

Winter 1999

# HOTLINE

WINTER MEETING — FEBRUARY 18, 1999, 7:30 PM

WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY CENTER

MAIN TOPIC: DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPMENT!!  
ALSO: ANNAPOLIS UPDATE

• **DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS  
ABOUND!!!**

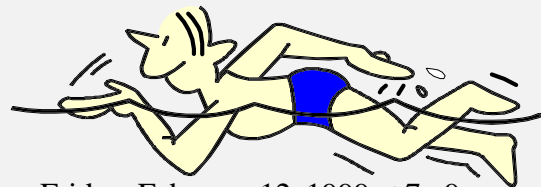
Present and rumored development proposals have the attention of the WLCA Board, and will be discussed at the Winter Meeting. These are fast-moving times, with many items on the horizon. Come get the latest information and provide us with valuable input. It's very important that we know how the West Laurel community feels on all of these development issues.

• **LAUREL BAPTIST TEMPLE PROPOSES  
CHURCH & SCHOOL ON BROOKLYN  
BRIDGE ROAD**

Rev. Clyde Dowell and Ken Duncan will present a proposal seeking West Laurel support for a church and a special exception for a school on Brooklyn Bridge Road (across from Panther Field). The WLCA Board considered this proposal at the November Board meeting. After lengthy deliberation, the WLCA Board determined that while the West Laurel community might not oppose the relocation of the church (although there may be some opposition based on the small size of the lot and the fact that it is presently developed with a single-family dwelling), the Board believed that the West Laurel community would oppose a special exception for a school on the property. In addition, the Board is concerned with the land use planning implications if properties fronting on Brooklyn Bridge Road start to transition away from residential uses. In spite of the Board's views, it has invited Rev. Dowell and Ken Duncan to make their proposal to the full membership. Come hear the proposal and let us know what you think.

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• **WEST LAUREL FAMILY SWIM NIGHT**



Friday, February 12, 1999 at 7 - 9 p.m. at the Fairland Aquatic Center. Everyone gets in for \$1.00 per person. After swimming come to the party room and join us for some light refreshments.

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• **ANNAPOLIS UPDATE**

Every February, our 21st District delegation joins us to discuss the hot legislative issues in Annapolis. This year, tax increases (and budget surpluses), educational improvement and environmental protection are big items. In addition, the legislature is looking at plans to support the racing industry without going to slot machines. Come listen to our representatives and let them know what you expect them to be doing on the prime issues of the day. Don't let them think we don't care what happens down there!

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**Next Meeting — February 18, 1999**

## DEVELOPMENT

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### • "OLD GUNPOWDER CENTER" PROPOSED FOR GUDELSKY PROPERTY

The owner of the property formerly proposed for the Country Music Theater (SW corner of Route 198 & Old Gunpowder Road) has filed a conceptual site plan with the County. The plan proposes two office buildings and a warehouse. The property is zoned I-3 (low intensity industrial). Because of the critical location of this property, the WLCA Board has been urging **Mr. Gudelsky** to develop the property with a quality I-3 project. While we have concerns about the warehouse and traffic access, this appears to be the best proposal we have seen for this property. **Mr. Gudelsky** has been invited to have his representatives make a presentation at the Winter Meeting

### • BLOCK PLANT PLANS???

Rumor has it that a church (yes, another church) has a contract on the block plant. Calls to Melbourne, Feagin and all (the brokers) have not yielded any information due to confidentiality reasons. Nonetheless, we have heard from two independent and reliable sources that a church is attempting to assemble the block plant and adjoining properties for development. We suspect that such an assemblage would include a school and possibly other uses. Due to its location, the block plant has engendered the most contentious zoning battles in West Laurel. Presently, it is zoned R-R and the block plant is a nonconforming use. A church would be permitted on the site. The WLCA Board is not opposed to this concept because it is may be the best proposal that we can expect. However, since we have not been able to learn anything about the potential uses, we remain apprehensive. We will try to get more information on this property so that we can discuss it at the meeting.

### • WEST LAUREL WELL REPRESENTED ON COMMISSION 2000

Prince George's County is revising its development policies, with the intent to amend the 1984 General Plan and the Zoning Ordinance. To this end, the County government has put together a 53-person citizen task force known as "Commission 2000." West Laurel is one of the few civic associations represented on the commission, and has one of the only north county representatives. **Councilman Walter Maloney** appointed **WLCA President Tom Dernoga** to look out for our interests. **WLCA Vice-Presidents Barbara Sollner-Webb and John Dollen** are serving as Tom's alternates. The County is looking at a variety of policy changes, with specified growth boundaries being a likely result. Apart from amending the General Plan, the commission is helping provide a biennial growth management policy plan for the County Council to implement.

### • TRINITY HOMES TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION ON STRAUGHN DRIVE

Look for more home construction on Straugh Drive - this time at the north end. Trinity Homes has just about finished preparing this portion of the Smith Property for development, and they are waiting for the end of the cold weather season. Actual home construction should begin later this spring.

### • BOARD OF APPEALS VACANCY

The Montgomery County Council is seeking applicants to fill a vacancy on the County Board of Appeals. Due to a resignation, one of the Democratic seats is presently open. The position pays \$12,908 annually. The Board generally hears special exception and variance cases and administrative appeals. The Board meets on Wednesdays, with work sessions every other week. Letters of application, including a resume, must be received in the Office of the Montgomery County Council, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850, no later than March 1, 1999. A financial statement will also be required of all applicants.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### • ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER:

As the New Year presents many fresh challenges to the WLCA, I relish the opportunity to become the Environmental Committee Chair. In addition to our new neighbors, the West Laurel environment has continued to nurture multiple generations of individual families. Through our efforts, West Laurel has become an object of pride in our community, and through stewardship toward our environment it will remain so for future generations. After surveying the layout of our neighborhood, I provided the following proposals at the December Board meeting:

- To rename the newly renovated West Laurel Park #2, located at the corner of Bradford and Park Hall Drives, after the recently retired **Bond Mill Principal, Ms. Mary Jane Lusby**.
- To schedule a West Laurel Civic Association Stream Clean-up for Saturday, May 22, 1999. Participants are to meet at the West Laurel Community Building at 9:30 am the morning of the event to receive assignments and instructions. This is a great way for students to earn community service hours.

If you have any ideas, or are able to offer your assistance, please contact **Justin Chappell** at (301) 470-1655 or [Wiz@erols.com](mailto:Wiz@erols.com). *Let's Work Together!*

### • TIPS:

The typical U.S. house loses 25% of its heating and cooling energy through its windows. We could save about 200 gallons of oil for every household in the U.S. if all windows in the country were efficient. One way to insulate your house, preventing heated air from leaking out or cold air from sneaking in, is to caulk window frames and cover your windows with curtains and shades.

As we approach the Spring months, don't forget to recycle. Buying food and other products in reusable or recyclable packaging can reduce CO2 emissions by 230 pounds a year, while recycling all of your home's waste, newsprint, cardboard, glass and metal can reduce emissions an additional 850 pounds a year.

### • JUST A GENTLE REMINDER

The Laurel 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee will be sponsoring three fundraisers in the Laurel Mall: Feb. 6-14<sup>th</sup>, May 1-9<sup>th</sup> and June 12-20<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am to Close (9:30 pm). The Committee needs volunteers for two hours at a time on these dates to wrap packages to help cover the costs of the Independence Day Celebration. If you can share two hours or more or have any questions, call **Carol Bounds** at (301)725-6012.



### • THE WLCA IS ON THE INTERNET

The unofficial homepage for *Laurel, Maryland* has links to pages for the West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA). The WLCA web page has the Calendar for 1999, the WLCA 1998-99 Officers and Area Reps and the last five issues of the HOTLINE, one in text format and the rest in Acrobat PDF format.



The newest addition is the Neighborhood Watch page, which has the capability to e-mail information to an anonymous mail drop. The internet e-mail address is [wwatch@hotmail.com](mailto:wwatch@hotmail.com).

The URLs for these pages are:

<http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/>

<http://www.webtrek.com/~laurel/org/wlca/index.html>

## REMEMBER THE ICC ?

### • THE ICC IS NOT DEAD !!!

Remember that last spring the governor put the previous ICC stud on hold and appointed an “impartial” Transportation Solutions Group (TSG) to afresh assess regional transportation issues and search for innovative solutions. Ironically, the TSG defined “regional” as encompassing precisely the area of the previous ICC study, and most “citizen representatives” on the TSG live far from the ICC area but have vested interests in seeing the ICC built. Highly qualified individuals who actually live in the area and have a strong interest in the environment were refused membership on the TSG.

Many astute people have long feared that the TSG’s final report, due this summer, is pre-determined to conclude that an ICC freeway should be built. TSG meetings this fall and winter have reinforced that the more southerly “Master Plan” route for an ICC is never going to be federally approved, so the only possible ICC route in their defined area is a “Northern” or “Hybrid” one. This would run just north of the Giant in Burtonsville (through the land recently deemed “in reserve” for an ICC), through the farmland west and south of Aitcheson Lane, and it would join or cross Route 198 at about Riding Stable Road, in our West Laurel community. The State Highway Administration (SHA) has discussed expanding Route 198 to have both local and freeway-oriented lanes, either widening the road’s footprint considerably or making it a double decker! An interesting new southern edge to West Laurel!!! Note that SHA stakes have recently been reported along parts of the Northern/Hybrid Route, indicating surveying activity (although this route is officially not being studied now).

At last month’s TSG meeting, the Board of Trade was to make a presentation for building an ICC. But their case was so weak, they were asked to come back again next month with a convincing presentation. Interestingly, during this meeting, SHA’s Neil Pedersen did finally admit publicly that an ICC would not provide any substantial improvement for any of the area traffic problems! So why consider building an ICC, you might ask??!! Please do ask that! Ask this

question to **Gov. Parris Glendening**, State House, Annapolis, Maryland 21401 ((800) 811-8336 toll free). Ask it in a letter to area newspapers. Very large amounts of money have been spent to try to convince area residents that they want an ICC—it is high time for the citizens to speak up with their own views and demand that the government respect them.

### • WEST LAUREL v. CITY OF LAUREL?

The WLCA and the City of Laurel appear to be on a collision course over annexation and zoning law. Briefly, when Laurel annexes land, it rezones the land under City regulations; however, State law provides that if the proposed use is “substantially” different from the County Master Plan, the rezoning cannot take place for 5 years. Presently, this law is implemented through an informal arrangement between Laurel and MNCPPC (with County Council approval). In 1997, Councilman Maloney sought to enact a County law to formalize the process by requiring notification of local civic associations and nearby property owners and treating the zoning change like a zoning case. Because this proposal protects areas adjacent to municipalities (like West Laurel), and provides a more objective process, the WLCA Board unanimously supported it. The City lobbied strongly to have the County Council defeat the proposed law, arguing that it had not been properly consulted.

In 1998, Councilman Maloney resubmitted the bill after consulting with Laurel. West Laurel had input into the bill and the matter seemed settled. Again, Laurel lobbied strongly to have the bill defeated. Dismayed, and highly irritated, the WLCA Board demanded the 21st District delegation to enact State legislation to resolve the matter. Our delegation was agreeable, but asked to have a meeting with Laurel and West Laurel to mediate the issue. At a contentious meeting in November, Senator Arthur Dorman and Delegate Pauline Menes hammered out an acceptable compromise with Mayor Casula. Now, Mr. Casula claims that the City Council refused to go along with the compromise and Laurel will continue under the current state (or non-state) of the law. The WLCA Board has renewed its demand that the 21st Delegation undertake legislative action to redress Laurel’s recalcitrance. Stay tuned.

## 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, 498-1130  
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **April Atkinson**  
Weaver Court, 490-4170  
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **Jo Anna Atkinson**  
Weaver Court, 490-4170  
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **Matthew Bryan**  
Kent Road, 490-7912  
(Lawn ,Gutters)
- **Sarah Criscuolo**  
Kenny Road, 490-4259  
(Baby Sitting)
- **Jason Folks**  
Clayburn Drive, 490-0797  
(Magician - Children's Parties, Pet Sitting)
- **Jesse Folks**  
Clayburn Drive, 490-0797  
(Pet Sitting)
- **Nanete Kearns**  
Bounds Avenue, 490-3710  
(Baby Sitting)
- **Laura Kimes**  
Burton Lane, 490-4268  
(Baby Sitting)



- **Barry Lee-Moran**  
Jerald Road, 776-4689  
(Yard Work, Baby Sitting, Household Chores)
- **Shara Leibson**  
Forest Mill Lane, 490-8251  
(Baby Sitting, Pet Sitting)
- **Lindsay Leibson**  
Forest Mill Lane, 490-8251  
(Baby Sitting, Pet Sitting)
- **Mark Lee, Jr.**  
Ashland Drive, 317-5428  
(Yardwork, Baby Sitting)
- **Michael Ostrander**  
Bradford Drive, 490-1582  
(Yard Work, Painting, Car Wash, Baby Sitting)
- **Jennifer Santoro**  
Straughn Drive, 953-9673  
(Baby Sitting)
- **Courtney Simmons**  
Cissel Road, 776-3351  
(Baby Sitting, House Sitting)
- **Steven Whitman**  
Goodman Road, 776-1120  
(Yard Work, Baby Sitting, Snow Removal)

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 Spring of 99.

### HOTLINE Contributors

#### THANKS TO HOTLINE CONTRIBUTORS:

Ron Holmberg, Laurice Crawford, Heidi Piraino, Barbara Sollner-Webb, Justin Chappell, Rush Kester and Tom Dernoga.

## WEST LAUREL RECREATION COUNCIL'S UPCOMING EVENTS

*continued from page 1*

### • WEST LAUREL EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3, 1999: will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the West Laurel Community Center and everyone is invited! Who knows, maybe that big ol' Easter Bunny will show up! Bring your camera just in case! The Rec. Council could use some help planning this event. If you can help, please call **Heidi Piraino @ 301-490-7504**.

### • HOOKED ON FISHING

Saturday, June 19, 1999: FISHING CLINIC for 6 - 12 year olds. Look for details in the May WLCA Hotline newsletter.



### • VOLKSMARCH

Saturday, July 3, 1999 8 a.m.: Meet at the WL Community Center.

### • OTHER NEWS

The West Laurel Rec. Council is looking into offering a series of 3 hour seminars on the first Saturday of every month, beginning in October. Possible topics are: cake decorating, international cooking, basic car mechanics and a gardening clinic. **WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN TEACHING A 3 HOUR SEMINAR OR A SIX to EIGHT WEEK CLASS?** Do you have other suggestions for classes or activities? If so call **WL Rec. Council President, Chuck Lavin at 301-490-8996**.

### • REC COUNCIL MEETING

All are invited to the next West Laurel Rec. Council meeting in March at the WL Community Center. We would love to hear your ideas about bringing more activities for people of all ages to the West Laurel Community Center. Call **Heidi Piraino @ 301-490-7504** for date and time of the meeting.

### • NEW VENTURE CREW SEEKING MEMBERS

You're invited to join Venture Crew 1673 in the fun and adventures planned by the crew. Venturing is a new program designed by the Boy Scouts (formerly known as Explorers) for teenage boys and girls who have graduated from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade or are at least 14 years old and not yet 21. Teens (including 13 year olds) and adults who are interested in finding out about the program may attend Venture Crew meetings and selected outings as "prospective members." The idea behind creating the post is to provide a high quality program for area teens. Venture Crew 1673 is also seeking adults to act as advisors and committee members. The Crew's adult Committee will meet every two or three months, the date and time to be determined by the committee members. Venture Crew 1673 is sponsored by the WLCA.

Starting in Jan. 1999, Venture Crew 1673 will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at the West Laurel Community Center. Bring your favorite "tunes" to play on our boom box and bring a snack/soft drink. Come find out what this exciting new program is about. Those who join will decide what activities and outings the Crew will do during the coming year.

Some of the activities already suggested are: car care, parties, rock climbing/rappelling, career exploration, canoeing, snow skiing, water skiing, how computers work & how to upgrade them, SCUBA diving, flying in a small plane, sports, web scavenger hunts, AD&D or some other "Role Playing Game," field trips to the beach or other places of interest to the crew, darts, ping pong, or billiards, how to buy a stereo system, movie making, web site design, desktop publishing, and gourmet cooking. In addition to activities at the Crew's twice-monthly meetings, the Venture Crew hopes to plan at least one major event every 3-4 months.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to discuss your possible involvement, please contact **Rush Kester H: 301-490-1310, W: 240-228-3030, or email [RWKester@aol.com](mailto:RWKester@aol.com)**

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

# SUPPORT YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

To all new residents of West Laurel, welcome to our community. Now is the time to send in your membership dues for this year. For those who mislaid their membership registration and those who just forgot, you can still send your dues in. We need your support.

The WLCA has been very strong in helping us 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 Expansion, Wyndham Woods).

The Association needs MEMBERSHIP, participation, broad-based support and opinions from all areas of West Laurel to represent the whole community and to keep our community the way we want it to remain. Please encourage and support the WLCA by sending in your membership registration today.

Mail your check for \$10.00, payable to "WLCA," to **Laurice Crawford, 16300 Gales Court, Laurel, MD 20707** or stop by our table at the February 18<sup>th</sup> General meeting at the West Laurel Community Center. Dues are for membership from September 1998 through August 1999. Thank you.

## DUES FORM

Enclosed is my check for WLCA membership dues.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \$10.00

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### • HOLIDAY PARTY UPDATE

The West Laurel Holiday Party was a great success! Lots of kids and adults came and enjoyed making holiday crafts, singing carols, munching on good food and talking. The gifts that were collected at the party were delivered to the Laurel Advocacy Referral Service (LARS) to be distributed to needy families. Thanks goes to our two entertaining elves, **Annie Folks** and **Sarah Pecowski**; to **Anne**

**Humphreys** who provided the live music; to **Kim Passmore** who organized the food and to **Chuck Lavin, Barb Kester, Joanie Colliers** and **Heidi Piraino** who also helped plan and run this event.

**MOMS UNITE!!!** Stay-at-home mom with 3 pre-school aged children wants to start up a playgroup. If Interested, call **Sheila Mudd (301) 604-5359**.

West Laurel Civic Association  
P.O. Box 449  
Laurel, MD 20725

Bulk Rate  
Postage Paid  
Permit #3505  
Laurel, MD 20725

# HOTLINE — Winter '99

The Newsletter of the West Laurel Civic Association

