

LakeWalker

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2015 NEWSLETTER



The date for this year's Block Party will be, as usual, the first Saturday after Labor Day: **September 12th**, not the Sept. 6th date published in the last newsletter. We have received a \$300 grant from Baltimore's Office of Promotion and the Arts, and MECU. But we still need a hand from neighbors like you. Here are some ways you can help:



Serve on this year's committee.



Consider making a monetary contribution.



School age young people can volunteer and receive community service credit.



Last, and most importantly, plan to attend this wonderful event!

Our first meeting will take place on **Wednesday, June 17th at 7:30pm** at the Picketts', 801 Cedarcroft Rd. 410-433-5257.

Put it on your calendar now: Saturday, September 12th.
You will receive a final notice in August. ☺

PLANT Exchange

By DEB PICKETT



Spring weather was evident on Sunday, May 3rd when neighbors gathered for the Plant Exchange. Over 40 people showed up to chat about their gardens and share plants. Included in the array of offerings were tomatoes, pole beans, ground covers, small shrubs and trees, as well as miniature hostas and many perennials. Wagonloads of plants were brought to the Picketts' backyard where neighbors drank coffee and juice and munched on breakfast pastries and fruit. Thank you to those who came and to all neighbors who take an interest in maintaining their properties. We all benefit from well-kept homes and landscaping is key to great curb appeal! ☺

JUNE

LWCA General Meeting

Thursday

June 4, 2015 – 7:00pm

Arbor Oaks Meeting Room.

See page 2 for the location and agenda.
(Meetings occur quarterly; upcoming meeting on 10/22.)

Please bring a non-perishable food item for CARES.

Calendar OF events

6/3 **York Road Partnership Meeting** – 7:15pm @ St. Mary's Church Hall, 5502 York Road, parking and entrance in the rear of the church. *Recurring mtg on first Wed. of every month: 7/1, 8/5, 9/2, 10/7*

6/13 **Community Yard Sale** – Lake Walker's annual Yard Sale will take place on Saturday, June 13, 9-12. Let your discards be someone else's treasures.

6/20 **Dumpster Day** (also on 8/15)

JULY

7/15 **Northern Police District Meeting** – 7pm @ the Northern District Police Headquarters, 2201 W. Cold Spring Lane (just west of I-83 on your left). For questions, call Officer Doug Gibson @ 410 367-8491. *Recurring mtg on third Wed. of every OTHER month, 9/16, 11/18*

Check in at **lakewalker.org** for the full 2015 schedule!

LWCA GENERAL MEETING

JUNE 4

Please attend the summer meeting at **7:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 4** in the Arbor Oaks Meeting Room. The address is 813 Lenton Ave., south of Lake Ave. Lenton is opposite where Highwood ends at Lake. Bear left on Lenton. The meeting room is at the far end of the apartments where there is a small parking area.

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Minutes Review
- President's Update
- Committee Reports
 - Treasurer Report
 - Police Report
 - Fire Report
 - Greater Homewood Affiliation Proposal Review – Vote by Members
 - Balance Budget & Reserve Bylaw Amendment – Vote by Members ☺

Proposed LWCA By-Laws Amendment

The LWCA Board of Directors is proposing an amendment to our by-laws. The recommendation is for the Association to operate on a balanced budget each year and create a minimum reserve. This change would be added to Article V, as exhibited below.

This matter will be brought up and voted on at the next General Meeting, on **June 4, 2015**.

ARTICLE V DUES & ANNUAL BUDGET

Section 1. Annual dues per household shall be set by the Board of Directors and will be due in September.

Section 2. Only paid members may participate in annual elections and vote at General and Special Meetings.

Section 3. The Association shall operate on a balanced budget each year, as proposed by the Board.

Section 4. The Association annual budget shall allow for no less than a \$2,000 reserve. This reserve fund shall be used for emergency purposes, or for reasons the Board should deem necessary. Said use will be announced to the membership prior to a General Meeting. ☺

Successful Work Party

Many bags of debris, including two heavy tires and an abandoned bicycle, were collected during our Spring Cleanup from both sides of Walker Ave. at York Rd. and along Northwood Dr.

Many thanks to these volunteers: **Bob Goren, Cy Govers, Darby Lassiter, Martha Palmer, Deb** and **Jim Pickett**, and **John Swivel**. ☺

Call for Volunteers! The LWCA needs board members! Serving on the LWCA Board is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a positive difference in our community! General Elections will be in October, but now is the time to think about participating. If you are interested in joining the board or know an interested neighbor please contact **Steve Lassiter** at **slass29@yahoo.com**. We need nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. ☺

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DUES?



New! Pay your dues with PayPal! Look for it on the LakeWalker.org website. If you haven't paid your 2015 dues, please do so, \$10 per household and \$5 for seniors. Dues help support many activities and provide many benefits to our community. Dues help fund our Newsletter, the Block Party, the Winter Fiesta/Mardi Gras party. Dues also support information sharing, neighborhood promotion, and advocacy with the city. Households that pay dues are entitled to receive the community directory; a new edition is now available.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Please send payments to Lake Walker Community Assn, PO Box 11391, Baltimore, MD 21239-1391 or drop off to **Todd Elliott, 600 Cedarcroft Road**. **Please make sure checks are made out to LWCA**. \$10 per household, \$5 for seniors.

Lake Walker Community Association Formal Affiliation with Greater Homewood Community Corporation

TO BE VOTED ON BY THE DUES-PAYING MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION AT THE JUNE 2015 GENERAL MEETING.

The Board of Directors are volunteers who try diligently to represent the residents of the Lake Walker Community. We struggle every day to make decisions that are in the best interest of all residents living in our boundaries. We all have different backgrounds, from the for-profit sector to those of us familiar with the non-profit arena.

A few months ago we were faced with the need to apply for a community grant to support our block party in September. The application required a fiscal sponsor who was a 501(c)(3). In the past Greater Homewood Community Corporation had been a fiscal sponsor, but due to recommendations of their tax specialist, they were no longer offering this service to programs not under their oversight.

History has it that the LWCA at one time explored obtaining its own 501(c)(3) status but alone did not qualify. The known benefit was there. This recent situation led to an extended conversation as well as through exploration of the risks/benefits

of becoming an actual program of GHCC.

A non-profit status would bring the ability of actual tax-exempt monetary contributions directly to projects that LWCA wishes to pursue. The Board of Directors met several times to debate becoming an official program of Greater Homewood Community Corporation. These discussions created some insightful questions about this potential change. After great deliberation we have come to a consensus in proposing to the entire LWCA members that our association form an official relationship with GHCC. We all agreed if we didn't give it a try we would not be able to realize the benefits. By becoming a program under GHCC we would retain our own board structure; we would retain our operating bylaws; and we will continue to drive the direction of our activities.

WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

I will highlight a few items below but we will be posting three specific documents that outline in great detail the formal affiliation. Please review these documents and please present questions on the LWCA forum in which we will respond.

Simply, these changes affect operations in this way:

- We will no longer have our own checking and PayPal Accounts.
- GHCC will provide all financial oversight (an outside entity allowing for sound financial operations whereby they will provide fiscal reporting to the LWCA Board as well as the entire community).
- We will be tax-deductible in qualifying purchases/donations.
- We will be under the auspices of GHCC Liability Insurance (we have never had this protection).
- Cost to the Association is 5% of all deposits. (For example if we have income of \$4,000 then the cost of this fiscal sponsorship is \$200 a year.)

PLEASE REFER TO 3 ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ON THE LAKEWALKER.ORG FOR GREATER DETAIL.

Thank you and please attend the GM meeting in order to vote.

*Valerie Sirani for the
Lake Walker Community Association
Board of Directors* 🙏



**Lake Walker
Community Association**
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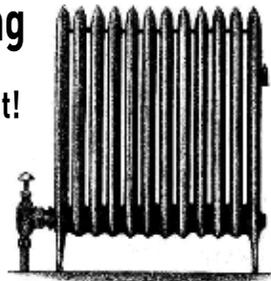
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