

WEST TOWSON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION



Message from the WTNA President

In May of 2009, I was elected President of the West Towson Neighborhood Association (WTNA) by a landslide (sure, I was unopposed, but I'm an attorney so I never let the facts get in the way of a good story). A two-year term seemed like an overwhelming commitment at the time, but like most other things in life this time has flown by, too. It also was worth the effort and full of rewards. I've had an opportunity to meet members of our community that I never would have known had I not volunteered my time. I've met state and local lawmakers and others in local government who have a profound impact on the future of our neighborhood – and who believe that I and the other members of the WTNA have a real influence in preserving the best aspects of our community.

The WTNA, in fact, does a lot of great things. Most of what you see is the public and social

events like the ones listed in this newsletter (see upcoming events, page 2). But, the role that the WTNA plays behind the scenes is equally important. We take care of everything from removing graffiti to pressuring lawmakers to enforce zoning regulations – and fighting efforts to relax regulations that have preserved the integrity of our neighborhood. Your dues help pay for everything from the social events to our neighborhood signs (we hope to add more of them), to neighborhood upkeep and landscaping, and even to the occasional legal fight to do what's best for our community. Most of what the WTNA does flies under the radar, but I'm positive you would feel the impact if these volunteers weren't there to do it.

So, thank you for your support over the past two years. The WTNA has seen an increase in its membership and attendance at its events,

Continued on page 3

West Towson Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m. sharp at the West Towson Park

Please join the neighborhood for this popular annual tradition. If you've joined us before, you know how important it is to arrive no later than 9:45 so your kids will be ready for the egg hunt at 10 a.m. *It's all over by about 10:05!* Here's what you need to do to participate:

- Fill a bag with 12 (twelve) candy-filled eggs (no peanut products, please!) **for each child who will participate.**
- Write the ages of each child on the bag (or put a note in the bag).
- Deliver your bag(s) to the back porch of 552 Allegheny Avenue (the big white house on the corner of Allegheny & Woodbine - the driveway entrance is on Woodbine Avenue) **no later than Friday, April 15.**

There will be three age groups: 0-2, 3-5 and 6 and over. The WTNA will have prize eggs again this year, so if your child finds one he or she can collect the prize at special prize table at the hunt. Please (try) to limit your child's egg total during the hunt to 12.

Also, back by popular demand this year for the parents - gourmet coffee provided by The French Press Cafe on Pennsylvania Avenue. The coffee is complimentary for all who attend.



West Towson Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 7 pm - at the new Palisades Apartment Building, 5th Floor Lounge

The WTNA annual meeting will be held at the new, swanky lounge level of the Palisades, 212 Washington Ave. (corner of Susquehanna & Washington).

This is the meeting where new officers of the WTNA are elected – and where we discuss the future plans for our neighborhood and hear about any challenges we need to meet. Parking is easy and plentiful. The street meters only run until 6 p.m. and there's a Baltimore County parking garage across the street from the Palisades that's free in the evenings. We hope to see you there!

West Towson Spring Picnic

Saturday, May 14, 4-8 pm, in front of BYKOTA

Don't miss this opportunity to meet your neighbors and reacquaint yourselves with ones you forgot about over the winter! AND – back by popular demand this year – (drum roll, please) – live music from our own West Towson-based band, "The Objections" and a performance from the Frisbee dogs! The Frisbee-dog team performed last year at the Halloween party and overcame storm-force winds to put on a great show. Last September, the team even won the WORLD Championships in pair's freestyle.

Also, there will be tables set up for you to eat and relax (Ridgley & Ferrins will offer reasonably-priced food & beverages, including beer and wine), and there will be lots of other activities for children. The WTNA thanks BYKOTA for helping make this event a success. As always, Southland Hills will be participating as well, so be sure to invite your friends who live down the hill.

West Towson Neighborhood Association Board and Officer Candidates

Officers shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors are elected, and shall assume office at the close of the meeting at which elected.

President
Stephanie Keene

First Vice President
SueAnn Griffin

Second Vice President
Marian Eichelman Matthis

Treasurer
Adam Molinaro

Secretary
Venetia Holland

Zoning Chairman
Richard Parsons

Board of Governors
John Cezar
Mike Ertel
Josh Glikin
Barry Heddings
Darwin Holder, Jr.
Deborah Shepard
Alastair Palmer
Samantha Sheridan
Louise Tuebner

President's Message Continued from page 1

and we'd like that to continue! Please join us for our annual meeting on May 3 at the new Palisades building in Towson. This meeting is a great opportunity to get to know all of the members of the WTNA Board and the nominated slate of new officers – all of whom are motivated to make our community better. Please also pay your association dues by May 1, either electronically through PayPal by visiting www.westtowson.org, or by completing and returning the form included in the newsletter.

Finally, I encourage you to get involved. You'd be surprised at how little time it takes and how rewarding it can be. We could use some folks to help maintain our signs, to help with our web site, blog, and Facebook postings, to deliver flyers, newsletters and other neighborhood notices, and to help out in other ways that will positively impact the community.

Sincerely,

Josh Glikin
President, WTNA

P.S. If you are on Facebook, "like" our page at www.facebook.com/WestTowsonNews to get the most up-to-date info on what's happening in the neighborhood.

Spring 2011 Landscape Committee Update

The Towson official flower is the azalea, so why not plant one this spring? Try a search for some of the more unusual varieties. Azaleas come in the commonly seen evergreen varieties, most of which originated in Japan, and deciduous species, most of which are native. You can have blooms from late March (*r. carolinianum*) to the middle of August (*r. prunifolium*) simply by selecting a wide variety. Many of the natives are very fragrant, too. Azaleas like an acid soil with a pine bark mulch, and shade from afternoon sun. Keep them away from concrete, which leaches lime into the soil.

I have recommended the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service Home and Garden website before, and I will mention it again. It is an excellent resource for all your gardening questions.

Spring is a great opportunity to build up your soil. Compost made from leaves, grass or other organic materials will add nutrients to the soil that your plants will love. Mulching after planting can help keep down weeds, and also helps condition your soil as it breaks down. A two inch layer is just about right. The mulch must not touch the plant stem or trunk, to avoid problems with rot. Just pull it away from the trunk after applying it.

It's easy and fun to receive Bay-Wise certification from the Master Gardeners for your yard. Several of our neighbors have done this. The goal is to prevent harmful run-off from your yard that eventually flows into our bay. Use only the amount of fertilizer that your landscape actually needs; this is determined by a soil test, not the back of the fertilizer package. Over-fertilized bushes and trees develop weak and spindly growth, and over-fertilized lawns have to be mowed more often. Beneficial insects can help control some more harmful insects. My children loved to watch the ladybugs and praying mantises catch the aphids.

Please think about sharing your gardening talents with the West Towson Neighborhood Association. We need a chair for the Landscaping Committee, and you do not need to come to Board meetings to hold this position.

Louise Teubner-Rhodes
Landscape Committee member

Dumpster Day

Saturday, April 30, 7 am-noon, BYKOTA parking lot (Central Avenue)

If you're doing some spring cleaning and hate the thought of waiting in that long Saturday line at the dump, here's your chance!



You can dump your stuff into the WTNA-provided, roll-off dumpsters on Saturday, April 30. Dumpster space is limited, though, so the earlier you show up the better. We ask that you please break up large items (must be less than 8 feet long) as much as possible, and please don't bring yard waste bags that can be left for regular pickup. Also, there's a list of "prohibited items" that you should not plan to dump, such as computer equipment and flammables. You can find the list of prohibited items at www.westtowson.com. Be sure to read the list before you pack up your junk.

DOWNTOWN TOWSON EVENTS

Towson Gardens Day (flower mart)

Thursday, April 28th, 10AM-3PM
Towson Courthouse Fountain Plaza

There will be horticultural presentations all day starting with a 10:30 am presentation about "Knockout Roses," and lots of music, food and (duh) flowers for sale.

Jazz in the Courthouse Garden

Thursday, April 28th, 5-7PM

This free event will feature some swanky, kickback music and wine and beer for sale. Local artists will also be painting during the event. Come kick your weekend off a day early!

Big Band in the Courthouse Square

Friday, April 29th, 5:30-9PM

This event the night before the Towsontown Spring Festival opens features a 25-piece big band concert, food, wine and beer -- all in the fountain plaza in front of the Towson Courthouse on Chesapeake Avenue. There is an admission fee of \$5 per adult (the band, Mood Swings, isn't cheap - but they're fantastic!) but everyone under 21 is free. Kids are very welcome to this family fun event.

Towsontown Spring Festival (the 44th annual)

Saturday, April 30th, 10AM-7PM & Sunday, May 1st, 1-7PM
Downtown Towson

If you've never attended this great festival or to see what's happening this year check out

www.towsontownspringfestival.com

Feet on the Street

First one of the year: Friday, May 13, 6-9PM on Allegheny Ave.

The Friday night block parties that have become a great Towson tradition are back this year with live music, food, beer & wine, and free moon bounces for the children. Remember to bring your friends and your lounge chairs - but please leave your pets and your own private brew at home (the beer truck won't run out - I promise!) Feet on the Street runs from May 13 through Friday, September 30.

IMPORTANT DATES

West Towson Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16th, 10AM sharp
West Towson Park

Dumpster Day

Saturday, April 30th, 7AM-NOON
BYKOTA parking lot (Central Avenue)

West Towson Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 3rd, 7PM
Palisades Apartment Building, 5th Floor Lounge

West Towson Spring Picnic

Saturday, May 14th, 4-8PM
in front of BYKOTA

WTNA
P.O. Box 502
Riderwood, MD 21139-0502

West Towson Neighbor



2011 DUES NOTICE

Annual Membership Dues: \$35.00 (\$25.00 for senior citizens)

Electronic Payment (PayPal): Visit www.westtowson.org and click on "Donate" (to update your information, please mail the completed form to the address immediately below or scan and email it to info@westtowson.org)

Payment by Mail: Mail form and dues check (payable to West Towson Neighborhood Association) to: WTNA, PO Box 502, Riderwood, MD 21139

Payment in Person: Bring to any WTNA event or drop off at 600 Woodbine Terrace

Name(s): _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Note: we will not share your email address with anyone.

Child(ren) and age(s): _____

Interested in volunteering? If yes, tell us how in the box below!

I want to help by ...

___ Organizing a social event, such as the Spring Picnic or Halloween Parade & Oktoberfest.

___ Starting a new event or other neighborhood tradition. Brief Description: _____

___ Maintaining the WTNA's website, newsletter and/or Facebook page.

___ Joining the WNTA board.

___ Other. Brief Description: _____

THANK YOU!