

West Lanham Hills Citizen

May 2016 | Annual Meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2016 8 p.m.

A Lovely Neighbor Has Passed



Our neighbor, Loretta Boggs Saunders, passed away, on April 11, after many years of fighting leukemia, at the age of 73.

Loretta moved to West Lanham Hills in the mid-1990s. She had already lost her husband, Benjamin, and had four grown children, Bruce, Robert, Elizabeth and Andrew. She had 7 great-grandchildren including Za'Marri (boy) and Ariana (girl), who she was legal guardian of, (and for some time cared for their siblings Za'Kie

(boy) and Zori'Awn (boy)). Her other great-grandchildren include Quaveon (boy), Kymonii (girl), Renaldo, Jr. (boy), Keyone (boy) and King (boy).

Loretta was a kind and sacrificial person. She worked for 35 years as office manager in the Dangerous Goods Advisory Council. She would help in community projects, such as at the food bank, or when the school supplies were being distributed. She lived a life of loving service to others.

She provided a safe and supportive home for her great-grandchildren, without any financial support from public agencies. Her wish to give them a good and happy life was more important than her own comfort; despite her own severe health difficulties, she chose to protect and do everything possible for her family. We are lucky to have had her example in our lives. May God Bless Loretta, as she blessed so many other lives.

Citizens' Association Report

Compiled by Kate Tsubata

On Wednesday, April 6, the regular monthly meeting took place at the West Lanham Hills park building at 8 p.m.

In addition to the regular business of the meeting, President Greg McNair reported that there were some issues of compliance with the by-laws in relation to the duties of the position of the Treasurer. In particular, the by-laws call for a yearly audit of the books, for two co-signers in addition to the Treasurer, to be on all accounts and for full disclosure of all financial matters to any board member and association member, upon request. Unfortunately, these requirements were not being met during the past several years.

Both the officers and the members had a number of questions about the reasons why these things were not being carried out. Requests were sent in writing to the serving Treasurer, both before and after the

April meeting, for the books and bank statements to be presented for examination. The requests were not responded to.

As a result, a decision was made to hold a Special Meeting, under the provisions of the by-laws, to discuss the issues of concern. That meeting was held on Monday, April 18, also at the Park Building.

At that meeting, 26 voting members were present. An attorney, Mr. Michael Herman, was also on hand, at the request of the Board.

The specific sections of the by-laws were read aloud. Questions were raised by the assembled members. The treasurer, Mr. Will Nathan, responded to the issues raised, explaining his reasons and interpretations of the requirements, and answering the members' questions.

After the questions and answers, a motion was made and seconded to remove Mr. Nathan as Treasurer, and the motion was passed, 16 to 2.

Following the vote, Mr. Nathan has

passed the financial records to the Board president. The position of Treasurer is temporarily vacant until the next meeting on May 4th, which happens to be the annual meeting at which elections take place each year. The quorum for this meeting requires 25 voting members to be present.

All positions of the board are up for election, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Parliamentarian, and the normal term for each position is 3 years.

Nominations are open until the actual election. Candidates can nominate themselves, or can be nominated by others. All positions will be voted by secret ballot. Nominations can be made to Lucinda Toliver and Maxsean Brooks, our Election Committee;

Lucinda Toliver

Email - HardworkingLU@yahoo.com,

Phone - 301-237-8888

Maxsean Brooks

Phone: 240-843-8447

Election Candidates

Additional candidates may be nominated, but as of the date of printing, the known candidates for office include:

- President: Greg McNair
- Vice President: Lan Tsubata
- Treasurer: Deanna Echanique
- Secretary: Sarah Tsubata
- Parliamentarian : N/A

The descriptions of the duties and requirements for the various offices are outlined in the Association by-laws (See page 3).

Candidates' statements:

My name is **Greg McNair**. I was elected as president of the association three years ago. During that time I worked to institute a yearly budget, the first ever, which helped us streamline the expenditures and keep within our income. Also,

we were able to improve the communications and reporting to the community. Over the next few years, if elected, I hope to increase transparency and engagement of the whole community.

My name is **Lan Tsubata** and I am running for vice president of the West Lanham Hills Citizens' Association. I have been the vice president for one year and hope that I can serve our community from this position again. I grew up here, have been a resident of this community for 30 years, and now enjoy raising my three children here. My goal as vice president would be to create programs, classes and or events that would benefit the families of our community, in addition to the existing activities already in place.

I'm **Deanna Echanique**, a resident of WLH since 2012, and am running for treasurer of West Lanham Hills Citizens Association on a platform of transparency. I am a public notary in DC, and thoroughly

familiar with creating and maintaining fiscal ledgers. To ensure full compliance with our association's by-laws, within the first 30 days in office, I will create a Google Doc spreadsheet detailing each month's cash-flow that will be made accessible to the entire Board of Directors, and members (excluding sensitive bank information).

My name is **Sarah Tsubata** and I have served as secretary of the West Lanham Hills Citizens Association for one year and am running for reelection. In my one year as secretary I have created a central filing system for all the paper files and documents of our association and hope in this next term to put everything into a digital format. Since becoming a resident of West Lanham Hills I have been an active coordinator for Family Fun Day, Santa's Work Shop, back to school supply distribution, Newsletter Distribution, and food bank. With your support I hope to continue to serve this community as secretary.



Trash Pickup Changes

Starting May 2016, residential curbside trash collection in Prince George's County will move to once a week with trash and recycling collection. Yard waste will be collected on Mondays. Trash and recycling will be collected on Thursdays. Residents will also receive a wheeled trash can at no additional cost.

Free Trees!

The Global Health and Education Projects, Inc. (GHEP) in collaboration with the Prince George's County Department of Environment, and other community partners, is providing free native trees, shrubs, and tree management resources (worth hundreds of dollars) to private home-owners in PG County through its Family Tree Adoption Program (FTAP). FTAP trees are on a first-come-first-served basis.

Call or Text today to reserve your own tree/shrub. 301-254-1435 or 240-467-4779. Or check out their website: info@globalhealthprojects.org

Skilled Child Care Provider

Elizabeth Saunders, an experienced day-care teacher, can care for children in her home. Hours are flexible and she can care for children of various age groups. Reasonable rates. Call 240-296-0865 to discuss your child care needs.



Bike Safety

by DoJoon Lee (7)

You will need a helmet when you bike. I was at the Park biking and I was riding down a hill and did a sharp turn then "boom" I fell down and hit the ground. My helmet was on and it saved my life. Always wear your helmet!

WEST LANHAM HILLS CITIZEN ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS: ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1- Number

The Officers of this Association shall be five (5) in the number and shall be titled as follows; President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Parliamentarian, all of whom shall be voting members of the Association.

Section 2 – Duties of Officers

1) President

- a) Shall preside at all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors
- b) Shall represent the Association in his or her official capacity on Association business as directed by general membership, except that he or she shall not have the power to sell, mortgage, grant or otherwise dispose of any property of the Association, or to the pledge the credit of the Association without prior vote and approval of the general membership.
- c) Shall be responsible to the Association for all property of the Association.

2) Vice President

- a) Shall act as presiding officer in the event of the temporary absence of the President
- b) Shall assume the powers and duties of the President for the remainder of his or her term in the event of the death, permanent absence, or other inability of the President to serve.

3) Treasurer

- a) Shall receive and have custody, for the Association, and be responsible for all the funds and securities of the Association, and deposit all such funds in the name of the Association in such bank or banks or safe deposit vaults as the Board of Directors may designate. Shall sign, make, and endorse in the name of the Association, all checks, drafts, warrants, and orders for the payment of money, and pay out and dispose of same and receipt therefore, under the direction of the President with the approval of the membership.
- b) Shall exhibit at all reasonable times his or her books and accounts to any officer or participating member of the Association, upon proper application (See Glossary).
- c) Shall render a statement of the condition of the finances of the Association at each regular meeting of the Association, and shall cause same to be published in the minutes of monthly meetings and at such other times as shall be required and make a full financial report at the Annual Meeting of the membership.
- d) Shall keep, at the office of the Association, correct books of account of all its business transactions and such other books of account as the By-Laws may require.
- e) Shall surrender all of his or her books, records and accounts by December following the close of the fiscal year ending on April 30th of that year to an independent auditor for an external audit, the report of which will be presented to the general membership upon completion.

4. Secretary

- a) Shall record and maintain the minutes of all meetings of the Association and the Board of the Directors. The records of general meetings will be available to any member of the Association at reasonable time, upon proper application (See Glossary).
- b) Shall maintain the Register of Membership.
- c) Shall publish such notices as may be required by these By-Laws.
- d) Shall perform such other functions and duties as may be incidental to [his or her] office, or required by these By-Laws.

5. Parliamentarian

Shall mediate in all rules of order and assure the smooth conduct of meetings. He or she shall arbitrate all matters between the Chair and the floor. His or her rulings on matters of protocol shall be final. Parliamentary procedures will be governed by Roberts Rule of Order, Revised.

COMMUNITY CLEAN UP

**April 30, 2016
9 am - 12 noon**

Rain or Shine! Please dress accordingly!

**Register & pick up supplies at the
West Lanham Hills Park Building**

Pizza lunch
served to volunteers
after the event

Students, Grades 6-12!
Earn Community
Service credit!

**HELP CLEAN UP
Your Neighborhood!**

There will be NO DUMPSTER!

For Bulk Trash, CALL 311

