
WEST END NEWS

E-mail: weca@cambridgemd.org Web Site: www.cambridgemd.org



Winter 2001

President's Message

by Brenda Hayward

The new year brings many exciting new challenges and opportunities for the West End and its citizens. Several new projects are coming to fruition, including the Historic House markers, which will be offered for sale to residents of the Cambridge Historic District. The markers will identify historic homes with the exact or approximate date of construction and will enhance our historic district with uniform signage. A sample of the attractive bronze plaque will be available at upcoming WECA Board Meetings, held the third Tuesday of each month at the Dorchester Public Library meeting room, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

The January meeting will feature Michael Walsh, general manager of the Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Resort, who will discuss the new Hyatt and what it means for Cambridge. This meeting is open to the public and there will be a question and answer period, followed by refreshments and the opportunity to talk with Mr. Walsh on an individual basis.

Our Welcome Basket Committee, headed by Jane Devlin, has taken the welcome program to a new level. The Welcome Baskets are chock full of helpful information for new residents, and efforts are being made to expand the information to include even more items from local businesses and service organizations targeted especially to the needs of someone new to our community. Not only does the individual delivery of each basket provide a personal welcome to the community, the information, gifts, and discount coupons encourage the newcomers to visit our local establishments. For those moving to the West End from elsewhere in the city and county, a welcome packet is now being mailed, with information pertinent to the West End.

Another exciting development is the West End Citizens Association Web Site. Although still in its infancy, the site contains much useful information and with the efforts of Doug Kyle is being expanded and updated frequently. Our web site name of www.cambridgemd.org means we are bound to get a lot of hits from people looking for information about Cambridge, and they will see the West End first! We will be looking for sponsors and advertisers as well as linking to other sites. If you have a web site you would like to link, or if you would like to advertise on our site, our rates are nominal! Contact Doug Kyle via e-mail at thekyles@fastol.com.

In his "Neighborhood Update", Herm Kramer mentions our interest in featuring West End Success stories in upcoming issues of the *West*

End News. This is a great way to promote the good things that are happening in our neighborhood.

Starting with our spring newsletter, we will be highlighting a local business in each issue, to heighten awareness of West Enders who are owners and operators of businesses in our community, especially those located in the West End. We encourage you to patronize our local businesses and help our entrepreneurs be successful! Their success means more jobs, more money in the local community.

Wishing all of you a safe, healthy and happy New Year!

Christmas Decorating Contest

by Donna Casarotti

The West End Citizens Association sponsored their 8th Annual Christmas Decorating Contest for the West End of Cambridge. Judging took place on December 15, 2001. It was a festive event as this was the same evening as the "Light Up the West End" yuletide illumination. The streets of the West End were aglow with all the brilliant residential decorations and the luminaries.

First place in the Decorating Contest went to Milford and Patsy Foxwell at 104 Glenburn Avenue. They received a \$40 gift certificate to The Cator House restaurant.

Second prize went to Dr. Jeffrey and Shannon Taylor at 106 Oakley Street. They received a lovely handmade holiday wreath from a generous WECA elf.

Third place went to Linda Smith, 701 Glasgow Street. She and her family received a fruit and cheese basket donated by WECA.

And finally, a very special honorable mention was given to Frances Waldron at 603 Edlon Park Drive. She received a decorative holiday candle from Flowers 'n Things. Fran's front porch has been the scene of Santa in his bright red suit and real fur trim, swinging to and fro, biding his time until Christmas Eve for the past 30 years. This year, there was a real concern, when Frances put her house on the market. Fortunately, she changed her mind and the holiday tradition continues. Family, friends, and neighbors look forward each year to "Swinging Santa" and we are all glad that he will continue to be a West End holiday tradition.

The West End Citizens Association congratulates the winners and all those who participated for creating a true holiday spirit and atmosphere in this eventful year of 2001!

Welcomers of West End

by Jane Devlin

The New Year will usher in exciting changes within the Welcome Basket program. The WOVE committee has listened and exchanged ideas on how better to serve our donors and recipients.

Since the inception of the Welcomers, our committee has been in contact with over 56 new West End property owners. We look forward to adding businesses that will fill the needs of a new homeowner. If you wish to have your business, service, etc. represented in the Welcome Baskets, please contact me at 410-221-6082.

For all who have been welcomed by our committee, please avail yourself of the gift certificates and discount coupons offered. Visit our local merchants and enjoy the small town of Cambridge.

Thank you to one and all for the continued support which has made the Welcome Basket program a success.

Neighborhood Update

by Herm Kramer

During the Delta Queen Tours this spring, the docents assigned to the buses were impressed by the remarks of our visitors on the beauty of the yards and plantings and the varied architecture of the homes found in the West End of Cambridge.

As our homes often represent our largest single investment, it is most important that we and our neighbors keep our house exteriors and yards maintained. Also, changes, additions or repairs must meet City Code as well as the guidelines of the Cambridge Historic District where applicable. Some projects require permits and some do not. Just because a project does not require a permit, does not mean it is exempt from review and approval by the Historic Preservation Commission. Save yourself time, money and unnecessary delays by checking with the Department of Housing **before** you start your project.

An excellent example of a properly done classic restoration of a porch can be found at the home of Ted and Becky Cooney, 300 Belvedere Avenue. Great job!

It is heartening to see the many exterior renovations and improvements going on throughout the West End. This benefits not only the individual homeowner, but improves the appearance of our neighborhood and inspires others as well. In the future we hope to highlight more successful West End restoration projects. If you would be willing for us to photograph your property and publish a brief article in an upcoming newsletter, please contact me at 410-221-6294.

WECA is working with the City's Department of Housing to help identify "problem properties" in the West End. Unfortunately, most of these properties are not owner occupied and it is often very difficult to obtain the cleanup and repairs necessary to bring these prop-

erties up and in keeping with the adjacent neighborhood. We will continue this endeavor in the new year and most appreciate the City personnel who have helped us with this effort.

Property Transfers

by Carroll Dail

September 17, 2001 through December 5, 2001

ROBINSON, Jeffrey & Penny Ann 713 Travers Street	\$32,000
CORNISH, Karen F. 321 Willis Street.....	\$71,900
PARKS, Jacqueline A. 1108 Glasgow Street.....	\$43,700
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT, LLC Oakley Beach Property	\$549,500
PROPERTY VII, LLC 416 Willis Street.....	\$55,250
THATCHER, David C., Jr. & POLIKOFF, Vicki L. 1007 Locust Street	\$108,000
MILLS, Barbara V. 718 Glasgow Street	\$45,000
KOZAK, Mark D. & GEISLER, Deana J. 504 Edlon Park Drive	\$110,000
McADOO, Judith A. 106 Somerset Avenue	\$138,000
JACKSON, Kim A. & JOHNSON, Jeffrey L. 405 Linden Avenue	\$25,000
BREM, George A. & M. Howardene 303 Belvedere Avenue	\$65,000
NATIONAL BANK OF CAMBRIDGE 321 High Street & 605 Locust Street	\$320,000
PRAHL, Kenneth B. & Donna L. 206 Market Square	\$165,000
LITTLETON, William H. & Ann R. 1110 Glasgow Street.....	\$4,000
COGHLAN, Evelyn J. 420 Glenburn Avenue	\$107,000
POPHAM, James J. (1/3 interest) 302 Academy Street, Unit 302A	\$64,500
THOMAS, Howard Gage 108 Willis Street.....	\$57,500
MOOERS, Richard Craig 101 West End Avenue	\$75,000
SAVINSKI, Kenneth R. 306 Belvedere Avenue	\$85,000

Historic House Markers

by Jane Devlin

The West End Citizens Association has an exciting new project underway! We have developed an historic plaque which will be offered for sale to identify historic homes in the West End. The markers would designate the actual or approximate year of construction along with the words "Historic District".

By popular demand, the plaque offered will be a bronze marker which is sturdy, weather-resistant, of quality construction and with an attractive and elegant design that would be compatible with an older, historic style of architecture. The size of the plaque will be 11 inches wide x 8 inches high. The price will be approximately \$225 with instructions for mounting provided and a life expectancy of about 20 years. Little maintenance is required except for a clear coat of lacquer every few years.



The plaques may be ordered for either front or rear mounting. Plaques for front mounting include 2 pre-drilled holes and brass screws. Rear mounting requires 1/4-inch studs and adhesive (not supplied).

A sample of the plaque will be available at all upcoming WECA meetings listed in "Coming Events". Come and take a look. If you are interested in ordering now, please complete the information below and mail to WECA, P. O. Box 13, Cambridge, MD 21613, or call Jane Devlin at 410-221-6082. There will be a number of orders placed as we get this project underway. If you are not ready to order now but prefer to be contacted at a later date please indicate on the form below.

Hyatt's General Manager to Speak at January Membership Meeting

by Marge Hull

The first West End Citizens Membership Meeting of 2002 will be held on the third Tuesday of the month, January 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Dorchester County Public Library. Michael Walsh, General Manager of the new Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Resort, will be the first speaker of the year to address the West End Citizens Association.

Mr. Walsh, a new resident of the West End of Cambridge, will discuss the accommodations to be found at the new resort, the programs and services available to both guests and community at large as well as the social and economic benefits the resort complex will provide for Cambridge and Dorchester County.

A graduate of the Harrah School of Hotel Administration of the University of Nevada – Las Vegas, Mr. Walsh joined the Hyatt in 1981. In all Mr. Walsh has worked at 10 Hyatt properties, the last three as general manager. He has spent 16 of his 20 years with Hyatt at Caribbean locations. During his recent stint in Puerto Rico, Walsh coauthored a pictorial history book entitled *Uno Sueño Dorado* (The Dorado Dream). He also instituted an open-door policy for employees at the resort, which he said has had a "very positive" impact.

Walsh grew up on Long Island, NY and his parents now live near Philadelphia. "This post is almost like going home," said Mr. Walsh.

WECA welcomes Mike Walsh, his wife Kathy and children Kelly, Kayla and Michael to the West End of Cambridge and Dorchester County.

The Paula Reed study: Cambridge Historic District, Wards I and III, was the final project report for the National Register nomination. The approximately 700 properties included in the Reed study now form the Cambridge Historic District. The Reed study lists an estimated or actual date for most houses in the Historic District. This document may be helpful to you in dating your property. The Reed study is available at the public library and the Department of Public Works.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: _____

Order Now Contact me for future order

Copy for Plaque: Circa _____ (approximate year)

OR Est. _____ (exact year)

Front Mounting Rear Mounting

Delivery will take approximately 4 weeks.

West End Citizens Create New Yuletide Tradition

by Donna Casarotti

The streets of the West End were filled with the old fashioned feeling of holiday spirit, when the West End Citizens Association sponsored the first yuletide illumination on Saturday, December 15, 2001.

Approximately 100 residences participated with their families and friends that evening and began their celebration of the holidays by displaying luminaries from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

WECA distributed flyers and instructions on how to set up the luminaries in advance of the event. In order to encourage participation, WECA provided the white paper bags on request. About 200 bags were distributed the week prior to the illumination, as residents called Jane Devlin and me with the numbers of luminaries needed for their set-up. The event was definitely a time of sharing and good will, as many residents were setting up luminaries for their neighbors who were not at home for the evening or away for the winter, and in some cases, for their elderly neighbors to enjoy.

With the 8th annual Christmas Decorating Contest on the same evening, as well as some holiday parties, the contest judges observed



Lighting up the West End: The holiday spirit was typified by the wonderful displays of decorations and luminaries on Glenburn Avenue. At top is the first place winner in the West End Decorating Contest.

the neighborhoods come alive with a holiday atmosphere. The luminaries also provided a lovely sight to those visitors who drove around the West End to view the holiday decorations.

A grand time was had by all, especially the residents in the 100 block of Glenburn Avenue, who outshone everyone in the number of homes participating. WECA considers this first yuletide illumination a great success and expects it to be a holiday tradition in the West End for years to come.

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Coming Events

Tuesday, January 15 — WECA Board Meeting
Guest Speaker, Michael Walsh, General Manager of the
Hyatt Regency Chesapeake Resort

Tuesday, February 19 — WECA Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 19 — WECA Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 16 — WECA Annual Membership Meeting
Election of Officers and Proposed Bylaws Revisions

Commissioner's Corner

by Larry Bohlen — First Ward Commissioner

It's hard to believe but a new year has begun. Our City government has been busy this last year, with many exciting and perhaps long overdue projects that have been either started or are in the process of being completed.

Hurrah! The first phase of the combined sewer separation is complete. This was the phase which was the most extensive and potentially disruptive to the greatest number of city residents, but we muddled through and I have to say, all things considered, it is a job well done.

Regarding the additional phases of sewer repair work, it has been brought to my attention the condition of several streets in the First Ward. I know of their condition because I travel them every day myself. I want to stress to residents that the ongoing sewer repair work will be including most of the areas where roads are in poor condition and they will be repaired at the completion of that phase of the whole project. It will take time but the final result should be more than satisfactory. Your patience is much appreciated.

Several other projects are underway and nearly complete, including the bulkhead repair project at the Municipal Yacht Basin, improvements at Sailwinds Governors Hall, and others.

We held two very successful cleanup days this past year and much progress was made in cleaning up the First Ward and the City as a whole. More needs to be done; however, the Department of Public Works has been kept busy and inspectors at Planning & Zoning have been out cracking down on properties that are not up to code. There is more to be done and many more properties that have been or will be looked at; any citizen complaints to me concerning these matters have been forwarded to DPW and will, as always, be followed up. If you have a question or a concern, please give me a call at home at 410-221-0098 or City Hall at 410-228-4020.

Yes, it was an exciting year and the year ahead is looking even more exciting. With the lighting plan for downtown completed, we will be looking to start the replacement of the historic light fixtures in certain parts of downtown and will be working on the streetscape projects this year — all in the effort to make our downtown as attractive as we can.

We received grants for several city projects from the state this year, including park and playground improvements, and several more are in the pipeline. There are many exciting developments, and who is not feeling great anticipation of the grand opening of the Hyatt Resort scheduled for March.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a happy and prosperous New Year and let's keep making Cambridge the greatest place to live in the world. Thank you and God Bless.

by Lee Weldon — Third Ward Commissioner

Greetings from the 3rd Ward! I trust all had a pleasant and peaceful holiday season. The luminaries were great, and the whole city seems to have come together under a veil of festive lights.

Here now the news.

You may be interested to know that our neighbors in Cambridge Park Apartments are preparing for a major renovation and rehab project on the apartment complex. More than \$10 million is slated to be spent to remodel every apartment, improve the security, and construct a new community center.

For many years these low-income homes have become run-down and allowed to be havens for crime and other social problems. The new owners have committed to improve living conditions by thoroughly screening applicants, regularly inspecting the buildings, and enforcing federal housing guidelines relating to drugs and crime. They also plan to provide many social service activities to help their residents learn the skills they need to bring themselves out of the desperate economic situation they now face.

Well before the first nail gets driven on the renovations, the new management has begun instituting programs that will benefit the families, and especially the youth, who live in the community.

Under the guidance of Director Betsey Cooksey, the Cambridge Park Boys and Girls clubs applied for and received \$3,000 in state grants to fund new books, toys and activities for the New Beginnings Youth Center. Close to 30 youth participate in these after school programs, which are teaching respect and responsibility in productive ways.

The students set up a thrift shop for Christmas shopping in the neighborhood, sorting through donations, creating an inventory system, and managing the shop, with help from their adult advisors. This project also included painting, decorating and cleaning up the vacant apartment that housed the shop. We should all applaud the efforts of this fine group of young people.

New Beginnings also wishes to thank the entire city for the generous donations totaling over \$3,000, that benefitted the families displaced by the devastating fire in September.

Ms. Cooksey relies on volunteers to work with the children and families. If you have some time to commit to improving the lives of your neighbors, please contact her at New Beginnings, 410-228-0448, or me at 410-228-0030.

In other news, I have appointed Brian Manning of Locust Street to serve on the Police Advisory Board. A man of outstanding character, Mr. Manning will be working with the Board as they make their recommendations to replace Police Chief Russell Wroten, who retired December 31st after 38 years of excellent service to the City.



West End Citizens Association
 P. O. Box 13
 Cambridge, MD 21613

DCAT

"The Voice of the People"

Dorchester County Association of Taxpayers
7:00 PM — 2nd Wednesday each Month
Dorchester Public Library Meeting Room
Dues \$10.00

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JOB OPENINGS

HELP is STILL NEEDED
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Satisfaction

There are several committee openings which need staffing: Membership, Community Pride, Publicity and Special Projects. These are NOT time-demanding jobs. At the most two meetings a month, often with goodies, and maybe some e-mail or phone time. Extra hands make lighter work for all, and the camaraderie is great!

Your knowledge, your opinions and your support are needed for the betterment of our community. WECA is *your* neighborhood organization and along with our Council is your direct voice in the happenings in the West End and Cambridge. Please consider giving a few hours a month. Call Herm Kramer at 410-221-6294 or Brenda Hayward at 410-228-6523.

WECA Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Dorchester Public Library's downstairs meeting room. All board meetings are open to WECA members and the general public.