

West Hills Community Association Newsletter

January / February 2023 Edition



2023 is here!!



Time to set new goals for a successful new year

2023 Annual Membership Dues

Annual WCHA membership fees are now due for the 2023. The amount is still \$25 this year, and funds support projects such as our Charitable Giving projects, hosting National Night Out in August, and other initiatives to support our community. Please send dues to: **Greater Westhills Community Association, PO Box 11531, Baltimore, MD 21229**, or you can conveniently pay online via **CASHAPP** at: **\$WHCA21229**.

Charitable Giving

There were no nominations for the Thanksgiving, nor Christmas gift cards. The WHCA Board agreed to show our appreciation for the hard work performed by the US Postal Worker and also the Baltimore City Sanitation team who provide service to the majority of our community. Each team member received a gift card for use at Weis Supermarket.

Newly Elected WHCA Board Members

Elections for the 2023 WCHA officers and board members were held during our December 2022 General meeting. Join us in welcoming Mr. Floyd Rogers, Mr. Nii Sowah and Mr. Elijah Wallace-El as the newest members of the board. We are excited about sharing ideas and partner with our new board members.

We would like to thank Ms. Dianne Keeling and Mr. Warren Smith for their years of service as board members. While both have decided to transition from the WCHA board, we look forward to their support as concerned and active neighbors who care about the community.

Free COVID-19 Tests

Once again, free COVID tests are available and every U.S. household is eligible to order four free at-home COVID-19 tests online. You can easily order your free tests online at: <https://www.covid.gov/tests> With more indoor activities in the winter months, COVID-19 positivity rates are increasing, so knowing your COVID status helps to protect ourselves and others.

Committees

The WHCA is looking for volunteers to join committees to assist initiatives such as: events, fundraising, housing & code enforcement, social media & outreach to name a few. If you can give a small amount of time each month for virtual meetings and follow up, you can help to make a huge difference in the community.

Small Business and Vendors in our Community - Directory

The WCHA is spearheading a project to build a community directory of reputable vendors and professional service providers from our community, who are licensed, insured and/or bonded, if applicable. This is a great opportunity to network with residents, and increase your client base. Many of us have home improvement projects and other needs, so finding qualified vendors in the neighborhood that we can trust helps strengthen the community. If you would like more information about being included in the directory, please email the WCHA with the subject line being WHCA VENDORS, so that we can start collecting vendor information toward this initiative.

Monthly Meetings: Questions and Topics

If you have questions or topics of interest that you would like to have discussed during our community meetings, please send your inquiries in advance to: GreaterWesthillsCommunity@Gmail.com. This allows time for your topics and questions to be reviewed, so that the WHCA Board can try to find the information to provide answers and solutions to your questions. **We also ask that you mute your line while on the zoom meetings unless you are being called on.** Background noise is distracting and takes away from the quality of our meetings.

Community Covenant

The West Hills Community is a covenant community. Our covenant is binding, enforceable and can be litigated. Residents who violate community, city/county, and state regulations (ex. dumping trash, illegal parking, poor maintenance of property, posting of illegal signs and committing dangerous crimes) are subject to fines and other penalties. Residents should have received a copy when they purchased their home. Community members whose WHCA annual membership dues are current, are eligible to receive an electronic copy of the covenant by emailing a request to the West Hills Community Association (WHCA) at: GreaterWesthillsCommunity@Gmail.com.



Community Concerns

Carjacking Incidents: There have been recent reports of carjacking incidents in our community. The best way to help prevent a carjacking is always being aware of your surroundings.

When getting into your car...

- Walk with purpose and stay alert.
- Approach your car with the keys in hand. Look around and inside the car before getting in.
- Be wary of people loitering in the area.
- Trust your instincts; if something makes you feel uneasy, get into the car quickly, lock the doors and drive away.

When getting out of your car...

- Park in well-lighted areas, near sidewalks or walkways. Avoid parking near dumpsters, woods, large vans or trucks, or anything else that limits your visibility.
- Never leave valuables in plain sight; lock your car and take the keys.
- Even if you are rushed, look around before you exit your vehicle and stay alert to your surroundings.

Community Safety Tips:

Get to Know your Neighbors

- Getting to know your neighbors provides an extra set of eyes for your property. We care about the people we know. Building a relationship with neighbors will not only create trust but also a desire to protect and look after one another.

Close Blinds and Curtains at Night: (out of sight, out of mind)

- You don't want people looking inside your property, tracking your activity, and viewing where you store your valuables! Criminals are less likely to target your property if they are not tempted by an exposed home or business.

Lock your Windows and Doors

- This may seem like a no-brainer, but believe it or not, it can easily be overlooked. Make sure your windows and doors are closed and locked securely to prevent criminals from entering.

Be Smart about your Pricey Possessions

- Having your luxuries out in plain sight can result in break-ins and theft. Place your valuables somewhere safe and out-of-sight to prevent thieves from stealing them.

Employ the Buddy System

- Criminals are more likely to go after those who are alone. Walk with a friend when you are out and about in vulnerable areas. If you're walking to and from your car at night, walk with a co-worker, friend, or family member to stay safe and appear as less of a target to criminals.

Abandoned Vehicles: Please call 311 (city and county) to report vehicles (neglected, abandoned, broken down) vehicles on public and private property. Provide address, details: such as color, make/models, tag number when possible and condition and photos are encouraged.

Callers can remain anonymous.



WHCA General Community Information

Our website: <http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Greater W Hills>

WHCA Annual Dues:

Annual membership dues are currently \$25.00 per year, per household. Membership annual dues should be mailed directly to: **Greater Westhills Community Association, PO Box 11531, Baltimore, MD 21229.** You can conveniently pay online via **CASHAPP at: \$WHCA21229**

Association Leadership 2023

President: Rod Easter
Vice-President: Gina Hall
Secretary: Cynthia Green
Treasurer: Marlene Arthur

2023 Board Members:

Gregory Green	Floyd Rogers
Steve Hinnant	Nii Sowah
Leticia Holliday	Jaqueline Thomas
Anthony Massey	Elijah Wallace-El

Monthly Community Meetings:

Third Monday of each Month at 7pm. Currently, monthly meetings are being held virtually. If you do not have the link for the monthly meetings, please contact: GreaterWesthillsCommunity@Gmail.com

Political Representation (official info will be updated when terms begin):

Baltimore City – District 41 & 44A: 100 Holliday Street, Room 553 Baltimore, MD 21202

Councilman Kristerfer Burnett; Kristerfer.Burnett@baltimorecity.gov 410-396-4818 (ofc)
Senator Jill P. Carter; Jill.Carter@senate.state.md.us; (410) 841-3697 (ofc)
Delegate Dalya Attar; Dalya.Attar@house.state.md.us, (410) 841-3268 (ofc)
Delegate Tony Bridges; Tony.Bridges@house.state.md.us (410) 841-3283 (ofc)
Delegate Sandy Rosenberg; Samuel.Rosenberg@house.state.md.us (410) 841-3297 (ofc)
Del. Roxane Prettyman (District 44A – City); roxane.prettyman@house.state.md.us (410) 841-3801 (ofc)

Baltimore County – District 44B: District Office: 754 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD 21228

Councilman Patrick/Pat Young; Email: council1@baltimorecountymd.gov (District 1) 410-887-0896 (ofc)
Margaret Stokes, Leg. Aide: MStokes@BaltimoreCountyMD.Gov 410-887-0896 (ofc) 410-887-1012 (fax)
Senator Charles E. Sydnor III charles.sydnor@senate.state.md.us (410) 841-3612 (ofc)
Del. Sheila S. Ruth; sheila.ruth@house.state.md.us (410) 841-3802 (ofc)
Del. Aletheia McCaskill; Aletheia.McCaskill@house.state.md.us Phone = TBD
Office of Community Engagement: d1outreach@baltimorecountymd.gov **Contact: Mandy Rimmell**

Baltimore County Police Information for the Westhills Community

Woodlawn Police Precinct, which is Precinct #2. Direct telephone number: 410-887-1340. The link below will provide important information related to the Woodlawn precinct:
<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/police/pc02/>

Baltimore City Police Information for the Westhills Community

Southwest District: 424 Font Hill Ave., Baltimore, MD 21229; 410-396-2488
<https://www.baltimorepolice.org/find-my-district/southwestern-district>



COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Don't wait for others, when you can report issues directly to the city via 311

Call 311 to report non-emergency issues online or on the Baltimore City 311 app. When you create a new request provide Service request ticket numbers to the WHCA email address:

GreaterWesthillsCommtestunity@Gmail.com.

This provides awareness to the WHCA board, so that we can also work with our city officials to address issues.

For emergencies, please call 911! If you see something, say something.

Baltimore City – Trash Receptacles, Collection & Dumping

The following information is found in the Baltimore City – DPW code enforcement brochure dated, July 2022. Please help your neighbors by not blocking alleys and sidewalk by removing your trash receptacle so that emergency vehicle, waste management and neighbors are able to safely access:

TRASH RECEPTACLES

IPMC 306.4 Storage Receptacle– Required. Trash, garbage, or debris can not be stored or placed out for collection except in approved storage receptacles. The owner of every occupied premises must provide a sufficient number of receptacles between days of collection.

IPMC 306.5 Storage Receptacle– Location. If, in the opinion of the Code Official, the exterior maintenance of storage receptacles is causing a nuisance or blight, the Code Official may require that, between days of collection, the receptacles be stored inside the building they serve, or in the discretion of the Code Official, within a contiguous structure.

IPMC 306.6.1.1 Storage receptacles must:

- ▶ Be made of metal or some other durable material approved by the Code Official.
- ▶ Be watertight, with tight-fitting covers and handles.
- ▶ Have a capacity of not more than 32 gallons or be a City owned trash receptacle assigned to the address for the curbside collection.

DUMPING

IPMC 306.3 No deposit on sidewalks, etc.

No trash, garbage, or debris can be deposited on any sidewalk, alley, or street, or on any public or private lot.

Fines will be enforced for anyone caught illegally dumping, and legal actions will be taken.

TRASH COLLECTION

IPMC 306.7 Placement for collection. Storage receptacles:

- ▶ Should be placed out for collection no later than 6 a.m. on the day of collection.
- ▶ Can not be placed out on any sidewalk or along an alley earlier than 6 on the evening before the day of collection.
- ▶ If placed on a sidewalk or along an alley, must be returned to the premises no later than 6 a.m. on the day after collection.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY

Please use the link and information below for more detail regarding Baltimore County services?



<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/report-problem#/>

Contact Baltimore County 311 to report problems or request a service. Call [311](tel:311), fill out the online form below or download and submit using the mobile app. To call from outside of Baltimore County, dial [410-887-0311](tel:410-887-0311). You may report lost property, abandoned vehicles, hit and runs, destruction of property and theft by [filing a police report online](#) at 311.

In case of emergency, dial 911. If you see something, say something.



Free Tax Preparation in Baltimore County

Free Tax Preparation Appointments

If you or your household made \$60,000 or less in 2022, you may qualify for free tax preparation. Free tax preparation appointments for Baltimore City and Baltimore County are now open. You can make an appointment by calling 410-234-8008 Monday – Friday from 9:00 am -2:00 pm. There may be heavy call volume so please try our online scheduling tool.





For an appt or more info, use the following link: <https://cashmd.org/free-tax-preparationresources/>

Baltimore County Trash Collection Schedule

Many of our Baltimore County residents missed the Free Curbside bulk pickup on Jan. 20th. Review the 2023 Trash Collection Schedule that the county government mailed to all county residents a few weeks ago, or download a copy for your specific home address online at:

<https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/public-works/solid-waste/collection-schedule.html#/>

Details for holiday collection updates, bulk pickups, yard waste and contact info are also in the schedule.

Type	Collection Frequency	Regular Collection Day(s)
 Trash	Weekly	Tuesday
 Recycling	Weekly	Friday
 Yard Materials	N/A	Collected with trash
 Bulk Pickup	Two Pickups Per Year	1/20/2023, 7/21/2023

