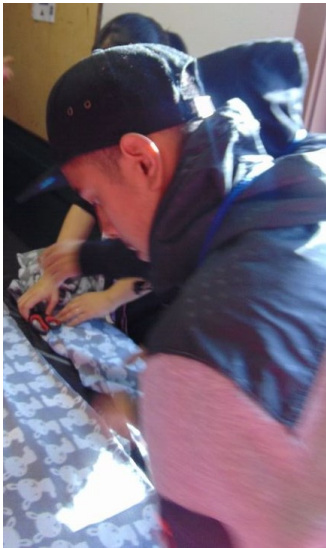


West Lanham Hills Citizen

December 2015/ January 2016

Next Meeting Wed. Jan 6, 2016 8 p.m.



Santa came to Town! Volunteers made this a Santa's Workshop to Remember!



Santa's Workshop Brings Joy to Many!

The Park Building was packed with volunteers and neighbors on Saturday, Dec. 12 for the annual Santa's Workshop.

We estimated about 200 who took photos with Santa, made unique gifts for their families, and enjoyed the refreshments.

Definitely, the stars of the event were the volunteers, some of whom came days before to help prepare, and who started loading and setting up early on the day of the event.

The volunteers helped people create warm fleece ponchos and scarves (using their math skills as they measured and calculated the size for each recipient.)

They showed them how to make simple adjustable belts. They helped them put together plastic ornaments with their own designs and messages.

This year, the families learned how to make inexpensive gift bags, with glue and some holiday paper and ribbon. They decorated bags and cloths with fabric markers, and made leather wrist bands too.

Ms. Wanda Brooks and Ms. Ina McNair showed the young people how to make individual soaps, with the scent and colors they preferred, that could be poured into molds and make a beautiful addition to the home.

One of the busiest sections was the tables where people were making cell phone holders using fabric and duct

tape. It was impressive to see the young people teaching others how to make these attractive items..

Santa was busy, talking with the youngsters and taking a photo with each one, which they could frame with origami for their tree or refrigerator.

Some volunteers helped serve the hot dogs and desserts. Others created gift bags, filled with projects that the kids could do at home.

Christmas carols filled the air as people worked to create nice gifts for others.

Santa was able to give out a large number of gifts directly to the participants, including brand new laptop bags that had been donated for the event.

The entire event was sponsored by the West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association. The organizers were the Tsubata family, helped greatly by all the great adults and youth who gave willingly of their time and expertise. A special thanks goes to our Santa, who had to take time away from many other pressing matters to come.

Merry Christmas to all! May your family be richly blessed in the coming year!

The Shed is Organized!

On Saturday, Dec. 5, a group of youth and adults emptied out the community association's shed, removing wasp nests and adding shelves, to create a better storage for those items used for our events.

Four sets of shelves were donated by the Tsubata family. The young volunteers cleaned the existing bins and the items inside were checked for possible usage. A large amount of projects left over from previous events were collected together. It was decided to distribute these at the upcoming Santa's Workshop.

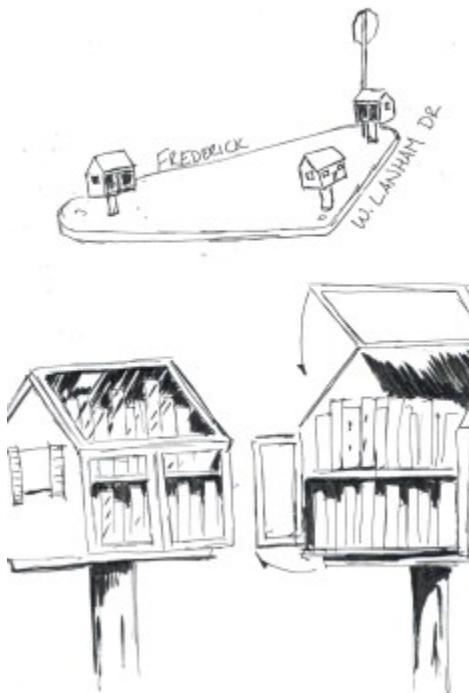
The frequently used items (paper products, cooking tools, cleaning items) were gathered and put in clear bags, in the shelf nearest the door.

Rarely used items were stored in the rear of the shed, or high up on shelves. Things that are no longer usable were given away.

Thanks to the hard work of the volunteers, most of the items that previously had to be stored elsewhere can now be centrally located, in the shed. Congratulations to the hardworking volunteers for a job well done!



LITTLE LIBRARY



Feed My Sheep

There is a local food pantry at the Landover Hills Baptist Church, 4420 73rd Avenue, Landover Hills, MD, 20784

Open: Wednesday 11 AM -1 PM , 5:30-7 PM, (times may change if needed).

Each Client will have to register, pick up food themselves and live in the community.

Feed My Sheep Pantry may be closed if weather or other events are planned: Check the website often: Website: www.lhbcmd.org Church Office: 301-577-6700

Minutes of the Meeting of the West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association :

December 2, 2015

Presiding: Greg McNair,
Board Members: Will Nathan, Lan Tsubata Lee, Sarah Tsubata

Invocation by Greg McNair

Minutes were read. Roberto Gato moved to accept the minutes; seconded by Kensei Tsubata and passed by voice vote.

The financial report was read. Michiko Campbell moved to accept the financial report as read; seconded by Roberto Gato and passed by voice vote.

Old Business:

There was discussion of when to have Greg McNair and Sarah Tsubata's names put on the bank account. It was decided on Tuesday, January 12 that this will be completed.

Roberto Gato reported about a proposed art project for the intersection of West Lanham Drive and Frederick Road, small "houses" that serve as book lending units, where neighbors can borrow and share books.

Lan Tsubata reported that volunteers are needed for the Santa's Workshop.

Will Nathan clarified the financial report questions from previous meetings.

New Business:

Some have noticed that mail is being delivered to the wrong address. To report a problem with wrong deliveries, the local post office can be contacted.

Michiko Campbell gave a report about Police Coffee Club meetup.

Motion to adjourn was made by Will Nathan. Seconded by Roberto Gato, passed by a voice vote.

Be Safe During the Holidays!

Traveling:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow, and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.

If you're out for the evening:

Turn on lights and a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home. Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes. Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

If you're shopping:


Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you. Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk. Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible. Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket. Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

If stranger comes to the door: Criminals sometime pose as couriers delivering gifts. Some people go door-to-door pretending to ask for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

Avoid stress; Increase joy!

Make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. And think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely. Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody- except criminals.

HOW TO REPORT IDENTITY THEFT

 Go to the bank and file a report

Get 2 copies, one for the police department and one for your record.

- ☎ Call 301-352-1200 (non-emergency line) of Prince Georges County Police Department
A patrol officer comes to your house and takes a crime report. The officer gives you CASE NUMBER. You need the case number to report the ID theft to all other agencies, financial institutions, utility companies (automatic debits), etc.
- ☎ Call Financial Crimes Unit of PGPD at 301-699-2940 with the police case number
The unit may not call you back until it gets your case file or has a question. Be patient.
- ☎ Call Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at 1-877-382-4357*
- ☎ Call Equifax Fraud Center at 1-800-772-9865
- ☎ CALL All YOUR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS and other companies involved and give the case number/s

Make notes for telephone calls and copies of e-mails for your record keeping!

- ✉ *when your mail is stolen you need to report it to US Postal Inspector Service at 1-877-876-2455 before you call FTC
- ✉ Be aware of scam e-mails following your ID being stolen!

West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association

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May every person and every family have a happy, healthy and holy Christmas this year, and may we all continue to receive many blessings in the coming new year. In gratitude for all you do to make this world a place of peace, of good action, and of loving kindness. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!