

Fall  
2005

# HOMELINE

The Neighborhood Newsletter of West Laurel

## President's Message

In a 2003 *Washington Post* article featuring West Laurel as one of the area's great neighborhoods, long-time resident **Chris Folks** called the West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) the community's "ace-in-the-hole." She was referring to the fact that the WLCA, which was incorporated in 1964, has a well-earned and established reputation for more than 40 years as being among the most active and influential in the region.

The WLCA continues to enjoy that reputation because of the many hard-working, committed, and community-minded residents who pay their annual dues, attend the general membership meetings, and make their voices heard on a wide range of issues from development to schools to policing to public services. But the truth is, fewer than

450 households — just 25 percent of the community — paid the \$10 annual dues for the 2004-2005 year. Our goal is to increase that number significantly; however, just to have a balanced budget, we need to grow the membership 20 percent to 530 dues-paying households. (For more details on the budget, see page 9.)

We know that's doable, but we need your help. If you are a long-time supporter, thank you and please remember to renew your membership for the 2005-2006 budget year that began September 1. If you are new to the neighborhood, please join and know that you are becoming part of a great organization that is committed to preserving the residential character of this community.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE OCTOBER 20 GENERAL MEETING

West Laurel may not be in hurricane or tornado alley, but a variety of natural and manmade emergencies could nonetheless force us as individuals or a community to vacate our homes quickly.



As we all saw clearly with Hurricanes

**Emergency**

Katrina and Rita, being either unprepared or unable to evacuate on short notice can result in tremendous suffering or death within a few short hours for those who are medically fragile.

West Laurel is at both an advantage and a disadvantage in terms of its geographic location in the event of

*(Continued on page 5)*

## WLCA FALL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 PM  
WEST LAUREL COMMUNITY  
BUILDING

### TOPICS

- **BE PREPARED, NOT SCARED — West Laurel-specific emergency readiness information, planning tips & free Emergency Preparedness Bag**
- **WLCA BUDGET**
- **UP-TO-DATE MAPS SHOWING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT**
- **RENEW MEMBERSHIP**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Don't Miss Oct 20 Meeting	1
Housing Values	2
Be Prepared, Not Scared!	3
WLCA Website Gets Facelift	4
New WLCA Zoning Chair	5
News You Can Use	7
Family Fun in West Laurel	8
WLCA Proposed Budget	9
Membership Registration	10
WLCA Contacts	11

# HOUSING VALUES IN WEST LAUREL

Living in West Laurel pays off in many ways. Founded in 1964, West Laurel has maintained its strong community orientation with a low crime rate, an excellent elementary school, a strong and active civic association, multiple playgrounds and ball fields, a swimming pool and a community center. These factors have ensured that property values continue to rise in our community.

According to the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation,

forty-one (41) properties (homes and land) sold in West Laurel (39 in Prince George's; 2 in Montgomery) between January and August of 2005. In addition there were sixteen (16) no-cost property transfers. The highest sold for \$581,000; the average sales price was \$339,822.

If you are interested in doing further research on home ownership, home values or sales prices around West Laurel, visit the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation Web site at [http://](http://www.dat.state.md.us/)

[www.dat.state.md.us/](http://www.dat.state.md.us/). Go under the category Data Search and click on Real Property Data Search. After selecting the county of interest, you can search by street, property sales, property account, or map references.

West Laurel (Prince George's County) is located in District 10, Map 2; West Laurel (Montgomery County) is located in District 05, Maps LS21 and LS22. ❖

WEST LAUREL HOME SALES					
June 2005 thru August 2005					
CLOSING DATE	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE	CLOSING DATE	ADDRESS	SALE PRICE
<a href="#">6/01/2005</a>	16124 Kenny Road	399,900	<a href="#">6/29/2005</a>	6211 Forest Mill	395,000
<a href="#">6/02/2005</a>	16217 Jerald Road	402,000	<a href="#">7/21/2005</a>	6008 Wiss Drive	411,000
<a href="#">6/07/2005</a>	6602 Carleton Court	399,000	<a href="#">7/29/2005</a>	6313 Julia Place	393,000
<a href="#">6/09/2005</a>	16004 Kenny Road	300,000	<a href="#">8/08/2005</a>	6500 McCahill Drive	387,000
<a href="#">6/13/2005</a>	6639 Park Hall Drive	500,000	<a href="#">8/11/2005</a>	16300 Dorset Road	525,000
<a href="#">6/14/2005</a>	7013 Redmiles Road	385,500	<a href="#">8/25/2005</a>	7607 Laurel Ridge Court	392,000
<a href="#">6/14/2005</a>	6201 Kaybro Street	75,000	<a href="#">8/30/2005</a>	7610 Brooklyn Bridge	390,000
6/17/2005	16115 Kent Road	425,000	<a href="#">8/30/2005</a>	6409 Forest Mill Lane	411,000
<a href="#">6/22/2005</a>	15811 Kerr Road	362,000	<a href="#">8/31/2005</a>	16204 Laurel Ridge	400,000

**FALL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
 Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 pm  
 West Laurel Community Building

**Topics: West Laurel-specific Emergency Preparedness, WLCA Budget**

# BE PREPARED, NOT SCARED!

What is your plan should a manmade or natural disaster hit West Laurel or the surrounding area? Having a preparedness plan pays dividends, from reducing stress to saving lives.

The following **Five Simple Steps** may prove useful in your planning efforts. Proactive planning is the best way to ensure your family is prepared to face any situation that may occur. Develop a disaster plan with your family and go over it regularly. **Do it now and don't wait!** It should include:

## 1. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN



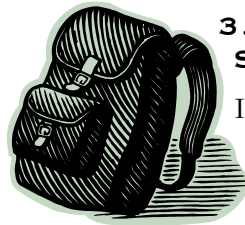
Choose an out-of-town contact for each member of your family to call or email to check on each other. The contact should be a safe distance from the Washington, DC area. Ensure each member of your family has the contact's number and email address along with everyone else's phone number and email address. The contact number should be left with your children's school and coworkers. If lines are busy or down, keep trying either by cell phone, regular phone or email.

## 2. ESTABLISH A MEETING PLACE

This may be the same as your out-of-town contact or an area/designated spot considered safe away from the immediate area. Plan alternate routes in case major roads are closed.



A family member at a safe distance is usually best for emergency purposes. Remember to include your pet(s), as shelters and some hotels do not allow them—they are family, also.

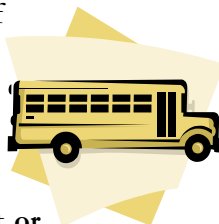


## 3. DISASTER SUPPLY KIT

If you must evacuate from your home or office, or if you need to shelter in place (see step #5), certain supplies will make you and your family more comfortable. Keep this kit in an easy-to-carry container (duffel bag, small plastic trash can, tote). Include "special need" items such as baby formula or items for those with disabilities, medications, first aid supplies, change of clothing for **each** person, sleeping bag or bed roll, battery powered radio/TV and extra batteries, food (canned or packaged that does *not* need cooking, peanut butter, crackers, apple sauce, **water** and basic tools). Keep extra cash on hand and copies of **important** papers (birth certificates, passports and licenses) to include in the kit.

## 4. CHECK THE SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLAN

Check your school's policy on the release of children in an emergency. Will your child be released to a parent or designated adult or does the school just send them home? Ensure that the school has current information about how to



reach you or a responsible person in case of emergency. Does the school need written notification for anyone other than you to pick up your children?

## 5. SHELTER IN PLACE

This means to remain in your home or office and protect yourself there. Close windows, doors, turn off fans, AC, heating units, close fireplace dampers, get the disaster supply kit and make sure the radio is working. Go to an interior, "above-ground-level room" and seal all windows and doors because chemicals can be heavier than air and settle at a basement level. Seal all cracks and vents into the room with duct tape. Listen to the radio and TV until told all is safe or you are told to evacuate.



Join us at the WLCA General Meeting on Thursday, October 20 for more information about emergency preparedness; attendees will receive emergency preparedness bags courtesy of Prince George's County. Information about emergency preparedness is also available on the internet or by calling 1-800-BE-READY.

[http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/OHS/OEM/family-plan.asp?nivel=subfoldmenu\(3,0\)](http://www.co.pg.md.us/Government/AgencyIndex/OHS/OEM/family-plan.asp?nivel=subfoldmenu(3,0))

[www.ready.gov/index.html](http://www.ready.gov/index.html)

**Don't delay.** Make your plans now, while you don't need them!❖

Reprinted from the February 2005 issue of Hotline.

# WLCA WEBSITE GETS A FACELIFT

Thanks to Board members **Melissa Daston** and **Dennis Cook**, the West Laurel Civic Association Web site has been given a facelift and a new easier-to-remember address. The new home page provides updates on activities in West Laurel, and events and issues of interest to the community such as crime statistics, zoning activities, and our current membership drive. Be sure to check it out and add it to your favorites at [www.wlcaweb.org](http://www.wlcaweb.org).

To ensure that all members have access to information about the WLCA, the following pages have been added:

- 2005-06 Board Roster with *names and contact information* for

area representatives and committee chairs

- *WLCA By-laws*
- West Laurel area *maps*
- *Membership information*

Another important new feature is a page on *services* in Prince Georges and Montgomery counties. It includes phone numbers and, where possible, links to our County Council representatives, local public libraries, County tax databases, and frequently used public works telephone numbers.

Last but certainly not least, there is an *on-line form for West Laurel residents to submit questions* to the Board.

Questions submitted via the Web site are forwarded to the Board and are discussed at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM at the West Laurel Community Building on Supplee Lane and are open to residents.

If you're new to West Laurel and viewing the site for the first time, let us know whether it provides enough basic information about the community and the WLCA to satisfy your curiosity about the neighborhood into which you've moved.

If you're a long-time West Laurel resident, let us know if the Web page reflects the character and spirit of the community and all that it offers.

The WLCA Board welcomes all feedback and wants to hear your ideas for news articles, updates, or general comments on how to improve and expand the Web site and make it more user-friendly. A link to the Webmaster is provided at the bottom of each page to provide all visitors that opportunity. We look forward to hearing from you! ❖

West Laurel Civic Association	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Home</a></li> <li><a href="#">Membership</a></li> <li><a href="#">Meetings</a></li> <li><a href="#">2005-06 Board</a></li> <li><a href="#">WLCA Bylaws</a></li> <li><a href="#">Hotline</a></li> <li><a href="#">W Laurel Maps</a></li> <li><a href="#">PG &amp; Montgomery County</a></li> <li><a href="#">Submit Questions to the WLCA Board</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>West Laurel Civic Association Membership Drive</b></p> <p>September 1<sup>st</sup> was the first day of the West Laurel Civic Association's 2005-2006 Fiscal Year. We are engaging in an unprecedented door-to-door membership campaign to encourage you to become dues paying members of the Association and if possible consider a donation toward the annual operating budget.</p> <p>Every homeowner is a member of the Civic Association but last year only 25% of our residents were dues paying members. If only 25% of the members pay their annual dues this year, we will not have sufficient funds to maintain our activities and the proposed 2005-2006 budget will be trimmed. The Association's major expenses include publishing the HOTLINE newsletter and Zoning and Legal fees.</p> <p>Until recently, the residents of West Laurel were provided free legal representation by a member of our community. We must now pay for legal advice and representation from our operating budget. This is especially important in representing the community in zoning and development in and around West Laurel.</p> <p>Annual dues (1 September -31 August) are \$10 per year. Mail your membership and a completed <a href="#">Membership Form</a> to the West Laurel Civic Association, Laurice Crawford, Treasurer, 16300 Gales Court, Laurel, MD 20707. Your support is greatly appreciated.</p>
	<p><b>Maryland National Capital Park &amp; Planning Commission Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subregion I planning meeting - Thursday 6 October 2005, 6:30-9:00pm, Martin Luther King Middle Schools, 4545 Ammendale Road, Beltsville, MD. POC: <a href="mailto:teri.bond@ppd.mncppc.org">teri.bond@ppd.mncppc.org</a> or (301) 952-4225</b></li> <li>• <b>Bond Mill Station development <a href="#">approved</a> with conditions. <a href="#">Design &amp; Maps</a> presented to the MNCPPC</b></li> <li>• <b>Reaching Hearts Update.</b> An appeal was filed in Circuit Court after a <a href="#">preliminary plan</a> for a church on Riding Stable Road was <a href="#">disapproved by the MNCPPC</a>. The WLCA will continue to monitor this proposal.</li> <li>• <b><a href="#">Subregion I Master Plan &amp; Sectional Amendment</a></b></li> <li>• <b>Contact: <a href="mailto:teri.bond@ppd.mncppc.org">teri.bond@ppd.mncppc.org</a> or (301) 952-4225</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>News of Note</b> <a href="#">Intercounty Connector</a> <a href="#">Police Blotter</a></p>
	<p><b>Community Clean-Up Results</b></p> <p>The 2005 community cleanup had the best turnout in the last three years with about 25 people participating. Board members Lilia Toler and Steve Steenrod took part, as did the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. The weather cooperated and volunteers filled 20-25 large trash bags. On Sweltzer Lane, volunteers collected the most trash including asphalt shingles.</p> <p>Thanks volunteers and Einstein Brothers for donating bagels.</p>
<p>Comments, suggestions, and submissions should be directed to the WLCA <a href="#">webmaster</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">Return to the West Laurel Home Page</a> <a href="#">Return to Unofficial Home Page of Laurel, Maryland</a></p>	<p>Last Updated: 09/21/2005</p>

A look at the new WLCA web page!



## NEW ZONING CHAIR FOR WLCA

Anyone who is familiar with WLCA's work on development issues can appreciate the importance of the Zoning Chair. **Bill Ferguson**, a WLCA Board member extraordinaire and past president of the WLCA, has filled that position for the past two years. Before Bill, immediate past president **John Dollen** wore the hat, and before him, past president **Barbara Friedman** did the job. (Notice a pattern?)

Bill wisely decided that unless he stepped aside — he had agreed to do the job on an interim basis until the Board identified a permanent replacement — no one else would

step forward. So it was with a mix of gratitude and regret that the Board accepted Bill's resignation following the June Board meeting. Bill has graciously agreed to continue being the point person on pending zoning cases, including the WLCA's lawsuit against the City of Laurel for what it believes is an unlawful annexation along Brooklyn Bridge Road.

Needless to say, the Board was anxious to fill the Zoning Chair position as quickly as possible. It took until September to do that, but we are thrilled to announce long-time resident **Dennis Cook** has accepted the job. Dennis and his wife

Judy have lived on Malcolm Drive since 1978. Dennis is a retired computer and radar system designer with Harry Diamond Army Research Lab in Adelphi. He and Judy are folk musicians and participate in concerts and festivals in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Dennis has been on the WLCA Board for two years and will bring to the Zoning Chair position his wisdom, work ethic and commitment to the environment in general and the West Laurel community in particular. ❖

---

### DON'T MISS THE OCTOBER 20 MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

a large-scale emergency. Because it is at the outermost edges of Prince George's and Montgomery counties, some services such as tree and snow removal may not be delivered as quickly. On the plus side, the neighborhood is sandwiched directly between the city of Laurel and Burtonsville, each of which has its own fire and rescue squads, and both can and do respond to calls for assistance in our neighborhood.

If you're feeling burned out by all the talk of emergency preparedness and are suffering from hurricane and flood fatigue, you're not alone and we don't intend to give you more of the same at the October 20 meeting. Instead, we want to make this as enlightening and lively as possible.

We will have a line-up of great presenters from local and state government and first responders who can talk about everything from the

"three P's" (Pack, Plan, Prepare) to who orders and enforces evacuations when you live in an unincorporated part of a county, and how in the world do we make use of nearby I-95 as an escape route if it quickly becomes a giant parking lot? Because our nearest neighbor happens to be the provider of water and sewer services to the community, the discussion also will include someone from WSSC who can address safety issues related to drinking water and the dam.

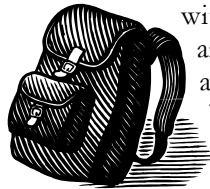
We aren't known for gimmicks or giveaways to get residents out to general meetings. However, we couldn't say no to Prince George's County's offer of *free emergency preparedness bags to residents who come out on October 20*. You'll come away

with information and ideas not only about readiness but also about new products

such as wind-up clocks and radios that require neither batteries nor electricity.



There is another topic of tremendous importance that must be discussed and voted on at the general meeting. That is WLCA's Board approved budget for the 2005-2006 operating year (budget cycles run from September 1 to August 31). To keep the budget in balance and continue to fund the many important things we do, WLCA must increase its dues-paying membership by at least 20 percent. This is no small undertaking, but we are committed to the goal and have launched a door-to-door membership campaign to help us realize it. (See related article on page 1, along with a membership reminder and form on page 10.) ❖



---

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*(Continued from page 1)*

So why does it matter that only one in four households pay for an organization that serves the *entire* community? There are multiple reasons, not the least of which is that WLCA represents all 1,800 households on a variety of fronts and everyone benefits from those efforts.

First, if you're reading this newsletter and find it informative, then you are enjoying one of the main benefits of the WLCA, regardless of whether you paid. The *Hotline* is published three times per year, just prior to each of the three community-wide meetings, which are always held the third Thursday of October, February and May. The next meeting is **Thursday, October 20, 2005**, at the West Laurel Community Building at 7:30 PM. (For more details, see the page 1 article on meeting highlights.) The *Hotline* is the biggest line item in the budget, costing a whopping \$6,000 per year to print, label and mail to every household.

So, why not send the *Hotline* just to the dues-paying households? That question has been debated by the Board often over the years but rejected with the understanding that if we do not continue to educate, raise awareness and reach out to all residents about the many issues that affect our quality of life, the organization would die and the neighborhood would be diminished.

Just ask a host of elected and appointed government officials from Prince George's or Montgomery Counties or the state of Maryland about the WLCA and its track record of involvement on development, roads and mass transportation, land use and county master plans, environmental,

education, crime and a long list of other issues. As a WLCA Board member for 10+ years, I have had many conversations with officials who have indicated a deep respect — albeit sometimes grudging — for WLCA and the work it does.

Two specific examples come immediately to mind. One such conversation took place about a year and a half ago when I was helping to put together a WLCA meeting about water and flooding problems in the community. The WLCA wanted to assemble a panel of Prince George's County agency experts from the Departments of Public Works and Environmental Resources, along with staff from WSSC. When I was explaining the format of the meeting to a senior DER official, I thought I should begin by telling her a little bit about West Laurel and the fact that it is in two counties and the WLCA works hard to keep residents informed. She quickly stopped me, saying, "Oh, I know West Laurel. Everyone in Upper Marlboro knows West Laurel and the WLCA. We will be there."

The second conversation took place more recently and involved a Prince George's County government attorney who was offering informal advice on how the WLCA might respond to a federal lawsuit alleging discrimination against a church looking to locate here. WLCA is not a defendant in the case, but it is named in the body of the complaint. These types of complaints are known in legal circles as "slap suits" and are meant primarily to have a chilling effect on public participation in local decision-making. If the case had virtually no chance of succeeding, I wondered, why should WLCA even respond? Because, said the county

attorney, every developer eyeing the West Laurel area and every private attorney representing those developers knows there are only a handful of civic associations left in Prince George's that can take them on — and win — in either the court of public opinion or a court of law, and WLCA is one of those organizations.

Okay, so we have a long, storied history in Prince George's, but what about Montgomery? We are working to build our name recognition and reputation in Montgomery County as well, and that will take time. However, in the past few years, we have been able to get Montgomery County Councilwoman **Marilyn Praisner** to attend a general meeting and Montgomery County police to give us crime and public safety updates.

I could go on and on about the WLCA's effectiveness and what a bargain membership is at just \$10 per year per household. If you need more reasons or specifics about the many things the WLCA does, see page 10 for information about our door-to-door membership drive, as well as a membership form that you can clip out and mail with your dues or bring to the community-wide meeting on October 20. If you want to get to know more of your neighbors, come help with the membership drive, which will occur on Saturdays throughout the fall. For more information or to volunteer, contact **Stan Shock** at [sshock1@verizon.net](mailto:sshock1@verizon.net) or (301) 776-9465.

*Mary Lehman*

President, WLCA  
September 2005-August 2007

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## PLEASE HEED TRAFFIC SIGNS



Drivers are reminded that there is a **no left turn** onto Bounds Avenue from Bond Mill Road between the hours of 7 AM and 8:15 AM. The only vehicles that are exempt from this policy are Prince George's County school buses.

The rule is in effect 365 days a year; however, it is particularly important that drivers heed the policy now with the significant increase in traffic volume associated with Bond Mill Elementary and other area schools.

Previously, there was just one No Left Turn sign on Bond Mill Road at Bounds; now a second sign has been erected on Bond Mill Road with the same message. Both signs have high visibility markers on them. They were installed in response to safety concerns associated with excessive speeding, numerous accidents, high traffic volume, and the difficulty Bounds Avenue residents had exiting their driveways due to the use of Bounds as a "cut thru" street to Sweitzer Lane and MD Route 198.

Although it has determined that Bounds Avenue does not qualify for speed bumps, the Prince George's County Department of Public Works & Transportation has emphasized repeatedly that *Bounds Avenue is not intended to be a cut thru street for West Laurel* and should not be used for such a purpose.

Please, respect your neighbors and obey the traffic laws. Prince George's County Police are aware that illegal left turns on Bounds and

speeding in this area of West Laurel are ongoing problems and have agreed to do periodic enforcement. During the hours of 7 AM to 8:15 AM, use Bond Mill Road to exit the neighborhood. It adds only a few minutes to your trip and may save you the cost of a ticket

## SIGNS, SIGNS, EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Look around the neighborhood on any given day and you'll see dozens of signs advertising everything from gutter cleaning to homes for sale to lost and found pets, yard and garage sales, and other community events.

These signs are okay if posted short-term (3-5 days, a week at most). However, they should be removed in a timely manner, along with tape, string, screws, or any other hardware used to erect them. *Signs should never be posted on telephone, light or other utility poles.*

The West Laurel Recreation Council (WLRC) has done a superb job over the years of posting signs at key intersections in the community to announce upcoming events such as the annual ice cream social, holiday party, family swim night at Fairland and Easter egg hunt. It typically puts up signs about a week in advance of these events, and then promptly removes them the day after.

The West Laurel Civic Association (WLCA) has decided to borrow the WLRC's sign concept to advertise its three general membership meetings. Be on the lookout for these new signs at the intersections of Bond Mill Road and Sherwood Avenue, Bond Mill and Brooklyn Bridge roads, Riding Stable Road

and MD Route 198, and Brooklyn Bridge Road and the I-95 overpass.

These signs were made by **Leo Goulden** of West Laurel and are eye-catching and informative. WLCA's goal in posting these signs is to have visual reminders of the October, February and May meetings in order to increase turnout. If you come to the meeting, let us know whether it was because of the signs or the *Hotline*, or both. The WLCA welcomes feedback on this and other initiatives.

## LEAF COLLECTION NEWS

Signs announcing the West Laurel leaf vacuuming dates will be posted along our streets 5 to 7 days prior to the pickup date. You should rake your leaves to the roadside no later than the posted pickup dates. Please do not rake into drainage ditches or the road. Vehicles should be parked at least 60 feet away from leaf piles to allow room for the vacuuming equipment to maneuver. Leaf piles blocked by parked vehicles will not be collected. Please keep leaf piles free of debris such as tree limbs, branches and rocks. Crews will not collect leaf piles containing debris, which can damage the vacuum equipment.



Please remember, leaf collection services are suspended during periods of inclement weather, including rain and snow.

For more information on the Prince George's County leaf collection program, contact (301) 499-8520. For Montgomery County, please contact (240) 777-7623. ❖

## FAMILY FUN IN & AROUND WEST LAUREL

The West Laurel Recreation Council (WLRC) exists to help neighbors get to know and enjoy each other. Would you be interested in any of the following classes: photography, gift wrapping, juggling/card tricks/magic, genealogy, tennis? Would you be interested in reviving the Bridge Club? Is there a class you'd like to teach? Why not give us a call and let us know what you'd like to do. We'd like to hear from you.

Kim Passmore (301) 725-3157

Betty Mannas (301) 953-2503

Rush Kester (301) 490-1310

The WLRC meets at 7:30 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the West Laurel Community Building. Why not join us at the next meeting?! We look forward to seeing you at the neighborhood get togethers.

The following events are sponsored by the WLRC and supported by your volunteer activities and donations.

### WEST LAUREL ANNUAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

The annual West Laurel **Holiday Celebration** will be held Friday, December 2 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. This FREE annual party is always great fun for the whole family. There will be holiday crafts for the kids, light refreshments, caroling and a visit from Frosty the Snowman and Santa Claus. Please bring a new, unwrapped toy for LARS and a snack to be shared.



### WEST LAUREL SWIM NIGHT

When the *Hotline* went to press, a date wasn't yet known for the West



Laurel Swim Night at Fairland Aquatic Center. Information will be published in the West Laurel columns in the *Laurel Gazette* and the *Laurel Leader* when available.

This fun family event is usually held in early February.

### ADULTS' NIGHT OUT

A night out to the dinner theatre, including dinner and a show. Date, time and cost to be announced. ❖

## EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOLS

### REDESIGNATE BONUS CARDS AT GIANT, SAFEWAY & FOOD LION

You must redesignate at the beginning of each school year or your purchases will not benefit the school of your choice (may we suggest Bond Mill ES or Martin Luther King MHS!).

### SHOP TO BENEFIT OUR SCHOOLS

Do you have enough wrapping paper for upcoming holidays and special occasions? Did you miss the opportunity to buy high-quality wrapping paper from your Bond Mill ES neighbors? It's not too late — you can still buy wrapping paper and other supplies *and* benefit Bond Mill's programs for our neighborhood children at the same time. Go to [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) and use Bond Mill's number #501429 when you make your purchase. For a limited time, shipping is free on orders over \$60.

For your other on-line shopping needs, visit [www.schoolpop.com](http://www.schoolpop.com) to have a percentage of your purchase benefit Bond Mill ES. There's no cost to you, and the Bond Mill PTA will use the money for great cultural arts programs for our local school.

### RECYCLE LASER/INKJET TONERS & CELL PHONES

You can recycle your used inkjet or laser toner cartridges and cell phones to earn money for Bond Mill Elementary School and/or Liberty Grove Nursery School. This program runs year-round, accumulating constant income for our efforts. Please bring your empty printer cartridges and used cell phones to Bond Mill or call **Cindy Dollen** at (301) 725-3202 for pickup. They'll be recycled through Funding Factory to earn cash for our local schools.

### CLIP THOSE BOX TOPS

Bond Mill ES is collecting Campbell's Soup product labels and General Mills Box Tops for Education. Please clip and save these labels and boxtops in your household as you use participating products, and send them to the school. You would be surprised how quickly they add up to buy sorely needed educational supplies for the school!

Visit the PTA's website at <http://www.pgcps.org/~bondmill/pta.htm> (scroll all the way to the bottom) for more information on these programs and many more ways to help our local school. ❖



# WLCA PROPOSED BUDGET — 2005-2006

The 2005-2006 WLCA Budget will be voted on at the Fall General Meeting. Please read the information below and bring any questions or comments to the Fall General Meeting on October 20. WLCA has generally kept a balanced budget, but it has been hard with a fluctuating number of members in recent years. We need over 530 households to balance this year’s budget, but 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 Prince George’s County, and having that stature is an effective tool in certain forums (see the President’s Message on page 1). Please join WLCA and support *your* community.

It is important to note as well that we no longer have a FREE lawyer. If you have the means and can donate a little extra beyond your \$10 membership dues, we’d greatly appreciate it! Fees add up very quickly.

	Actual 2004-05	Proposed 2005-06
Hotline Issues.....	\$2,591	\$2,700
P.O. Box.....	0	90
P.O. Permit & Fee.....	0	150
Cub Scout Sponsorship.....	300	300
Laurel Fire Department Donation.....	150	150
Laurel Rescue Squad Donation.....	300	150
LHS Grad Night Donation.....	100	100
WL Rag Tag Band.....	100	100
Bond Mill ES PTA Carnival.....	75	75
Laurel 4th of July Committee.....	75	75
PG/Montg County Civic Assn Dues.....	25	50
Office Supplies.....	61	100
Zoning & Legal Fees.....	1,500	1,000
Refreshments.....	93	150
Liability Policy.....	0	800
Misc Expenses.....	276	570
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$5,646</b>	<b>\$6,560</b>

INCOME YEARS	MEMBERS	DUES	DONATIONS	TOTAL
2003-2004.....	428.....	@ 10.00.....	0.....	\$4,280
2004-2005.....	440.....	@ 10.00.....	0.....	\$4,400
2005-2006 (est.).....	530.....	@ 10.00.....	1,300.....	\$6,600

Checkbook Balance 8/31/05.....	\$6,961
Annexation Bank Account.....	2,055
Bank CDs (4 @ \$1,000).....	<u>4,257</u>
<b>Total Cash on Hand.....</b>	<b>\$13,273</b>

# WHAT DOES WLCA DO FOR YOU?

**T**hanks to the careful planning and hard work of Board member **Stan Shock**, the West Laurel Civic Association is doing its first door-to-door membership campaign in years. Stan put together door-knocking packets for volunteers, membership forms and even membership cards for residents who pay their \$10 dues and join this great organization. Volunteers have gone out two Saturdays to talk to neighbors and encourage them to join the WLCA. We will continue this campaign on Saturdays throughout the fall.

Based on some of the feedback volunteers have heard, we should point out what **WLCA is** and **is not**.

**WLCA is not** a homeowner's association and does not collect money to take care of common areas, pay for mowing, snow removal and other such services;

**WLCA is not** an enforcement agency that orders residents to cut their grass, fix a broken fence or move illegally parked cars;

**WLCA is not** in the habit of reporting violations of Prince George's or Montgomery counties' community standards laws governing unkempt property, illegally parked cars or various other zoning infractions. However, the organization does advise neighbors

who ask about how *they* can contact the relevant county agencies.

So what does the West Laurel Civic Association do? The list below is a good sampling:

**WLCA is** preserving the tranquility and residential character of our neighborhood;

**WLCA is** taking part in neighborhood beautification and cleanup efforts (sign and plantings along Sweitzer Lane and annual Earth Day road and stream cleanups);

**WLCA is** constantly monitoring proposed/pending development in and around West Laurel (in both Prince George's and Montgomery) to ensure compatibility with the neighborhood;

**WLCA is** organized and effective at opposing undesirable or inappropriate projects or policies that would negatively impact our quality of life (commercial development at the Bond Mill Road entrance, a mega-church/conference center along Brooklyn Bridge Road, the City of Laurel's attempt to annex property at our doorstep, a proposed dog kennel with 40 parking spaces at the dead end of Melbourne Drive);

**WLCA is** tracking legislation at the county and state level and testifies on policies that affect the community;

**WLCA is** in regular contact with county and state elected officials to communicate concerns and request assistance when necessary;

**WLCA is** informing and educating residents about issues of interest at community-wide meetings in October, February and May;

**WLCA is** providing written and electronic news and information to residents via the Hotline and its newly restructured and renamed Web site ([www.wlcaweb.org](http://www.wlcaweb.org));

**WLCA is** working with police from MNCPPC (they patrol our two parks) and Montgomery and Prince George's counties to keep the neighborhood safe;

**WLCA is** providing financial support and sponsorship for other important community organizations including the Bond Mill PTA, Cub Scouts, the Laurel High Grad Night Committee, the West Laurel Rag Tag Band, and the Laurel Fire and Rescue Squad.

Please join our efforts to keep West Laurel one of the Washington area's greatest neighborhoods. Fill out and mail the form below or bring it in person when you come to the October general meeting. Or, sign up when a volunteer visits your home as part of our door-to-door campaign. Thank you in advance and welcome aboard! ❖

---

## WLCA Membership Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Dues: \$10 per Household\* — Make checks payable to WLCA**

*Please send your Membership Registration Form to:*

West Laurel Civic Association • Laurice Crawford, Treasurer • 16300 Gales Court • Laurel, MD 20707

*Or drop by the membership table at the October 20 General Meeting*

*\*covers up to 2 voting members*

# WLCA CONTACTS — 2005-2006

	NAME	NUMBER	EMAIL/FAX
<b>WLCA OFFICERS</b>			
President .....	<b>Mary Lehman</b> .....	301-498-0694 .....	wlcamail@aol.com
1st Vice President.....	<b>Robert Lennon</b> .....	301-206-0448 .....	jonnifer1@aol.com
2nd Vice President .....	<b>Barbara Sollner-Webb</b> .....	301-604-5619 .....	bsw@bs.jhmi.edu
Zoning Officer.....	<b>Dennis Cook</b> .....	301-776-4314 .....	dennis@ceimd.com
Recording Secretary .....	<b>Denise Keehner</b> .....	301-490-0684 .....	DJNDARL@aol.com
Treasurer.....	<b>Laurice Crawford</b> .....	301-490-8684 .....	crawfordanderson@earthlink.net

*Board meetings are held monthly, usually on the second Thursday, at the Community Center at 7:30 pm.*

*General Meetings are held in October, February and May, usually on the third Thursday of the month, at 7:30 pm.*

## AREA I REPS

Rep (2 yr.) .....	<b>Susan Railey</b> .....	301-206-9737 .....	srailey@comcast.net
Rep (1 yr.) .....	<b>Temmy Kimes</b> .....	301-490-4268 .....	temmykimes@msn.com
Alternate .....	<b>John Hebert</b> .....	301-549-1129 .....	jgheber@earthlink.net
2nd Alternate.....	<b>Jurgen von Bredow</b> .....	301-549-3150 .....	jbredow@cvm.fda.gov

## AREA II REPS

Rep (2 yr.) .....	<b>Melissa Daston</b> .....	301-776-2314 .....	mdaston@comcast.net
Rep (1 yr.) .....	<b>Stan Shock</b> .....	301-776-9465 .....	sshock1@verizon.net
Alternate .....	<b>Kevin Tuttle</b> .....	301-725-1194 .....	ckt@wam.umd.edu

## AREA III REPS

Rep (2 yr.) .....	<b>Jennifer Kalmanson</b> .....	301-776-4873 .....	jenny_kalmanson@hotmail.com
Rep (1 yr.) .....	<b>Sean Gahagan</b> .....	301-604-0656 .....	sean.gahagan@ngc.com
Alternate .....	<b>Howard Rosenberg</b> .....	301-776-4228 .....	hrmkr@comcast.net
2nd Alternate.....	<b>Joan Norris</b> .....	301-490-6876 .....	none

## AREA IV REPS

Rep (2 yr.) .....	<b>Lucy Grimes</b> .....	301-490-0414 .....	lucygrimes33@verizon.net
Rep (1 yr.) .....	<b>Dennis Cook</b> .....	301-776-4314 .....	dennis@ceimd.com
Alternate .....	<b>Doris Reynold</b> .....	301-490-8639 .....	none
2nd Alternate.....	<b>Barney Walsh</b> .....	301-490-7357 .....	walshcebs@aol.com

## AREA V REPS

Rep (2 yr.) .....	<b>Bob Klein</b> .....	301-776-3687 .....	robertjklein@earthlink.net
Rep (1 yr.) .....	<b>Steve Steenrod</b> .....	301-725-6835 .....	esteenrod@juno.com
Alternate .....	<b>Carol Bounds</b> .....	301-725-6012 .....	carolrbounds@aol.com
2nd Alternate.....	<b>Elizabeth Schwartz</b> .....	301-776-0542 .....	bobandbits@earthlink.net

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Roads & Transportation .....	<b>Barbara Sollner-Webb</b> .....	301-604-5619 .....	bsw@bs.jhmi.edu
Environmental .....	<b>Jane Blewett</b> .....	301-498-2553 .....	jblewet@juno.com
Hotline Coordinator .....	<b>Cindy Dollen</b> .....	301-725-3202 .....	ces625@hotmail.com
Membership Coordinator .....	<b>Stan Shock</b> .....	301-776-9465 .....	sshock1@verizon.net
Neighborhood Watch.....	<b>Carol Bounds</b> .....	301-725-6012 .....	carolrbounds@aol.com
Webmaster.....	<b>Melissa Daston</b> .....	301-776-2314 .....	mdaston@comcast.net

## OTHER IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

WL Rec Council President.....	<b>Kim Passmore</b> .....	301-725-3157 .....	vze9159s@verizon.net
WL Community Center Info....	<b>Deedee Sisson</b> .....	301-953-2199 .....	www.pks.sisson.com
Laurel Leader Columnist.....	<b>Chris Folks</b> .....	301-490-0797 .....	cbfolkswl@aol.com
Laurel Gazette Columnist.....	<b>Cindy Dollen</b> .....	301-725-3202 .....	ces625@hotmail.com/603-658-6889
Burtonsville Gazette .....	<b>Jim Brocker</b> .....	301-562-3264 .....	jbrocker@gazette.net

# **Hotline — Fall 2005**

The Neighborhood Newsletter of West Laurel

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

Presorted  
Standard  
US Postage Paid  
Speedy Labels