***West Hill Community Association***

 ***Newsletter -June 2019***

***-Come and Joint Us Every third Monday of the Month.***

**Community Covenant**

The Association Board voted to amend the community Covenant (conditions, restrictions and easements). An attorney is on board because all amendments must be reviewed by a legal professional to ensure that there is no contradictions to the current declarations or conflict with Federal, State, or City regulations, laws, or codes. Please note, that the Covenant is registered and enforceable.

**I-695/I-70 Triple Bridges Project**

The triple bridges at I-70 and the Beltway are potentially the state's next reconstruction project. Therefore, the Association encourages all residents to mail your comments/ concerns to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), State Highway Administration regarding the above project.

Remember, your comments are needed and beneficial. It is stated that the goal is to make traffic conditions smoother and safer for commuters. Our question is what commuters? Are they referring to the commuters from Pennsylvania, D.C. Delaware and surrounding counties etc. that work at the three largest employers (the two Social Security Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) locations near this community?

 **If this project is approved, it will destroy the West Hills Community. It will only escalate current problems. It will increase the flow of traffic which is already too heavy for a residential area; it will put our youth and seniors at risk; it will have damaging impact on the community; it will increase the current littering problems; increase the noise level which is currently a problem and allow large trucks to exit the residential area and deepen the crime rate**.

 **Is this a substitute for the RED LINE**? Is this project designed to accommodate the Federal employees that do not live in or near the West Hills Community? It appears that project will give the commuters easy access to getting/leaving their Federal jobs.

**BALTIMORE City Water Bill**

Baltimore City government servers have been infected by a ransomware virus that government officials said is spreading throughout their network. What does this mean?

It means a Double bill for June. This bill will include charges incurred from May and June usage. Call to DPW @ 410-396-5398 for more information.

**Community/Neighborhood Sweeps/Inspections**

The Association is requesting neighborhood (city/county) sweeps/inspections. The Code Compliance officers (housing authority) will visit each section of the neighborhood. Officers will ensure that maintenance standards are uniformly and equitably enforced and that all properties are maintained and occupied for use in a safe and efficient manner.

Officers will address: maintenance standards, such as debris accumulation, unclean sidewalks, overgrown conditions, **improper yard parking**, inoperative or untagged vehicles, improperly stored units, boats and RVs, fences and sheds in disrepair or other concerns.

And, all trees and shrubbery that are dangerous to life, property (including your neighbor) or that create a fire or traffic hazard must be pruned or removed to eliminate the danger or hazard.

**Illegal Going–Ons- Community Violations (Driveway** entrances)

**SECTION 327 -DRIVEWAYS AND OTHER PAVED SURFACES.**

All driveway entrances located on a public right-of-way must be constructed in accordance with the rules, regulations, and permit requirements of the Department of Transportation section- 327.2

**Surface paving, parking pads, driveways, and private roads must be paved with asphalt, brick, concrete, macadam, or stone block. All paving must be able to support the design loads for the proposed vehicular traffic. The size, layout, and arrangement of parking areas must comply with: 1) the Baltimore City Zoning Code, and 2). the rules and regulations of the City Planning Commission.**

**Dirt Bikes (Current Law)**

**It** is illegal:

● to operate a dirt bike on public or private property in Baltimore City;

* to own or possess a dirt bike, an unregistered motorcycle or a similar vehicle in Baltimore, unless it is securely locked or immobilized;
* for parents or guardians to allow a minor to operate a dirt bike or violate the law;
* for a service station or any person to sell or dispense fuel into any dirt bike or unregistered motorcycle or similar vehicle;
* Any person who violates this ordinance within the city of Baltimore is subject to a fine of not more than $1,000 for each offense or imprisonment for not more than 90 days; **Tip line Number:****443-902-4474** **or Email: dirtbiketips@baltimorepolice.org**

 Outdoor Grilling (county/city)
Maryland (statewide) has adopted the National Fire Protection Association Fire Code, NFPA 1 (2015). Md. Code Regs. 29.06.01.01 et seq. (2017) (“State Fire Prevention Code”). See also MD. CODE ANN., PUB. SAFETY § 9-1001 (2017).

* **Outdoor grilling: No hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking shall be used or kindled on any balcony, under any overhanging portion, or within 10ft of any structure. No hibachi, grill, or other similar devices used for cooking shall be stored on a balcony**.
* **Storage of flammable fuels**: Outside storage of combustible materials shall not be located within 15ft of a property line and shall not be stored beneath a building unless the building is specifically constructed for that purpose. Storage of cylinders within a residential building, including the basement or any storage area in a common basement of a multiple-family building and attached or detached garages, shall be limited to cylinders each with a maximum water capacity of 2.7 lb. and shall not exceed 5.4 lb. aggregate water capacity per each living space unit.

**Illegal Dumping (Trash)**

 To report illegal dumping in your neighborhood, call 311 or 911. Provide the address or get the license plate. ***Setting out trash in bags is not an acceptable means to contain trash****.* Illegal dumping is an arrest-able offense under the Litter Control Act. Housing will investigate the dumping and issue a $500 citation to the offenders and have DPW remove it; if it's on public property.

**Baltimore City provided a Municipal Trash Can to every residential address receiving trash collection by the City**. These durable, wheeled trash cans are equipped with attached, tight-fitting lids that have proven effective in keeping streets and alleys clean, and in deterring rodents.

Call 311 and report all illegal dumping and residents that don’t use trash container (trash cans). **If no can is at the property Notify 311 to get a Municipal Trash Can for the property.**

 City property are given replacement cans. Owners are allowed one free replacement can (or two free repairs) but must pay for subsequent replacements. Residents will not have to cover the cost of repairing/replacing cans due to normal wear and tear.

***Fireworks:***

**Enjoy the summer months, but remember that the possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handing and use of fireworks are prohibited in Baltimore City, Baltimore County and the State of Maryland. *Unless the fireworks are part of a public display which the STATE has granted a permit.***

**This include hand held or any ground-based device that creates an explosion, detonation, loud noise, launches a projectile or move along the ground under its own power (Ex. Firecracker, cheery bombs, black cats, M-80, crackling balls and smoke bombs bottle or sky rockets and spinning wheels etc)**. **Please report Violators (provide addresses\ and take pictures etc.).**

**Animal Laws (Baltimore City/County)**

**Owners are responsible for the timely removal of pet waste on public sidewalks, streets, alleys and private property**.

 ***But, owners are refusing to clean up after their dog and allowing their dog to utilize other resident’s yard, the church grounds and common areas (street, sidewalks, and alleys). Such acts are a volition of the law and a danger to human life***. And, also, it **is a violation of the law to allow dogs to bark excessively.**

You mustreport violators to by calling 311 or send the information to the Association. Also, take pictures and forward them to the Association at the listed address. It is a nuisance and maybe reported under the nuisance law. References: (City Code, 1976/83, art. 11, §41(g), art. 19, §§32(q), 145(I) (part).) (Ord. 99-548; Ord. 03-595; Ord. 11-573.).

 When off the owner’s property, all dogs and cats must be on a leash. Dogs and cats four months of age must be vaccinated against rabies; all animals must be provided shelter for protection from weather etc. plus adequate daily food and water in a clean, untippable bowls.

***Parking***

Commercial vehicles are **Not** allowed to be parked overnight within a residential community. Residents must report vehicles illegal parked. City regulations govern where and when commercial vehicles may park, stand, or stop on city streets.

***Commercial vehicles are defined as (1) all vehicles designed, maintained, and used primarily for the transportation or hauling of property, including, equipment, merchandise, parcels, earth, trash, refuse, scrap, or motor vehicles; (2) all vehicles, except passenger cars, that have commercial advertising on the exterior of the body or on equipment attached.***

 No motor vehicle or trailer may be parked, kept or stored whether or not covered on any exterior premises if it is inoperative, unregistered, or fail to display current registration tags or in a state of disassembly or disrepair or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.

Violation of this code is punishable by a fine of $500. Call 311 or 911 to report all parking violations.

##### **ADVERTISING CIRCULARS**

Originally passed in 2006, Baltimore City has a prohibition against placing unsolicited advertisements on private property, including homes and vehicles. Anything considered an advertisement is banned. The law states as follows: An advertising circular is any printed or written circular, notice, or other item the predominate purpose of which is (1) to advertise one or more products, services, or other items for sale, lease, or trade; (2) to direct attention to one or more businesses, commodities, services, events, or other activities for which a fee is charged or solicited; or (3) to otherwise promote an activity of a business or commercial nature. Penalties: (a) Any person who violates a provision of this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to a fine of not more than $500 for each offense

Exterior S**ANITATION**

**City code states that all lots and exterior premises (abutting sidewalks, gutter, alleys, grass, trees or shrubs and weeds) must be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. Property exterior must be free of grass, weeds or plant growth of excess 8 inches.**

It is unlawful to blow yard waste which includes vegetation matter that is the byproduct of lawn care and gardening activities, **such as grass clippings, plants and weeds on the sidewalks, street and storm drain etc.**

 **No trash, garbage or debris may be deposited on any sidewalk, alley or street or on any public or private lot. Residents must not leave their trash cans in the alley.**

**Emergency Readiness**

 Based on recently weather abnormalities (flooding, severe storms, tornadoes and extreme rains), residents should be prepared for unique dangers and take precautions. Don’t take any things for granted. We can’t prevent natural disasters but being prepared can help you state safe and reduce the aftermath challenges. Baltimore Local authorities will provide instructions via: TV or radio station. Resident may want to sign up for BMORE ALERT. Sign up for emergency notification at [**https://emergency.baltimorecity.gov/bmore-alert**](https://emergency.baltimorecity.gov/bmore-alert) **or theMOEM website at** [**https://emergency.baltimorecity.gov/**](https://emergency.baltimorecity.gov/) **or contact Balto Office of Emergency Management @ (410)396-6188.**

 The starting phase includes: 1) Get a kit, 2) Make a plan 3) Be informed and 4) Get involved. The kit should include: Water (one gallon per person per day for drinking/sanitation

* 1. Food ( for 3 days a supply of non-perishable)
	2. Battery powered radio and extra batteries
	3. Flashlight and extra batteries
	4. First aid kit
	5. Filter mask (to help filter the air
	6. Moist towelettes
	7. Wrench or pliers (to turn off utilities)
	8. Manual can opener (if kit contains canned food)
	9. Plastic sheeting and duct tape ( to shelter-in-place)
	10. Garbage bags & plastic ties (for personal sanitation)
	11. Family Needs (medication, infant formula, diapers/important documents.

Association Information

 **Mailing Address**

West Hills Community Association

 Post Office Box 11531

Baltimore, Maryland 21229

**EMAIL Address**

greaterwesthillscommuniity@gmail.com

**Meeting Location**

St. William of York Church

600 Cooks Lane

Baltimore, MD 21229

Every 3rd Monday of the Month (@ 7:00 p.m.

**Website**

<http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Greater_W_Hills>

**Association Officers**

Association Officers Board Members

 President: Warren Smith Steven Hinnant

VP: Open Gina Martin-Hall

Secretary: Cynthia Green Kwabena Onyango

Treasurer: Marlene Arthur Dianne Kneeling

 Andrea Samuels

# **What You Can Do to Make Your Community Healthy, Beautiful and Safe:**

Be a vigilant community citizen (neighbor watch);

Be a team member;

Speak up and speak out to help your community;

Report all and any suspicious activity and unkempt properties;

**EVERYONE needs to do their part; the Association team cannot do it all;**

 **You (residents) must get involved and help.**