

Spring 1998

HOTLINE

SPRING MEETING — MAY 28, 1998, 7:30 PM

WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY CENTER

Meeting Topic: Issue Updates

We had hoped to have **Governor Parris Glendening** out to our Spring Meeting to discuss a variety of issues, including the InterCounty Connector. **Gov. Glendening** wanted to come out, but unfortunately, he could not fit our meeting date into his schedule. **Sen. Art Dorman** deserves our appreciation for the personal effort he made to get us on the Governor's agenda. Nevertheless, we have many issues to go over, including:

(1) **21st DELEGATION ON ANNAPOLIS** - Hear our State delegation give their insight into this year's accomplishments and near misses. Make your pitch for what the legislative priorities should be next year.

(2) **COUNCILMAN WALTER MALONEY ON PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY** - Hear our councilman give his view on the County budget process, the crush of zoning matters to be heard before the election moratorium, and more.

(3) **INTERCOUNTY CONNECTOR** - The never ending saga. Is it dead? Yeah, right!

(4) **TOM DERNOGA ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE "FOOT KELLY PROPERTY"** - Check the plans on the latest Riding Stable Road subdivision.

(5) **JOHN DOLLEN ON NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH/SPEED AWARENESS DAY** - Neighborhood Watch is picking up steam. Hear the latest.

• ICC UPDATE

The ICC is not dead, but is waiting until next year to resurface!

By way of reminder, the Inter-County Connector (ICC) is a long-proposed freeway linking I-270 in Gaithersburg with I-95 in the Laurel area. Of the two final freeway alternatives considered in a recent multi-million dollar study, the more southern was rejected last summer by the EPA as too environmentally damaging (to the trout in Paint Branch Park). That left the "Northern Alternative" which would cross Rt. 29 north of the Giant, running east, toward West Laurel. At Riding Stable Road the ICC would have a multi-layer Rt. 198 cross-over, with much traffic adding to Rt. 198 and much continuing on the ICC to the Konterra planned mega-mall and the Fairland area.

The ICC is planned to continue east to Rt. 301 (a future segment called A44). The study's non-freeway alternative dumped all the ICC traffic onto Rt. 198 here in West Laurel, making OUR Rt. 198 a 10 lane wide, two parallel road monstrosity, possibly double decker. This Northern Alternative would pour much sediment into the Rocky George Reservoir, Indian Creek, Rock Creek and Mill Creek Parks. The State Highway administration's own traffic predictions said that all this would not appreciably affect the amount of traffic congestion on the Beltway, I-95 or I-270, and would cost over a billion dollars (yes, that is a one followed by nine zeros). And I-95 would get widened to up to 20 lanes, also with a main and a local freeway, like an enlarged NJ turnpike.

Many of us were thrilled to read in the Washington Post (3/7/98) that Governor Glendening

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WEST LAUREL HAPPENINGS

• **WSSC UPDATE**

WSSC is about one-third finished with the design of the replacement facilities at the aging Patuxent Water Treatment Plant on Sweitzer Lane. The goal of the design is to provide the most cost-effective solution for providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds Federal Safe Drinking Water Standards. The design includes an entrance from the eastbound lanes of Route 198. There will be no median cut on Route 198. Construction is targeted to begin in the summer of 1999.

• **OTHER WSSC ACTIVITIES IN WEST LAUREL INCLUDE**

Between February and April, WSSC crews visually inspected and cleaned sewers in the vicinity of Park Hall, Walker Branch, Bradford and Fitzpatrick Drives. This inspection used TV equipment in the sewer to find potential blockages, and other equipment was used to remove any blockages. Some work remains under I-95 near Bradford Drive. This is part of WSSC's preventative maintenance program for 10,000 miles of pipeline in the bi-county area.

In January, WSSC crews inspected air release valves on the raw water pipelines. Repairs have been made and no digging was required. WSSC has no plans to replace or supplement these pipelines in the foreseeable future, and no funds are available for such a project. Cleaning of all three raw water pipelines is planned for Summer 1999.

• **WEST LAUREL RECREATIONAL COUNCIL**

The West Laurel Recreational Council needs volunteers. Officers are needed for Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer and anyone that is willing to help for individual special occasions. We don't want the Park and Planning to take over completely what is happening at our West Laurel Community Center when we all worked so hard to get it built for the West Laurel area.

• **ANNEXATION/INCORPORATION SURVEY RESULTS**

Based on comments received and a vote taken at the Winter Meeting, it is clear that West Laurel will not take any steps toward incorporation or annexation. Incorporation as a municipality is opposed overwhelmingly. Seeking to be annexed into the City of Laurel is a more popular thought, however, both the surveys and the vote were close to 2-1 against the idea. A number of people wanted to know the pros & cons for each (not a bad idea); however, the question that was asked was: should we analyze the pros & cons? The answer: NO!! The membership has spoken. No doubt, it's an issue that people will raise again a few years down the road. Until then, we're on our own.

• **NEW DEVELOPMENT ON RIDING STABLE ROAD "FOOT KELLY PROPERTY"**

We recently received a copy of plans for the subdivision of the Foot Kelly Property on Riding Stable Road. The Foot Kelly Property is on the east side of Riding Stable Road, between Jerald Road and Aitcheson Road. The property is zoned RE-1 (1-acre lot size), and is 22.03 acres. While the zoning permits up to 23 lots, the owners are proposing only 15 lots.

The subdivision will back up near the new end of Straughn Drive (where the new homes are going in), however, no connection is proposed. Instead, the plan proposes access directly onto Riding Stable Road. Since the plan is for low density, single-family homes, at less density than permitted, the WLCA is likely to support the overall concept. Naturally, we will want to look at school and road impacts. Also, we will need to address having another access point on Riding Stable Road. It is important for people living in that part of West Laurel, especially those along Straughn Drive, to take an interest in this project so that the WLCA Board knows how best to represent the community interests. **COME TO THE MEETING, LOOK AT THE PLANS, AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.**

WLWATCH

• NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

The West Laurel Neighborhood Watch Program (WLWATCH) is committed to preserving safety and quality of life in our neighborhood. This is a complex and time-consuming effort, but one that must be maintained and supported by the community to be successful.

In recent months, the neighborhood watch program has addressed many high-interest issues which have occurred or are ongoing in our neighborhood. For example:

- West Laurel gang (crew) called the Westwoods
- Speeding
- Home invasion robbery
- Drug activities
- Breaking & Entering
- Auto Theft
- Summer crime trends and neighborhood

problem areas

The Neighborhood Watch meets at the community center at 7:30 PM, usually on the third Thursday of each month. Please come to this meeting and learn how you can help yourself and the community. Look for us on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/org/wlca/index.html>

The neighborhood watch needs your help to support its activities. For example, the Neighborhood Watch keeps the community informed through a newsletter. Anyone who attends our meetings will receive the newsletter via either regular mail or e-mail. The WLWATCH program incurs expenses for materials (i.e., postage, copying, signs, correspondence, etc.). Funds are being sought through government grants, but until then, we are asking for community donations. If you can help, please use the mail-in form below. Thanks in advance.

WEST LAUREL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MAIL IN FORM

Your Name _____

Home Phone Number _____

Home Address _____

Email Address _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

Questions or comments _____

Survey:

• Would you like to improve your home security? (Yes or No) _____

Indicate interest:

• Locks and deadbolts _____

• Lights _____

• Motion detectors _____

• Security service (i.e., alarms) _____

• The WLWATCH will organize and provide volunteers to install lights and motion detectors at your home.

Would you have a need for this service?

(Yes or No) _____

• The WLWATCH is looking for neighbors who are skilled electricians and willing to volunteer their time to install lights and motion detectors for our neighbors. Would you like to help? (Yes or No) _____

Please place your name, address and home phone in the space provided above or call **John Dollen (301) 725-3202**. Mail form to **John Dollen, 15314 Bond Mill, Laurel, MD 20707**.

THE ICC IS NOT DEAD

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said “The ICC and its alternatives...will not work, should not work” and that instead “there must be an entire rethinking of how to deal with the traffic congestion.” A “Panel of Experts, plus Citizen Representatives” would be appointed to do this rethinking, and one might expect that the Citizen Representatives would represent the citizens. Of the hundreds of citizens who testified at the official ICC Hearings last summer, over 90% were opposed to the ICC; therefore, one might naively think that the Citizen Representatives on this “Transportation Solutions Panel” would include the anti-ICC sentiment. [In fact, virtually all of the pro-ICC speakers at these hearings were from the Washington Board of Trade, Baltimore/Washington Chamber of Commerce, or the like, who profit financially from the sprawl development induced by such freeways; they advocate spending over 30 billion dollars of our money on numerous such roadways.]

The panel was recently named (evidently chosen by officials in State Highway) with very little publicity. Guess who are our two Citizen Representatives from PG county? One is Walt Townsend, President of the Baltimore/Washington Chamber of Commerce. The other is Barry Campbell, head of the Montgomery-Prince George’s Counties CEO Roundtable and CEO of Tracor Technologies, a Defense Department contractor whose two plants off I-270 and I-95 would be connected by an ICC. They were the two main individuals quoted in the original Washington Post and Laurel Leader articles as wanting to still get Glendening to build an ICC. And they do not personally live anywhere near an ICC. If you are insulted by these choices and do not think they well represent you or your neighbors’ interests, please write the editor of area newspapers (Laurel Leader, Post, and Journal).

Other Notable Points

- Since the Governor’s pronouncement, State Highway started negotiations to buy Peach Orchard Estates. This Burtonsville property is on the route of a modified Northern Alternative of the ICC which was not studied, but which the State Highway is now advocating.

- State Highway has also prevented other property from being developed that would be part of a Rt.29-ICC cloverleaf near Giant and it is trying to prevent all development in the now-favored, modified Northern route.

- Although State Highway says no engineering has been going on, there are brand new survey stakes and ribbons labeled “ICC” in Peach Orchard Estates.

- More recent statements from the Governor are that no routes have been ruled out and all will be re-considered. If you have an opinion, call the Governor’s free line at 800-811-8336

Unless you want an ICC freeway running in West Laurel, make yourself heard NOW about the ICC!

• ELECTION OF WLCA BOARD MEMBERS 98-99

The personnel listed, in bold print, will be voted on during the Spring General Meeting.

President	Tom Dernoga
1st Vice President	John Dollen
2nd Vice President	Barbara Sollner-Webb
Rec Secretary	Mary Lehman
Treasurer	Laurice Crawford
Area I Reps	
Rep (2 Year)	Lawrence Timian
Rep (1 Year)	Jurgen von Bredlow
Alternate	Jim Ludlam
Area II Reps	
Rep (2 Year)	Hamilton Brown
Rep (1 Year)	Bill Furguson
Alternate	Stephanie Mayer
Area III Reps	
Rep (2 Year)	Dr. Scott Fisher
Rep (1 Year)	Ron Holmberg
Alternate	Gordon Anderson
Area IV Reps	
Rep (2 Year)	Barny Walsh
Rep (1 Year)	Lucy Grimes
Alternate	Irene D'Amato
Area V Reps	
Rep (2 Year)	John De Bernadinis
Rep (1 Year)	Elizabeth Schwartz
Alternate	Elsie MacMullin
Zoning/Recycle/Hist	John Dollen
Environmental	Unfilled

SUMMER HAPPENINGS

• THE FOURTH OF JULY IN LAUREL

For the past twenty years, the Laurel Fourth of July Committee, a volunteer group of local citizens, has worked with the City of Laurel to provide a celebration for Independence Day. The Committee holds numerous fund raisers throughout the year; and with the help of the City, it provides the community with a parade, games for the children, and family entertainment.

The day-long celebration is capped by a fireworks display attended by more than 25,000 people at Gude Park and surrounding the Laurel Lake. This year's celebration is planned to be BIGGER than last. In addition to the return of WBIG radio and their on-air personality "Goldy", entertainment will feature the fabulous "Hubcaps" giving a mid-afternoon performance. They will be followed by the 2nd Conspiracy band and the award-winning Sweet Adelines with fifty voices performing classic tunes.

Volunteers are always welcome, and they are truly necessary to make this event the success it has been for so many years. The volunteers organize, solicit parade participants, and assemble the parade; oversee the field events; serve food and soft drinks to the visitors; arrange for entertainment and set up the stage and sound system, and finally, watch the magnificent fireworks display assembled by the Committee's own trained and licensed technicians. The Committee's appeal for volunteers is sincere, and we ask that you consider giving some time to become involved in what this country is all about—our independence.

For additional information, you may contact Lee Brangan, this year's **Committee Chairperson at (301) 490-5207, John Dollen at (301) 725-3202, or Carol Bounds at (301) 725-6012.**

The Laurel Fourth of July Committee is running a gift wrap booth at the Laurel Mall during the week of Father's Day (12-21 June). The booth will be open during mall hours. If you can find two hours to help with the gift wrapping, please call **John Dollen at (301) 725-3202.** Give John a date and he'll tell you what time slots are open. Donations will be spent on the Laurel Fourth of July event. Many volunteers are needed to support this good cause, the celebration of our nation's independence!

• THE WEST LAUREL SWIM CLUB



Situated on Brooklyn Bridge Road, across from the Supplee Dam Recreation area, right at the Montgomery, Prince George's and Howard County lines is the West Laurel Swim Club. This private, community swimming facility has been a popular summertime attraction to local residents for over twenty years, offering a large, private pool in a quiet, relaxing environment. The club is a non-profit organization, not attached to any city or county governments. A small board of directors whose aim is to provide a clean, pleasant swimming atmosphere for all of its members provides oversight.

Being the largest outdoor pool in the county, it provides more than ample space for casual swimming, as well as providing lap lanes for the most ardent swimmer. Of course, it comes with a large diving well, sliding board, and at one end, a roped area that is two to three feet in depth, for our younger swimmers to play. Vending facilities, a well-stocked snack bar, clean showers, restrooms and changing areas are provided. The club sponsors a competitive swim team for children up to 18 years of age. On site professional contractors, who also provide swim lessons at a nominal fee, provide guidance and lifeguards.

Our membership fee is only \$375, (which is returned when you choose to sell your membership), and a \$50 non-refundable initiation fee. The yearly maintenance fee is \$280. In addition, the refundable membership fee can be paid in monthly installments, if you desire. All you have to do is call our pool secretary, **Betty Mannas at (301) 725-2034** to gain more information about the pool.

WLCA TEEN SERVICE DIRECTORY

• HELP OUR TEENS

Help a teenager learn responsibility and be productive, all while earning money.

The WLCA has received parental approval to make the following names and phone numbers available. The WLCA is merely serving as an information clearinghouse, with no warranty of the quality of work, and no liability for the working conditions.

Parents, please check out all requests for services before allowing your teen to go to someone's house!

On the flip side, before hiring a teen, check around to make sure that they are responsible and capable of doing the job! Ask for references.

- **Nicole Ashby**
Niles Drive, 301-498-116
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **April Atkinson**
Weaver Court, 301-490-4170
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **Jo Anna Atkinson**
Weaver Court, 301-490-4170
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **Brett Barcheski**
Parkway Drive, 301-490-1067
(Yard Work, Babysitting)
- **Brooke Barcheski**
Parkway Drive, 301-490-1067
(Yard Work, Baby Sitting)
- **Daniel Bryan**
Kent Road, 301-490-7912
(Drivable Errands, Lawn, Gutters, Baby Sitting)
- **Matthew Bryan**
Kent Road, 301-490-7912
(Lawn, Gutters, Baby Sitting)
- **Sarah Criscuolo**
Kenny Road, 301-490-4259
(Baby Sitting)
- **Jason Folks**
Clayburn Drive, 301-490-0797
(Magician - Children's Parties, Pet Sitting)
- **Jesse Folks**
Clayburn Drive, 301-490-0797
(Pet Sitting)
- **Barry Lee-Moran**
301-776-4689
(Yard Work, Baby Sitting, Household Chores)
- **Shara Leibson**
Forest Mill Lane, 301-490-8251
(Baby Sitting, Pet Sitting)
- **Lindsay Leibson**
Forest Mill Lane, 301-490-8251
(Baby Sitting, Pet Sitting)
- **Mark Lee, Jr.**
Ashland Drive, 301-317-5428
(Yardwork, Painting, Car Washing, Baby Sitting)
- **Michael Ostrander**
Bradford Drive, 301-490-1582
(Yard Work, Painting, Car Wash, Baby Sitting)
- **Jennifer Santoro**
Straughn Drive, 301-953-9673
(Baby Sitting)
- **Courtney Simmons**
Cissel Road, 301-776-3351
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **Steven Whitman**
Goodman Road, 301-776-1120
(Yard Work, Baby Sitting)

If you have a teenager interested in providing services in the neighborhood, call **WLCA President Tom Dernoga (301) 490-3286**. The next directory will be published in the fall of 98.

• NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH - SPEED AWARENESS DAY

Finally! It looks as though our community is actively involved in our neighborhood watch program. For the skeptics who sat back to see if anyone was really serious about addressing crime in the neighborhood, you needn't wait any longer. The March meeting had 60 people in attendance and the April meeting had 30. Also, we had 35 people at the Speed Awareness Day. The day was a great success and a good time for those who attended.

continued on next page

SPEED AWARENESS

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

continued from preceeding page

For those of you who are unfamiliar with Speed Awareness Day, it is a County program. The program is run by the Department of Public Works and Transportation. It is designed to help educate motorists about posted speed limits and the community's concerns about speed and safety.

At nearly every WLCA and neighborhood watch meeting, people express their concern about speeding on West Laurel streets. In response, the WLCA organized and held its second annual Speed Awareness Day.

Last year, Speed Awareness Day was held on Bond Mill Road (soon to be renamed Autobahn Mill Road). This year it was held on Brooklyn Bridge Road. 35 people attended, 27 cars were pulled over for speeding in excess of 40 MPH, and of those pulled over by the county police, four were issued citations (real tickets, not warnings). The fastest speed observed was 62 MPH in a posted 30-MPH zone. That person was also passing in a no passing zone.

The community's best showing was during the evening session. So many people came out with their poster board signs in hand that they had to split up and take both sides of the road. Neighbors of all ages, from 3 to 80 years old, came out to send their message to motorists. Anyone who was unlucky enough to be pulled over received literature telling them what Speed Awareness Day was all about and specific reasons why they need to slow down on Brooklyn Bridge Road.

This event came off with a lot of work from Neighborhood Watch Program volunteers. **Paula Hannam** and her daycare group made six signs for folks to use, **Joy Grijalva** provided phone tree support, and **Eugene Ostrander** participated in the morning and evening hours of Speed Awareness Day. **Terry Marks** returned from last year's event, but most were new faces. This is an excellent example of how committed our community is to keeping the streets safe and supporting civic activities. Thanks to everyone who participated.

- Emergency 911
- Police (Laurel/Beltsville Station) (301) 937-0910
- Fire Department (301) 776-3600
- Laurel Rescue Squad (301) 725-3345
- WSSC (301) 206-8000
- Poison Control Center 1-(800) 492-2414

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS

- Information & Referral (301) 350-9700
- Animal Control (301) 499-8300
- Fairland Park (301) 953-0030
- Fairland Ice Rink (301) 953-0100
- Fairland Aquatic Center (301) 206-2464
- West Laurel Swim Club..... (301) 725-2034
- Leaf & Snow Removal (301) 350-0500
- Recycling (301) 883-7160
- School Bus Lot (Our area) (301) 497-3665
- Litter Pickup, Mowing,
- Street Trees (301) 499-8530
- Roadside Maintenance (301) 206-2464
- Special Pickup (301) 952-7600
- Zoning Enforcement (301) 883-6130
- Housing Enforcement (301) 883-6100
- Beltsville Community Center (301) 953-7882

(For reservations or information regarding events at the West Laurel Community Center, ask for Didi Sisson)

- County Councilman's Office (301) 952-3888
- Councilman Mike Maloney
- Andy Eppleman (Assistant)

(Call this office to request action on local and/or county-wide problems; to get information; or to pass on a compliment)



West Laurel Civic Association
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The Newsletter of the West Laurel Civic Association