

West End NEWS

Spring 2016

What is WECA?

The West End Citizens Association, Inc. (WECA) is a non-profit group committed to enhancing and protecting the quality of community life in the area.

WECA was founded in 1992 by a group of residents in the West End of Cambridge. The Association has developed a long-term vision for Cambridge to preserve and enhance our Eastern Shore "personality" for our children and grandchildren to continue to enjoy.

We monitor the activities of the Mayor and City Council, Planning & Zoning issues, Historic District issues, and any significant events that may affect our community.

WECA is strongly supportive of the Cambridge Historic Districts. Facilitating tours of Cambridge and Dorchester County enables the group to entertain while educating and informing residents and tourists alike, as well as supporting the historic districts. WECA also sponsors a yard sale and an historic house marker program, as well as participating in other Citywide events.



West End
Citizens Association, Inc.

410.901.1000

www.cambridgemd.org

weca@cambridgemd.org

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 13

Cambridge, MD 21613-0013

WECA Annual Gathering

Sunday, June 26, 3–5 p.m.

603 William Street, home of our gracious hosts, Marion and Tony Thomas

All are welcome!

WECA was founded by a group of citizens, taxpayers, and property owners for the purpose of making the West End of the City of Cambridge a great place to live. We are now in our third decade and are operating with only six (6) Board members, two of whom are from the original founding of the Association.

We have seen many positive things occur within the neighborhood and the City through the Association's ongoing effort. We have had a positive effect on local government regulations, code enforcement, preservation of the Historic District, expansion of heritage tourism and economic development, and much more.

There are always many things which need to be done and new issues are always on the horizon. In order to survive and grow with the current times, the Association is in need of an infusion of members who can donate their time and/or expertise to assist. Our Annual Elections are upon us and the following Board positions must be filled to remain active: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

WECA is your community association, an association that must remain connected to city and county activities in order to remain relevant. Be it a few hours per week, one hour per month, or a few hours per year, your time given will benefit the Association and your neighborhood. *Please join us!* 410.901.1000

Candidates Forum

West End Citizens Association, Inc. and the League of Women Voters Mid-Shore are coordinating the 2016 City of Cambridge Election Candidates Forum to be held **Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 7 p.m.** in the **Meeting Room** of the **Dorchester County Public Library**.

An invitation has been extended to all candidates. The program will begin with opening remarks by the candidates. Candidates for Wards 3 and 4 will then participate in the formal question period which consists of prepared questions and questions submitted from the floor; the number of questions will be dictated by allowable time. Candidates will then be given time for closing remarks. There will be an opportunity to meet and directly converse with those in attendance after the program.

All are welcome! Come and listen to the Candidates in their own words describe what their plans are for Cambridge if elected.

Mayor Victoria Jackson-Stanley

Ward 1 Stephen W. Rideout

Ward 2 Donald J. Sydnor

Ward 3 Frank E. Cooke
Armah Dashiell
La-Shon M. Foster

Ward 4 Dion D. Banks
Dave Cannon
Carlos L. Wilson

Ward 5 Robert L. Hanson



2016 CITY OF CAMBRIDGE ELECTION SCHEDULE

Location: Governors Hall at Sailwinds

Primary: June 14, 2016 • General: July 12, 2016

Become an active member of the West End Citizens Association!

- Attend monthly Board meetings – all are welcome – third Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the Library meeting room
- Provide a snippet (or a photo) for a renewed West End newsletter – call Janette Jones, 410.228.4234
- Become a docent for the Historic Tours – we have a wonderful script to learn from – call Marge Hull, 410.228.7927
- Help coordinate social gatherings – contact Barbara Harp, bharp@chesapeakephotos.com
- Help with our yearly yard sale
- Help coordinate/staff our table of information at the Dorchester Center for the Arts SHOWCASE held in September every year
- Attend City Council, Planning and Zoning Commission, or HPC meetings to hear firsthand what is going on in the City
- Update our website
- Spearhead a block cleanup day – organize your neighbors to clean up yards and get rid of unwanted items – and arrange for a special trash pickup on your street

If you are a current member, **thank you!**

Individual	\$ 15
Family	\$ 25
Life	\$300
Nonprofit	\$ 30
Corporate	\$ 50
Benefactor	\$500
Honorary	Board of Directors decision

WECA Board of Directors

Officers:

- President – open
- Vice President – open
- Secretary – Linda Starling
- Treasurer – Barbara Harp
- Carroll Dail
- Jane Devlin
- Marjorie Hull
- Herm Kramer
- Doug Kyle
- Marion Thomas

WECA Meetings in Review: January – March

In January, WECA donated \$50 in memory of Paul Brooks to the Christ Episcopal Church. We received a thank you from his wife, Ginger, Historic Tour docent.

Historic Tours – In February, Marge Hull, Janette Jones, and Jane Devlin prepared for the annual Historic Tour Docents’ Tea, which was held at the Mill Street Inn this year. Marge has also met with the docents, scheduled docents for the Saturday tours, ordered new signs that point the way to the tour’s beginning at Long Wharf, and advertised the opening day of tour season – April 2.

MARGE IS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE SHRINKING NUMBERS OF DOCENTS AND IS ACTIVELY LOOKING FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO GIVE TOURS. There is a wonderful script to learn from and it’s a great way to meet interesting people and promote Cambridge.

Wallace Office Building – Jane Devlin continues to work with several grant agencies to move closer to construction day. Construction plans were sent for review to the Easement Program Committee at Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) on March 8th. Invoices for restoration to date are being submitted to MHT for review and acceptance towards grant award match and a general contractor bid package is being prepared to be submitted to MHT for review. Advertising will follow approval of the package by MHT.

High Street Trees – WECA wrote a letter to the Cambridge City Council and City Manager in support of the High Street trees being preserved by putting electric lines underground.



Well Maintained Properties are a Win-Win for All

The City of Cambridge legislated Code Enforcement to ensure that all City residents have the opportunity to create a safe, healthy, satisfying quality of life. These codes (rules) set the minimum standards acceptable for structures, operation, and land use. Fortunately, the majority of properties in the West End are in compliance with City Code, but the impact of the 8% of the properties that are not is dramatic. Some violations of the code are minimal, and made by people that are honestly unaware of the codes, and easily rectified. However, there are some major eyesores created by people who refuse to comply, even when they are aware of the codes. Not only are they diminishing the value of their property, they are negatively impacting the whole neighborhood.

For most of us, our homes are our single greatest asset. See a matter that needs to be addressed? Contact the Department of Public Works at 410.228.1955.

Abandonment and Discontinuance of Nonconforming Use of Structure Regulation Still in Force

Within our community, a number of structures that were originally constructed as single family homes have been subdivided to create multi-family housing. *This activity of subdivision is no longer permitted.* Under certain circumstances, there is a regulatory mechanism within the city code to mandate the return to a single family structure. If the structure has been vacant and unoccupied for an extended period of time the City disallows the continuance of the nonconforming use of the structure pursuant to Section 2.4.2 Nonconforming Lots, Structures and Uses regulations of the Unified Development Code (UDC). For further information see the City Zoning Ordinance at www.choosecambridge.com/index.php/forms-and-permits/ or contact the Department of Public Works at 410.228.1955.



PLEASE NOTE

All issues of *West End NEWS* are emailed. Be sure your membership is up to date and that we have your current email address.

Saturday Historic Tours Resume in Cambridge

On Saturday, April 2, the West End Citizens Association started the first of their Saturday one-hour walking tours of historic High Street in Cambridge. Tours will continue each Saturday (weather permitting) through October 29.

Interested individuals and groups can meet their Colonial-costumed tour guide at 11 a.m. on Long Wharf at the foot of High Street every Saturday. Reservations are not necessary, but appreciated.

In the April 2012 issue of *Maryland Life* magazine, the editor selected Cambridge and Dorchester County as Maryland's "Finest Historic District."

Do you know Napoleon's involvement in Cambridge? Have you heard about the prominent lady who returned from the dead? Do you know which house was cut in two on High Street? Have you heard of the "Affair of Honor" which involved two High Street gentlemen in a duel? Do you know how FDR changed the landscape of Long Wharf? Do you know who was involved in business conducted on the steps of the Dorchester County Courthouse? A tour will answer these questions and more.

Come experience the beauty and learn about the famous and significant people who lived on High Street who were instrumental in the founding of the State of Maryland and our nation, and the folklore which has grown up around them. For further information call 410.901.1000.



WECA Spring Yard Sale Set for June

The West End Citizens Association (WECA) will hold its annual Spring Yard Sale on June 4 (rain date June 18) starting at 7 a.m. West End residents should call 410.901.1000 or email weca@cambridgemd.org no later than May 28 to register for the event. In case of rain, WECA will re-advertise locations for the rain date if yard sellers state they wish to participate. There is no charge for joining the event.

The yard sale is available to all residents of the West End. The large number of yard sales located in close proximity to each other makes shopping very attractive to buyers. The community-wide yard sale provides a really great opportunity to move out those unwanted but still perfectly usable articles from closets, attics, sheds, and so on.

Tips for success: Clean/polish up items for sale. Price items to sell (buyers love a bargain). Have batteries and/or electrical cord handy to show appliances work. Lay out items in as attractive a manner as possible.

To make clean-up easy, WECA has arranged for the Department of Public Works to do a special bulk trash pickup on the Monday following the event.

From previous experience, WECA knows that both buyers and sellers enjoy this family fun time.



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WECA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the State of Maryland.

Documents and information submitted under the Maryland Solicitations Act are also available, for the cost of postage and copies, from the Maryland Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, 410.974.5534.

Join us! Start or renew your membership today.

Please mail in this form with your payment or contact Barbara Harp, bharp@chesapeakephotos.com.

- Individual \$ 15
- Family \$ 25
- Life \$300
- Nonprofit \$ 30
- Corporate \$ 50
- Benefactor \$500
- Honorary Board of Directors decision

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

NOTE: All issues of *West End NEWS* are emailed.

Amount Paid \$ _____ Date Paid _____



Recent West End Home Sales

10/15/15 – 2/29/16

10/15/15	216 Market Square	\$230,000	12/28/15	315 Willis Street	\$34,900
10/29/15	310 Willis Street	\$28,000	12/29/15	1310 Glasgow Street	\$187,596
10/29/15	100 Willis Street	\$228,000	12/29/15	422 Linden Avenue	\$75,000
11/6/15	301 Talbot Avenue	\$165,000	1/4/16	203 Choptank Avenue	\$32,000
11/10/15	712 Glasgow Street	\$30,000	1/5/16	103 West End Avenue	\$10,877
11/10/15	411 Oakley Street	\$30,500	1/6/16	405 Edlon Park	\$155,000
11/10/15	314 Belvedere Avenue	\$142,500	1/7/16	302 Glenburn Avenue	\$329,000
11/18/15	210 Glenburn Avenue	\$182,000	1/7/16	900 Oakley Terrace	\$155,000
11/23/15	443 Oakley Street	\$120,000	1/11/16	2 Choptank Avenue	\$735,000
11/25/15	1101 Travers Street	\$69,500	1/11/16	103 Choptank Avenue	\$240,000
11/25/15	312 Willis Street	\$35,000	1/19/16	706 Church Street	\$31,000
12/3/15	1 West End Avenue	\$350,000	1/20/16	211 Somerset Avenue	\$80,000
12/3/15	311 Oakley Street	\$55,500	1/27/16	115 Talbot Avenue	\$165,000
12/4/15	1201 Hambrooks Blvd.	\$307,000	2/1/16	306 Somerset Avenue	\$194,000
12/4/15	707 Locust Street	\$335,000	2/8/16	412 Willis Street	\$70,000
12/7/15	706 Locust Street	\$40,000	2/12/16	402 Edlon Park	\$150,000
12/8/15	3 West End Avenue	\$55,000	2/17/16	417 Willis Street	\$32,900
12/16/15	215 Choptank Avenue	\$32,500	2/22/16	808 Glasgow Street	\$18,564
12/16/15	111 West End Avenue	\$175,000	2/29/16	317 West End Avenue	\$57,000