

# WEST LANHAM HILLS CITIZEN

July-August 2020 Next Meeting: Wed. Aug.5, 2020 at 7:30 PM At Park (Outdoors, wear mask)

Monday: Yard Waste Pick Up | Thursday: Recycling & Trash Pick Up |

## President's Corner: Lan Tsubata

I hope that you are doing well during this COVID-19 shutdown. As you may know, a number of our residents have been infected and are recovering, thanks in part to the kind support of neighbors.

In fact, during this difficult time, we have seen how pulling together as a community is vital. Here are a few things that have been going on, that you may or may not know about:

Wanda Brooks reports: "Every Monday since April 6th, prepared bags of meals have been delivered to 48 families in West Lanham Hills, provided by the World Central Kitchen through a partnership arranged by Council Member Dannielle Glaros. We were fortunate to have been selected for this opportunity. To top it off, The Pancake House donated 120 breakfasts that were distributed as well. Thanks to Socrates Yokamotas for his generosity!"

Wanda has headed this, along with Greg and Ina McNair doing the pick-up, and deliveries by Kay Rager, Juana Gonzalez, Fulvia Guerra, Michael Driggers, Andy and Deb Arnold, Ann and Rick Chilcoat, Kate and Kazuo Tsubata, Mie Smith, DoJoon Lee, Seiji Lee and others..

Frozen meals have been delivered to senior citizens, also through Council member Danielle Glaros's office. If you are 60 or older, you can register for this at <https://bit.ly/D3Meals>

Neighbors have also been helping each other out personally. Caitlyn DaBolt helped the Tsubatas get needed supplies when they were quarantined with COVID 19, and others brought food. Many have been praying for those who are sick also.

School supplies will be distributed again this year to families who register, a project of the West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association. For a number of years, the association has worked to equip all school-age students with the basic supplies to do their studies. Whether students have to study at home, or in a classroom, the notebooks, paper, pens and pencils will help. To register, please fill out the form included with this newsletter and mail it or drop it off by hand.

Even during the shutdown, the MNC-PPC crews have been working hard to tear down the old playground structures and install brand new equipment, as well as transforming the little-used tennis court into a Futsal (soccer) mini-field. Both areas are still closed, due to COVID regulations. We will announce the official opening, as soon as we have that information.



Top: Freda Gastrock's Birthday  
Center: 2020 Grads Parade  
Right: Family Pancake House donates  
120 breakfasts  
Bottom: Food delivery volunteers



**Back to School Registration deadline: Thursday, July 20 (drop off to 7718 Frederick Road) Back to School Supply distribution: Thursday, August 20 from 5-7 p.m.**

**Food Bank Distribution Opportunity**

Centro Cristiano Vida Nueva, 8508 Adelphi Road Adelphi, MD 20784. Rosa Barboza, 240-705-3179

**An Unforgettable Graduation!**

In true West Lanham Hills fashion, the entire community joined forces to celebrate Graduation 2020. Due to social distancing and school shutdowns, many grads were unable to attend any ceremony, so we created it here. Some 25 graduates and their families gathered at the park, wearing masks as well as their caps and gowns or beautiful outfits. President Lan Tsubata called out each one's name, and presented them with gift bags and congratulatory cards.

Grads and their families got into their vehicles, and our Community police officers, Sgt. Chabla and Officer Jones, joined the procession. A van, topped with a "graduation cap" led the parade, and speakers played "Pomp and Circumstance." Beeping cars followed. Grads waved from open sunroofs, or out of the windows, as neighbors cheered them. At the top of Emerson Road, the Chilcoat family stopped the parade to deliver gifts to the graduates! Other neighbors banged pots and pans, blew bubbles, held signs and posters, decorated their homes, or chalked messages on pavement.

We honored 11 seniors, 5 eighth graders, 4 sixth graders and 5 kindergarteners. The class of 2020 will remember always how their community celebrated their success. Photos of the graduates, and future plans (if known) are viewable on our website: [westlanhamhills.com](http://westlanhamhills.com).

**Library resuming limited operations:**

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System will gradually resume service, beginning Tuesday, July 21, with curbside delivery of books reserved online to the trunk of vehicles by previous appointment through [pgcmls.info](http://pgcmls.info), or by calling PGCMLS Ask a Librarian at (240) 455-5451. Safety and distancing procedures will be followed.

**West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association Board**

President: Lan Tsubata ([lansubata@yahoo.com](mailto:lansubata@yahoo.com))  
Vice President: Fulvia Guerra ([fulviaguerra11@gmail.com](mailto:fulviaguerra11@gmail.com))  
Secretary: Sarah Tsubata ([sarahtsubata@gmail.com](mailto:sarahtsubata@gmail.com))  
Treasurer: Mike Driggers ([driggers.michael@gmail.com](mailto:driggers.michael@gmail.com))

**Celebrating 100 Year Milestone of Freda Gastrock!**

For Mrs. Freda Gastrock, her 100<sup>th</sup> year of life was celebrated in an unusual way.

As her extended family took their places around the front lawn, Mrs. Gastrock sat surrounded by balloons and decorations. A string of vehicles, many decorated with birthday wishes, passed by, beeping. Riders, most wearing masks, waved and shouted their congratulations. A proclamation from the County Council was presented by a mask-wearing Wanda Brooks. Police Officer Felicia Jones led the parade, and offered the Centenarian the salute of the department.

Ms. Gastrock moved into West Lanham Hills as a newlywed with husband Ronald in 1940, and raised two children here, Patricia and Ronald Jr. They attended West Lanham Hills Elementary school, attended the West Lanham Hills Baptist and were happily married until Ronald Sr.'s death on December 14th, 2013. During their 73 years of marriage, they were blessed with 2 children, 6 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, 35 great-great grandchildren and 3 great-great-great grandchildren—a total of 66 descendants today! For the full story, check our website:

[www.westlanhamhills.com](http://www.westlanhamhills.com)

**Let's be Great Neighbors!**

- ♥ Overgrown bushes, weeds and trees can create danger for motorists and pedestrians both. Please trim these and/or remove dead limbs.
- ♥ Fireworks are illegal in Maryland, and the loud explosions disturb young children, pets and sensitive sleepers. If someone near you is setting off fireworks, call the police to report the incident.
- ♥ Noise control: Please keep music and vehicle noise to a minimum.
- ♥ Masks: Remember that masks help protect each other.
- ♥ If you can volunteer to help with food distribution, school supplies, newsletter delivery, etc. please contact Sarah Tsubata: 301-577-1094

**You Need to be Counted!**

Every person counts—and every person needs to be counted! Filling out the census 2020 forms is needed in order to plan for everything from schools to utilities to voting districts. Census forms are anonymous, and only used to gather data about population, and characteristics, not personal or legal information. Please fill out your form, for the future's sake!

Photos and reports are now available on our website, as well as latest announcements, food distributions, county information, events and issues: [www.westlanhamhills.com](http://www.westlanhamhills.com). Facebook users: check our page: **West Lanham Hills Neighborhood**.