

WOODBIDGE VALLEY IMPROVEMENT AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING WOODBIDGE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 2012

1. WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 8:06 p.m. by President Tina Brown, who thanked everyone for attending. Each board member in attendance was asked to stand and identify themselves to the group.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF APRIL 26, 2011

The minutes of last year's meeting were presented for review by Ms. Brown. MSP Bernie Reinckens/Deborah Ball.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

Dorothy Habersham presented the treasurer's report. There are currently 441 paid members in the association, with a total of 850 homes in the community at large. The largest expenses this year are for island maintenance, board liability insurance, and printing expense for the new community directory. The ending membership balance as of April 25, 2012 is \$8,869.79. Muriel Brown requested that the report be moved for audit, seconded by James Rhodes.

4. PRECINCT 2 REPORT

Officer Alisha Helphenstein of the Woodlawn Precinct Community Outreach Team reported that Precinct 2 got a new captain in December. His name is Captain Andre Davis. His initiative for the year is to lower crime statistics in the Woodlawn area. One of the biggest problems at the beginning of the year was vehicle thefts. People leave the keys in their car with the engine running, and many cars were stolen during this process. Even if you lock the car and leave the engine running, it is illegal and a police citation can be issued. Newer vehicles that have the push button start feature which requires the key fob to be in the driver's possession can also be stolen and moved without the key fob. No such incidents have been reported in Woodbridge Valley, but in Woodlawn as a whole it has been a problem. On April 28, 2012 there is a DEA National Take Back Initiative scheduled at Precinct 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Old prescription drugs may be turned in and safely disposed of. On May 19, 2012 a pancake breakfast will be held from 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the Holy Family Church in Randallstown. This is a benefit for Explorer Post 9902 at the Woodlawn Precinct. The explorers all have aspirations to become police officers or FBI agents, or somehow serve in law enforcement. This event will assist them in raising funds so they can attend a week long conference in Colorado. The only major crime in Woodbridge Valley was in the beginning of the year where there was an armed robbery on Lincoln Woods Drive. Another problem for the precinct is vacant homes. The police department is compiling a list of vacant homes that is available to all officers in their patrol cars. Criminals are breaking into these homes and cutting out all the available copper in the residence to be sold for scrap. Police officers are randomly stopping and checking vacant homes for any problems. If you are aware of a house that is vacant, please advise Officer Helphenstein of the address.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

Tony Baysmore, Special Assistant to the County Executive

County Executive Kevin Kamenetz has been in office for two years. In his first six months, he consolidated six agencies into three in Baltimore County. He eliminated 185 vacant positions, which saved the county \$8 million dollars. He has also implemented an early retirement incentive program for county employees, which saved the county \$21 million dollars, without laying anyone off or furloughing employees. Mr. Kamenetz has tried to improve efficiency and do more in county government with computers instead of people. Mr. Kamenetz has renegotiated contracts with most of the major unions. He just submitted a budget to the county council in which core services have been maintained, funding has been maintained for the education system, and the police and fire departments have been funded without raising property or income taxes. Mr. Kamenetz strives to manage county government by doing more with less in the challenging economy we now have. On the executive level, Mr. Kamenetz has created a constituent service team, which Mr. Baysmore serves on. If there are constituent concerns, please contact Mr. Baysmore for assistance. During the last two weeks, Mr. Kamenetz has been running a campaign to encourage people to clean up trash. He has also been encouraging businesses not to litter with the many signs that are posted at intersections. Code enforcement will be aggressively going after people/businesses who are placing multiple signs that visually clutter intersections and then become trash. Security Boulevard and Lord Baltimore Street have been targeted by the County Executive for economic revitalization. Any businesses that move into those areas are eligible for special tax incentives.

Senator Delores G. Kelley

There will be bill signing events in May. Major life insurers throughout the country have been for many years going to a record that the Social Security Administration maintains called the Master Death File. They continually research this file to determine if the people who purchased annuities from them, and who get annuity checks from them every month, have passed away. They do not wait for a notification from next of kin, but go ahead and stop the checks right away. However, the same insurers do not research the same information that would benefit life insurance beneficiaries when an insured individual who has paid premiums for many years has died, and when there is a beneficiary who is entitled to the proceeds of the life insurance policy. **SB77** will force all insurers that do business in Maryland to research the same Master Death File to determine if they owe an insured the payout settlement on a life insurance policy. The bill requires that insurers not only look for, but also make a good faith effort to find the beneficiary of an insurance policy, beginning next year. The *Wall Street Journal* verifies that MetLife has settled with the attorneys general on this issue in several states, where the company has retained billions of dollars in some cases for 10, 20 and 30 years since the insured person died. If no one comes forward to claim the benefit, the insurance companies retain the money. Senator Kelley also discussed two different plans for selecting members of the Baltimore County School Board. A very complicated Bill, this piece of legislation never got to the Senate floor and died in the House. It is likely this Bill will be back next year for restructuring.

Speaker Pro Tem Adrienne A. Jones

Delegate Jones serves on the Appropriations Committee and chairs the Capital Budget Committee. This year there was a budget impasse between the House and the Senate, with no final action on a revenue package needed to balance the budget. The governor has called a special session for legislators to reconvene to address the complete budget package beginning the week of May 14, 2012. The property tax rate did not increase this year. The State Debt Commission met last week and kept the rate at the same level. Funding highlights for the southwest areas of the county included \$65,000 for a roof replacement at the Reisterstown library; \$700,000 for renovations and expansion of the ER at Northwest Hospital Center to address the needs of geriatric patients; \$2.7 million for construction of an educational center at Owings Mills Community College; \$1 million for building renovation at the Community College of Baltimore County, Catonsville; \$33.2 million for a UMBC performing arts facility; \$1 million for UMBC campus traffic and safety circulation improvement.

Delegate Shirley Nathan-Pulliam

Delegate Nathan-Pulliam is away at this time. In her absence, Roxanne Umphery spoke to the group as her representative. Highlights of the session may be referenced in the handout provided. If there are any questions or concerns, constituents are encouraged to access Shirley Nathan-Pulliam's website at www.shirleynathan-pulliam.com.

Delegate Emmett C. Burns

Delegate Burns was not available to attend the meeting.

Councilman Tom Quirk

Councilman Quirk took a moment to thank and acknowledge the members of the community association board for their work and dedication to the community. The old Toys 'R Us building will be housing a new international food store soon. The old SuperFresh building at Security Mall will soon be the new home to another grocery store. The company is close to signing the lease, and after that is accomplished, the name of the store will be announced. The law has been changed to require about 25% less parking at Security Square Mall, which will free up enough space to perhaps place an office building or two in that area. This will hopefully spur revitalization in the area in the future. Mr. Quirk congratulated the individuals in Woodbridge Valley that worked diligently to obtain the necessary signatures for traffic calming on Pleasant Valley and King William Drives. Hopefully, the same process will be completed on Johnnycake Road. Councilman Quirk is very optimistic about our school system under the direction of Dallas Dance. On the Baltimore County website, it is now possible to view any new regulations that affect the community. A lot is being done to preserve open space in the county, making sure there are pocket parks and green space for everyone's enjoyment and recreation.

6. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Welcome

Bernie Reinckens reported that he has welcomed 18 new neighbors to our community, and two more will be visited in the coming days. An information packet about the community is given to each new family. If you know of a new neighbor on your street, please call Bernie or Nicole Smoot so they can stop by and pay them a visit.

b) Island Maintenance

Ms. Brown reports that the same company that was used last year will continue to care for the islands this year. They will be asked to take care of the dandelions.

c) Lamplighter

Myles Carpeneto spoke to the group about the Lamplighter. It is published three or four times a year. If you have any information or articles of interest to the community, they are welcome and may be sent to Myles via the community website.

d) Membership

Ms. Brown and Ms. Habersham generally handle the membership duties. A special thank you to the area representatives and block captains who are our eyes and ears, and faithfully deliver the Lamplighters and fliers door to door.

e) Social Activities

Sharon Johnson is in charge of organizing social activities for the association. Activities are planned that may provide a service or be of interest to residents of all ages, not just children. Between April of 2011 and March of 2012, ten activities were planned. The Easter Egg Hunt was April 23, the spring community yard sale was on June 5, outdoor movie night at the pool was held on August 24. In the summer, the association covered the admission of teens for a party at the pool, five dumpsters were delivered on September 17 for dumpster day, a shred day was scheduled on October 1 for paid members, and there was the first fall community yard sale on October 8. In December, a teen roller-skating party was attempted, with only a handful in attendance. The teens seem to like a party at the pool better than roller-skating. The Holiday Party was held on December 17 at the Old Country Buffet. On March 31, the Easter Egg Hunt was a joint event with Ellicott Mills and was very well attended. In May 2012, we are working on getting family passes to the Universoul Circus at Security Square Mall, with a maximum of four per family, which will be paid for by the association. The spring community yard sale is scheduled for June 2, summer of 2012 we will continue the admission for the teens at the pool, September will be the annual dumpster day, October will be the shred day for members, and the fall community yard sale. We are considering scheduling another adult mystery night in the fall of 2012. Sharon is looking for volunteers to assist with social activities. There is a volunteer form available if you would like to help out. If you can help for an hour or two or contribute an idea, your support is welcome; email us at social@woodbridgevalley.org. Beginning March 1, 2012, the Woodlawn Recreation Office began serving both the Edmondson/Westview community as well as the Woodlawn Recreation and Parks Council. The councils are still intact, they still serve the same communities. Registrations will be accepted at either office depending on what the council wants to do. Contact the Woodlawn office at (410) 887-1357 with any questions you may have. We are still using the One Call Now system to update the community on upcoming events and to alert you of emergency situations. Please keep your phone

numbers up to date in the directory. We are considering using social media such as Facebook and Twitter, but we recognize that not everyone has computer access so we are still printing and distributing a paper edition of the Lamplighter, as well as fliers to keep everyone informed.

f) Covenant Enforcement

Charles Springer reports that he has received a lot of calls about commercial vehicles parked in the community – that includes taxicabs, pickup trucks, etc. The exact definition of a commercial vehicle is a vehicle over 10,000 pounds; it is not permitted to be parked, other than while doing business. If it is parked on the lot, zoning takes care of it; if it's on the street, the police take care of it. But the police will only enforce the 10,000 pound limit. If someone is parking a taxicab overnight, let Mr. Springer know and he will work with you on that. Be prepared to provide the exact street address. The definition of a commercial vehicle will be posted on the community website for informational purposes.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) Community Website

Myles Carpeneto also spoke to the group about the website. The web address is www.woodbridgevalley.org. The site was established within the last six months. Tina Brown and Sharon Johnson have also been instrumental in updating and maintaining the site with upcoming events of interest to the neighborhood. There is a link to the community associations that surround Woodbridge Valley so residents may be aware of contact information or upcoming events. Everyone is encouraged to visit the website; your suggestions and feedback are appreciated!

b) Speed Humps

The traffic calming process is coming along in the area of Johnnycake Road.

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Election of Officers

Incumbent members up for election for a two year term to the Board of Directors are: Tina Brown, Myles Carpeneto, Dorothy Habersham, Rose Marie Hellmann, Sharon Johnson, Leslie Kulick, and Bernie Reinckens. Board members with one year remaining of their term are: Manya Archie, Vernise Burs, Ted King, Joy Reber, Del Reimer, Nicole Smoot, and Charles Springer. There are currently two openings on the Board for two year terms. MSP Vernise Burs/Shirley Barnes to receive the seven board members as listed.

b) Neighborhood Concerns

Ms. Brown mentioned to the group that the Woodbridge Valley Pool will be making a special offer to the community this summer – for \$375.00, a family can use the pool all summer. Ms. Brown stated that placing signs in the community is illegal in Baltimore County. Only For Sale signs are acceptable and must be placed only on the property itself. She has collected signs left by different organizations and notified them that the signs can be retrieved from her, or she will dispose of them. A resident raised a concern that warning tickets were issued on their street for vehicles that were parked facing the wrong direction on the street. This must be something new that county police are

enforcing. A suggestion was made about making the Woodbridge Valley neighborhood a "no solicitation community," and having this posted on the signs at the entrance to the community. This resident, who lives on Elkwood Court, says that even with posted no soliciting signs on his front door, contractors, religious organizations, vendors and others continue to come onto his property. Tom Quirk will check to see if it is possible to discourage this activity by making Woodbridge Valley a "no solicitation community." Ms. Brown will also follow up with Officer Helphenstein to see if solicitation can be deterred. A concern was raised about the residence located at 1505 Woodcliff Avenue. Apparently the occupants are deceased and the property is in decline. This will be referred to Mr. Springer for follow up. A question was raised about installing speed humps on Crosby Road; however, Ms. Brown stated that unfortunately Crosby Road is a main thoroughfare in the community, and is not eligible for traffic calming. Another concern raised was a neighbor who is moving household junk out into the back yard. This will also be referred to Mr. Springer.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Joy Reber, Secretary