



News & Views

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City Citations

After the presentation of the Housing Committee Report at the January Board Meeting, a lively discussion ensued about citations issued to individual neighbors by Baltimore City. Most frequently, these citations are issued by Housing Inspectors although other city agencies [DPW, Police] also issue citations. A citation represents the issuer's determination that some Code Violation exists that must be corrected – unlicensed or commercial vehicle on the property, building deterioration, building repair/renovation without a permit, overgrown weeds, trash accumulations, etc.



Violations are determined either by the direct observation of the individual Inspector or may begin with a '311' complaint from a near or not-so-near neighbor: members of the Housing Committee and other neighbors concerned about our community routinely drive through Windsor Hills and make '311' reports about conditions that they have observed.

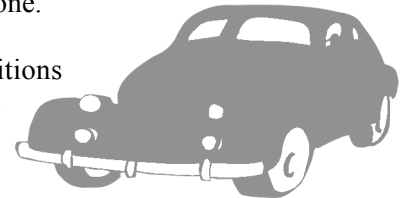
The discussion at this meeting was primarily about unlicensed vehicles -- some research developed the following information quoted from the Neighborhoods Housing Code Enforcement Handbook [available on-line at the Baltimore Housing website at the bottom of the

Housing Code Enforcement Page

<http://www.baltimorehousing.org/index/inspections.asp>]:

- No Motor Vehicle may be parked, kept, or stored on any premises if:
 - It is inoperative, unregistered, or fails to display current registration tags.
 - It is in a state of disassembly or disrepair.
 - Motor vehicles must be parked on a dustless surface. The vehicle may not be parked on grass, dirt, or crushed stone.

There are many conditions including house and yard maintenance, cleanliness and storage of materials that can trigger the issuance



of a citation. Be an informed neighbor -- go to the Baltimore Housing website and look at/download a copy of the Neighborhoods Housing Code Enforcement Handbook -- look carefully at your own property before the inspector does!

Please remember that any citation issued reflects the issuer's on-site evaluation – while the information above comes directly from a Baltimore City publication, the inspector who issues a citation is the 'on-site judge'. If you receive a citation and do not agree with the condition cited, you may request a hearing according to the instructions on the back of the citation. Whatever the outcome, the fact that you received a citation is an indication that your adherence to some expectation of the City Code is in question.

You may think that The Baltimore Housing Code is less than perfect, but the objective that it has is one that we can all *live* with – to keep Windsor Hills a more attractive and desirable place in which to *live*. The general appearance and upkeep of our neighborhood is the collective responsibility of each one of us

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING

February 26, 2007

WINDSOR HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #87

Meetings begin promptly at 7 PM

"Bring yourself and bring a neighbor"

All are welcome!

The one function TV news performs very well is that when there is no news we give it to you with the same emphasis as if there were.

David Brinkley

Bob Straub and Judy Bushong

CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ARTICLE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TWO BOARD MEETINGS

November 26, 2006

Bob Lagas presented the Treasurer's report. Net income from the Fall Festival was \$616.64. Will Backstrom suggested we look for greater support from St. Ambrose for neighbors.

Kara introduced Officer Scott and a Community Services representative from NW District Police. Marsha Hairston advised of house and car windows being broken on Duvall and asked if a reward for information could be set up through Crime Stoppers. The officers said the area will be identified for increased Police attention and that neighbors should ask for/receive a "309" report with an ID number.

Nominating Committee Bob Lagas presented the slate of Officers and Board members as prepared by the Nominating Committee, in Addison Pinkney's absence. Doug Able questioned the nominating process, as he was to be on the Committee but was not included in any of the meetings. A motion passed to suspend the rules on elections for 2 months to further address this issue. The Nominating Committee will reconvene and review the nominees for an election in January. Dorothy King, Judith Kitz, Doug Able, Judy Bushong, and David Rives will participate on a committee to review the by-laws.

Windsor Mill Road: Kevin Zucker brought up the problems with the traffic on Windsor Mill Road. David Carroll described WHN communications with Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and the WHN request for a presentation by the Traffic Department.

Education: Carmen Holmes announced that the School needs gently used bookshelves, chairs, area rugs, and lamps for the Ben Carson Reading Room. The library will be renamed in honor of Dorothy Thomas, now 90 years old, who was a teacher at the school. A motion passed with WHN matching up to \$250 of donations from neighbors for the Reading Room.

Other items: Kevin Zucker reported on problems with City oak trees. He suggested neighbors can help by removing moss and vines and then mulching around the trees. Wes Hairston suggested that we keep calling 311 about the used car sales taking place around the neighborhood.

JANUARY 22, 2007

Guest speakers were Jamie MacDonald from the Dept. of Transportation and Officers Scott and Dixon from NW District Police [Major Tiedemann did not attend].

Ray outlined incidents that he had identified in an earlier e-mail to neighbors. Officers Scott and Dixon said patrols and plain-clothes officers had been increased in the Fairview/Bonner area due to the amount of drug activity. Carolyn Jennings asked BCPD to bring us a plan as to how we can get rid of drug traffic in this area; Wes Hairston

expressed concerns about police response and attention in our neighborhood. Elaine Pinkney complimented the Police on their response to a call she made concerning gunshots on January 2nd. Doug Able asked about and was told that BCPD cannot recommend private security companies. Officer Dixon recommended Citizens On Patrol as a good crime deterrent.

Jamie McDonald, the DOT Project Manager for the Duvall Avenue rehabilitation [from Queen Anne to Elsinore], said the project will be advertised in February, with plans to begin work in June and complete the job in 9 months. A community meeting will be held in May before work starts. He reviewed the scope of the job, including road reconstruction, widening and resurfacing, moving gas lines, rebuilding sidewalks and curbs, storm drain improvements, and pedestrian lighting; Duvall will be widened to 24 feet between Queen Anne and Loudon.

Bob Lagas presented the 12-31-06 Treasurer's report and 2007 budget and explained that the money that had been in the Enterprise Fund was moved to the St. Ambrose Promissory Note. The establishment of the account with St. Ambrose supports our goals as a 501c(3) organization. A motion passed to accept the 2007 Budget as presented. WHN will implement IRS regulation changes by acknowledging gifts and donations using a postcard for a receipt.

Nominating Committee: Addison Pinkney presented the Nominating Committee recommendations for Officers and Board Members for 2007. A motion passed to accept the slate as presented.

Housing: David Carroll said the biggest problem continues to be illegally parked vehicles [we still use 311 to deal with this] and the traffic problems and accidents on Windsor Mill Road. Judy Bushong asked, and David agreed, that meetings of the Housing Committee would resume. David described the activities of the Committee and the Baltimore City Housing Code enforcement process.

Education: Carmen Holmes thanked WHN for the generous donation toward the Reading Room. Funds have become available for the "greening" of the area behind the school to eliminate most of the concrete. Volunteers are needed to participate in the planning.

Website: Ray provided updates about the website. Changes will be made in two phases, with the first being to maintain the basic look and add the newsletter and other information to the site, and then a later phase to do more extensive modifications.

Other items: Mildred Forehand proposed that we find a way to help our senior neighbors so that they can maintain and stay in their homes. Judy Bushong said the membership drawing for a \$100 Prize announced at the October Festival would be at the February meeting

MEMBERSHIPS - THANK YOU!

2006

Joyce Barrett (individual); Martin & Jane Dyer (contributing); Meg Meyer & Arthur Boyd (Life).

2007

Individual: Richard Banks, Lucille Bell, John Coe, Sarah Cowie, Ruby Lee Green, Bertha Hall, Judith Kitz, Margaret Lord, Peggy Martin, Gwendolyn McRae, Bertha Pinder, Gladys Roberts, Kevin Zucker.

Family: Leonard & Irene Crawford, Judith McIntosh, the Allen's, Joyce Barrett, Judy Bushong, David & Teri Hollander, Delores Hospedales, Anthony Jones, Eva Jones, Elise Kreiss, Dorlisa Mullen-Mitchell, Marvin & Cathryn Smith, Geneva Sparks, Kara & Price Tyson, Jean Williams.

Contributing: Will Backstrom & Tracy Lambros, John & Veryl Harvey, Tommy & Eva Ivic, Delores Kerr, Ray & Vanessa, Addison & Elaine Pinkney, Sr. M.F. Tunis, Jimmy & Joan-Proctor Young.

2007 Officers & Board Members

Windsor Hills Neighbors elected the following Officers and Board Members for 2007:

President	Kara Brooks-Tyson
First Vice President	Elaine Pinkney
Second Vice President	Position Vacant
Corresponding Secretary	Marsha Hairston
Recording Secretary	Barbara Lagas
Treasurer	Bob Lagas

Board Members

Bertha Pinder	Carmen Holmes
Sister M.F. Tunis	Bertha Hall
Doug Able	John Coe
Mildred Forehand	Cindy Eyler
Addison Pinkney	Dorothy King
Claude Patterson	Christina Able
David Carroll	Wes Hairston
John Sappington	Judy Bushong
Rev. Charlotte Clemons	Carolyn Jennings
Dorothy Hill	Theresa Wingfield
Robert Straub	Ray M
Charles Covington	

NEWS OF NEIGHBORS

✦Condolences to Hazel Rouson's family on her recent death. Hazel was a longtime member of the Windsor Hills community.

✦Condolences to Gladys Roberts and her family on the passing of her son.

✦Bertha Pinder of Monticello Road and President of the Woman's Civic League, Inc. was honored by The Fullwood Foundation with their Value Hour Award in recognition of Bertha's contribution to improving the quality of life for others.

Gwynns Falls Trail Happenings

- ➔February 15th Stargazing Winans Meadow T2 Trailhead -- 4500 Franklinton Road at 6:30 PM. Ages 6 & up. \$3
- ➔ February 17th -- Campfire Hike starts at 6 PM at the T3 Trailhead at 4300 Windsor Mills Road. Ages 6 & up. \$5
- ➔ Afternoon Hikes -- most Saturdays at 2 PM. Winans Meadow T2 Trailhead 4500 Franklinton Road. Ages 7 & up. \$1
- ➔ Trail Sweep -- Saturdays at 10 AM. Winter is an excellent time to clean-up what doesn't belong. Different sections of the Trail will be cleaned. Ages 10 & up.

More information -- email nate.payer@baltimorecity.gov or call 410.396.0440.



Conservation Trail Potluck

The Windsor Hills Conservation Trail committee will meet on Sunday, March 4th at 5:30 PM for a potluck and discussion of this year's plan. The agenda: 1) partnering with Windsor Hills Elementary School and orienting local youth to our "wilderness" trail; 2) increasing general usage of the trail; 3) trail maintenance needs; 4) the kudzu-eradication project. Anyone who would like to join in this committee's work and camaraderie should please call Elaine Yamada _____. Want to see what we're about? Come and bring a friend. 5:30-8:30 p.m. RSVP's appreciated.

Announcements

Bulk Trash -- the first trailers for 2007 are scheduled as follows:

- ◆ Saturday February 10th -- 4400 block Clifton Road -- alongside Centennial Garden.
- ◆ Saturday April 7th in the 2800 block of Lyndhurst Ave. next to the lot.

FREE Gas dryer [Kenmore] to a good home. You provide the muscle to move it and the vehicle to haul it. Call _____.

Shiloh AME Church has started an Exercise program on Monday evenings at 6:30 pm --all are welcome to participate.

