

Winter 2000

HOTLINE

WINTER MEETING — FEBRUARY 17, 2000 AT 7:30 PM

WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY BUILDING

Meeting Topics: Spencerville Senior Housing & 21st District Legislative Review

General Meeting Topics

The WLCA Board wishes you a Happy New Year and 21st century! We have been unusually busy since the October meeting. As one Board member put it, “Just when you think there’s nothing significant going on in the neighborhood, a whole new crop of things comes up.”

One of the WLCA Board’s main functions is to act as the watchdog for new development proposals, ensuring that government and developers adhere to the standards and regulations in place to protect communities such as ours. Since October, the Board has seen four new development proposals which you will read about in this issue.

The main proposal that we wish to bring to your attention is an assisted living community called “Spencerville Senior Housing.” The owner and developer of this project will be at the February general meeting to discuss the details. In addition, members from the 21st Delegation will be on hand to speak about legislation expected during this session of the Maryland General Assembly. This is your chance to tell the lawmakers what’s on your mind — and you don’t even have to leave the neighborhood!

We think this issue of *HOTLINE* has a lot of new and useful information regarding neighborhood issues and happenings. We look forward to hearing from you any time regarding community issues and concerns and hope to see you at the February general meeting. ❖

Spencerville Senior Housing on Rural-Zoned West Laurel Land?

WHAT?

Dr. Mirza Baig has requested a “special exception” to construct a 129-bedroom assisted living facility, also containing kitchen, dining and social rooms, exercise/therapy rooms, administrative rooms, storerooms, etc. As proposed, it would be three stories high (about 50 feet tall) with a footprint of about 3/4 acre. With a parking lot and driveway of about another 3/4 acre, the impervious surface will cover about one-third of the land. This facility will be accessed from Riding Stable Road, near the hillcrest and the Huckburn Road intersection. A buffer of trees will be retained along Riding Stable Road and Rt. 198, and the developer will re-forest one acre at some other location.

WHERE?

The northwest corner of the Riding Stable Road/Rt. 198 intersection (turning onto Riding Stable, the high lot immediately on your left).

ZONING?

This 4.5 acre property in Montgomery County’s “Green Wedge,” is zoned RC (rural cluster), which permits one house per 5 acres (with clustering encouraged on larger lots to maintain sizable undeveloped tracts). The 1997

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Next Meeting — February 17, 2000

GENERAL MEETING TOPIC, CONTINUED

Spencerville Senior Citizen Housing

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Fairland Master Plan intends this property to remain on well/septic rather than water/sewer; less than 10 percent of the area can be impervious surface.

However, senior housing is generally considered favorably for special exceptions in residential areas, providing certain criteria are met, including:

- “The need for such housing and facilities cannot be met by development...not requiring special exception.”
- “The proposed use will not produce adverse effects on...the surrounding area because of...height or bulk of building, density, or any other reason.”
- “The site of the building has adequate accessibility to public transportation...”
- “[There also must be] commercial, medical, and public services within a one-mile radius...”

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED

The Montgomery County Board of Appeals will consider this application at a public hearing on Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at 1:30 PM to be held at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD.

WLCA NEEDS YOUR INPUT

This proposal was discussed at the January WLCA Board meeting. While members generally wanted to learn more before taking a final position, various initial observations were made, pro and con:

Pro: Senior housing is a worthy endeavor

Pro: When we reach that stage in life, we might want to move there and not have to leave West Laurel

Pro: It is in the path of one of the Northern ICC routes, so its construction could push any Northern ICC a few feet further from our center

Con: WLCA has traditionally supported existing Master Plans and opposed special exceptions

Con: The proposed facility goes against the Master Plan intention of this land remaining low density, on well/septic, and less than 10% impervious surface

Con: It is out of character with the area in terms of density and height

Con: It goes against the special exception criteria in not having public transportation, being more than 1 mile from commercial, medical, and public services

Con: This development will possibly have a domino effect, encouraging 3+-story construction all along Rt. 198, also as special exceptions.

Dr. Baig will discuss this proposal with the WLCA membership at the general meeting on February 17. We hope to get your comments and input that evening, before our representatives attend the February 23 public hearing.

We'd also find it helpful to have your comments earlier; please contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (bsw@jhmi.edu or 301/604-5619) or John Dollen (dollenj@hotmail.com or 301/725-3202). ❖

SNOW & ICE REMOVAL

Winter is far from over and we may have more snow and ice on the way. Remember that Prince George's County law requires residents to clean sidewalks within 48 hours of a snowfall. Montgomery County has no such provision. In either county, please make sure that nearby fire hydrants are clear of snow and ice.



If you live in Prince George's County and need help with snow and ice removal, call the Department of Public Works and Transportation at 301/350-0500. There are options to leave a message or speak to a person. Montgomery County residents can call 240/777-ROAD or fill out a form on the Internet at <http://www.dpwt.com/PubWksDiv/snowlog/addlog.html>.

If snow or ice causes you to lose power, call BG&E at 1-800/685-0123. ❖

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Board Monitors Two New Sweitzer Lane Proposals

The WLCA Board has heard two proposals in the Sweitzer Lane area since October.

SANDY SPRING ESTATES

This proposal (preliminary #4-99024) has been monitored by the Board since May 1999. Parks & Planning staff had problems with the first proposal; in September we received notice that a preliminary plan had been resubmitted. However, issues such as noise, lot-size averaging, and environmental impacts were not resolved.

The Board arranged to meet with the owner, Dr. Baig, to discuss the details of the plan. At this meeting we reviewed a plan calling for the development of 18 lots on 13 acres of Rural Residential (R-R) zoned land between Walker Branch (Area 5) and Bradford Rd. (Area 4). The plan keeps the zoning at R-R and develops 18 homes on half-acre lots, ranging from \$200-250,000. M-NCPPC exempted the developer from a traffic study since one had recently been conducted as part of the Sky-Alland development project (near WSSC). The developer will conduct a noise study, as the houses will be built so close to the I-95 exit.

The developer hopes to begin building at the end of 2000 and predicts it will take 3½ years to complete the project. The Board concluded that there were still issues to be considered, and resolved to monitor the issue.

SANDY SPRING ESTATES II

The second proposal has not been submitted to the County for consideration. Instead, landowner/developer Joe Pietanza, has sought the advice of the Board in an effort to determine what might be acceptable to the community. This advance planning approach is unusual but welcomed by the Board.



This developer is interested in developing 12 acres near Sweitzer Lane and Rt. 198 (specifically (1) the land next to the WSSC sediment ponds and between Rt. 198 and Malaya Place and (2) the small strip of land between Rt. 198 and Sweitzer Lane). The developer presented two plans to the Board at the November meeting: (a) 21 homes and a professional office and (b) five storage units and a daycare center.

In (a), the developer wanted to rezone the larger portion of the property (that which borders Malaya Place, the WSSC sediment ponds and Sweitzer Lane) to R-55 to increase the density. The property is currently zoned R-R. His reasoning was to keep the cost and size of the new homes relative to the older homes in the vicinity. Furthermore, the developer wanted to rezone the small strip of land between Rt. 198 and Sweitzer Lane from R-R to C-O (Commercial Office). This rezoning would allow him to build a professional office building. Plan B also required rezoning.

The Board decided that none of these plans could be supported as presented. The Board noted that West Laurel has nothing less than R-R in the neighborhood. A rezone to R-55 increases the density twofold, and is in direct opposition to positions the Board has taken on similar zoning issues in the past. Rezoning to C-O is out of the question, as it would set a precedent for other properties to be rezoned to commercial uses in the area. Subsequently, the concepts for the C-O zoning (*i.e.*, daycare and office building) could not be supported. The Board agreed that the R-R zoning is adequate and no rezoning of any kind is required or desired.

The Board sent a letter to the developer summarizing its position and encouraging further discussion. The proposed plans for Sweitzer Lane developments will be on display at the February general meeting. Board members will be available to discuss issues and hear your concerns and recommendations. ❖

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, CONTINUED

Additional LB&GC Ballfields on WSSC Parkland?

At the January 2000 WLCA Board meeting, a representative of the Laurel Boys & Girls Club (LB&GC) spoke about its endeavor to find more ballfields, an effort spanning many months. The LB&GC approached Prince George's Parks & Planning (P&P) and local landowners and found few options which met their needs.

In early January, LB&GC approached WSSC to see if it would be willing to donate 35 acres of land – most already cleared – behind the tree farm located between Panther field (at T. Howard Duckett Park) and Supplee field. LB&GC proposed that WSSC would lease the land to P&P and P&P would cover the construction, maintenance, and security for the fields. Currently, there are no plans or agreements between WSSC, P&P, and LB&GC. Only preliminary discussions have been held.

LB&GC briefed the WLCA Board on the concept in an attempt to determine community concerns. WLCA invited residents from the Brooklyn Bridge Road area to participate in the meeting, as in the past they had expressed a desire to be notified of any discussions regarding park expansion. Honoring that request, the WLCA Board distributed flyers to 140 homes around the park area. If progress is made in the discussions between LB&GC, P&P and WSSC, the WLCA Board will ensure that the *entire* community is notified of any public hearings.

The WLCA Board agrees that (1) more ballfields are needed for local kids and sports groups, (2) safety on Brooklyn Bridge Road is compromised due to overcrowding, and (3) ballfields close to home would be nice.

However, the concept under consideration seems grandiose, and that particular site may not be the best choice. LB&GC's proposal includes five soccer fields, two to four football fields, and four to five baseball diamonds. If a plan like this were to be submitted, the WLCA Board would address issues such as crime, litter, traffic, environment, and WSSC water quality and resource management.

Options other than WSSC land were discussed during the Board meeting. Councilman Maloney's aide, Andy

Eppleman, briefed the Board on a recent County study regarding more ballfields. Laura Kinch of P&P has come up with land for 20-30 new fields in the district (Council District 1). Among those are several new fields — available within the next year — to be located at Fairland Park (directly south, about 1 mile from Rt. 198). P&P has also talked with Caleb Gould (property manager for the Gould land holdings), about leasing a portion of his 2300 acres, including some along Old Gunpowder Road, between Fairland and Rt. 198.

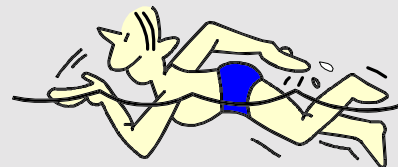
In summary, the WLCA is working closely with all parties to ensure every option is considered and that our community's quality of life and long-term land use planning are maintained. For more information, please contact John Dollen at 301/725-3202. ❖

COMMUNITY GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Laurel 4th of July Committee has asked area community associations for support in the form of donations (to enable bands to be hired for the parade), volunteers (especially on the day of the event, July 1), and entries in the parade.

If you'd like to contribute to Laurel's 4th of July celebration, please make your check payable to "Laurel 4th of July Committee" and mail it to P.O. Box 416, Laurel MD 20725-0416. To volunteer, call Chairperson Carol Bounds at 301/725-6012. ❖

WEST LAUREL FAMILY SWIM NIGHT



Friday, February 12, 2000, from 7 - 9 PM at the Fairland Aquatic Center. Admission: \$1.00/person. For more information, see page 7.

YOUR WLCA BOARD AT WORK

Public Hearings

On November 23, WLCA Board members represented the WLCA at public hearings regarding issues relevant to West Laurel. The following is a summary:

PG/MC 10-00 AND PG/MC 20-00

Barbara Sollner-Webb spoke before the Bi-County Planning Board in opposition to PG/MC 10-00 and PG/MC 20-00. Several individuals and a few other civic groups also spoke. These bills, sponsored by Delegate John Giannetti, propose the framework/route by which the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (which for 80 years has provided high quality water and wastewater service to most residents of the bi-county region) could be sold to a for-profit company. For details, contact Barbara Sollner-Webb at 301/604-5619.

PG/MC 23-00

John Dollen and Barbara Sollner-Webb spoke in favor of PG/MC 23-00. Several other civic groups spoke in favor of this bill. Sponsored by Mike Maloney, this bill would require a two-thirds (6-to-3) majority vote for changes to zoning text. Under this bill, all zoning changes would be heard during a one-month period, and a 120-day waiting period enforced on changes to zoning text. On January 19, Tom Dernoga spoke in favor of this bill in Annapolis (the bill was defeated). For details, contact John Dollen at 301/725-3202 or see the full text on the WLCA website at <http://www.webtrek.com/md/westlaurel/wlca>.

PG/MC 24-00

John Dollen and Barbara Sollner-Webb spoke in favor of PG/MC 24-00. Several other civic groups spoke in favor of this bill. This bill, sponsored by Mike Maloney, would provide Prince George's and Montgomery counties with the authority and processes for citizens to petition a legislative act to referendum by placing the issue on the voting ballot. Several requirements have to be met to get the issue on the ballot (*i.e.*, 10,000 signatures on a petition) and the issue is limited to the voting district. For details, contact John Dollen at 301/725-3202 or see the full text on the WLCA website at <http://www.webtrek.com/md/westlaurel/wlca>.

CB-50-1999

Barney Walsh spoke before the County Council in favor of an amendment to an ordinance. The amendment, sponsored by Mr. Maloney, would have expanded the [Public Advocate's] People's Zoning Counsel's role in county government to include monitoring the County Planning Board. Currently, the People's Zoning Counsel's role is mostly limited to zoning cases for which the District Council has responsibility. The Planning Board maintains records of its proceedings, so that evidence is available in case a decision the Board makes is appealed.

In the past, citizens have argued that evidence presented to the board was not complete. Often, perhaps due to lack of experience or understanding, citizen opponents do not provide complete evidence or ask all appropriate questions. Since developers are represented by legal counsel, a complete record is usually provided to support their case. The amendment would have addressed this imbalance by requiring the People's Zoning Counsel to ensure that all the evidence is provided, and that all questions are asked, in support of and in opposition to cases before the planning board. For details, contact Barney Walsh at 301/490-7357. ❖

New Board Member

The WLCA Board approved Howard Rosenburg as an Alternate Area Representative for Area III, filling the spot formerly occupied by Scott Fisher, DDS. Howard has previous civic association experience in communities where he has lived in the past and is a welcome addition to the team. His presence fills the last vacancy on the Board. If you wish to reach Howard, he can be contacted at 301/776-4228, hrmkr@erols.com or 6212 Forest Mill Lane. ❖

Protecting the Wetlands

In December, WLCA was contacted by residents in Area 3 (Gales Street and Cissell Road) stating concern about an area of trees marked for clearing by Trinity

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Census 2000 is Important

Justin Chappell, District One Representative for the Prince George's County Census 2000 Complete Count Committee, invites all residents to a Census 2000 Town Hall meeting tentatively scheduled at Laurel City Hall on February 16 at 7:00 PM.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, \$200 million dollars in Federal grants was not distributed to Prince George's County over the last ten years due to an undercount in the 1990 Census of nearly 20,000 residents. A complete count is vital to our community.

The information you give is confidential. Census information cannot be shared with any other branch or department of the United States government.

With Census Day 2000 nearing, the Prince George's County Census Complete Count Committee is working together with citizens towards a 100 percent count in Prince George's County. If you are interested in assisting the District One Census Outreach Taskforce, please contact Justin Chappell at 301/470-1655 or census2000@email.com. ❖

Annual WLCA Environmental Clean-up Day

The annual WLCA Environmental Clean-up Day is scheduled for early June 2000, from 10 AM to noon. Volunteers are welcome to assist in the clean-up. Last year's event was a great success! Thirty West Laurel residents, including civic association officers and local elected officials, worked to clean sections of Walker Branch and Brooklyn Bridge Roads. Funded with a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, and with materials provided by the Prince George's County Department of Public Works, volunteers worked to clean over five miles of stream and road.

In addition, the WLCA will participate with the Maryland Department of Environmental Resources to conduct a comprehensive community cleanup (date to be



announced in the May *HOTLINE*). This event will provide a means for the community to have the County services collect bulky trash, tow abandoned cars, conduct housing code enforcement, trim branches and more! For more information, contact the WLCA Environmental Committee Chair, Justin Chappell, at 301/470-1655 or wiz@erols.com. ❖

Community Rallies to the Call of the Neighborhood Watch

West Laurel and surrounding communities saw a rash of Breaking and Enterings (B&Es) from October to December 1999. In West Laurel, homes on Bond Mill, Orem, and Ashland fell victim to this crime. After the first two B&Es in West Laurel, the West Laurel Neighborhood Watch mobilized to get the word out to the community. Before long, we heard of other B&Es with similar characteristics in surrounding areas (Old Gunpowder Road and McKnew Road).

In early December, a meeting was held at the West Laurel Community building. Sixty residents attended, along with representatives of the Laurel and Prince George's County police. A week after the meeting, Howard County police arrested two people who are suspected in connection with seven B&Es in West Laurel and surrounding communities. Since then no other B&Es have been reported.

It is a credit to this community that its residents are watchful, active, and willing to share information with each other and the police. It is this characteristic that, according to Prince George's County Police, gives West Laurel "the lowest crime rate in the County." ❖

WSSC Upgrades Plant in 2000

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) has been a West Laurel neighbor since the 1940s. Its aging plant is scheduled for repair/replacement beginning in February 2000, with little or no impact on West Laurel. At most, we'll see activity south of Rt. 198.

WSSC will build on its existing site. Any resulting construction traffic will be similar to that from recent

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WEST LAUREL RECREATION COUNCIL

Holiday Party a Resounding Success!

The WLRC Holiday Party held on December 3 was a huge success. Santa, Frosty, and several members of the West Laurel Rag Tag Band were our special guests. The food was delicious, the crafts were fun, and the music and caroling was great. Thanks to Anne Humphreys, who played the keyboard for us this year. Attendees donated 26 new toys, which were given to LARS for distribution to needy families.

The WLRC also took this opportunity to surprise Chuck Lavin with a gift certificate and a plaque thanking him for his many years of service as president. Thanks again, Chuck! We would also like to thank the following people who helped to organize and run the Holiday Party: Tim Farley, Kim Passmore, Gary & Lisa Tharpe, Rush Kester, Chuck & Eileen Lavin, Dee Dee Sission, Francis Caughey, Marge Stevick, Anne Humphreys, Bob Klein, Heidi Piraino, Annie Folks, Chelsey Farley, Allison Smith, Mindy & Jeff Peggins, and Michael Piraino. It goes to show that the more people who are involved, the bigger and better our events become. Please call Heidi Piraino at 301/490-7504 to find out how you can help with future events. ❖

Upcoming Events

Friday, February 18, 6:00-9:00 PM. Family Swim Night at Fairland Aquatic Center. \$1.00/person (\$3.00 max/family). Stop by the hospitality suite for light refreshments after you swim.

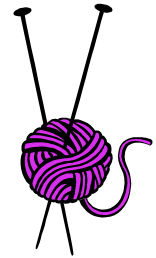


Saturday, April 15, 10:00 AM. Annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bring a camera for a picture with the Easter Bunny. Call Heidi at 301/490-7504 if you can help.

Tuesday, February 22, 7:30 PM. WLRC planning meeting at West Laurel Community Building. We meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. Come share your ideas on how to bring more programs and events to our community.

Proposed Classes

Some people have expressed interest in a *Beginning Knitting* or *Crochet* class. If you would like to teach one, call Heidi at 301/490-7504.



Chuck Lavin is looking into organizing a *Beginning Italian* class for adults. Call Chuck at 301/490-8996 if you would like to be notified as to when one will start. ❖

WLRC News

We are sad to report that Chuck Lavin recently stepped down as WLRC president after many years of faithful service to our community. Luckily, he will remain as treasurer for one year. But the WLRC desperately needs more people to step in and get involved! Call Heidi Piraino, interim-president at 301/490-7504 for more information.

Check out the WLRC webpage at www.webtrek.com/md/wlrc/wlrc.html for more information about the classes we sponsor, future activities, and specific ways you can volunteer. ❖

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 Webmaster Ron Holmberg at 301/604-7598 or holmberg@erols.com.

The Website also contains a multitude of hotlinks to government, county, and community pages. We invite you to take a look at the pages — we welcome your feedback! The URL is <http://www.webtrek.com/md/westlaurel/>. ❖

WLCA UPDATES

ICC Playing Possum

Maryland's governor, Parris Glendening, halted construction of the Intercounty Connector (ICC), a huge, multi-lane freeway between Laurel and Gaithersburg through the suburbs and parklands of Prince George's and Montgomery County. According to Glendening, a highway of this size would: (1) cause immense environmental damage to an extensive area of the state, (2) not solve the traffic problems, and (3) only encourage "sprawl."

This excellent decision by the governor and the Montgomery County Council was followed by an attempt to sell the land already purchased for the development of the super-highway. Montgomery County Executive Doug Duncan, who continues to push for the ICC for the continued encouragement of economic and building development of all available lands in the County, opposes sale of the land. Duncan has already declared himself as a Maryland gubernatorial candidate upon the end of Glendening's present term. Duncan, supported by land developers who desperately want the ICC to be built, wants to keep the land set aside for his planned tour in the governor's mansion.

Selling the property set aside for the ICC is considered an important sign of defeat for the building of the ICC. Any building of an east-west super-highway would then have to start from scratch and will likely face even more opposition.

Sale of the excess land is strongly encouraged by Montgomery County Council President Marilyn Praisner and the majority of the members of the Council. More than three-fourths of members attending the last general meeting of the WLCA supported sale of the land. The right to sell the excess property set aside for the ICC may become an important issue in the Annapolis General Assembly (as described in the December 16, 1999 issue of the *Laurel Leader*). If land continues to be set aside for an ICC, the ICC will forever remain a viable issue.

Throughout the remainder of Governor Glendening's term, we must encourage the sale of the excess properties — and let the sleeping ICC dogs lie — but watch them very carefully! ❖

WSSC Privatization?

You may remember that Maryland's Legislature is considering privatizing the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC). Most discussion has involved asset sales to for-profit companies. The inducement is not poor water or wastewater, for WSSC is exemplary in their quality. Rather it is financial: advertisements assert that a sale could net \$1 billion each to Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, pay outstanding WSSC bonds, and generate \$40 million/year in taxes.

But, like most too-good-to-be-true proposals, there are catches, starting with your rates. Official estimates (probably conservative, by a contractor marketing privatization) predict your water/wastewater charges would increase over 50% to finance this golden goose. Even if WSSC (estimated worth \$3-6 billion) was virtually given away, your rates would still increase to finance company profits, taxes, higher loan charges, etc. And with an asset sale, environmental standards would almost certainly erode. Citizens have also expressed fear of this essential resource being sold to a foreign company. Notably, the contractor predicts if WSSC continues its ongoing streamlining program your rates will decrease.

There are few US precedents of water/wastewater asset sales, due largely to unfavorable financial burdens on ratepayers, but consider international examples. Most infamous is Great Britain, whose water/wastewater privatization is generally regarded "a disaster" (per *The Wall Street Journal*), with rates and complaints increasing, water dependability and environmental standards decreasing. Other countries' water/wastewater privatizations are generally similarly regarded.

Delegate John Giannetti has introduced two bills in the Maryland Legislature (PG/MC 10&20) to privatize the WSSC. Your Delegates Frush, Menes, and Moe (301/858-3114) and Senator Dorman (301/217-2500) want to know your view on this important issue. They will be at the February WLCA general meeting. For more information, contact Barbara Sollner-Webb (bsw@jhmi.edu or 301/604-5619) or John Dollen (dollenj@hotmail.com or 301/725-3202). ❖

YOUR WLCA BOARD AT WORK, CONTINUED

Protecting the Wetlands

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Homes (*aka* Maiden Fancy Manor). We soon learned that WSSC would have to clear a large path of trees (40 feet wide) through the nearby wetlands in order to connect the water loop from Trinity homes (fed from Kent Road) to the water line on Cissell Road.

Residents were alarmed at the number of trees marked for clearing and felt the area was larger than shown in the original plans. WLCA contacted Councilman Maloney's office, WSSC, and the developer. In the end, WSSC decided not to connect the line to Cissell Road. Subsequently, the wetlands and its trees were spared.

The WLCA is looking into WSSC's ability to require a developer to obtain a permit to do more than what is on the approved plan. It is our position that the surrounding community should be notified in such cases and given an opportunity for comment before a change is effected. ❖

Board Topics Since October

Sandy Spring Estates I&II; Sweitzer Lane construction and traffic studies; WLCA ICC survey results; 501(c)4 status; Gypsy moth study; Y2K/emergency planning; West Laurel website; Public hearings: District Council, PG County Council, Park & Planning Board; Rt. 29 road improvement planning; Maiden's Fancy Manor wetlands; bike paths, curbs and lights on Riding Stable Road; crime and neighborhood watch; membership drive; community cleanup; Spencerville Senior Housing; ICC; fire at Darwin; Laurel Boys & Girls Club ballfields; WLRC activities, WLCA bylaws; and Old Gunpowder Center and block plant developments. ❖

HOTLINE CONTRIBUTORS

Many thanks to those who contributed to this issue of *HOTLINE*: Gordon Anderson, Carol Bounds, Justin Chappell, Laurice Crawford, Tom Dernoga, John and Cindy Dollen, Heidi Piraino, Barbara Solner-Webb, Cary Sumner, Juergen von Bredow, and Barney Walsh. ❖

COMMUNITY NEWS, CONTINUED

WSSC Plant Upgrade in 2000

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construction on Sweitzer Lane. WSSC is currently selecting a general contractor to begin work on-site in March 2000. Early work will include setup of office trailers under the power lines just to the west of the plant, and installation of underground utilities on the plant site. Later this summer, WSSC expects to demolish Filter Unit No. 1, which is the circular steel structure closest to the Rt. 198 and Sweitzer Lane intersection.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) has begun work on the Rt. 198 and Sweitzer Lane intersection. Utility relocation will continue until grading and new paving work begins this spring. SHA is working with WSSC construction management staff to ensure that plant entrances are continuously accessible.

No raw water line installation is currently scheduled in West Laurel. In addition to normal pipeline maintenance that could occur at any time, WSSC will clean, test hydraulically, and test the physical condition of two concrete pipelines. This preventive maintenance is currently scheduled for late 2002. Some digging will occur near the end of Walker Branch Drive, which is near Bradford Drive. Notification letters have already been sent to the nearest residents. ❖

Membership Drive

There are approximately 1600 homes in West Laurel; however, only a quarter of the community has joined the WLCA. We encourage *all* West Laurel residents to join — there are many reasons to support the WLCA (see page 11). At \$10 per household, membership in the WLCA costs less than a dollar a month!

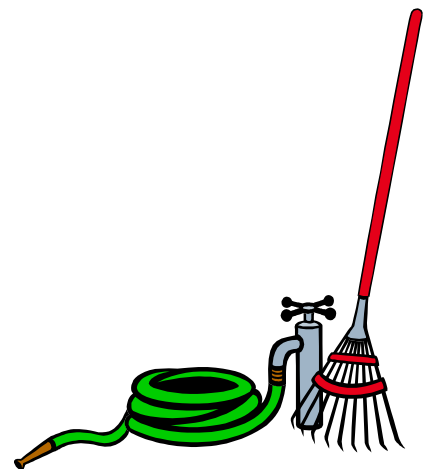
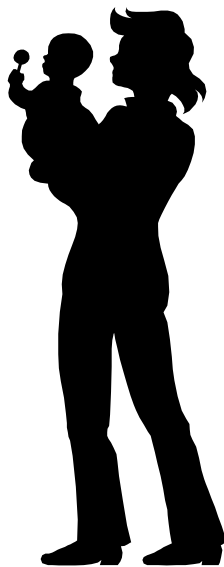
Please pass the word to your neighbors regarding the WLCA membership drive. Most of our budget is kept in reserve for legal issues that may arise regarding development issues. The remainder is used to produce three newsletters a year (sent to all homes in West Laurel) as well as to sponsor/support many local groups. Stop by our membership table at the general meeting for more information. As always, we appreciate your support and contributions to the WLCA. ❖

TEEN SERVICE DIRECTORY

Hire a Neighborhood Teen

The teen directory appears in *HOTLINE's* hard copy version only.

If your teenager is interested in providing services in the neighborhood, call WLCA President **John Dollen** at 301/725-3202. The next directory will be published in the Fall 2000 issue.



WINTER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Support Your Civic Association

To all new residents of West Laurel, welcome to our community. Now is the time to send in your membership dues for this year.

This is also a second chance for those of you who may have mislaid or forgotten your membership registration—it's not too late to send in your dues. We need your support.

The WLCA has been very strong in helping to retain the residential character and preserve the beauty of our neighborhood environment. The Association is constantly trying to stay on top of what is happening in the Prince George's, Montgomery, Howard and Anne Arundel County legislatures as it might pertain to or impact on our community (e.g., Inter-County Connector, Smith Property Development, WSSC Privatization, Wyndham Woods, Assisted Living Housing and Sandy Spring Senior Citizen Housing).

The Association needs MEMBERSHIP, participation, broad-based support and opinions from all areas of West Laurel in order to represent the whole community and keep our community the way we want it to remain.

Please encourage and support the WLCA by sending in your membership registration today. Make your check for \$10.00 payable to "WLCA" and mail it to **Laurice Crawford, 16300 Gales Court, Laurel, MD 20707** or stop by our table at the February 17th general meeting at the West Laurel Community Center. **Dues are for membership from September 1999 through August 2000.**

Thank you for your support.

WLCA DUES FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Dues \$10.00 per family/address

Comments/Questions _____

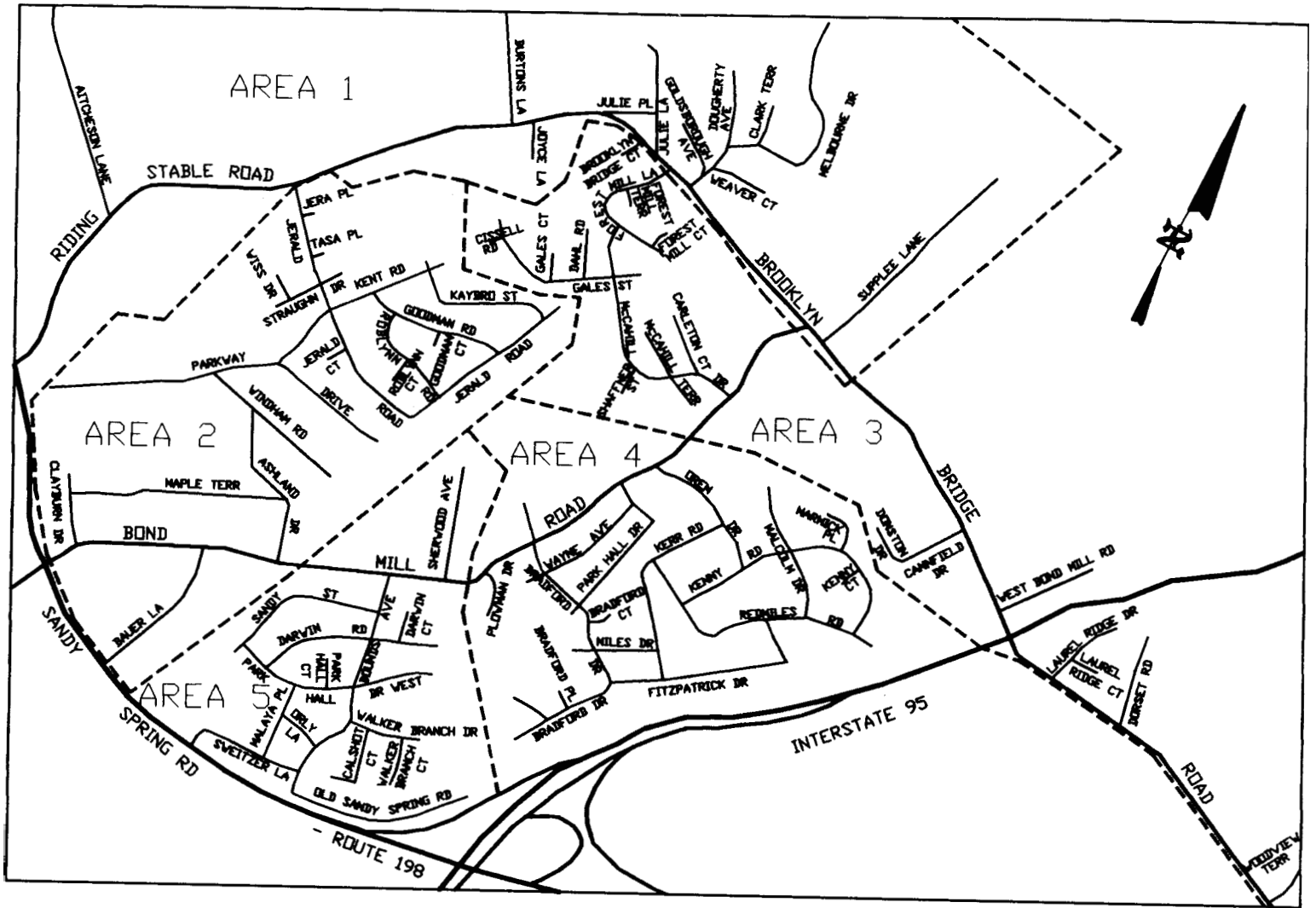
Please send your Membership Application to:

West Laurel Civic Association

Laurice Crawford, Treasurer

16300 Gales Court

Laurel, MD 20707



The Newsletter of the West Laurel Civic Association

HOTLINE — Winter 2000

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