

WEST END CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

May 2023



YOU ARE INVITED!

West End Citizens Association

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 11, 2023

7:00 PM at Rockville Presbyterian Church and Zoom*

Accessory Dwelling Units/Apartments Survey Results Election of WECA Officers

*Margaret Magner (President), Ajay Khetarpal (Vice President),
Kate Fulton (Vice President, Outreach),
Darlene Pierro (Treasurer), Angela Geer (Recording Secretary),
Jane Pontius (Corresponding Secretary)*

*Zoom meeting link posted at <https://www.westendrockvillemd.org/> May 11

Any resident of the West End who is over 18 years of age is a member of the West End Citizens Association (WECA). If this newsletter was delivered to your door, YOU ARE A MEMBER OF WECA.

WECA Spring Fest

Saturday, May 20 | 12-3PM | Monument Park

Hamburgers, Hotdogs & Fixings Provided

Bring a side dish or dessert to share and a beverage of your choice.

Kids' Entertainment: Face Painting

Bathroom facilities will be available.
Parking on Monument, S. Van Buren, and Dale.

Donations Accepted!

West End Citizens Association

For more information, contact
Brian Shipley, President
shipley.brian@gmail.com

Interested in getting more involved?
Consider being a Block Captain! Contact
Jane Pontius jane.m.pontius@gmail.com

Join the WECA Listserv!

Keep up with news related to the West
End and join our email list. Use the QR
code to sign up or email
weca.outreach@gmail.com!



This newsletter was delivered by _____, your WECA Block Captain.

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

-Brian Shipley
shIPLEY.brian@gmail.com



It has been a pleasure serving our community as President of the West End Citizens Association for the past three years and it is my pleasure to invite the community to our May 11 General Membership meeting to vote in new group of officers and to celebrate the end of an exciting year! I am inspired by the enthusiasm of the officers running for election and their commitment to representing and engaging the entire community.

With your support, I am confident that we will be able to leverage the momentum we experienced this past year with engaging the community to reach more of you, better understand what issues are important to the community, and work together to champion what's most important. To stay connected with what we are doing, join us at our

monthly community meetings (September to June, in-person and virtual), participate on a committee, or attend one of our outreach and social events – any level of engagement is welcome. And thank you to all the residents who joined us at World of Beer in February – it was a great evening with over seventy West End residents in attendance!

Speaking of community engagement, the City of Rockville is proposing zoning changes for Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) and Accessory Apartments; please read the article on the opposite page and complete the survey so WECA can assemble a comprehensive view of the community's opinions and provide that information to the City. Likewise, the City is planning to update the Town Center Master Plan and is asking for community input to help shape the future of Town Center; details and information provided on page 6.

Hope to see everyone at the General Membership Meeting May 11 and Spring Fest on Saturday, May 20, from 12-3 PM at Monument Park.

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PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES THAT WILL AFFECT YOUR PROPERTY

The City of Rockville is proposing two zoning changes. One would allow a second dwelling unit in backyards, known as Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), and the other would make it easier to have an apartment within existing single-family homes, known as Accessory Apartments.

An **Accessory Dwelling Unit** would be a second, smaller dwelling in the backyard of lots where only one house is allowed today. The dwelling would be permanently attached to the ground and have its own plumbing, electrical service, kitchen and bath. It could also be an apartment above a garage or other accessory building. ADUs are currently not permitted in Rockville; this proposed City-wide zoning change would permit them to be added to residential lots, with several conditions.

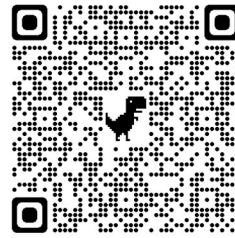
An **Accessory Apartment** must include a kitchen, bath and sleeping area. The Accessory Apartment may be created within the main house or by attaching an addition to the main house as long as the addition is subordinate to the existing house. Accessory Apartments are currently permitted in the City, with approval. Here is the key change to zoning on Accessory Apartments:

- Current zoning – an Accessory Apartment must be approved through review by the Board of Appeals after notification of nearby households. Residents are allowed to testify for or against the proposed Accessory Apartment. This process is called Special Exception.
- Proposed zoning revision – The City is proposing to allow approval of Accessory Apartments by city staff subject to conditions. The City would not be required to notify or consider neighbors' views. This process is called Conditional Use.

Details of these changes are on the City's site at <https://www.rockvillemd.gov/2345/Accessory-Buildings-and-Dwellings>

Whether you support these proposed zoning changes or are opposed to them, **YOUR VOICE MUST BE HEARD**. If you have not already completed the survey, use your phone camera to access the survey via the QR code below or type the link into your browser.

Link to survey: <https://forms.gle/873NQg3meDn73iJHA>



Please complete the survey so WECA can assemble a comprehensive view of the community's opinions and provide that information to the City. The survey was developed by an eight-

member committee of West End residents and will take less than 15 minutes to complete.

Please also participate directly in the process by providing written or verbal testimony at Planning Commission and Mayor & Council meetings or emailing the Planning Commission (planning.commission@rockvillemd.gov) and/or the Mayor & Council (mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov)

Thank you for completing the survey!



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RPAC: MAKING IMPROVEMENTS ONE STEP AT A TIME

How can we make our streets safer for everyone?

Why does the sidewalk end in some places?

What is the best way to get a crosswalk installed?

Members of the **Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee (RPAC)** came together to address these questions, and many more. Formed in 2019 RPAC aims to make Rockville a safer, more comfortable, and easier place to walk and roll. All West End residents are welcome to attend and participate in RPAC’s monthly virtual meetings.

In our neighborhood, RPAC partnered with WECA to advocate for a safer Maryland Avenue between South Washington Street and Falls Road. This “road diet” reduced the number and width of vehicle lanes and added bicycle lanes on both sides of the street - creating a protective buffer between pedestrians and vehicle traffic. The reconfigured roadway has greatly reduced drivers’ illegal

speeding with no impact on traffic flow. In the first nine months of the road diet, eastbound speeding tickets decreased by 72% over the prior year.

Current or upcoming pedestrian improvements impacting the West End include the Town Center Road Diet and sidewalk feasibility studies on Nelson Avenue and Wood Lane. RPAC also has a critical voice in some of city-wide pedestrian and transportation efforts, including:

- **Vision Zero:** The goal of zero traffic-related deaths or severe injuries by 2030
- **Pedestrian Master Plan:** A guide to safe, convenient, and equitable pedestrian facilities.
- **Walktober:** A month long celebration of walking and rolling, including “Walk to School” Day.

All members of the West End are invited to attend a virtual RPAC meeting the second Thursday of each month. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/RPAC or email chair.rpac@gmail.com.

Article written by Eric Fulton, founder and past chair of the RPAC. Eric lives on Beall Avenue with his family.



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*CES Parent Survey, Oct. 2022

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Neighborhood Items of Interest

Town Center Master Plan. The City of Rockville Department of Community Planning and Development Services intends to update the Rockville Town Center Master Plan, a long-range vision for growth and development. Information about the Town Center Master Plan update is at engagerockville.com/towncenter including a survey that EVERYONE is welcome to take. The results of the survey will help guide the future direction of Town Center.

West End Design Guidelines. Thank you to everyone from the neighborhood who took the survey or provided input about design guidelines. In January, City Manager Rob DiSpirito supported and presented to the Mayor & Council a request made by WECA for a temporary pause in the Design Guidelines process, in order for the City to address issues affecting the project, including improving project management, correcting the large number of errors and incomplete information

in the posted Design Guidelines draft document, managing and providing access to the consultants hired for the project, improving the engagerockville.com website, and providing correct information about the project goals, content, process, and timeline. The Mayor & Council expressed support for this approach. We will continue to provide updates on the WECA website and via email.

West Rockville Connects Village is Off to a Good Start. The West Rockville Connects (WRC) Village seeks to build a welcoming, diverse, and intergenerational network of neighbors to support each member of the community at any stage of life. The WRC Steering Committee meets regularly to plan and identify services and events that would be of interest to the community. If you live in the West End, Woodley Gardens, Plymouth Woods, Regents Square, College Square, Haiti or College Gardens and are interested in learning more about how the WRC Village is working to support our community, please email wrcvillage@gmail.com.



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What's in a Logo?

Recently we thought about refreshing the front page of the newsletter with a masthead and new logo to create an identity that is clearly WECA. As we began to plan, we learned that the current logo has a long history and was created to honor a former member of our community, Mrs. Margaret "Peg" Sante. Mrs. Sante was a founding member of the West End Citizens Association; a charter member of Peerless Rockville; a member of the Cultural Arts Commission; a member of the Historical Society; and a docent at St. Mary's Historic Church, the Beall-Dawson House and the Glenview Mansion. She also was a supporter and volunteer for Rockville Little Theatre and Rainbow Place. Peg and Julian, her husband of 51 years, lived on Beall Avenue and raised six children in our community (see inset picture); she passed away in 2002.

In recognition of her contributions to the community, and especially of her work as a

founding member of WECA, it is fitting that we continue to honor Mrs. Sante by using the likeness of her Beall Avenue home as our logo.

We would, however, ask the community to help us refresh the logo, keeping the sentiment behind the existing image, while creating a more modern look and feel. Let your imagination run wild – black & white, color, pen & ink, graphic – all ideas are welcome. To help spur the creation of potential ideas, I am personally offering a \$100 gift certificate to World of Beer in downtown Rockville, as a thank you to the person whose image is selected for the logo. Please email your ideas by August 1 to Brian Shipley at shipley.brian@gmail.com; the winning logo will be selected by WECA officers.



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- Kay, Rockville, 6/2022



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