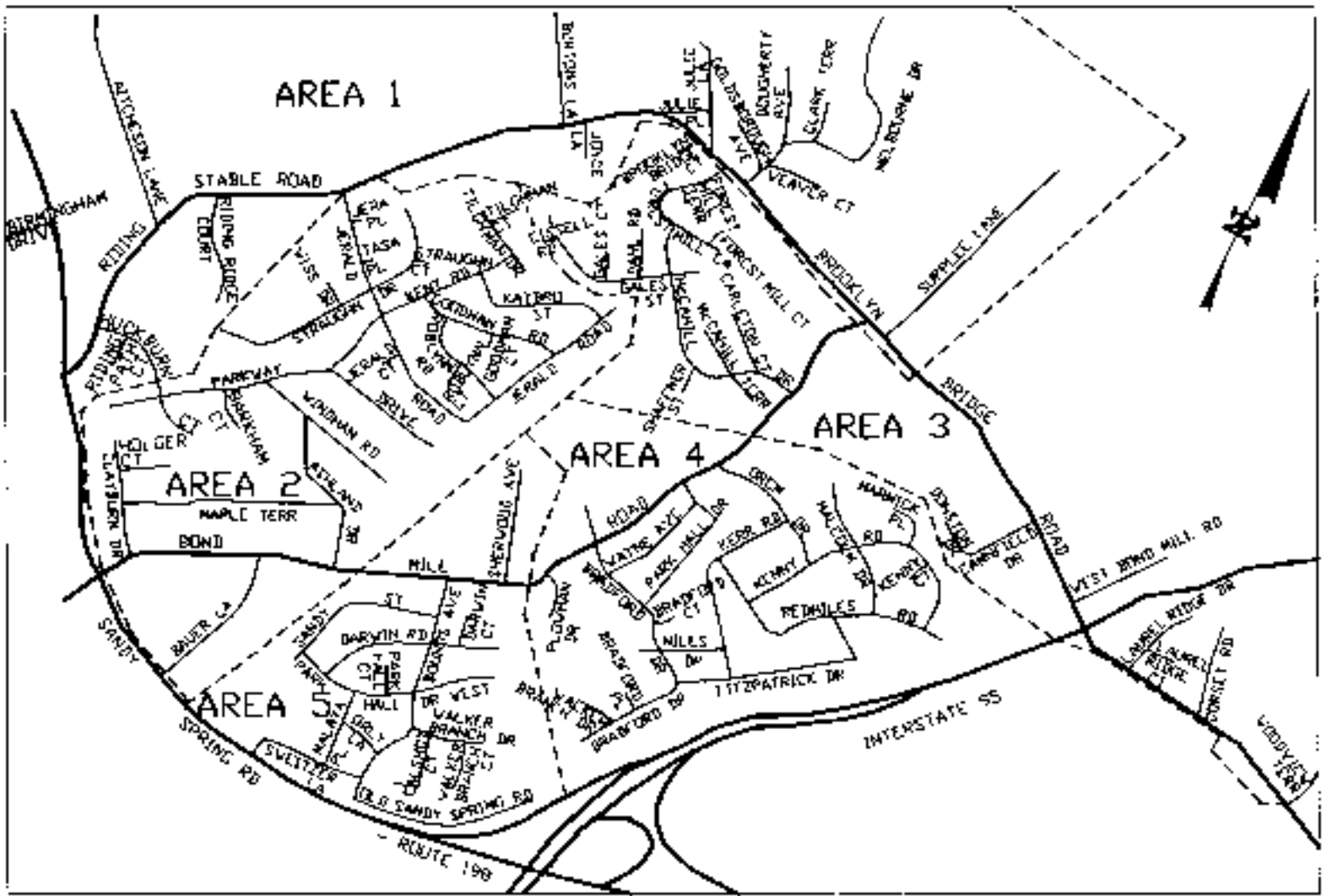
MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Dues: \$10.00

Comments: _____



The Newsletter of the West Laurel Civic Association

HOTLINE — Fall 2001

West Laurel Civic Association
 P.O. Box 387
 Laurel, MD 20725

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