

West Lanham Hills Citizen

JUNE 2025

Next WLHCA Meeting:
Thursday, June 5 at 7pm
Park Building (7700 Decatur Road)

In this Issue: New WLHCA Board Recent Events Seasonal Reminders

Meet Our Newly Elected WLHCA Board

At our most recent West Lanham Hills Citizens Association meeting on May 1, we were thrilled to welcome over 35 community members in attendance—thank you to everyone who showed up and participated! One of the highlights of the evening was the election of our new board members, who will serve a three-year term helping to guide the work of the Association and support our neighborhood's continued growth and vibrancy.



Pictured: The newly elected board members of the West Lanham Hills Citizens Association. Left to right: Michael Driggers (Treasurer), Sarah Tsubata (Secretary), Michael Chodos (President), Alicia Denning (Vice President), and Ann Chilcoat (Parliamentarian).

Tues, June 3

State of Maryland Special Election

Vote for PG County Executive

Prince George's County will hold a Special General Election to fill the County Executive seat vacated by Angela Alsobrooks. Early voting runs from **May 28 to June 2**, and polls will be open 7 AM to 8 PM on Election Day (June 3).

For more info, visit
elections.maryland.gov.

Tues, June 10

Game Night Park Building 7–8:30 PM

Games & Snacks Provided

Join us in the park building for games and other fun activities. All ages are welcome! This month we launch a new initiative to celebrate neighborhood monthly birthdays as part of this event!

Fri, June 20

Movie Night in the Park 7–9 PM @ Park Building

Bring your own chairs & blankets

Join the Prince George's County Park Police for a family-friendly Movie Night in the Park. This free event offers a great opportunity to meet local officers and enjoy a community evening together. Snacks and community resources will be provided.

Summer Playtime is Back!

June 23–August 1, M–F, 9 AM–3 PM at the West Lanham Hills Park Building

Kids ages 6–12 can enjoy outdoor games, swim trips, arts & crafts, and more! Cost is \$100 per child, or just \$10 with an Independence Card. Register at pgparksdirect.com with activity code **28201-354W**.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Michael Chodos, WLHCA President

I'm honored to share that I've been elected President of the West Lanham Hills Citizens Association! Thank you to everyone who participated in the election and entrusted me with this role.

As a five-year resident of West Lanham Hills, I'm deeply committed to our community. My goals for the 2025–2028 term are to:

1. Empower members through active committees,
2. Modernize our practices for a post-COVID world, and
3. Build stronger ties with neighboring communities to expand our influence.

Be a part of the conversation - join us at our next meeting on Thursday June 5 at 7:00 PM to learn more and how you can help.

I'm committed to transparency and collaboration—feel free to reach out with ideas or concerns at michael.w.chodos@gmail.com or 810-813-7224. I look forward to serving you!

On the Agenda: June 5, 2025

Topics of discussion at the next WLHCA meeting include:

- Updates from committees
- Back to School Supplies Event
- Setting community goals

Back-to-School Supplies Event

Mark your calendars! Our annual Back-to-School Supplies Event is happening on Friday, August 22 at 4-8pm. See insert for more info and to sign up.

Event Report: April 26 2025 Pick-Up and Picnic

Despite the wet spring weather, about 40 neighbors came together for a successful Pickup & Picnic event—collecting trash, sharing food, playing cornhole, and even swapping seeds and plants. Huge thanks to **Alicia Denning** for organizing, **Jillian Nowlan** for hosting a table for seed and plant swaps, and to everyone who lent tables, chairs, and tents. And of course, a heartfelt thank-you to all our amazing volunteers who helped make the day both productive and fun!



Seasonal Reminders & Tips

Clear the Water, Beat the Bite:

Keeping Mosquitoes Away

By: Kensei Tsubata

Mosquitoes lay eggs in standing water—even a bottle cap can be enough. Help reduce mosquitoes in your yard by:

- Turning over buckets and covering containers
- Storing toys indoors or under cover
- Smoothing tarps and fixing low spots where water collects
- Cleaning out gutters

If you can't remove standing water, free mosquito dunks are available, just contact

westlanhamnews@gmail.com.

These easy steps can help keep your yard mosquito-free and more enjoyable!

Poison Ivy: How to Spot and Remove It

By: Kate Tsubata

Poison Ivy grows throughout our neighborhood. Its three-leaf clusters contain an oil called urushiol, which can cause a painful, itchy rash—even from contact with clothes, pets, or tools.

Here are some safe DIY ways to manage it:

- **DIY Spray:** Mix 1 gallon vinegar with 1 cup salt and 1 tablespoon dish soap (Dawn). Spray repeatedly until the plant dies.
- **Boiling Water:** Pour boiling water directly onto the plant roots. Repeat as necessary to kill plant.
- **Baking Soda Paste:** Apply to leaves (avoid touching!).
- **Hand Removal:** Wear gloves, long sleeves, a mask, and eye protection. Wash everything—tools, clothes, shoes—with soap and hot water after.
- **Never Burn It:** The smoke is toxic and dangerous. Bag it and throw it away safely.
- **Clean Thoroughly:** Urushiol can stay active on surfaces for years—scrub with oil-cutting soap.
- **Accidental Contact:** Use alcohol wipes, then wash with warm water and soap.

Clogged Storm Drains

When the area receives a significant amount of rain, if you notice clogged storm drains or flooding in the community, please reach out to Wanda Brooks:

wjbrooks@co.pg.md.us; 240.537.8153

Managing Groundhogs

Groundhogs can be a backyard pest, and in Maryland, it is legal to trap, release, or kill them, as they are not a protected species. If you choose to remove a groundhog, be sure to do so safely and in accordance with state guidelines.

For more information, visit the Maryland Department of Natural Resources:

dnr.maryland.gov



Identifying Poison Ivy:

- Three leaflets per cluster
- Red in spring, green in summer, red/orange in fall
- Edges may be smooth or jagged
- Grows as vine, shrub, or ground cover
- Found near trees, fences, shady spots

