

West Lanham Hills Citizen

2015

May

Next WLHA Meeting: June 3rd



A Walk to Remember

Congratulations to our neighbor, Ms. Ina McNair, for completing Avon Walk to End Breast Cancer. Ms. McNair walked a total of 39 miles to raise money for the cause, over a two-day period on May 2 and 3. Herself a survivor of a life-threatening illness a few years back, Ina was excited to join with 2,000 walkers who jointly raised some \$4.6 million to help improve access to screening, diagnosis, treatment and research in our area.

WLH Citizens' Association Meeting Notes:

On May 6, we were able to hold the annual meeting of the West Lanham Hills Citizens Association, getting exactly 25 residents to make a quorum. We held the election, and two new officers were voted in. Longtime resident, Lan Tsubata, was elected as vice president, and Sarah Tsubata was elected to the post of secretary. Sarah mentioned wanting to help the association develop using newer technology. Lan shared her hope of involving more young families and engaging many more neighbors in the activities of the community. Deanna Echanique, who also ran for Vice President, has been active in the Planning Committee, and volunteering for Community events.

President Greg McNair and Treasurer Will Nathan shared the financial situation: because of the lowered interest rates, the association is receiving less money from the funds invested in Certificates of Deposit. It was mentioned that we have depended on the passive income from interest for a long time, and that perhaps, we could look into other ways of funding community activities. A committee will do some research and report back to the community.

One thing we will do right away is accept paid ads for the newsletter. If you would like to advertise your business, or a service you can provide to neighbors, please contact Kate Tsubata (301-577-1094) or send your message to westlanhamnews@gmail.com. For \$25, you can have ¼ page ad, \$50 for ½ page, and \$100 for a full page. Neighbors can put in "classified" type ads for free.

Family Fun Day Report

SunJae and Mie Smith--and an able team of volunteers--are to be thanked for a great family fun day! A train carried families around the parking lots. Kids bounced in an inflated castle and slide. Families took a series of pictures in the photo booth. Delicious grilled burgers and hot dogs were served along with warm pupusas and fresh condiments. Skating was done in the tennis court area; Face Painting in the outdoor pavilion. Races and games took place in the small field. Information from various public agencies was available and there were free items given. Cotton candy, popcorn and drinks were served. The event ended with a dance competition, and everyone joining to clean the park. (Photos inside)

A Clean Sweep

On Saturday, May 2, residents grabbed bags, gloves and safety vests to clean up the community.

They went to the wooded areas, the park, the streets and the sidewalks.

Young mothers brought their children to pick up trash, teaching them the value of caring for our environment.

Our strong men hauled heavy items, piling them into the three large dumpsters provided by the county.

Students earned community service hours, working side by side with elders and younger kids.

After all the bags and large items were stowed in the dumpsters, the workers gathered at the Park pavilion to share pizza and sodas.

Clean up Coordinator, Michiko Campbell, reported that our costs were just \$128. Thanks to everyone who came out to make our community beautiful again!

Loss of a Good Neighbor

A longtime resident and member of the Citizens' Association, Mrs. Mary Gist, aged 87, suffered a heart attack and passed away on May 17, 2015. Mrs. Gist had cared for her son and grandson, living with her daughter, Jacqueline Kehinde of 78th Avenue. Her funeral will be held in Aliquippa, PA., and she will be buried beside her husband. We are sorry to lose this caring neighbor, and wish to extend our condolences to Ms. Kehinde and the family.

Purple Line Update:

Governor Larry Hogan has refused to go forward on the proposed Purple Line, based on projected costs, and the state transportation agency has informed the four bidding companies that no decision is likely this month. Gov. Hogan has expressed opposition to the project during his election campaign, but heavy lobbying has been done to get him to change his position.

The Purple Line, a proposed light rail system, has long been a concern to our community as it would start at the New Carrollton metro, going up Ellin Road and Rt. 410, two of the roads directly adjacent to our properties. Despite the participation and input of a number of our community members at numerous public hearings during the past few years, the planners continued to promote options that ignored the requests of existing residents and brushed aside traffic concerns.

Communities directly affected by the Purple Line—including ours—would be severely impacted by the construction. For an estimated 6 years, there would be stopped traffic on the major roads, removal of houses, and difficulties in getting to work, school and shopping. The costs to the taxpayers, as Gov. Hogan pointed out, would be some \$153 million per mile, for the 16-mile length of the above ground rail line. The total of some \$2.5 billion would result in no faster transit from New Carrollton to Bethesda, still taking about one hour. Proponents believe that the line would attract development to the corridor, but have not offered specific data on why this project would increase such development, as areas through which the line is planned are already the site of existing residential or commercial zoned areas.

If you would like to express your concerns on the Purple Line, you can reach Governor Hogan's office at governor.mail@maryland.gov.

(Written from compiled news sources by Kate Tsubata)

HELP! Need your ideas!

A group of residents are interested in making some activities that would support families, business people, and young people.

Please tell us your ideas!

Is there something you think would help our community?

- Classes? (what kind?)
- Training?
- Sports or games?
- Activities for seniors?
- Mothers group?
- Help developing business?

Send your ideas to:

westlanhamnews@gmail.com

Please Attend!

The next meeting of the West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association is Wednesday, June 3 at 8 p.m. at the Park Building.

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