



West Lanham Hills Citizen

FEBRUARY 2026

**Next WLHCA meeting has
been postponed one week to:**
Thursday, Feb 12 at 7pm
Park Building (7700 Decatur Road)

IMPORTANT WINTER SAFETY REMINDERS

- **Park cars in driveways or on the EVEN side of the street** and keep routes clear for plows
- **Shovel and salt/sand sidewalks promptly** to prevent ice and falls
- **Prepare for power outages:** charge devices, have flashlights & batteries ready, avoid candles
- **Protect pipes:** keep heat above 55°F, drip faucets during extreme cold, open cabinet doors
- **Expect service disruptions** impacting the collection days for trash, recycling, and yard waste
- **Prepare for possible power outages:** store water and non-perishable food, charge devices, and have flashlights and batteries ready
- **Check on neighbors** who may need help with supplies or snow removal

Local Winter Resources:

- Use the **PGC311** app/call center to report downed trees, icy patches, or to find warming centers
- Visit dpwt.mypgc.us/snow for winter weather tips
- Sign up for weather alerts at alert.mypgc.us
- **Operation Silver Shovel:** Prince George's County provides emergency snow removal assistance for seniors (70+) and residents with limited mobility. Call 3-1-1 for information and eligibility.



Image: A WLH resident captured this natural “snow cave” photo on Decatur Rd.

Tues, Feb. 10

Game Night & Community Table

Park Building | 7-8:30 PM

Join us for games & a shared meal!

Join us for an evening of games, laughter, and good company with neighbors of all ages! Volunteer-provided meals continue at this event—come hungry to enjoy a shared dish. Interested in contributing? Contact westlanhamnews@gmail.com



Image: The January game night & community table event featured volunteer-provided chili & sides.

Sat, Feb. 14

Free the Trees Event

WLH Park | 10AM - 12PM

Registration Required

Join your neighbors to protect and restore our own West Lanham Hills Community Park! Initiated by one of our own residents, this event will **remove invasive vines and restore native habitat** to support healthier trees and a stronger neighborhood.

Volunteers 16+ are welcome (under 18 need a parent/guardian; registration required). **Space is limited**—sign up today at tinyurl.com/FreeTreesWLH

West Lanham Hills: Celebrating Community This Winter

This winter, West Lanham Hills showed what makes our neighborhood special: connection, generosity, and neighbors showing up for one another.

A Weekend of Holiday Cheer (Dec 12–13, 2025)

The season kicked off with our **Holiday Lights Sip & Stroll**, where about 20 neighbors enjoyed a cozy walk (and a few car rides!) to admire beautifully decorated homes, warm drinks, bingo, and scavenger hunts. Congratulations to our winners, recognized with festive yard signs:

1st: 7721 Garrison Rd | **2nd:** 4902 77th Pl | **3rd:** 4905 77th Pl

Honorable Mentions: 4949 78th, 4900 77th Pl

The celebration continued with our **Community Holiday Gathering**, welcoming 65–70 neighbors for festive crafts, food, and a lively neighborhood goods exchange—a true reminder of our generous and connected community.



Chili Night: A Cozy Twist on Monthly Game Night (Jan 13, 2026)

A **special volunteer-supplied chili night** enhanced our regular monthly game night. Neighbors enjoyed a variety of chilis and sides while playing games, building with Legos, and connecting. Food donations were also shared with attendees, strengthening the spirit of mutual support. **Chili, sides, and desserts were generously provided by neighbors**, helping turn a regular game night into something extra special.

Moments of Gratitude: Our December meeting featured neighbors sharing gratitude, now a beloved tradition to conclude our monthly meetings. Neighbors recognized everyday acts of kindness, shared appreciation for our board and committees, and celebrated the strong sense of community that makes West Lanham Hills feel like home.

West Lanham Hills Snow Day Support

This winter, neighbors showed the true spirit of West Lanham Hills during **Snowmageddon 2026**. Our newly launched **West Lanham Hills Frostbusters**, a team of local teens, helped clear driveways, sidewalks, and walkways, making the snow a little easier for everyone.

In addition, neighbors pitched in to help one another—shoveling for those who couldn't, checking in on seniors, and sharing supplies—reminding us that our community is strongest when we come together. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who lent a hand, proving that even a winter storm can bring out the best in West Lanham Hills.



Image: “Frostbusters” hard at work on Jan 25, 2026.

Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) WholeHome Critical Home Repairs Grant Program

Homeowners may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding through this program, which addresses urgent health and safety issues (such as roof damage, broken heating or cooling systems, electrical or plumbing problems, and mold remediation) to prevent housing instability. Eligible applicants must be Maryland homeowners earning 150% or less of their county's area median income. **Applications are first-come, first-served and will close once funds are exhausted.**

If you or someone you know needs help making critical repairs to stay safely in their home, this is an **important opportunity**. Learn more and apply here: tinyurl.com/MD-HAF

New Carrollton Station Development Updates

Construction is underway on the next phase of redevelopment at the New Carrollton Metro station, including a four-phase, 364-unit affordable housing project, with 112 senior housing units in the first phase. The development is part of the long-term plan to transform the station area into a transit-oriented community.

Learn more here:

tinyurl.com/NC-Metro-Dec2025

Honoring our Seniors

Join us for a special luncheon on Saturday, April 18, celebrating our longtime residents and **seniors 65 and older**. Please RSVP so we can plan accordingly.

To **reserve your spot**, call or text Sarah Tsubata at 785-341-5042 with your name, address, and any dietary restrictions, or email sarahtsubata@gmail.com.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

In Remembrance

Our community extends its heartfelt condolences to a longtime West Lanham Hills family on the passing of **Jai Pinuiney Mundit** in November. Jai grew up in our neighborhood and is remembered as a kind young man. His mother remains a valued and generous member of our community. We join together in offering our sympathy and support to the Mundit family during this difficult time.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By: Michael Chodos, WLHCA President

As we move through winter, I want to emphasize the importance of staying safe, informed, and supportive of one another. West Lanham Hills is a diverse and caring community, and during times of uncertainty, how we show up for our neighbors matters.

You may have heard reports of immigration enforcement (ICE) activity in the broader region, which can understandably cause concern. **Everyone in the United States—regardless of immigration status—has basic constitutional rights**, including the right to **remain silent**, the right to **refuse to open your door without a judicial warrant signed by a judge**, and the right to **speak with a lawyer before answering questions or signing anything**. You may ask officers to show or slide a warrant under the door before opening it. Families may also find it helpful to create a safety plan, memorize important contacts, and ensure trusted individuals know where key documents are kept. "Know Your Rights" resources are available here: <https://www.aclu.org/know-your-rights/immigrants-rights>.

As neighbors, we can support one another by sharing accurate information, avoiding rumors, and checking in on those who may feel anxious or vulnerable. I'm grateful for the compassion in our community, and I'm confident that by staying informed and standing together, we will continue to look out for one another.

Additional Information Available at:

Website: www.westlanhamhills.com | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/westlanhamhillsmid

Email: westlanhamnews@gmail.com