**West Hills Community Association (WHCA) Newsletter –September 2019**

 **Meeting Schedule**

The West Hills Community Association meetings are held every 3rd Monday of the month @ the St William of York Church (600 Cooks Lane) @ 7:00 p.m..

**Real Resolutions**

The focus of the West Hills Community Association is to strengthen and engage community members as partners, creators of plans and help implement comprehensive approaches to community stabilization.

The Association is working toward changes that produce measurable improvements. You “the resident” are the key players in the West Hills community stabilization. Come and help make a difference. Use your voice and become part of the decision-making process for what your community should be or look like

 Community solidarity and collective positive actions make visions become actualities. We want real resolutions and approaches to make the West Hills Community safe, clean and prosperous. ● First, residents must begin by honoring and respecting the laws, regulations and state/city codes;

 ● Secondly, respecting the rights, differences and dignity of others;

 ● Third, show honesty and integrity in dealing with problems with all members of the community.

 **Having and Showing Dignity, Respect & Pride**

1) Being a responsible pet owner comes with certain responsibilities. When you walk your dog(s) you should be carrying a plastic bag to clean up after your pet.

2) Pet feces is a major contributor to rodents in our community; they feed on it. Your neighbor’s yard, the church grounds, public pathways (sidewalks or streets) should not be used as a Dog Park.

3) Not everyone is a dog or cat lover and if you are seen violating the city / county ordinance you will be fined. Baltimore County Article 12 and Baltimore City Code HE 10-313.

4) **Respectable residents are people who maintain the exterior of the house and lawn to the same level as the rest of the neighborhood.**

**5) Show pride and don’t let your house be the one on the street that drags down the value of the other homes. If you can’t mow your own lawn, hire a neighbor or lawn service to mow the lawn. Basic exterior maintenance tips include: cleaning the curb, not allowing the lawn service to blow cutting into street or in front your neighbor house/curb*. It is a city/county violation. Resident report the violator @311 or contact the Community Association. Please get contractor license plate number and the contractor name/number when possible and the resident address*.**

**6) All yard clippings /waste should be placed in plastic bags (preferably clear or labeled bags). Put your yard waste out on your trash collection day. It is limited to 5 bags.**

**7) Please do not clog the storm drains or public right of ways (sidewalks /streets) with grass clippings and yard waste. ALL trash should be removed from your yard before your grass is cut.**

**8) Paint exterior structure/windows frames, etc, that are not in compliance with the Covenant, city/county codes.**

**9) Home owners should make sure that trees, shrubs, and other elements don’t creep into their neighbor’s yard. This includes tree limbs, spreading shrubs, and weeds.**

**10) Residents must obey noise ordinance laws. Residents must report violators. Call or visit your local police department to file a complaint against your neighbor if you feel that she/he has broken a law, such as not adhering to laws on noise levels. Provide information about the incident to the police, going into details to help police officers determine whether they should pursue the issue.**

**11) *Residents your contractor must respect your neighbor property. Every effort should be made ensure that they are not trespassing and clean up any trash, dust etc. on the neighbor property. Home owner can file a complaint if the resident fail to respect your property or inform the contractor to remove all trash etc. Also, you should take pictures of the area (s).***

**12) The owner of land with trees may be if damage or injury is caused to a motorist or pedestrian by a tree encroaching onto the highway from private land.**

**13) *Dying Clothes Outside* -Gas/electric dryers are the norm; however, it appears resident is hanging out laundry all over the fence in their yard and over the railing etc. to dry. It is a nuisance and a violation.**

### *Trash*

**All trash/ waste should be placed trash receptacles provided by the City Department of Public Work. Again, trash should not be left in the alley, street or vacant unit yards in the community. Residents should deposit items to be recycled in the appropriately designated recycle receptacles.  Residents are expected to dispose of trash at least once per week.**

**If a recycling bin is full residents are required to take recycling to the dumpster areas.  Recycling/trash should not be left next to any bin that is too full.  A resident who does not properly dispose of trash and or recycling will be reported to the appropriate agency. All residents and residents’ guests are expected to comply with the codes/rules/regulations set forth regarding the above actions. Failure to comply, the city will impose fine for all violations.**

 ***Ignoring Parking Laws***

Again, commercial vehicles are **NOT** allowed to be parked within a residential community. You must report vehicles illegal parked. City regulations govern where and when commercial vehicles may park, stand, or stop on city streets. Violation of this code is punishable by a fine of $500. Call 311 or 911 to report all parking violations. ***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.***

**Driveway Parking**

**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.**

**Neighborhood Sweeps/Inspections**

 The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) completed its first inspection for 2019. The DHCD reportedly issued seventeen citations as a result of their inspection***. Additional inspections will be conducted in the following months***. These inspections are required to assure that West Hills is a safe and attractive community.  DHCD will conduct follow-up inspections to ensure compliance.

**Clean UP –Make Change**

**It is the responsibility of community members to keep the West Hills Community safe and free of blight (neglect, trash and vacant homes). Blight impacts the entire community. It leads to an increase in crime, as well as a negative impact on property values. YOU (residents) must help clean up you’re the neighborhood. Exterior appearances are just as important as interior beauty. Residents would do well to keep their streets clean and presentable. Renters/landlords must maintain the properties blight and crime-free.**

**Again, the Community Association requested that The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD conduct targeted code enforcement. The Association is encouraging people to clean up their yards and their homes**.

**Disruption in the Community (FIREWORKS)**

A few residents during 4th of July behave in a manner that disturbed the peace and good order of the community. The use of fireworks is illegal and prohibited in the City of Baltimore and Baltimore County. 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 the violators by providing an address. Repeated violations will result in escalated fines.

### *Open Positions*

 The Associations needs to fill open positions immediately. Residents cannot afford to ignore this request. To apply for an open position, you must be a dues- paying member. Please submit your information to the address below ASAP. Vacancies are filled using the standard formal process in order to give all parties fairness.

1. **The Association mailing address**

Greater West Hills Community Association

Post Office Box 11631

Baltimore, Maryland 21229

1. **Association Leadership 2019**

President: Mr. Warren Smith,

Secretary: Mrs. Cynthia Green

Treasurer: Mrs. Marlene Arthur

 **4) Board Members**:

Mrs. Gina Martin-Hall, Mr. Rod Easter. Mr. Gregory Green, Mrs. Jacqueline Thomas

 Ms. Dianne Keeling, Mr. Guinea Onyango, Mr. Steve Hinnant

***If You See******Something, Say Something***

***I***t is important to report suspicious activity to the state and local law enforcement because it helps to stop crime. Do your part and be safe.